

A white lily flower with yellow stamens is the central focus, resting on an open book. The background is a soft, out-of-focus purple. The title 'The Silver Lining' is written in a white, elegant cursive font at the top.

# *The Silver Lining*

*Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said.*

*Matthew 28:5, 6*

*April 2006*

*Sermon by Bro. Todd Stoller, Latty, OH*

## I Samuel 15 and Galatians 5:13-26

The account here of King Saul in I Samuel is an account that is very sobering, isn't it loved ones? When we think that God chose Saul, that He set him up as the king over His people (I Samuel 10,11) and then when we see how it went for Saul in his life, it is sobering to us.

It wasn't just in this chapter that Saul's difficulty of submitting unto God began. But we can go back into the time that they were gathered together, also at war. Samuel told Saul that the time was going to come, and several days out ahead, that he would come and he would there offer a sacrifice unto God. The time came and Samuel wasn't there. Saul began to observe his men leave. He began to observe the enemy accumulate more and more soldiers. His heart began to become weak and to fail. So he took and he offered the sacrifice there to God which was not for him to offer. He disobeyed what God had laid out for only the priests and the Levites to do. It tells us in that account that the smoke of the sacrifice was still rising up to heaven when Samuel came. He admonished Saul there. (I Samuel 13:5-14)

Then we come to this fifteenth chapter. "Samuel also said unto Saul, The Lord sent me to anoint thee to be king over his people, over Israel..." I Samuel 15:1. He reminded him again that it wasn't of his own strength that he became the king, but God had chosen him. Had set him up to be king. Because he was appointed, anointed by God.

He said, "...I remember that which Amalek did to Israel, how he laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt." I Samuel 15:2. He remembered what Amalek did to the children of Israel. He said to Saul, go and destroy those people. He was very precise in what He said. Let's read that together. "Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and

sheep, camel and ass." I Samuel 15:3. When we think of that, it is just real clear, wasn't it, what God asked of Saul to do. It was just real clear in detail what was expected of him.

But what happened? As the people gathered together and Saul went out and he smote those people, it tells us, he feared the people (I Samuel 15:24). He feared what those soldiers would say, what they would do. Because it was a custom in that time that as they went out and they conquered and destroyed other nations, that they would take of the spoil for themselves. But God had instructed them to utterly destroy all of the Amalekites. Not to return with any of them. Saul kept their king. It says he kept the best of the sheep and of the cattle. Those things that weren't good he destroyed. (I Samuel 15:9) He chose out what he wanted to keep. But it was because of the fear of the people that he did that.

What does that say unto us today, loved ones? What is God trying to tell us from this fifteenth chapter? There are many messages that could be sent here. First of all, God expects obedience, doesn't He? He expects, when He tells us to go, that we go. When He tells us to stay, that we stay.

"Then came the word of the Lord unto Samuel, saying, It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the Lord all night." I Samuel 15:10,11. But when morning came, he got up and he went and he met Saul and he confronted him and he said, "when you were little in your own eyes, God set you up to be king." When he was humble, God elevated him into that position.

That is how it is today, isn't it loved ones? If we are humble, God can use us. But it is in those times that we want our own way. It is in those times that we become proud

that we fall or have the potential to fall.

"And Saul said, They have brought them from the Amalekites..." I Samuel 15:15. He right away pointed the finger to someone else. That is a lesson for us today also, isn't it? We can go back into the first sin that was committed and that response was the same way.

*Sermon continued on page 44*

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

### May

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

*Suggested Donation: \$11/subscription*

Next correspondence due:

### For May Issue

*(16 Mar. News - 15 Apr. News)*

**Due: 20 April 2006**

The Silver Lining (Vol. 61, #4)

1389 County Road 1600 N  
Roanoke, IL 61561

**USPS 496780**

Published Monthly By The Apostolic  
Christian Church of America

*Counselors:*

*Ron Schambach, Tom Stock*

### SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Light From The Word



Writings based  
on God's Word

April 2006

### Why I Appreciate The Apostolic Christian Church

At the August 11, 2005, Conference, we were encouraged to write a two and a half page expression of why we appreciated our church. Even though there was no intent to collect the "assignment", a significant number of brothers and sisters did submit their thoughts. The following editorial is of somewhat different style. Rather than an essay in standard paragraph form, it is an attempt to incorporate many of the thoughts expressed in the lists that were submitted. It was not possible to include every comment, nor is it intended to be an exhaustive list. It is simply designed to prompt some thought and help each of us develop a deeper appreciation and greater thankfulness for being part of the Apostolic Christian Church.

*I am thankful for the Apostolic Christian Church because:*

\*-We believe there is one true God, the Creator of the universe.

\*-Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God. He came to earth, lived a perfect life, and died to redeem fallen mankind by shedding His perfect blood on Calvary's cross.

\*-We are offered salvation by faith in Christ's shed blood, not by our good works. God is in control of our lives. His love for us is unconditional, though we must rid our lives of sin if we want to spend eternity with Him.

\*-We believe we can receive guidance from God in decision making through prayer and reading of the scripture.

\*-We believe the Bible is the infallible Word of God to man and we are encouraged to follow the whole counsel of God, not simply to pick and choose what may appeal to us.

\*-We can rely upon the Holy Spirit to guide us and help us to be overcomers of the various temptations we face. After we repent and find peace, we can leave the old life behind.

\*-We believe in a sincere repentance and a true conversion, not a shallow acceptance of Christ.

\*-We recognize the value of confession of our sins, making restitution for our errors, seeking forgiveness from those we have wronged, finding peace with God and man, baptism of adults by immersion, and sealing of the Holy Spirit into our hearts through a prayer of consecration.

\*-The preaching of the Word is by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, rather than the wisdom of man. Our ministers are not paid, thereby reducing the pressure to preach to itching ears.

\*-We are working toward a common goal, the salvation of lost souls.

\*-Holy Communion is a special time of self-examination, sharing with our brothers and sisters the special blessings of what Christ did for us, and a time of peace within the church.

\*-Marriage is by faith in God's direction, rather than by the dating system which exposes us to the lusts of the flesh. It is a life long commitment, based on God's plan for mankind.

\*-Our spiritual life is something we take seriously each day of our lives, not simply a Sunday exercise.

\*-We are taught the importance of works as a demonstration of our thankfulness to God and Jesus Christ for our salvation.

\*-We are taught that the grace of God is available to all who will humble themselves before God, answer His call, and seek to do His will.

\*-A modest lifestyle is encouraged, rather than materialism and the casualness of the world.

\*-We are accountable to God, to Christ, to the church, and to one another. Discipline of erring brethren is carried out to help those who have fallen, to serve as a warning to others, and to preserve the purity of the church.

\*-We greet with a Holy kiss as a token of love for one another, sometimes even before we know the name of the brother or sister and where they are from. We

also greet each other as Brothers or Sisters of Jesus Christ, not simply a casual greeting.

\*-Congregational singing is practiced, rather than just by those who have the most talent or have the most beautiful voices. The Zion's Harp hymns have a deep spiritual meaning that reflect the faith of those who wrote them. The hymns are a source of inspiration that encourages us to greater faithfulness.

\*-Our sisters wear a modest head covering, are in subjection to their husbands or fathers and are silent in the church.

\*-We recognize the power of Satan and that he is never finished trying to cause us to fall, but we know that God is all powerful and will help us defeat Satan.

\*-We have standards by which we live, but we leave the eternal judgment to God.

\*-We appreciate the name of our church, Apostle-like, Christ-like.

\*-Sermons are for instruction, encouragement and admonition rather than for entertainment.

\*-Elders, ministers, Sunday School teachers and others who serve the church are chosen from the congregation.

\*-Our simple faith has been preserved over the years by faithful brethren who were willing to sacrifice self for the benefit of others who would come after them - including us.

\*-We believe our faith is precious and worth preserving.

\*-Elders and ministers do not require more of the brethren than they are willing to do themselves.

\*-We are taught the standard of godly headship. Brothers are the spiritual leaders of the home and of the church. Humble submission and accountability to church leadership and to the brotherhood helps preserve the faith.

... continued on page 41



## 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

### Let the Children Come Unto Me

This past year has been a year of progress and change at Casa Vida y Esperanza (House of Life and Hope), our church run children's home in Magdalena, Mexico. Magdalena is a town of about 40,000 people just one hour south of the Arizona border.

It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit. This is true for the 700 or so visitors we hosted, the majority of whom were World Relief work team members who arrived with tools, talents and much energy.

It has been a blessing to see how the Lord has abundantly provided. We have witnessed many needs filled at just the right time. When we needed a plumber, a plumber came. When we needed a mason, masons came. When we needed an electrician, well specialist, architect, landscaper, dentist, or nurse they have come right on time. We sense the church is praying and is thankful.

We have also seen an outpouring of financial support and many other donations such as six vehicles, two tractors, computers, tools, supplies, clothing, food, and much more. We have been overwhelmed. The children and families we are serving here are truly blessed.

While work in 2004 was primarily for preparing the dormitories, kitchen, cafeteria and offices for the arrival of children, work in 2005 was mainly for future expansion of the work here. Projects included the school room, new well and water lines, volunteer dormitory and the kitchen food storage addition. Major projects for 2006 are planned to be the completion of the service

building (which will house a garage, tool and materials storage, and work shop), the completion of the volunteer dormitory and the beautification of the campus.

The 24 acre campus has come alive with activity as the first 7 children arrived here February 21, 2005. As of February 2006, we are caring for 19 children (8 boys, 7 girls, and 4 babies). The CVE staff has also grown and now includes 4 American couples and their children, 7 single members, and 2 cooks.



### Bible Study

We are thankful for the children and adults who come from the community to Sunday morning Bible studies and Sunday School. It is a blessing to have a large group join in singing hymns of praise and worship to the Lord. The children have their favorite hymns but also continue to learn new ones. This past year the children have memorized many Bible verses and familiar passages such as the Ten Commandments and the 23rd Psalm.

In addition to the Sunday and Wednesday night Bible studies, in home Bible studies are also held every Saturday night either for married couples or teenagers from the community. On one Saturday we have couples and the next Saturday youth. We have faith that one day these seeds will bring forth fruit to the glory of our Heavenly Father.

### The Schoolroom

Thanks to the help of many hands, the schoolroom is up and running. It is hard to believe that just 3 months ago, the schoolroom housed tools, paint and supplies. With a new floor, repairs and paint for the walls, an insulated ceiling, and a good cleaning, it looks like a place of learning.

Each day after school, the children bring their homework to the schoolroom to be finished and checked. Usually 2 to 3 hours each afternoon are spent on homework. When the work is finished, the room is open for educational activities and play. The old paint closet has been transformed into a carpeted library where children can spend quiet time reading and enjoying the expanding Spanish book selections.

There are many hands on activities to challenge inquisitive minds and even a corner exclusively created for 5 year olds and younger. We are anticipating the arrival of a few computers so that the students will be able to practice typing, writing, math, and reading. We are also setting up donated sewing machines to learn basic sewing techniques.

We are all thankful to have many materials and such a nice facility to assist the children in their learning. We praise God for all of the energy, talent and supplies that have been gifted to our schoolroom.

### Future Opportunities

There is a need for two brothers and two sisters to volunteer this summer. We also need additional single brothers to fill the gap if any of our current brothers leave. There will be opportunities for those with teaching experience when we start a full time school program. We will also need single and married house parents in the future.



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

## Haiti Material Aid

In 1986 World Relief sent the first sea container of material aid to Haiti. This first shipment contained mostly medical supplies for Hospital Albert Schweitzer in northern Haiti, Grace Children's Hospital in Port Au Prince and Hospital Lumiere in southern Haiti. It took approximately five months from the time the container left the Bluffton Distribution Center to clear customs in Haiti and be unloaded. The list of needed supplies was obtained from a World Relief evaluation team that visited the hospitals on a yearly basis.

As World Relief work has grown in Haiti, the material aid has grown and the last five years there were five sea containers each year sent to Haiti. The average time now is four weeks for a container to travel from Bluffton and be unloaded in Haiti. Email is the main mode of communication and needs lists are very specific. Another change is that World Relief is primarily supplying material aid to the projects of the MEBSH organizations. The following is a summary of these projects.

### Hospital Lumiere and Cayes Clinic

These two facilities provide most of the medical care for the people in the area in which World Relief is working. For several years the medical supplies sent to these facilities were collected by our brethren and some were purchased from International Aid.

In the last four years World Relief has been working with Lumiere Medical Ministries. This organization is now collecting and buying seventy per cent of the medical

supplies and shipping them to the Bluffton Distribution Center. Our brethren are providing the prenatal kits, homemade soap and other medical supplies. Working with LMM, World Relief has been able to better meet the specific need of the hospital and clinic.



### Domestic Center

Many young teen and adult women have learned sewing and cooking skills at the Domestic Center. This is a four year school located in Les Cayes.

World Relief ships many of the supplies that are used at the Domestic Center, including materials imported from Europe. World Relief sewing groups also provide sewing machines, sewing kits and other supplies used at the Domestic Center.

### Construction Department

Over the years World Relief has shipped a large quantity of tools and supplies to the Construction Department at Cayes. Many of these items are used by the World Relief work teams that go to Haiti. Five years ago we started shipping all the metal roofing material used on the schools, because the quality of Haiti roofing has become very poor.

The sea containers are also a source of shipping supplies to many of the missionaries that live in Cayes. These are items for their own use (such as fans, tools, computers, office supplies, household supplies, etc.) which cannot be purchased or are very expensive in Haiti. We always get a thank you for doing this and it is a blessing to the work in Haiti.

### Child Care and MEBSH Office

Office supplies and many school supplies are shipped to these two organizations. These items include the school kits and health kits that are provided by the different Apostolic Christian churches. In addition, Child Care distributes the homemade soap and other personal care items that are collected and sent on the sea containers.

### S.E.E.D. and Trade Schools

World Relief also ships supplies in containers to the trade schools and S.E.E.D. The brethren that work closely with these groups purchase the supplies and deliver them to the Bluffton Distribution Center. Since the schools get a steady supply of materials, they are able to depend on these to teach skills to many Haitians. This provides the graduates an opportunity to get jobs, be self sufficient and support their families.

World Relief gets many letters of thank you every year. They come from individuals as well as organizations World Relief is supporting in Haiti. They express how much our support is appreciated and that they are praying for God's blessings on our church.

## **APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED**

Following the recent deaths of dear ones who had lived in our homes, we received some very heart warming words from their families. The support and encouragement received from you, the Apostolic Christian Church family, makes this work possible so we would like to pass on these kind words to each of you.

From a sister of a resident – “As a working mother, wife and now grandmother, I do not know what I would have done if it had not been for your wonderful organization. It brought us such comfort to know that she was in the best possible place she could be with the best care that she could possibly have. Your staff is so incredibly dedicated to each and every one of the patients there.” She went on to say that her sister “is home with the Lord. Her mom and dad are there to welcome her and the most beautiful part of all is that she has a perfect body, mind and soul now. But we will always remember with such appreciation her years at Apostolic Christian Timber Ridge and the beauty that you brought to her life here on earth ... Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.”

In a letter from parents who had to say Farewell to their son – “Words cannot express our Thanks to all who cared for our son and made it possible for him to live such a wonderful and fulfilled life. He was a joy to have in our life and we know with all the love and care he received at Timber Ridge, his days on earth were so complete and happy. We will always remember his home with love and prayers.”

And from a heartbroken Mom –

“This doesn’t begin to say what is in our hearts. How do we begin to thank you for everything that you have done for her – the love, the gentle care, the respect, the friendships – the list goes on and on. We hope and pray that you know how much we love and appreciate each and every one of you. God bless you all.”

The members of our staff who give of themselves to provide the care also grieve with the families. The people living here are an important part of their everyday life, and the loss is deeply felt. A staff person said, “Seeing her when I came in to work was a part of every day. I miss her so much now!”

“Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God.”

*II Cor. 3:5*

MAY Birthdays at Timber Ridge, 2125 Veterans Road, Morton, IL 61550: Yvonne Arbuckle (05/01), Judith McRoy (05/02), Terry Stoller (05/06), Steven Slagel (05/13), Allison Given (05/14), Ruth Klopfenstein (05/19), Jacob Terhorst (05/22), Marlene Moser (05/22), Garth Boyer (05/26), Marjorie Feller (05/30).

At 1001 E Idlewood, Morton, IL 61550: Kristi Knapp (05/29) and Jacqueline Barton (05/26).

## **APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL Athens, Alabama Melissa Slagel**

We are enjoying some sunny warm days now as spring is springing. To watch how everything comes back to life in so many different colors just reminds you in one more way how good and miraculous God

is.

With Easter approaching we have been reading the Bible stories leading up to Jesus’ crucifixion. One day one of the teachers was reading about Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem on the donkey and how the people were so excited to see Him. She then was telling them that one day Jesus is going to come back not on a donkey but in the clouds to take all of the Christians to heaven. One little girl who had been listening so intently suddenly burst out, “Oh, I want to go up there!” Her face was full of excitement — she was so sincere. That desire to love Jesus that you see in children is so real and so encouraging. We hope that it continues and only grows as they grow.

Our alphabet is winding down to V, W, X and Y. Also, over the month of March we mastered the color yellow and learned about animals. “Eaheets” (elephants) definitely won over as being the favorite animal among our two year old class!

## **ALABAMA, ATHENS Louise Hall**

We welcomed Eric Coulter (Bro. David and Sis. Barbara) back from serving our country in South Korea. Although it was only a 30 day leave, we enjoyed the time he was home! May God be with Eric and others as they are separated from their loved ones.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jacki, Francisville, IN) and Bro. Gary Brown (Sis. Jane, Forrest, IL). We also welcomed various groups passing through our small congregation headed to the relief mission in Biloxi, MS.

Our annual spring board meeting was the last weekend in March.

We want to thank all the board members and their wives for traveling down to Athens: Bro. Tim Gerber (Sis. Wendy, Mansfield, OH), Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Sis. Gloria, Congerville, IL), Elder Bro. Ted Witzig Sr. (Sis. Cindy, Morton, IL), Bro. Sam Schlatter (Sis. Linda, Junction, OH), and Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH). Bros. Andy Stoller and Ted Witzig also provided Communion services for us! The whole weekend was a blessing and a great reminder of how great God is that He gave us His only son to die upon the cross for our sins!

Prayers go out to both Bro. Buddy Lynn (Sis. Clarann) and Bro. Milton Ray (Sis. Joyce) as they are recovering from surgery! We also send prayers out to the family of Junior Hale. He passed away March 13. Junior Hale was a retired minister from the old Hillsboro church here in Alabama.

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### **ARIZONA, PHOENIX** **Ron and Ev Hoerr**

“O sing unto the LORD a new song; for he hath done marvellous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory. Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise.”

*Psalm 98:1,4*

We greatly enjoyed the beautiful singing when the Peoria Choir visited us on February 26; what a foretaste of Heaven! We were truly blessed by the Christian fellowship.

We also thank our visiting ministers: Bro. Wayne Leman (Roanoke), Bro. Brad Bauer (Tucson), Bro. Neil Ramseyer (Bay City), Bro. Chris

Huber (Francesville), Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Peoria), Bro. Robert Pflederer (Morton), Bro. Nile Bucher (Bluffton North), and Bro. Justin Moser (Altadena). The Lord is so faithful; bringing the truth to us through His humble servants.

Hospital patients were Bro. Dick Beery and Bro. Quill Barna.

We wish God's blessings on Bro. Quill Barna as he moves to his home in Ohio.

On March 6, Jerod Scott was born to Bro. Scott and Sis. Katie Klopfenstein.

“Delight thyself in the Lord.”

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### **ARIZONA, PRESCOTT** **Jane Hodges**

“Thou visitest the earth, and waterest it: thou greatly enrichest it with the river of God, which is full water; thou preparest them corn, when thou hast so provided for it. Thou waterest the ridges thereof abundantly; thou settlest the furrows thereof: thou makest it soft with showers; thou blessest the springing thereof.”

*Psalms 65: 9-10*

Our Prescott area was blest with much needed precipitation, in the form of snow, on two different weekends in March. Because February had been so warm, our trees had already been blossoming for a couple of weeks. The Phoenix area finally broke their record of a 140+ days without rain. Hopefully, the desert will now break forth in bloom.

Our church has also been blest this winter with visitors from several states including Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Iowa, Minnesota, California and Connecticut. We thank all of you who came

to fellowship with us. May God richly bless you.

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### **ARIZONA, TUCSON**

**Lisa Knapp**

We are praying for the family of Steve and Maria Bauer as Maria's mother, Carol Ann Pazzi, passed from this life on February 17. She had struggled with cancer recently but God did answer many prayers as she was given 6 ½ years of time to spend with her family since her diagnosis of ovarian cancer in November 1999. We are holding up Steve, Maria, Stephanie, Allison, Jessica and Maria's family in prayers for God's grace and faith to surround them in the coming days and months. God's timing is perfect, but sometimes hard to understand.

With the arrival of spring we are having many work teams through Tucson heading to Magdalena and Agua Prieta, Mexico. This is also bringing us some visiting ministers. Bros. Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL), Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL) and Bob Meyer (Bluffton North, IN) have all shared the pulpit with our very appreciative ministering brothers. We thank them all for their work of love.

We finally received some measurable rainfall this past week and with it some windy, cold weather. It was fun for a few days, however it wasn't nearly enough rain according to the weatherman. Today's high will be in the 70's and that pesky sun is shining again. We are possibly getting some more rain this weekend, Lord willing.

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### **CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA** **Suzanne Klotzle**

Here in sunny Southern California, we have learned to appreciate

our relatively stable weather! March, however, has been quite variable with some days warm and in the 80s, and some cold, with snow as low as 2000 feet. In it all, God is glorified... just one gaze at the snow topped mountains, and our hearts soar in praise for the Creator.

On March 11, one of our cold, rainy days, Lindsey Aberle (Bro. Doug and Sis. Sandy) and Nick Alt (Darrell and Jenny Alt, Ohio) were wed. We pray that God will continually bless them as they start their lives together. In Champaign, IL, on March 19, our Bro. Ben Aberle (Bro. Rich and Sis. LaNae, Atlanta, GA) and Sis. Karla Kieser (Bro. Carl and Sis. Becky, Fairbury, IL) were married. As they begin on a lifelong journey, we pray for joy and blessings.

Even though miles separate us, there was much rejoicing when little Chloe Dale Blunier was born to Sis. Carol and Bro. Doug in Princeville, IL. Grandparents, Bro. Virg and Sis. Marilyn Graf, will be spending plenty of time with their new granddaughter.

Dorothy Vermillion had a short stay in the hospital. We miss her while she is recuperating, as each friend and member is such an important part of our small congregation.

Visiting our congregation this month were a few ministering brothers. Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian, San Diego) came to assist our Elder Bro. Tom in reading the Memorandum. The Spirit was among us, as we pondered what the Elder Body had written. Also with us were Bro. Kent Mogler (Sis. Mary, Minneapolis, MN) and Bro. Andy Klaus (Sis. Jana, Tokyo, Japan)

## CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO Yasmin Koehl

Time continues to pass us by... bringing a whole new season for us to enjoy. The wonder of new life is all around us, causing us to pause to thank God for the blessings of spring!

For some time we anticipated hosting the Building Advisory Committee. As the occasion came to pass, our congregation experienced the sweet communion, the love of Christ, and the joy of meeting and becoming better acquainted with the brothers and their wives that make up the committee. We especially appreciated the willingness of Elder Bros. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN) and Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA) and ministering Bros. Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Fairbury, IL) and Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL) for serving us.

Spring always brings the awareness of the many joys Christ's resurrection has brought into our lives daily. May we hold close to our hearts the real meaning of Easter and the blessings we receive personally from the magnitude of our Savior's love for us.

## KITCHENER, ONTARIO CANADA

### Johanna Fortenbacher

Greetings! We had a blessed weekend with ministering Bro. Gary Sinn (Sis. Paulette) and the many others they brought along from Latty, OH.

The Leman family has a new, cute, little girl born February 23. The family is Bro. Chad, Sis. Kim, Milan, Paul, Maria and now baby Audrey Esther. Bro. Dale and Sis. Sandra Stoller (Fairbury, IL) and

Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy Leman (Eureka, IL) are the grandparents. We were thankful to Bro. Dale for ministering to us that Sunday. The Stollers took Paul with them to Illinois for the week and the Leman grandparents delivered him back home.

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, vs. 1*

## COLORADO, DENVER Ann Gonglach

God has again blessed us in many ways:

Our guest ministers have been Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH), Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Janet, Winthrop, MN), Bro. Dave Marquart (Sis. Lori, Taylor, MO) and Bro. Ed Sauder (Sis. Bonnie, Roanoke, IL). Bro. Dave and Bro. Ed also held a Bible study with our Young Group while they were here. Once again we benefited from the reading of the Elders' Memorandum. We're thankful to Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH) for coming and helping with it.

May the Lord be with Daniel Leman (Elder Bro. Mike and Sis. Deb) as he is repenting.

We appreciate those who serve in our church. Recently elected to new positions are Sis. Kathy Bikadi, kitchen committee; Sis. Kary Mangers, Sunday school teacher; Bro. Bob Gonglach, Sunday school teacher; and Bro. Jacob Leman, trustee.



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**CONNECTICUT,  
ROCKVILLE  
Laura Virkler**

“Sit and pause a while, my spirit,  
this great miracle behold;”

*Zion's Harp #226*

As we welcome spring, we are reminded of the coming of the remembrance of Christ's death and resurrection. In this Easter season, may we remember what was done on Calvary and be thankful for that precious gift.

This month we had the privilege of hearing the testimonies of four souls and witnessing their baptisms. These are Bro. Ron and Sis. Sheila Gerber, Sis. Rachel Virkler (Bro. Rudy and Sis. Susan) and Sis. Rebekah Viens (Bro. Steve and Sis. Dorothy). With us for this occasion was Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Sis. Judy, Chicago, IL) and Bro. Mike Ursu (Sis. Barb, Kitchener, Ontario).

“...Where two join hand and heart, we find a three-fold cord, not lightly rent apart” (Zion's Harp #79). Announced to us this month was the engagement of our Bro. Sam Moser (Bro. Ben and Sis. Glenna) to Sis. Tyrene Kuenzi (Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda) of the Silverton, OR, congregation. We rejoice with them and wish them much happiness and grace as they plan a life together.

Philip and Sarah Schamback welcome a new little boy, Tucker James, into their lives. Grandparents are Bro. Gary and Karen Schamback, and Brian and Debbie Ellsworth. May God be near them and give them wisdom as they raise their new little one.

Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with little Abel Kloter

and his parents, Bro. Jason and Sis. Sue, as he has gone through another surgery. Also, Bro. Paul Hany (Sis. Betsy) has had to undergo serious surgery. We will be glad to have him back in church as he has not been able to attend for a couple of months. We pray that all will be well. For all who are recovering, we trust the Lord to heal and restore.

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**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
WASHINGTON  
Henrietta Meyer**

“Take, eat; this is my body.”

*Matthew 26:26*

We were privileged to join with the brethren in Philadelphia to partake of Holy Communion. It is good to pause to remember what Jesus endured so we may join Him in heaven at the end of our time here on earth.

The days are staying light longer, we are having more warm days than cool — Spring is coming. Hopefully with the warm weather will come more visitors.

This month our visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Nate Wieland (Sis. Suzanne, Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Chris Huber (Sis. Sharon, Francesville, IN). Other visitors this month were from Champaign, IL and Silverton, OR.

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 Wash-

ington, 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.

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**FLORIDA  
FORT LAUDERDALE  
Renee Mangold**

We feel blessed in Ft. Lauderdale to have so many brethren visit and fill our church during the winter months. We were glad to have Bro. Joe Braker (Sis. Shirley, Morton, IL), Bro. Lenard Meyer (Sis. Charlotte, Chicago, IL), Bro. Ron Jones (Sis. Liz, Portland, OR) and Bro. Clint Schmidt (Winthrop, MN) to visit and bring God's Word to us. We pray that God would bless His servants.

“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another...”

*I John 1:7*

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**FLORIDA  
NORTH FORT MYERS  
Naomi Vogel**

It is evident that spring is just around the corner because we are already having some empty benches and just two week ago we had a record attendance with chairs in the fellowship area. We will miss our Brothers and Sisters from the north during the summer months!

We have had several visiting ministers who graciously served us while vacationing in the area. Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) ministered

to us on February 22 and 26; and Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH) was visiting his parents for three weeks and willingly served us during that time. On March 5, Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ) assisted our Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz with Communion Service, and Bros. Leonard Meyer (Chicago, IL) and Rustin Meister (West Lafayette, IN) shared in ministering to us. On March 12, Bros. Carroll Gerber and Bob Meyer (Bluffton, IN) stepped out of retirement to assist Bro. Vic Beer in the absence of Bro. Marvin Steffen. On March 15, Bro. Randy Mogler entreated us to not only say something to God each day, but DO something for God each day and let God say something to us each day. This is a timely reminder for the busy lives we lead!

Sis. Rhea Steffen's father, Willard Simmons, from Mt. Hermon, Louisiana, passed away after a period of illness. May God comfort Sis. Rhea, Bro. Marvin and daughter Lindsey in this time of sorrow!

Sis. Dottie Beer broke her wrist and had to have surgery. She is doing well and is on the mend. Bro. Ralph Knapp is recovering rapidly and is back in Florida enjoying the sunshine for a few more weeks. We miss Sis. Bev Gerber who is back home in Connecticut for some medical attention. We are praying for all of you!

We were saddened with news on March 19 that our dear friend, Elmer (Tug) Maibach, from Smithville, Bro. Gary's father, was hospitalized with some serious health problems. He needs the prayers of all!

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**FLORIDA, SARASOTA**  
**Robin Wiegand**

Greetings to all. We have had

many visiting ministers this past month: Bros. Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL), Ron Steiner (Rittman, OH), Mark Schmidgall (Eureka, IL), Gary Endress and Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL), Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH), Rod Bajema (Lester, IA), Paul Schmidgall (Morris, MN), Elder Bros. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA), Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and our own Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann. Needless to say, we have been richly blessed with much encouragement for our life's journey.

On March 18-19, the Sarasota singles group hosted "Single Focus Weekend." The theme was "God's Everlasting Promises." Brethren from many of our congregations enjoyed the blessings of fellowship and sound spiritual instruction. On Saturday morning the group participated in several service projects at a local nursing home. The afternoon and evening programs consisted of singing and exhortations on God's promises for this life and for eternity. Speakers were Bros. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), Randy Mogler (Washington, IL) and our own Bro. Jeff Streitmatter. May the Lord add His increase in the hearts of all who participated and bless those who had the privilege of sharing in the hosting responsibilities.

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**GEORGIA, ATLANTA**

**Kevin Kipfer**  
**Benjamin Stoller**

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine. What a wonderful time of the year. Once again, we were blessed to have several visiting ministers this past month. They included Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL) on February 19; Bro. Bill Waibel (Sis. Carol, Bay City, MI) on March 5; and Bro.

Marvin Leman (Sis. Jane, Bradford, IL) on March 12.

We also gathered together to clean and perform maintenance on our church on March 11. It was a good time of fellowship and labor together.

John Elliott and Aaron Roeschley from the Central Illinois area worshipped with us this month. Our visitors were pleased to be greeted by no small amount of scrumptious food served by our wonderful sisters. They wished to be remembered to the Endress family of Bradford, IL.

We also enjoyed a Sunday school outing at Dixieland. Will Olar was present and showed heroic efforts while getting Bro. Benjamin Stoller dislodged during our outing.

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**ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE**

**Doreen Moser**  
**Sheila McCoy**

After what seemed a very long week, what a thrill it was to walk in the doors of our precious church where peace overflowed my soul. How wonderful to have a refuge from the storms and trials of life. There are so many blessings in our brotherhood.

One of the many blessings is visiting ministers. Our Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) and his precious wife, Sis. Nancy, spent a recent Sunday with us. Bro. Art Ingold and his precious wife, Sis. Bonnie (Rittman, OH), were also in attendance the same Sunday. As Bro. Art expressed the joy and blessing of traveling across the country, being able to walk in the church and feel the love of the brothers, it is truly nothing you can explain to the world. It can only be felt in the hearts of fellow believers.

Another blessing is the ability to

pray for loved ones who are struggling in the body and to know that God truly does answer prayers. Sis. Marlene Mueller (Bro. Art) acknowledges that the prayers of loved ones get her through many a day. She remains in our prayers as she continues her treatments.

The blessing of learning through our Bible studies continues as we make our way through the Old Testament.

The miracle of spring is once again making its appearance. As we celebrate the Easter season, may we remember the great miracle of Jesus rising from the grave. May we be able to tell others of the hope that lies within us.

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### **ILLINOIS BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL**

**Jen Heiniger  
Ann Nussbaum**

With new life starting to appear around us, we are reminded once again of the new life we can have through Jesus' sacrifice that we celebrate this season.

We enjoyed having Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL) minister to us this month. Thank you for your willingness to serve.

Bro. Harvey and Sis. Margaret Walter welcomed twin grandchildren on February 3. Aiden Keith and Ainsley Marie were born to Brian and Kristie Walter. They join big brothers, Elijah and Owen.

We were saddened to hear of the death of Bro. Roy (Sis. Ann) Maurer's mother, Sis. Leah Maurer, of Fairbury. Our prayer is that the family can take comfort in the hope of life eternal.

On February 19, the Cissna Park choir joined us for the day. We enjoyed an evening meal together fol-

lowed by wonderful singing of praises to our Lord.

Finally, the ISU Young Group spent their spring break in Magdalena, Mexico, and should be returning as I write this. It is a blessing to our congregation to serve as a second home to these students and to see their enthusiasm for the Lord.

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### **ILLINOIS, BRADFORD**

**Steve Endress**

We were thankful to have visiting ministers with us this month including Bros. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL), Fred Eberhardt (Burlington, IA), Kenny Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL) and retired Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN). We appreciate their willing efforts to serve us.

Bro. Lucas and Sis. Bethany Young are thankful for the safe arrival of their first son, Noah Daniel. He was born on March 9. His grandparents are Bro. Morris and Sis. Pat Young (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla Rassi (Chicago, IL).

Our Bradford congregation enjoyed many guests for our invite-a-guest weekend. We enjoy such a blessed church and fellowship.

As spring has arrived once more, it reminds us of the hope of life that we can possess. It is a blessing to remember the Lord's suffering, death, and resurrection, and even be reminded of this through the turning of winter into spring. Let us remember the Lord's sacrifice that gives us life until He comes.

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### **ILLINOIS CHAMPAIGN-URBANA**

**Karla Aberle**

March brings with it such a special time of the year with new

growth and new blooms. Spring is here! This month was a time of both marital unions and earthly departures.

Sis. Erin Metzger was engaged to Bro. Dustin Funk from Peoria, IL. Sis. Erin is the daughter of our Sis. Jeannie Metzger and Ed Metzger (Phoenix, AZ). Bro. Dustin is the son of Elder Bro. Tim and Sis. Debra Funk (Peoria, IL). We wish them both God's blessings as they begin this wonderful journey together.

Sis. Karla Kieser and Bro. Ben Aberle were united in marriage this month. Sis. Karla is the daughter of Bro. Carl and Sis. Becky (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Ben is the son of Bro. Rich and Sis. LaNae (Atlanta, GA).

Many thanks to Bro. Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucy, Eureka, IL) and Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sara, Bloomington, IL) for their efforts on the pulpit on the wedding day.

We grieve with our Bros. Dave Bauer and Art Walder. Bro. Dave lost his father, Bro. Herman Bauer (Cissna Park), and Bro. Art (Sis. Kim) lost his mother, Sis. Lucille Walder (Cissna Park, IL). We pray that they will feel the love from our Great Comforter during this time and rejoice that two more souls have joined our Father in Heaven.

We are very thankful to Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary Ann, Fairbury, IL) for helping Elder Bro. Wayne with the Memorandum this past month. We are also thankful to our other visiting ministers. We enjoyed Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL), Bro. Wayne Leman (Sis. Julie, Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Tim Hohulin (Sis. Cathy, Roanoke, IL).

## ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

### Rachel Meyer

Greetings from Chicago. We are rejoicing that Joe Zollinger has begun his repentance. We pray that he will feel the nearness of God. Joe is Sis. Bridget Rassi's brother. God is faithful.

Just as there can be new life in Christ, so is there new life when a baby is born into the world. First-time grandparents, Bro. Virg and Sis. Mary Metzger, are welcoming a granddaughter. Kylie Marie was born to Bruce and Renae Bergman. We extend our best wishes to this dear family. Welcoming a new grandson are Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla Rassi. First-time parents, Bro. Lucas and Sis. Bethany Young (Bradford, IL) are thankful for a safe arrival. Congratulations to all!

March 12 was a beautiful day, indoors as well as outdoors, as Sis. Hope Nenadov and Bro. Scott Schambach exchanged wedding vows. We were reminded during the service about Rebekah and Isaac of old, who stepped out in faith, believing God to be true to His promises. We wish this dear couple much happiness as they begin their life together. Visiting ministers with us that day were Bros. Tom Schambach and Chuck Kellenberger (Elgin, IL) and Ted Steffen (Alto, MI). We heartily thank them for being with us. We also want to thank Bros. Steve Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL) for sharing with us during the past month. May God bless all.

Often it is the little things in life that can teach us big lessons. It is likely that most of us have absent-mindedly put the ketchup in the freezer, "stored" a clean plate in the trash can or worn a garment inside-out all day. I have found these

things occur most frequently when I am really pre-occupied with a worry or care. I physically go through the motions but my mind is not attending to the task at hand.

Several days ago I looked down at my toothbrush to find I have covered it with soap instead of toothpaste. I was jolted back to the reality of the moment. You see, my mind was worried and concerned, and those fears took my attention away from what was occurring at that moment – namely, brushing my teeth. It seems that times like these are when I lose focus because of all-consuming worry and anxiety. Jesus said this should not be. After He was resurrected, Jesus showed himself to His disciples who were in a state of high anxiety and doubt. He said, "Peace be unto you. Why are ye troubled? And why do thoughts arise in your hearts? Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself; handle me and see..." (Luke 24:36,38,39)

Jesus recognized that His loved ones needed encouragement, comfort and peace of heart. It was not His will to leave them in a state of panic. His words mean the same thing today. We can take our worries, fears, and anxieties and deposit them in the lap of Christ. He wants to take them from us. Jesus understands, because He was human, too.

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## ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

### Pam Walder Andrea Walder

As we think of this blessed Easter Season, may we be mindful of the price our Saviour Jesus Christ paid on the cross that we might be free from sin.

Our hospital patient this month was Bro. Herman Bauer. May God continue to provide for his every

need.

Visiting us on the pulpit this month were Bros. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Steve Pamer (Akron, OH), Randy Mogler (Washington, IL) and Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN). We appreciate God's Word being spoken by these brothers.

Sis. Lucille Walder passed from this life into eternity. We appreciated her example of patience, endurance and of striving toward her heavenly goal. We extend our sympathy to her children, Dave (Sue) Walder and Bro. Dennis (Sis. Sharon) Walder of Cissna Park, Sis. Anne (Bro. Rod) Anliker of Chicago, and Bro. Art (Sis. Kim) Walder of Champaign, and also to her in-laws, Sis. Dorothy (late Bro. Dale) Walder, Sis. Wilma (late Bro. Charles) Walder and Bro. Les and Sis. Dorothy Walder.

Also, Don Laubscher of Anderson, CA, passed away. Our prayers are extended to his siblings, Bro. Wayne (Sis. Gloria) Laubscher, Bro. Walt (Sis. Sylvia) Laubscher and Liz (Gary) Rudin, all of Cissna Park.

Gordon and Aldine Winger have been blessed with twin grandsons. Chase Alexander and Luke Benjamin were born to Bud and Abby (Winger) Petry of Hollywood, FL. We wish them God's blessings as they raise their family.

Sis. Gretchen Steffen (Bro. Rod and Sis. Beth) is engaged to Bro. Jeff Moser (Bro. Mark and Sis. Wanda) of Bluffton, IN. We wish them God's blessings as they anticipate their upcoming marriage.

### *Note of Thanks:*

The family of Sis. Lucille Walder would like to thank each one for their acts of kindness through her illness and at her passing. God bless you.

**ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE****Rachel Schrock**

“Out onto Calvary’s hill, where Jesus died I’ll go, to hear the words He speaks, to see Him in His woe.” (Zion’s Harp #89, vs. 1). As we enter the Easter season and anticipate partaking of Communion together, may we consider anew all that our beloved Lord and Saviour went through for us so that our sins can be forgiven.

We are especially thankful for this forgiveness when dear souls pass onto their eternal reward. Their departure from this earth leaves a gap in the family circle, however, and so our sympathy is extended to Bro. Lee (Sis. Alice) Ruegsegger on the death of his mother, Sis. Margret Ruegsegger (the late Bro. Glenn, Bay City, MI).

We extend our thankfulness to our home ministering brethren for their labors on our behalf each time we meet together for church services. We often thank the visiting ministers for their efforts, but never mean to overlook our own brethren. May God bless each one of you and your families for the sacrifices you make for our congregation.

*Behold!*

Behold the Man! Of such a lowly birth.  
Penniless He lived; No home upon this earth.  
Behold the Man! See His tears when Lazarus died,  
The bloody sweat upon His brow as to His Father cried.  
Behold the Man!

Behold the Son! In the temple at twelve,  
A submissive child while with His parents dwelt.

Behold the Son! Oft communing on the mount  
With His dear Heavenly Father.  
Oh, such unity He felt.  
Behold the Son!

Behold our Lord! Out of souls, demons He cast.  
Teaching love, joy, peace – great virtues that will last.  
Behold our Lord! Preaching true repentance, too.  
Then on the cross He died and shed His blood for me and you.  
Behold our Lord!

*—written by a sister in faith***ILLINOIS, ELGIN****Amy Gasser  
Miriam Gasser**

Low in the grave He lay—Jesus my Saviour!  
Waiting the coming day—Jesus my Lord!  
Up from the grave He arose,  
With a mighty triumph o’er His foes;  
He arose a Victor from the dark domain,  
And He lives forever with His saints to reign,  
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah!  
Christ arose!  
*Tabernacle Hymns #205*

We are thankful that Joe Zollinger (Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry, Sardis, OH) has availed himself of Christ’s death and suffering by taking a step forward in repentance. Since his move to the Elgin area for employment, Joe has attended church in both Elgin and Chicago, where he has family. May the Lord grant him grace to build upon the firm foundation.

On March 5, the engagement of Sis. Jaelyn Kellenberger and Bro. Travis Blunier was announced.

Their parents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Vicki Kellenberger and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Eddis Blunier (Goodfield, IL). The following Sunday in Chicago, Bro. Scott Schambach (Bro. Tom and Sis. Connie) and Sis. Hope Nenadov (Bro. Paul and Sis. Marilyn, Eureka, IL) exchanged wedding vows. May God bless and keep these two couples as they establish sacred bonds.

Bro. Matt and Sis. Renee Schambach welcomed another little girl into their family on March 17. Hailey Joy was eagerly greeted by Tyler, Katlin, Jacob, Lucas, and Wyatt. The happy grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Edie Anliker and Bro. Tom and Sis. Connie Schambach.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Sis. Marilyn Steffen (Bro. Nathan), Sis. Debbie Sauder (daughter of Sis. Gert), and Nick Young (Bro. Morris and Sis. Pat) who are all facing health-related challenges. May it help to know that friends and loved ones care.

**ILLINOIS, EUREKA****Cindy Stoller  
Lisa Metzger**

We truly appreciate visiting ministers to share the blessing of God’s Word with us. This month they include Bros. Kenny Dietz (Bradford, IL), Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), Gene Metzger (Lester, IA), Duane Reutter (Rockville, CT) and Bill Dotterer (Lamar, MO). May God bless them for their willing service.

Our medical and hospital patients this month include Sis. Brenda Vierling (Bro. Kevin) and Bro. Jim and Sis. Lyola Ringger. We trust the Lord’s nearness will be felt through this time. Let us lift them

up in our prayers.

The engagement of Bro. Chance Knapp (Bro. Steve and Sis. Lori) to Sis. Shelly Hinrichsen (Bruce Hinrichsen and Cathy Appleyard), of Goodfield, IL, was recently announced. We are thankful for the Lord's leading in their lives, and pray they feel His continued guidance as they walk life's path together.

Bro. Jason Rassi (Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL) and Sis. Ellie Fischer (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Annette, Roanoke, IL) were united in marriage in our Roanoke church this month. We welcome Sis. Ellie to Eureka, and pray this new couple will continue to walk in the light of God's Holy Word.

Bro. Kevin and Sis. Julie Kupferschmid were doubly blessed by the birth of two little twin boys, Austin David and Ayden Ryan. Also welcoming home the twins are siblings, Lanae, Kelsey and Logan. Grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Donna Kupferschmid and Randy and Tereza Schertz of Eureka. We wish our loved ones grace and wisdom as their family grows.

#### *Notes of Thanks:*

We wish to extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to everyone who has and continues to remember us through the birth and death of our beloved Samson Michael. We pray that the Lord has and will continue to bless each and every one of you for your kind words, deeds, gifts, and food; but especially all the prayers that have and continue to help carry us through this valley.

In deep Christian love,  
Bro. Mike and Sis. Gretchen  
Zimmerman and family

Words just can't express how thankful I am for all the concern, prayers and gifts given to me while I was in the hospital and then in the Home. It is so wonderful to feel the love of my church family and friends. God's blessings to all of you.

*Sis. Melba Mangold*

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### **ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY** **Anna Schmidgall** **Lila Fehr**

Our visiting ministers that spent time with us this month were: Bros. Ben Walder and James Knapp (Congerville), Dean Steffen (Belvidere), and Steve Martin (Eureka).

We had some exciting new additions to our congregation this month! We would like to extend a special welcome to Bro. Dave and Sis. Kara Blunier and family who recently moved here from the Princeville area. Bro. Derrek, Sis. Joslyn and Nathan Steidinger welcomed home little Jonathan Dean. His grandparents are Dave and Deanne Steidinger and Dan and Marcia Grosshans. Little Kyle Andrew Stoller was welcomed home by his parents, Bro. Brian and Sis. Kara, and his siblings, Derrick and Kate. Kyle's grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Sandra Stoller and Bro. Carlos and Sis. Jane Meiss.

The angels in heaven are rejoicing, along with our congregation, over a soul who has come repenting. Kaylee Fehr is the daughter of Bro. Nathan and Sis. Marsha Fehr.

Our hospital patients this month were Sis. Elsie Bachtold, Bro. Tom Steidinger, Dale Mowery, Paul Hoffman, and Travis Kaisner (Bro. Don and Sis. Leona).

We laid a dear loved one to rest this month. Sis. Leah Maurer was

100 years old and a long-time soldier of the Lord. We will miss her smiling face and loving touch.

#### *Notes of Thanks:*

I would like to thank my dear family and friends for their gifts of love and many kind deeds while I was in the hospital and since returning home. They were all greatly appreciated.

*Joan Gaston*

We wish to express our deep appreciation and thanks for the love, prayers, gifts, cards and food given during Pat's time in the hospital and since returning home. May God richly bless every one.

*Bro. Vernon and Sis. Pat  
Hartman*

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

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Darrel Stoller (Bern, KS), Bro. Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL), Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Bro. Paul Kilgus (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Glen Braker (Princeville, IL). We have felt the Lord speak through "His mouthpieces" and we thank these brothers for being willing to be used.

Bro. Paul Wiegand (Sis. Edna), Bro. Perry Zimmerman (Sis. Dorothy), Sis. Dorothy Bachtold (Carl), Bro. Homer Blunier (Sis. Virginia) and Vernon Edelman (Ruth) all have spent time in the hospital. May God be near each one.

We rejoice with Bro. Lucas and Sis. Raya Nussbaum and big sister, Alayna, as they welcome Tucker Dean into their family circle. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Shelly Steidinger and

Bro. Terry and Sis. Debbie Nussbaum.

Mary Kaeb and Ryan Wenger have announced their engagement. We wish God's blessings and direction on their upcoming marriage. Parents of the couple are Merlin and Ida Lou Kaeb of Arrowsmith, IL, and Bro. Rich and Sis. Jill Wenger.

As our congregation sorrows deeply over the loss of our beloved convert, Ben Stork, we take comfort in the hymn, "How Firm a Foundation, Ye Saints of the Lord" which was read at his funeral service. Ben was taken swiftly from us in an accident and was buried on his 20th birthday. Our sincere sympathy and love goes out to his parents, Bro. Paul and Sis. Dawn, his brothers, Elijah, Jared, Isaiah, Lucas, and his sister, Tamra. May verse three of page 11 in the Hymns of Zion be a comfort to us all.

*"How Firm a Foundation,  
Ye Saints of the Lord"*

When thru the deep waters I call  
thee to go,  
The rivers of sorrow shall not  
overflow;  
For I will be with thee, thy troubles  
to bless,  
And sanctify to thee thy deepest  
distress.  
And sanctify to thee thy deepest  
distress.

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## ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

**Rita Bauman  
Amber Grimm**

At the time of this spring season we look forward to the rebirth of plants around us with the reminder of our rebirth in Christ because of His perfect sacrifice.

"For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; The flowers

appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land; The fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell..."

*Song of Solomon 2:11-13*

We thank Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Sis. Miriam, Tremont, IL) and Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) for bringing the Word of God to us this month. Bro. Charles came to share the Memorandum with our congregation, and we are very thankful for his time and service.

Bro. Travis Blunier (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Eddis) announced his engagement to Sis. Jaclyn Kellenberger (Bro. Ken and Sis. Vicki, Elgin, IL), along with Bro. Brent Schmidgall (Bro. Randy and Sis. Cindy) to Sis. Abby Hoerr (Bro. Carl and Sis. Debbie, Peoria, IL). It is a blessing to see God working in lives and answering prayers for those who serve Him.

Bro. Adam Rocke (Mark and Connie) and Sis. Maribeth Moens (Mike and Peggy, Eureka, IL) were united in marriage on March 12. May God richly bless their life together.

Sis. Vera Heinold is in the hospital, and we pray for her swift recovery.

The prayers of the church are with the families of those who passed away this month. Sis. Bertha Wingeier passed away after spending some time in the hospital. Sis. Marilyn Blunier's (Bro. Melvin) father, Earl Underwood, also passed away this month. May they look to God who can give true comfort in this time of loss.

### *Note of Thanks:*

I wish to sincerely thank all those who remembered me with loving thoughts and cards on my 90th Christmas birthday. May your kindness be rewarded with the blessings of God.

*Sis. Vera Heinold*

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## ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry A. Klopfenstein

In a recent trip to the grocery store I noted a young woman who was blind. As she neared the check-out counter, her mother verbally told her where she was. Then, as they walked out to their vehicle, the Mother again indicated where they were, and the blind girl could find her way to the side door of their van. Within my heart a sense of pity arose. And right at that time I felt a surge of thanksgiving that I had normal eyesight and was not blind.

Even as a young boy I would always be struck, and saddened, on seeing someone who was blind. I thought it would be awful to not be able to see. It's probably rare that we see anyone who is blind. And yet, there is something far worse than physical blindness — and that is spiritual blindness. At that same grocery store I may have witnessed many more blind persons — in a spiritual sense. I could not see into their hearts, but likely they were in there. Multitudes are spiritually blind, and they could be healed if only they would repent for their sins. Our task as believers is be a light and witness — and to be "ready" to give an answer to anyone who asks about the hope that is in our heart. May God give us grace to this end.

Bro. Ron Heiniger was here Wednesday evening, March 8, for a

Topical Bible Presentation entitled, "The Israelites Journey Through The Wilderness." It was a very informative talk, and we extend our thanks to Bro. Ron.

A Marriage Seminar was held during March in our congregation. It was entitled "A More Excellent Way" and consisted of three parts. Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) spoke on "Biblical Requirements for a Godly Marriage". Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL) spoke on "Intimate Relationships of the Christian Marriage", and Bro. Dennis Kaufman (Bloomington, IL) gave the final presentation (on parenting) on Thursday evening, March 30.

On Sunday, March 25, Sis. Katie Kellenberger was announced to Bro. Arlan Miller. Her parents are Bro. Verlyn and Sis. Linda Kellenberger (Lester, IA). He is the son of Bro. Orlan and Sis. Carol Miller, Gridley. We wish them the Lord's blessings.

We heard the testimony of Justin Wiegand on Saturday, March 5. He was then baptized on March 6, and became Bro. Justin. He had suffered a near-crippling accident on a ski lift in Colorado several months ago, and was hospitalized for a long time. By the grace of God — and many prayers — his spinal injury healed and he can walk. "The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availed much." Ministering Bros. Wayne Lemman (Roanoke, IL) and John Lehman (Wolcott, IN) were here for the occasion.

Bro. Dale Schlipf suffered a broken leg while working in a cattle lot. He is wearing a cast, and getting around alright.

Bro. Tony and Sis. Amanda Dohman had their second child on March 15. She was named Alyse

Carlette. She has a brother, Lane, 1. Grandparents are John and Sis. Judy Dohman, Gridley; and Jim and Leann Jordon, Delavan. Great-grandparents are Sis. Alma Bolliger, Tremont, and Shirley Dohman, Fairbury; also, Virginia Lusher, Delavan, and Evelyn Sides, Metamora. We offer our best wishes to this young couple in their endeavors to train up these children in the ways of the Lord.

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**MORTON, ILLINOIS**  
**Annette Tanner**  
**Julie Bahr**

"The Air Force has moved to protect free speech for chaplains enabling them to pray according to their faith including 'In Jesus Name'. These revised guidelines were issued the second week of February." The revision of this legal victory was printed in a recent report, citing the tireless efforts of Christian attorneys. JESUS, what a sweet name to defend! As the Easter season approaches, we are reminded of the victories Jesus won for us with His shed blood. By standing up for spiritual victories, we are given strength to stand for other victories as well. Let us continue to pray for our religious freedoms and praise God for continuing to touch the hearts of mankind.

Our family worship night was led by Bro. Fred Funk (Sis. Diane). His topic was entitled "Farming". What do you desire to reap in this life to benefit your own soul? Then that is exactly what you need to be sowing towards others.

Family hymn sing was enjoyed by visiting Sunday school students, grades K-5 from Bloomington. Our Sunday school students preK-5 also participated. Thank you to each one.

Our visiting ministers were Bro. Ron Heiniger (Sis. Kaylene, Bloomington, IL). Also Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO) who lent of himself to assist in reading the Memorandum letter.

Each month brings news of more loved ones that are called home. Bro. Don (Sis. Mavis) Hermann and Florence Witter lost another brother within weeks of each other. Norman Hermann passed away February 23. He was a brother to the recently deceased Romeo Hermann. Bro. Wade W. Fehr, Peoria, passed away. He is the brother to Sis. Lillian Getz, Morton. Two of our Morton sisters lost their sisters also this month. Sis. Elma Heiniger's sister, Sis. Lorene Heiniger, Peoria, passed away; and Sis. Sarah Frank's sister, Lydia Johnson, passed away. Our sympathy is extended to these bereaved families.

On February 3, little Alaina Rose was born to Bro. Scott and Sis. Wendy Baum. Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Jody Baum, and Bro. Dave and Sis. LouAnn Klopfenstein, Phoenix.

Madeline Grace made her debut February 13 to Marti and Brad Pascual. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Cheryl Wuthrich.

*Notes of Thanks:*

Thank you so very much for the beautiful cards, phone calls, food, floral arrangements and donations in memory of my dear husband and father. We appreciated everything. May God bless each one of you.

Our Love in Christ,  
*Sis. Milly Zimmerman*  
*Bro. Joe and Sis. Barb Zimmerman*  
*Kathy and Jim Heiniger*  
*Mary Zimmerman*



Florence Hermann Witter and Bro. Don and Sis. Mavis Hermann wish to thank all for the kind expressions of love shown to them during the loss of their two brothers, Romeo Hermann and Norman Hermann. Thank you again!

We want to thank everyone for the love shown to us through the beautiful cards we received in honor of our 50th anniversary. May God bless you.

In Christian Love,  
*Bro. Harry and Sis. LaVerne Kaiser*

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**ILLINOIS, PEORIA**  
**Kristin Menold**  
**Carissa Klopfenstein**

“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 61:10*

As the light of the sun breathes warmth into the frozen earth, seeds long dormant suddenly come alive and break through the surface. The winter wilderness is transformed into a growing garden, awash in color. The silence is broken by whoops of joy, as all creation seems to shout. “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.” (Psalm 19:1)

Spring brings new life, new birth, new hope. II Corinthians 5:17 says, “If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

Congratulations to Bro. Jesse and Sis. Jill Schroeder in the birth of their son, Evan Jesse Schroeder, who was born March 2. Evan is welcomed by his sister, Alexa, and brother, Blake; his grandparents, Bro. Skip and Sis. Pat Meister and Bro. Duane and Sis. Rachel Schroeder (Roanoke, IL). May the Lord be with you as you celebrate this precious gift of life.

We welcome our new Bro. Justin Herman (Bro. Greg and Sis. Beth), and Sisters Jenna Rieker (Bro. Jim and Sis. Jane), Martney Stickling (Harold and Marilyn), and Alyssa Hoerr (Bro. Tod and Sis. Sallie) as they gave their testimonies and were baptized on March 5. Elder Bro. Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL) assisted in this service.

We look forward to the testimony and baptism of our converts, Jake Meister (Bro. Spark and Sis. Rhonda), Allison Aupperle (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Cindy), Larissa Feucht (Bro. Tim and Sis. Robyn) and Jessica Waibel (Bro. Mike and Sis. Rose) on March 25-26.

Bro. Sandor Davidovics (son of Irma Davidovics) was announced for engagement to Sis. Rachel Miller (Bro. Michael and Sis. Doreen, Rittman, OH). Their wedding date is set for May 7 in Rittman, OH.

Bro. Dustin Funk (Elder Bro. Tim and Sis. Debi) was announced for engagement to Sis. Erin Metzger (Ed Metzger, Phoenix, AZ, and Sis. Jeanne Metzger, Champaign, IL). Their wedding date is set for June 25 in Champaign.

The wedding of Sis. Patricia Triplett (Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Louise) and Bro. Joel Beer (Bro. Joe and Sis. Jan, Bloomington, IL) will be on May 28. This is a correction from last month.

The reading of the Memorandum

took place on Wednesday, March 1. The Memorandum was read by our Elder Bro. Tim Funk, retired Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer, and our deacon, Bro. Ken Hoerr.

We were blessed to have the Mortonaires with us for the monthly Hymn Sing on March 5, along with the 3-5th grade Sunday School classes. We are thankful for their encouragement and beautiful singing.

Our prayers are with Sis. LouAnn Funk, as she recovers from a broken shoulder and Sister Rhoda Hess, as she recovers from surgery. Our sympathy and prayers are with Sis. Marge Fehr and family in the passing of Bro. Wade Fehr.

The choir and other members of the Peoria congregation, traveled by plane, bus, or car across the fruited plain to be with our brothers and sisters in Phoenix, AZ, on February 25-26. The Phoenix congregation turned out in mass to hear the choir both Saturday and Sunday evening. Not only were they incredible hostesses, the amazing dinner, flowers, and decorations left us feeling grateful to be with them and to share this weekend and fellowship.

The final selection of the program Sunday evening, the Peoria choir combined with the Phoenix choir to sing, “Great is Thy Faithfulness.” We pray this heartfelt adulation blessed the host of heaven as it blessed us that day.

The group then traveled to Magdalena where they put their enthusiasm and energy into installing toilets, building 14' columns, plumbing, dry wall, and forming friendships with the Mexican children and each other. To God be the glory!

The choir is now preparing for the Benefit Dinner, which is sched-

uled to take place April 22 at the Peoria Fellowship Hall. Other upcoming events include the Sunday School Easter program, scheduled to take place on April 2, Communion on April 9, and the Sunrise Service on Easter morning, April 16.

We welcome Tonya Henderson and her children, Marisa (3rd grade) and Floyd Jr. (1st grade), to our congregation.

May God be glorified as we meditate on the death and sacrifice, resurrection and redemption of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

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### ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

**Kara Blunier  
Vera Baer**

We are happy to welcome Chloe Dale. She is the daughter of Bro. Doug and Sis. Carol Blunier. They are excited to experience parenthood for the first time. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Virgil and Sis. Marilyn Graf (Altadena, CA) and Sis. Joyce Blunier. Another set of happy grandparents are Bro. Herbert and Sis. Diana Rumbold. Their daughter and her husband, Jeff and Sarah Rogers, had a boy, February 16. His name is Jacob Wayne. May God be with each family in raising their precious bundle of love.

The Bible class invited the Bible classes from Gridley, Washington, and Champaign for a weekend. Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL) spoke to them in the morning and to our congregation for our afternoon services.

Three souls were baptized this month. They are Sis. Heidi Schick (Bro. Stan and Sis. Margie), Sis. Raquel Knobloch (Bro. Alan and Sis. Mary Ann), and Bro. Grant Herrmann (Bro. Dean and Sis. Dawn). Helping our Elder for the

weekend was Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN). Visiting ministers were Bros. Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL), Justin Koch (Washington, IL), Tom Troxel (La-Crosse, IN), Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL), and Fred Funk (Morton, IL).

Also this month we had an "Invite a Guest" day. Bro. Mike Baumann (Mansfield, OH) brought us God's Word.

Aaron Menold, son of Bro. Fred and Sis. Nancy, was united in marriage to Elizabeth Portales on March 4. We wish them many blessed years of serving God together.

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### ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

**Dee Fehr  
Doris Fischer**

"This union of our hearts  
Shall stand through grace in Je-  
sus;  
We walk the path of life,  
While cheer and trust increases.  
Where God in truth abides,  
Where two join hand and heart,  
We find a three-fold cord,  
Not lightly rent apart."

We rejoiced to witness the marriage of Sis. Ellie Fischer and Bro. Jason Rassi (Eureka) on March 5. Sis. Ellie's parents are Bro. Kevin and Sis. Annette Fischer and Bro. Jason's parents are Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy Rassi (Tremont). We pray God's blessings on this young couple as they begin their life together as husband and wife.

Another couple is making wedding plans - Stephanie Leman (Bro. Steve and Sis. Shirley) is engaged to marry Marc Rieke (Dean and Julie). Best wishes to Stephanie and Marc

as they make future plans.

We were grateful to have Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington) as our guest for Family Worship on February 22. Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago) and Bros. Curt Rassi and Dan Koch (Tremont) shared our pulpit on Bro. Jason and Sis. Ellie's wedding day. Thanks to each for your willingness to travel to be with us, and for lending yourselves to the Lord for His work.

There is joy in the hearts and home of Matt and Jodi Gordon at the birth of their first child. Alli Marie was born on January 25 in Normal. Jodi's parents, Bro. Steve and Sis. Jill Aeschleman, are thankful to be grandparents for the first time. Alli's paternal grandparents are Rich and Sharon Gordon of Normal.

Another joyful couple is Bro. Ben and Sis. Kristy Luginbuhl as they've brought a son to their home in Bloomington from his birthplace in South Korea. Cade Benjamin was born July 4, 2005, and arrived at his American home on February 4. Cade's homecoming was celebrated in Roanoke since his grandparents, Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol Luginbuhl, and his aunts, uncles and cousins assemble here. This little boy is fortunate to be brought into a loving Christian home, and to a country that shares his birthdate!

We offer our condolences to Sis. Janice Braker (Bro. Kevin) and her family at the passing of her father, Leon Rodgers, in early March. May fond memories bring you comfort, and may God ease the pain of your loss.

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**ILLINOIS, TREMONT**  
**Teresa Rowell**  
**Sheri Allen**

The birds upon the treetop sing  
 their song,  
 The angels chant the chorus all  
 day long;  
 The flowers in the garden blend  
 their hue,  
 So why shouldn't I, why shouldn't  
 you praise Him, too?  
*The Children's Harp #9*

Spring is coming and the smell is in the air. I so love when the trees start to bud and the birds begin to sing again. The flowers start to lift their heads and the world turns to color again! Everything is beginning anew and we have several families who have little ones who have begun their lives in this world. Bro. Dave and Sis. Joanna Sauder, Heidi, Debbie, Nathan and Jacob welcome Carl James into their family. Excited grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Joanne Sauder and Bro. Howard and Sis. MaryAnn Herrmann (Princeville, IL). Also, joining Bro. Gary and Sis. Kathy Wagenbach is Anna Marie. Her happy grandparents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz Wagenbach and Bro. Phil and Sis. Diane Koch. Bro. Kerry and Sis. Kelly Baer welcome Samuel Joseph into their family circle. Rejoicing with them are grandparents, Bro. Dave and Sis. June Koch and Sis. Janna Baer (Bradford, IL). May God grant these couples the wisdom to raise these children for Him.

We have two engagements to announce. Ryan Aberle (Bro. Pete and Sis. Debbie) and Courtney Sharp are planning an August 2006 wedding. Dave Mooney (Robert and Judy) and Jennifer Leininger plan to wed in June 2006. We wish these couples God's richest blessings in their lives

together.

Bro. Jason Rassi (Eureka, IL) and Sis. Ellie Fischer were joined in holy matrimony in Roanoke this past month. Bro. Jason's parents are Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy Rassi from our congregation. Randy Aberle and Darla King were married in August 2005 and Rodney Aberle and Staci Getz were married in November 2005. Randy and Rodney are the sons of Bro. Pete and Sis. Debbie Aberle. We forgot to mention these two couples in earlier publications. Our apologies!

Spending some time in the hospital were Betty Schweigert, Sis. Vera Aberle (Bro. Walt) and Sis. Lori Wagenbach (Bro. Si III). We hope they are on the road to recovery and can assemble with us in the near future.

Our sympathies are with the family of Sis. Emma Griener as she was laid to rest to await the final call of Jesus. May her family find comfort in this time of loss.

We welcome our Bro. Dale Koch back to the Tremont congregation. He had been in North Carolina for work and attending the Washington, D.C. church. I am sure they will miss him, but we are glad to have him back.

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**ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON**  
**Nancy Knepp**  
**Barb Banwart**

We appreciated the visit of ministering Bro. Fred Funk (Sis. Diane, Morton, IL) who brought to us such clear teachings about the seed, the Word of God, and the preparation of our hearts and the care necessary to bring forth fruit with patience.

We are thankful for the safe return of our brothers from Biloxi, Mississippi, where they spent last

week with many others rebuilding in the flooded areas. We pray their efforts might be both a blessing and a light in the ravaged areas.

Sunday evening, February 26, we enjoyed the blessing of hymns the Mortonairens and one of our young Sunday School classes brought to us.

May we also prepare soberly for the sacred privilege of Holy Communion.

Amidst us our Beloved stands  
 and bids us view His pierced  
 hands;  
 Points to the wounded feet and  
 side;  
 Blest emblems of the Crucified.

What food luxurious loads the  
 board  
 When, at His table, sits the Lord!  
 The wine how rich, the bread how  
 sweet,  
 When Jesus deigns the guests to  
 meet!

If now, with eyes defiled and dim  
 We see the signs, but see not Him;  
 O, may His love the scales displace  
 And bid us see Him face to face!

Thou glorious Bridegroom of our  
 hearts,  
 Thy present smile a heaven im-  
 parts!  
 O, lift the veil, if veil there be;  
 Let every saint Thy glory see!

—Charles H. Spurgeon  
 (1834-1892)

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

“And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first

commandment.”

*Mark 12:30*

This beautiful verse inspired several young converts and members at Bluffton's high school/middle school weekend on February 25-26. During this wonderfully uplifting weekend, those present learned about having a passion for Christ. The two talks on Saturday discussed igniting the passion and living with a passion for Jesus. Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger and his wife, Sis. Peg, joined us from Goodfield, IL, for the weekend. In addition, Bro. John Reinhard (Bluffton) talked about living that passion. The weekend also provided many opportunities for various service projects and singing at nursing homes and before the church on Sunday. Overall, the weekend was a tremendous blessing to all involved.

On March 12, high school Sunday school students traveled to Purdue for a day of fellowship through ACYF. We are prayerful for the opening of hearts through the many challenges of the weekend.

The weekend of February 18-19 marked the wonderful weekend of baptisms for four converts. As they shared in their testimonies, we were once again overwhelmed by the grace of God as He works in each one of us. Brent Fiechter (Bro. Doug and Sis. Jill), Kreigh Aschliman (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Beth), Sis. Beth Drayer (Bro. Herm and Sis. Julie) and Annie Giltner (Bro. Rocky and Sis. Melinda) each dedicated their lives to Christ this month.

Also, the weekend of March 11-12 marked four more baptisms in Bluffton. Haley Steffen (Bro. Eric and Sis. Marcia), Danielle Eisenmann (Bro. John and Sis. Trudy) and Derek and Brandon

Fiechter (Bro. Stan and Sis. Lori) gave their testimonies of God's work in their lives. We are so thankful for each convert who is thankful to share how God has worked in their lives.

In addition to the wonderful news this month, there has been cause for rejoicing in many households. Bro. Mike and Sis. Carmon Bertsch announced the engagement of their son, Bro. Brad, to Sis. Sonya Beer from Milford. Our prayers go with them and their life together serving the Lord. Also, Bro. Mark and Sis. Wanda Moser announced the engagement of their son, Bro. Jeff, to Sis. Gretchen Steffen (Cissna Park, IL). As these new couples begin their lives together, we are prayerful that they can be an example of God working in their lives. Our prayer is that God will use them in miraculous ways through their lifetimes.

Within the past month, Bro. Jason Fiechter (Bro. Dave and June) was married to Sis. Joni Sinn (Latty, OH). Our prayers and blessings go with them as they start their new life together.

The Bluffton congregation was also blessed with a new convert. Aaron Rush, a 19 year old who graduated from Bluffton High School in 2005, began his repentance within our church this month. We are thankful for God's calling and his answer to serving God for the rest of his life and we welcome him into the Bluffton family.

Finally, March 7 is the birthday of little Maxton Ray, the new son of Bro. Vince and Sis. Brandy Pfister. He is joyfully welcomed by his big sister, Lily, and grandparents, Bro. Kendall and Sis. Sandy Ringger and Al and Becky Pfister.

We had three visiting ministers

this month, and we are so thankful for their sacrifices of time and energy to be with us. It was a great blessing on the Bluffton congregation. Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Sis. Peg, Goodfield, IL) joined us on the weekend of high school/middle school weekend. That same afternoon, Bro. John Baumgartner and Sis. Tami joined us from Bluffton North. Finally, our dear Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN) joined us for baptisms on March 11-12. Each time we are visited, the congregation is filled with many blessings.

Along with the many blessings that this past month has brought, our congregation has many members that have been in need of prayers. Sis. Martha Gerber underwent hip surgery on Monday, February 27, and asked for prayers on her behalf. Prayers also went out for Seth Brantzeg (Tony and Cammie) who lost all strength in one leg. Cammie is the daughter of Bro. Les and Sis. Ann Frauhofer. In addition, Bro. Rick Stucky has been dealing with a blood disorder within the past few months and has recently found out that he now has acute leukemia. He is in need of prayers even now, as he will begin treatment at the Indiana University Hospital in Indianapolis. He plans to be there for approximately four weeks and will be in isolation most of that time to avoid infection. Although he has certainly felt the power of prayers in the recent past, many more are needed to help him through the coming trials. Similarly, Bro. Jim Walburn suffers from cancer, but thankfully, it has not spread and he is doing well. We praise God for this, and continue to pray for his complete healing.

As each member of our congrega-

tion faces new trials and joys, we praise God that He is our mainstay, and will never leave us comfortless. As we anticipate what God will do for us in the coming year, we are thankful for the wonderful support and guidance of our Father and the Bluffton congregation.

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**INDIANA  
BLUFFTON NORTH  
Darren Drayer  
Tiffani Schladenhauffen**

“For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps.”

*I Peter 2:21*

We are thankful that Chris Stoller, son of the late Bro. Milard and Sis. Irma (Latty, OH), has answered the call to follow Christ and has given his heart to Him. We pray that each day God would grant him the grace to walk in Christ's steps. Two other converts this month were Mike and Karen Todd (daughter of Bro. Vernon and Sis. Mary Ann Kaehr). We are pleased that Mike and Karen, after worshipping with us for several months, have decided that they would like to make our church their home church.

We are looking forward to welcoming Sis. Brooke Huber (Sabetha, KS), daughter of Bro. Gordon and Sis. Charlene, into our congregation as she was wed to our Bro. Vince Francesi, son of Bro. Len and Sis. Mary, this month. We pray for God's blessings and guidance in this holy union.

We had two visiting ministers this month: Bro. Allen Stoller (Sis. Susan, Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Tom Troxel (Sis. LuAnn, La Crosse, IN).

We were thankful for their willingness to come and share in the Word with us.

Some of our brothers and sisters are struggling with some health problems, so our prayers continue to be with them. They are Bro. Leonard Bertsch (Sis. Wava), Sis. Diane Mason, and Sis. Clarice Isch (Bro. Harry). We pray that they would each feel the Lord's comforting hand on them as they go through these difficult times, and remember how God looks down on them with compassion.

“And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.”

*Matthew 14:14*

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**INDIANA  
FRANCESVILLE  
Barbara Huber**

Greetings in our risen Lord! Once again, we are rejoicing in the miracle of Jesus' power over the last enemy we will encounter!

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

*I Corinthians 15:57*

Through the Holy Spirit's guidance, we recently elected brothers and sisters to the various offices in our church. New offices are as follows: Asst. Sunday School Superintendent, Bro. Dave Zeltwanger; Sunday School Teaching Brothers: Bro. Ben Cook, Bro. Earl Johns, Bro. Phillip Leman and Bro. Jerod Steffen; Sunday School Teaching Sister, Sis. Barbara Rayburn; Church Trustee, Bro. Jerry Gutwein; Fellowship Center

Trustee, Bro. Larry Leman; Ushers: Bro. Wendell Anliker and Bro. Lance Gutwein; Missionary Committee, Bro. Edison Gutwein; Parkview Board, Bro. Roger Ward; Gateway Woods Representative, Bro. Dave Metzger; and World Relief Representative, Bro. Rick Wuethrich. May we as a fellowship support our brethren chosen with our prayers and availability to help them with their various duties.

Our converts, Brandon and Rosa Wuethrich, Nick and Annie Wuethrich and Shanna Rayburn, have been announced to have peace with God and man. We are joyfully looking forward to baptismal services in the near future and realize again the precious gift of our own salvation through grace and faith to be called the children of God. “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast.” (Ephesians 2:9-10)

Our High School Bible Class recently participated in the ACYF day held at Purdue University. Thank you to our ministers, teachers, parents and students who endeavored to make it a day of memorable blessing.

*All Nature  
Proclaims Eternal Life*

Flowers sleeping 'neath the snow,  
Awakening when the spring winds  
blow;

Leafless trees so bare before,  
Gowned in lacy green once more;  
Hard, unyielding, frozen sod  
Now softly carpeted by God;  
Still streams melting in the  
spring,

Rippling over rocks that sing;  
Barren, windswept, lonely hills  
Turning gold with daffodils –  
These miracles are all around  
Within our sight and touch and  
sound,

As true and wonderful today  
As when the stone was rolled  
away.  
Proclaiming to all doubting men  
That in God all things live again.

“Now if we be dead with Christ,  
we believe that we shall also live  
with him: Knowing that Christ be-  
ing raised from the dead dieth no  
more; death hath no more dominion  
over him.”

*Romans 6:8-9*

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**INDIANA  
INDIANAPOLIS  
Gail Bradford  
Sandy Lichtle**

“Lo, children are a heritage of the  
Lord...”

*Psalms 127:3*

Bro. Adam and Sis. Jill Merkle  
have been blessed with a son, Hud-  
son Dante, born on February 25.  
Welcoming him home are his sister,  
Madelyn, and his grandparents,  
Bro. Don and Sis. Rosie Gramm  
(Gridley, IL) and Dr. George and Ka-  
ren Merkle (Bluffton, IN).

We rejoice with first-time grand-  
parents, Bro. Ron and Sis. Edie  
Bollier, on the birth of their grand-  
daughter, Aesha Alejandra Vogt.  
Aesha was born on February 26 to  
Bro. Lon and Sis. Sarah Vogt (Co-  
lumbia, SC).

March 6 was a special day for Sis.  
Rebecca Gudeman as her grandson,  
Jared Scott Klopfenstein, was born.  
Welcoming Jared home are his par-  
ents, Bro. Scott and Sis. Katie  
Klopfenstein (Phoenix, AZ), and his  
brother, Matthew.

Bro. Bert and Sis. Karen  
Aeschliman are thankful for the safe  
arrival of their grandson, Conlin Jay  
Gerber, born on March 15. Conlin's

parents are Bro. Corey and Sis.  
Erika Gerber (Lafayette, IN) and  
his siblings are Allison and Caden.

More important than our physi-  
cal birth is the fact that we can be  
born again spiritually because of Je-  
sus' death on the cross.

“Therefore if any man be in  
Christ, he is a new creature: old  
things are passed away; behold, all  
things are become new.”

*II Corinthians 5:17*

We are thankful for the safe re-  
turn of Sis. Betsy Gutwein from her  
recent trip to Dubai. We enjoyed  
hearing her presentation on sharing  
the gospel with the Muslims.

Our visiting minister this month  
was Bro. Erik Givens (Sis. Debbie,  
Princeville, IL). We appreciate your  
servant heart and labors of love.

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**INDIANA, LACROSSE  
Bethany Johnson  
Julie Roche**

Blest be the tie that binds  
our hearts in Christian love;  
The fellowship of kindred minds  
is like to that above.

*Hymns of Zion #156, vs. 1*

Our annual Fellowship Weekend  
was held the last weekend of Febru-  
ary. We enjoyed the loved ones from  
far and near that came to spend the  
weekend and worship with us. It  
was good to see many familiar faces  
and many new ones as well. Our as-  
sembly room was much fuller than  
on a regular Sunday, but we were re-  
minded in the morning service that  
“Yet there is room.” There is yet  
room for more to be gathered in and  
there is yet room for improvement  
in each of our lives.

We appreciated the service of El-

der Bro. Ervin Knecht (Sis. Sandy,  
Eureka, IL), and Bros. John Steiner  
(Sis. Carol, Oakville, IA), and Ned  
Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI) on Fel-  
lowship Weekend. Thank you also  
to Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jackie,  
Francesville, IN) and his family for  
spending the following Sunday with  
us. May God be their rich Rewarder.

Our dear Sis. Fern (Heinold)  
Antrim was called home March 7.  
Her children, Thresa Jones and  
Leonard (Jeanne) Antrim, are in  
our thoughts and prayers in this  
time of loss, as are her other family  
members: Sis. Dorothy (Bro. Doayne)  
Stewart and Sis. Ruth (Bro. Virgil)  
Heinold. Sis. Ruth Heinold also lost  
her brother, Melvin Gutwein, from  
Arizona.

We are remembering in prayer  
many of our loved ones who have un-  
dergone surgery or are facing treat-  
ments for illness. Bro. Doayne and  
Sis. Dorothy Stewart were hospital-  
ized this month.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Jo Frank are  
thankful for the safe arrival of a new  
granddaughter. Kaleigh Grace was  
born to Bro. Lucas and Sis. Crystal  
Frank (Detroit, MI). Also welcom-  
ing her home are big brother Logan  
and grandparents, Bro. Dave and  
Sis. Dottie Ramsier (Smithville,  
OH).

Several from our congregation  
were able to make the trip down to  
Biloxi, Mississippi, to help out on the  
reconstruction from Hurricane Ka-  
trina. We are thankful that they had  
safe travels as well as a good week of  
work down there. After our  
monthly singing, we appreciated  
hearing about the project from  
those who traveled, as well as some  
of their experiences. Seeing the de-  
struction and loss in that area re-  
minds us of how very blessed we are  
and more importantly, how God's

love can carry His children through even the worst storms of this life.

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**INDIANA, LEO  
Ethelyn Schlatter**

The first of March we rejoiced to have Elder Bro. Jim Plattner and Sis. Marlene (Princeville, IL) visit. Then Bro. Greg and Sis. Lisa Stieglitz and family (Indianapolis, IN) visited on Sunday, March 12. We were blessed both times with their messages from the Word.

On Sunday evening we shared our love at a singing shower for Bro. Shane Beer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie) and Sis. Stephanie Schwab of West Lafayette, IN. Her parents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Shari Schwab (Wolcott, IN). Their grandparents were also with us.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Ernie and Sis. Dean Stoller and Sis. Velma Williams in the passing of their brother, Nelson Stoller, of Paulding, OH.

Our ministering brothers are presenting a Bible Study on Colossians for five consecutive Wednesday evenings commencing March 8.

On Saturday evening, March 18, we rejoiced with Steve and Chris Sukup as they gave their testimonies to the congregation and were baptized on Sunday. We welcome them as our brother and sister in the Lord.

Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Sis. Deb, Peoria, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz in this work of faith. Bro. Sam Schlatter (Sis. Linda, Junction, OH) also shared the day with us and we experienced abundant blessings on this weekend.

*Redemption's Price*  
The sinless Lamb of God,

Jesus of Galilee,  
Was called a transgressor  
And died on Calvary.

He suffered for the sinner  
Almost beyond belief.  
And we helped nail Him there,  
To cause Him all His grief.

To atone for our mistakes  
And His great pardon win,  
We must crucify the flesh  
And die unto all sin.

It was His great desire  
To share the cup and bread  
With His beloved disciples,  
Before dying in our stead.

With anguish in the garden  
Of dark Gethsemane  
He prayed to God, remove this cup  
Which weighs so heavily.

While praying in submission,  
"Not my will but Thine",  
An angel came to strengthen Him  
At this most sorrowed time.

The Lord in all His grief  
Was forsaken of His own.  
When told to watch, they only  
slept,  
While He prayed all alone.

They led Him to the Judgment  
Hall  
Crying, "Crucify Him for His  
crime."  
In innocence He suffered all  
To redeem your sins and mine.

Compelled to bear the cross  
Was Simon of Cyrene,  
With many following after,  
Jesus the Nazarene.

They nailed Him to the cross  
And still He was so true.  
And prayed, "Forgive them, Fa-  
ther,  
They know not what they do."

Thirsty and exhausted  
He bowed His head and died,  
With blood and water flowing  
From His wounded side.

Joseph begged His body  
And carried Him away,  
To lay it in the tomb  
Till Resurrection Day.

God's plan to save the sinner  
Started with the dying thief,  
Who asked of Jesus on the cross  
For pardon and relief.

To those lamenting Him  
It was an awful loss,  
But the world's greatest victory  
Was achieved upon that Cross.  
*—the late Bro. Henry Kipfer*

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**INDIANA, MILFORD  
Carol Haab  
Carlton Beer**

The tulips are up and the robins are back; "the winter is over and gone".

We had a reminder of the uncertainty of life this month. Janette Vice who has been worshipping with us for several years, worshiped with us one Sunday and by the next Sunday we had already had her funeral service.

We had some visiting ministers to help Bro. Nelson and Bro. Dan. One was Elder Bro. John Laukhuf (Latty, OH) who told how sometimes in our service to the Lord we have to do some things that are not comfortable. He cited how much God's servants, especially Jesus, did many things that were not comfortable to stand up for their faith.

Bro. Scott Schafer (South Bend, IN) spent one Sunday morning with us and encouraged us to be steadfast.

Elder Bro. Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) helped Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) serve us Communion and also ministered the next day. He said the best way to keep from being deceived is to study the true Word of God. Elder Bro. Bill also spent one Wednesday evening with us to present a topical Bible study on "Faith and Works".

Our church held an auction March 18 to raise money for many of our congregation's charity activities. It was well supported and a good time of fellowship was enjoyed by all.

Our prayers are for some of our older people who are encountering health problems. Also, there are friends in our community whom we continually pray for.

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## INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Beth Virkler  
Tammy Waibel**

Greetings to you from Remington. Not a lot has happened this past month but what has happened is wonderful. The Lord blessed us with a visit from Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Francesville, IN). We really appreciate you coming to feed us the words of our Lord and Savior.

First-time parents of a beautiful baby girl are Bro. Craig and Sis. Rachel Langhofer from our church in South Bend, IN. Christy Marie was born on March 1. Grandparents of the happy couple are Bro. Stan and Sis. Beth Virkler and Bro. Marty and Sis. Lavilla Langhofer (South Bend). We pray that you will feel God's nearness to you in the journey that you and your child (children) take. It has often been said that it takes a community to raise a child. I think of church as a community.

We all pray that the Lord will watch over Bro. Chad and Sis. Heather Heiniger as they make Elgin, IL, their new home church. You will be greatly missed and we know that wherever you go, God will be with you until we meet again.

April is coming up and we have a lot to think about. Jesus shedding His blood for all of our sin. It is free for the taking. One minister had this to say: "Do we remember when we were in Satan's clutches of sin? There was a time for those of us who have experienced the redeeming blood of Jesus Christ, where we were in the bonds and shackles of sin. Let's remember that time. Not the sin itself, but let's remember the freedom that was purchased through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. And today we can walk in newness of life with the gift of hope of salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord and our Savior."

### *Note of Thanks:*

It has been a year since the passing of my dear wife and I would like to thank each and every one of you for your prayers, your visits, your cards, your phone calls, the meals brought to me, those who have invited me for meals and a heartfelt thank you for all of the encouraging words. May God bless each and every one of you richly.

*Bro. Ken Schneider*

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## INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**Laura Vercler  
Amy Gerst**

Spring has brought an abundance of new life to our South Bend church. Three babies have been added to our small congregation. We are thankful that the Lord has brought them safely into the world.

Jesus said "Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God." (Luke 18:16)

Bro. Rich and Sis. Samantha Gramm and big sister, Elena, welcomed a new baby girl, Grace Elizabeth, at the end of February. Grandparents are Bro. Scott and Sis. Gigi Schafer and Bro. Ed and Sis. Lucille Gramm (Eureka, IL).

First-time parents, Bro. Craig and Sis. Rachel Langhofer, rejoiced at the birth their baby girl, Christy Marie. Grandparents are Bro. Marty and Sis. Lavilla Langhofer and Bro. Stan and Sis. Beth Virkler (Remington, IN).

The Langhofer family continued to grow with the birth of Bro. Brad and Sis. Becky Langhofer's baby boy, Daniel Jonas. He is also welcomed home by his big brother, Jesse. Grandparents are Bro. Marty and Sis. Lavilla Langhofer and Bro. Fred and Sis. Mary Ellen Zimmerman (Congerville, IL).

Our church family was blessed with visiting Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS) for our Communion service. Accompanied by our Elder Bro. Curt Frank, the church was united by and reminded of the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Also visiting this month was Bro. Joe Gerst (Sis. Connie, Iowa City, IA) and his family. We are blessed to have two of his children in our small congregation and are thankful when the Gerst family comes to visit.

We are thankful for the return home of Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue Beebe from their mission trip to Haiti. We praise God for the traveling mercies He bestowed upon the team.

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## INDIANA VALPARAISO

**Ed Lester**

Greetings once again to all of our friends and family of believers. With a majority of the newspaper dedicated to who is winning and losing, it's hard not to notice the frenzy of college basketball going on. In general, many people spend a vast amount of time cheering for their team. What is surprising is that many of those people never went to college. So why the big attraction to these sporting events? I think people are searching for a sense of belonging. We as believers are so fortunate to have a loving Savior like Jesus guiding us each day. When you realize what He has done for us, and our obligation to His Word, it gives us something higher to strive toward. When the Chicago White Sox won the World Series, one fan as reported by the newspaper said, "this is the best thing that has happened to me." I could not help but feel a certain amount of pity for that individual. I am glad the Lord has chosen me to follow Him!

Everyone at Valparaiso would like to welcome home Sis. Andrea Schneider (Bro. Dale Schneider) from her stay in the hospital. She may appreciate any prayers or cards you may offer.

Sis. Irene Nuest has been called to her eternal home.

Also, we rejoice with Art Heinold for hearing the Lord's calling and being able to have hope of salvation.

## INDIANA WEST LAFAYETTE

**Andria Sprunger  
Hollie Meister**

We were encouraged to hear that one of our college students, Shana Honn, found grace to begin her walk

with the Lord. We pray for God's grace and wisdom as she seeks to serve Him.

Bro. Corey and Sis. Erika Gerber welcomed Conlin Jay to their family on March 15. Allison and Caden are excited to have a new baby brother. Grandparents are Bro. Russell and Sis. Susie Gerber (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Bert and Sis. Karen Aeschliman (Indianapolis, IN).

Bro. Greg Rassi ministered to us this month. He shared a topical Bible study with us on Temples and Tabernacles. We thank him for sharing God's Word with our congregation.

## INDIANA, WOLCOTT

**Elaine Bahler  
Lowell Bahler**

"And whosoever shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me."

*Matthew 18:5*

Although little Cheyenne has been among us for many months as a foster child of Bro. Jason and Sis. Jenny Furrer, March 1 was the date she officially became their daughter. Siblings, Andrew, Naomi, Deborah, and Abraham, are thrilled with their new sister as are grandparents, Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb Beer (Milford, IN) and Alvin and Phyllis Furrer. We offer this dear family our sincere congratulations and pray that God will continue to bless them as they care for this special child.

Although we enjoyed many visitors this month, they did not include a minister. However, we were blessed with a ministry of song as a mixed group from Latty, OH, spent a Sunday with us and favored us

with beautiful singing. May God bless them for sharing with us.

Our prayers are with our Bible Class and all those who accompanied them to Jamaica over Spring Break. What a wonderful opportunity to serve in Christ's name and we trust they will enjoy a blessed week and a safe return home.

## IOWA, BLOOMFIELD Barbara Schock

Amazing Grace! how sweet the sound,

That sav'd a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found,  
Was blind, but now I see!

*Hymns of Zion #97*

On February 18 and 19, three dear souls told of the "Amazing Grace" in their lives, and brought their testimonies of faith before a cloud of witnesses. On Sunday, they were baptized into the family of God. We welcome Bro. Dan Rokey (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Phyllis, Goodfield), and Bro. Andy and Sis. Stacy Joos (Bro. Ronald and Sis. Christy Joos, Bro. Roger and Sis. DeAnn Wuthrich) with open arms. We pray that they will strive to stay close to the Lord and His "Amazing Grace". Elder Bros. Bruce Hohulin (Sis. Charlene, Goodfield) and Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend) were here to assist in this blessed weekend. Also, ministering Bros. Gene Metzger (Sis. Dolores, Lester), Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend), Wayne Wiegand (Sis. Rosemary, Goodfield) and Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove) were here for the weekend. May God bless each and every one of them.

On March 4-5, we had our annual Invite-A-Guest weekend. We had many visitors, and we enjoyed all of

them. Among those who came were two ministering brothers, Bro. Mark Steiner (Sis. Sue, Smithville) and Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove). We appreciate them traveling the many miles to come to spend the weekend, and share the Word of Life with us. Also on March 12, Bro. John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Burlington) was here. We thank him for making the effort to come over. May God richly bless them.

Take my life and let it be  
Consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
Take my hands, and let them  
move  
At the impulse of Thy love  
*Hymns of Zion #106*

We rejoice with the angels in heaven as two more dear souls have given their lives over to the Lord. They are Sara Teubel (Bro. Paul and Sis. Charlotte) and Daniel Maibach (Bro. Tim and Sis. Mary). We pray that they both will continue to grow in faith and closer to the Lord. May the Lord be with them throughout their repentance and the rest of their lives on earth.

The darkened tomb is empty now;  
Gone is the deep despair.  
The risen Lord on garden path  
Gives hope beyond compare.  
In Christ we have forgiveness;  
With His blood He bought our  
sins.  
In Him there's Easter promise  
He arose to live again.  
He is the way, the truth, the life;  
Through faith in Him we come  
To enter in through heaven's gate  
When this life's work is done.  
Because Christ died and now He  
lives  
Our hearts rejoice today!  
No longer need we fear the tomb;

The stone is rolled away.  
*Kay Hoffman*

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**IOWA, BURLINGTON**  
**Laurie Schulz**  
**Krystal Knapp**

It was so encouraging to be reminded during Memorandum of the principles of our faith and be warned about the many dangers to our Brotherhood. We wish to thank Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville, IL) for assisting our Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall in this work.

On March 5, Bro. Kyle Knapp was announced to Sis. Kelli Lanz (Oakville, IA). Parents of the couple are Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorna Knapp and Bro. Keith and Sis. Tonya Lanz. We wish them God's blessings as they grow closer to the Lord and to each other.

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

"The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them."  
*Psalms 34:7*

Our prayers are with Aaron Butikofer and his parents as Aaron has been sent to spend the next year in Iraq. May we remember all our service men in prayer as they serve our country in defense of our freedoms. Especially those who are in dangerous territories. How comforting to know that God is as near to them as He is to us. Aaron's parents are Bro. Lon and Sis. Sandy Butikofer.

Bob and Julie Frieden welcomed little Trey Robert into their family circle on February 27. Also sharing

in the joy of his arrival are his big sister, Kyella, and grandparents, Bro. Floyd and Sis. Jan Frieden and Gary and Carol Berns.

We are thankful that Sis. Evelyn Pulfer is able to be home again following her surgery for a total knee replacement.

"...The time of the singing of birds is come..."  
*Song of Solomon 2:12*

What a blessing to hear and see the return of the robins which, along with the warmer weather and lengthening of daylight hours, gives the hope of new life after the deadness of the winter months.

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**IOWA, GARDEN GROVE**  
**Willa Clark**

We have been truly blessed with those who traveled many miles to fellowship and share the Word with us in the past month. Elder Bros. Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) and Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield, IA) read the Memorandum and reminded us of our Heavenly home and our constant need for a more spiritual walk. Bros. Joe Dotterer (Sis. Rose, Bloomfield, IA) and Fred Eberhardt (Sis. Kathy, Burlington, IA) also ministered to us. What blessings God has given in His Word!

As summer and time for planning vacations approach, remember to include Garden Grove on your list of smaller churches to visit. We can be a midway stop as you travel and we always appreciate the visit. Call me, Willa Clark, at 641-443-2373, to make overnight plans.

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**IOWA, IOWA CITY**  
**Diana Butikofer**

Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) assisted Bro. Joe in reading the Memorandum letter on Saturday evening. We appreciate the brothers' thoughts and the Spirit's guiding of the evening. Bro. Jon and his wife, Sis. Julie, were also with us Sunday and we thank Bro. Jon for his willingness to speak God's Word. We enjoyed their visit and trust the Lord will reward them.

**IOWA, LESTER**  
**Polly Metzger**  
**Gloria Moser**

A little girl, McKenna Jo, is a welcome addition to the family of Craig and Kelly Metzger. McKenna was born on February 21. Parker and Kiley are happy with a new sister to love, along with her grandparents, Bro. Bill and Sis. Charlotte Metzger.

Baptized into Thy name most

holy,

O Father, Son and Holy Ghost,

I claim a place, though weak and

lowly

Among thy seed, Thy Chosen host.

Immersed with Christ, I'm dead to

sin;

Thy Spirit now shall live within.

*Zion's Harp #41*

We enjoyed a blessed weekend on March 4 and 5 as Bro. Matt and Sis. Rosalee Anderson (Bro. Brian and Sis. Bev Mogler) shared their testimonies and were welcomed into the fold. Elder Bro. Curt Frank (La-Crosse, IN) assisted our Elder throughout this weekend. May God bless their labors of love.

Many of our loved ones have been hospitalized in the past month. They include: Sis. Emily Leuthold (Bro. Art), Ruby Feucht, Elizabeth

Hartter (Bro. Matt and Sis. Hana), Sis. Martha Feucht and Sis. Emma Feucht. May the Great Physician heal according to His Will.

We extend our love and sympathy to those who have lost ones from their family circles. Bro. Jim and Sis. Betty Leuthold and Jerry and Mary Ter Wee are grieving the loss of their brother, Wally Ter Wee. Elder Bro. Dennis and Sis. Esther Warner and family are mourning the loss of their mother and grandma, Leona Warner.

Visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL) and Bro. Brandon Emch (Kansas City, MO). We appreciate their efforts in sharing God's Word with us.

Our church services are being held in our Fellowship Hall for three weeks while our church remodeling project is underway. It has been an encouragement and blessing to witness many brethren and friends working together in numerous capacities to complete this undertaking. To God be the glory.

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

We have a lot to rejoice about this month!

"Glory be to God in heaven,  
 Praise to Christ, our Saviour great!  
 By the power of Thy Spirit A new  
 man Thou didst create."

*Zion's Harp #34*

On February 19, we witnessed the baptisms of Lindsay Wagenbach (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Monti), Kyle Wagenbach (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Bonnie), Kevin Frank (Bro. Dale and Sis. Tina) and Terry

Goodpaster (Bluffton, IN). Helping with this joyous occasion was Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL). We were also blessed with visiting ministers, Bro. Bruce Frank (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Lynn Fiechter (Bluffton, IN).

"Love, of all gifts, is the greatest."

*Zion's Harp #37*

On March 5, the engagement was announced of Sis. Kelli Lanz (Bro. Keith and Sis. Tonya) and Bro. Kyle Knapp (Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorna) of Burlington, IA. What a blessing to see the Lord bring two souls together in Him.

"Put on the armor of the Lord and Saviour."

*Zion's Harp #115*

Memorandum was held on March 11 with Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) assisting. It is always an encouraging evening for the brotherhood.

"Should I restrain the Spirit's course For fear of man so feeble?"

*Zion's Harp #113*

Thank you to visiting ministering Bro. Matt Steffen (Princeville, IL) for preaching the Word of Truth on March 12.

"What glorious state, to be a lamb of Jesus."

*Zion's Harp #16*

On March 13, Hanna Jean was born into the family of Matt and Sis. Aimee Wagenbach. Also welcoming her home are Lydia, Elise and Lucas. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Jerry Sr. and Sis. Bonnie

Wagenbach, Craig and Ruth Shafer (Mediapolis) and Jeff and Becky Wrage (Gladbrook) and great-grandparents, Bro. Clem and Sis. Kate Heiniger.

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## IOWA, WEST BEND

**Sue Schneider**

**Lori Skoglund**

### *The Cleansing Fountain*

Behold a Fountain deep and wide,  
Behold its onward flow;  
'Twas opened in the Saviour's  
side,  
And cleanseth "white as snow".

From Calvary's cross, where Jesus  
died  
In sorrow, pain, and woe,  
Burst forth the wondrous crimson  
tide  
That cleanseth "white as snow".

O may we all the healing power  
Of that bless'd Fountain know;  
Trust only in the precious blood  
That cleanseth "white as snow".

And when at last the message comes,  
And we are called to go,  
Our trust shall still be in the blood  
That cleanseth "white as snow".

*Gospel Hymns No. 273*

Several have been hospitalized this past month and all are home and recovering. Bro. Dennis (Sis. Judy) Fehr has undergone surgery and Bro. Bill (Connie) Zaugg and Sis. Madeline Banwart have received medical care. There are also others with health concerns who appreciate the support and prayers of their loved ones.

"Put your hope in the Lord, take courage and be strong."

*Psalms 27:14*

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## JAPAN, SHIODA

**Ayako Inoue**

Greetings from Shioda.

The cherry blossoms are almost starting to bloom and we are looking forward to the beautiful spring scenery.

It was Bro. Ben Pearson's last Sunday at Shioda on March 11. We are thankful for his missionary work in passing out invitations to the Shioda church.

Bro. Ben and a couple of other church friends passed out invitations to the whole town of Ichinomiya plus the neighbor town, Misaka. We will sure miss him and hope to work with him again.

Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois Ehnle left for the States on the 19th to search for other options in treating Bro. Willis's skin cancer. We pray that God will open the best way in his treatment.

On March 18, Bro. Willis preached about the Israelites marching around the wall of Jericho. If we also cry out when we have walls or obstacles in our lives, God will surely break the walls and answer our needs.

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## JAPAN, TOKYO

**Kay Kellenberger**

We were so thankful that Bro. Andrew Klaus was able to spend a Sunday and share God's Word with us during a recent business trip. We look forward to worshiping with his family again as they will be returning from their stay in California at the end of March.

The Tokyo congregation was also blessed by the willing service of Bro. Galen Rokey (Bern, KS), as he made an extra effort to travel to Japan to fellowship with the brethren for the

weekend while he was on business. We are so thankful and blessed when brethren and friends take the opportunity to visit.

Bro. Ben Pearson (Indianapolis, IN), who has been attending the Shioda church since January 18, spent his last Sunday in Japan worshipping with the Tokyo brethren. We appreciate his efforts and support towards the church as he has been extending invitations to the community to come and worship with the Shioda congregation.

We pray that God will add the increase and richly bless each of these Brothers for their efforts.

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## KANSAS, BERN

**Sheri Edelman**

**Rita Menold**

Bro. James and Sis. Lou Menold are thrilled to welcome another grandson into their family! Caden Scott Bahr was born to Bro. Scott and Sis. Jamie of Detroit, MI. Elder Bro. John and Sis. Connie Lehman welcome little Kayl Madeline as a new granddaughter. Kayl's parents are Gabe and Kristin Hill, of Phoenix, AZ. Bro. Morris and Sis. Arlinda Rokey welcome a new little grandson, Dalton Beau. Little Dalton was born to Eric and Jackie Rokey, of Sabetha. Bro. Allen and Sis. Glenda Rokey were also blessed with a new little grandson! Jeremy and Tanya Meyer, of Sabetha, are the happy parents of little Jackson Ray!

Our congregation was so very blessed with several visiting ministers this past month! Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) and Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. (Morton, IL) spent the weekend of March 4-5 with us, as they conducted a very beneficial and encouraging Women's Seminar on Saturday. We also enjoyed hearing

the Word brought to us from Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan), Bro. Dave Marquart (Sis. Lori), and Bro. Arnold Gerst (Sis. Marjorie), all from the Taylor, MO, congregation. May God bless you for your work!

We want to remember Sis. Lillian Esslinger and Sis. Darlene Meyer (Earl) as they spent sometime in the hospital for tests and observation.

On March 11, the Bern congregation hosted the Western Region World Relief Informational Meeting. Areas covered in the this meeting were: Meditation, Midwest Food Bank, Haitian Linens, Sewing Seeds of Kindness, Pitching In, India, USA, A Day on a Medical Team, Godliness in a Poor Land, Casa Vida y Esperanza – Magdalena, and Manning the Mission. May God bless each of you who take part in helping our nation!

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### **KANSAS, FORT SCOTT** **Karen Kellenberger**

Bro. Greg Stoller (Sis. Jill, Forrest, IL) read the I Corinthians 9:26, 27 words of Paul, "I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one who beateth the air: For I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection..." The brother expounded that we should never flounder helplessly about and be caught without a plan of attack, particularly when we are suddenly faced with one of Satan's temptations. We need always be a prepared soldier of Jesus.

We thank Bro. Greg as well as our other two visiting Sunday ministers, Bro. Jerry Meeks (Sis. Christy, Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL), for being willing to come worship with us. Our Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS)

ministered to us on a Wednesday night in preparation for Holy Communion. May the Lord bless him as well.

Bro. Clark gave a Bible study from which we learned of the foundations of our faith's helpful traditions and were reminded of the cruel persecution of many of our steadfast, bold Brothers and Sisters.

Faith of our fathers! We will love both friend and foe in all our strife:

and preach thee, too, as love knows how,  
by kindly words and virtuous life:  
Faith of our fathers! Holy faith!  
We will be true to thee till death!

*Hymns of Zion #85*

Bro. Lyle Fischer (Sis. Lillian) is recuperating from shoulder surgery and Sis. Karen Kellenberger (Bro. Rick) underwent successful wrist surgery. Bro. Raymond Banwart is home from the hospital after being treated for pneumonia. The prayers of many were felt and appreciated.

The marriage engagement of Bro. Ryan Lewis (Tom and Kathy) and Sis. Amber Kellenberger (Bro. Rick and Sis. Karen) was made known. We truly rejoice with both of them as they prepare to serve Him together. A May 28 wedding is planned.

Easter is the time of solemnly remembering the terrible price our Lord and Redeemer had to pay for each of us on the cross, but also of rejoicing in His victory over death. "O death, where is thy sting? O grave where is thy victory?" (I Corinthians 15:55).

A recent visiting minister ended his sermon reciting a song that really moved the heart:

I dreamed that I had died and gone to Heaven.

I stood just outside the Eastern Gate.

The man said to me, Have you been set free  
and is your name written in the Book of Life?

I told him, Please search the Book again...

I thought my name was there.

I went to church on Sunday but I never knelt in prayer.

Please search the Book again...

It's too late now, I know.

Please search the Book again before you make me go.

I told him all the things I'd done.

I showed him all the trophies I had won.

But the man from within said, Have you been born again?  
And is your name written in the Book of Life?

And then he turned and left me standing there,

I knew it was TOO LATE to offer prayer.

Oh, my sinner friend,  
if you want to make it in,  
your name must be in the Book of Life.

Please search the Book again...

It's too late now, I know.

Please search the Book again before you make me go.

—author unknown

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### **KANSAS, KIOWA** **Jenny Stewart**

We were very thankful this month to enjoy a visiting minister. Bro. Joe Klotzle and his wife, Sis. Sue, were with us from Altadena, CA. We want to thank them for their time spent with us and the words he spoke to us all.

The Sunday school enjoyed an evening at the skating rink. We had a great group of children and adults.

Everyone ended the evening with pizza.

Our hospital patients have been Sis. Tillie Diel and Sis. Shirley Nelson. Judy Tucker underwent heart surgery. May God touch them with His healing hand.

New life is appearing daily on the farm. Baby animals and new flowers remind us of spring with new birth or a new life in Christ. We cannot help but think of Christ and His sacrifice during this Easter season. May your hands be on the knob to open your heart door to Him.

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**KANSAS  
LAMONT-GRIDLEY**

**Eileen Bahr**

Thank you to all the ministers who brought us God's messages. We missed Bro. Darrel Stoller (Bern, KS) as God blessed us to be able to attend our granddaughter's testimony and baptism at Kiowa. Bro. Cory Metzger (Wichita, KS) gave us the example that we usually eat three meals a day ... if we don't eat, we feel weak. Thus, we are also in trouble if we don't receive spiritual food each day for our life.

Our sympathy goes out to the family of Bro. Ivan Beyer. They will miss their dad and grandfather, but know that he had his wish to be with the Lord and his wife, Sis. Ada. Our children were blessed to have Bro. Ivan as a Sunday School teacher at Gridley years ago.

The flu has affected attendance. Elder Bro. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO) came to our aid for mid-week services – unfortunately we weren't able to attend!

Invite-a-Guest weekend was blessed with two ministers: Bro. Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA) and

families as guests. What a surprise to both Sis. Joann Sauder and I – we hadn't met for some fifty years, both having grown up in Elgin. Isn't Christian fellowship wonderful!

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**KANSAS, SABETHA  
Dawn Strahm  
Rebekah Beyer**

This past month we were blessed to have two visiting ministers. Bro. Larry Bahr (Fort Scott, KS) and Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) shared God's Holy Word with our congregation. We truly appreciated the words of our dear Saviour that came forth through these two brothers.

Bro. Richard and Sis. Joni Meyer welcomed Cole Richard into their lives on January 27. Siblings Cameron, Taylor, Haylie, Gabe, and Aubrey are delighted to have a precious little boy to love. Grandparents are Bro. Eli and Sis. Lois Meyer and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Jane Leman (Bradford, IL).

Bro. Rod and Sis. Arlene Grimm were thankful for the safe arrival of their new granddaughter, Claire Marie, born to Bro. Marvin and Sis. Lana Kuenzi of Silverton, OR, on February 2.

On March 4 many were able to attend the women's seminar held by Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) and Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. (Morton, IL). We pray that the information that was shared will be used to God's honor and glory as we walk this pilgrim life.

*Note of Thanks:*

A special thank-you for the love and prayers for our family during Whitney's illness and surgery. All the cards and gifts were very humbling and greatly appreciated. God

bless you.

*Rod, Arlene & Whitney Grimm*

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**KANSAS, WICHITA  
Emma Miller**

The drought continues in most parts of Kansas. Last week a fire caused by a mal-functioning trailer hitch burned eight square miles of farm and pasture land near El Dorado. Fire fighters from the surrounding areas came to help our local units. Thankfully, all the homes in the area except for two that had minimal damage were spared. The acrid smell of the burned countryside lingered long after the fire had been extinguished.

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**MEXICO, IXTLAN  
Claudia Gonzalez**

Greetings dear ones in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! We don't have much news this month. We ask you to keep praying for our congregation so that the Lord supplies our needs.

"...How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

*Romans 10:15*

"To show that the Lord is upright: he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him."

*Psalms 92:15*

We thank all those who have gone to announce the Word of God in Aca-pulco, and also, all of you who have been praying for the little ministry there.

Our congregation had the opportunity to look at pictures from Israel this month which was really good

for us. The life of our Saviour in this world was even more clear for us. Thanks to Bro. Kurt and Sis. Patti Bahler for sharing those pictures with us!

We would like to remember in prayer our Sis. Lourdes Sibaja (Felix) who recently had surgery.

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**MICHIGAN, ALTO**  
**Terri Huber**  
**Rose Watson**

We had our turn for hurricane relief efforts in Biloxi, MS, this month and are thankful for the work and efforts from our congregation. From what I understand, it was truly a touching experience.

Bro. Carl Steffen is still recovering well at home from his motor vehicle accident in early January. Also, he requested that a "Thank You" goes out to all who have been remembering him by prayers, notes, cards, etc. He is truly thankful for all of you and for the Lord's healing hand that has been laid upon him. Praise God for all His good.

Our thoughts and prayers go to the family of Sis. Bertha Wingeier who went to be with the Lord on March 9. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Bro. David. She will be deeply missed by her children, Stanford (Elaine), Larry (Carol), Bruce (Tammi), Sharon (Terry), along with 22 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren, all whom she cherished, and they will miss her deeply. Sis. Bertha spent a lot of time in Eureka, IL, since Bro. David passed away. We will miss her and her involvement that she has given to our church.

Our thanks go to Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Sis. Peggy, Goodfield, IL) who was hereto officiate in the funeral services. Bro. Jaye

encouraged all of us to "plan ahead" for the end of our life.

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

We appreciated the presence of two visiting ministers this past month. Bro. Jesse Bedolla (Sis. Bonnie, Detroit, MI) and Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) each spent a Sunday with our congregation and we thank them for sharing the Gospel with us.

Two dear sisters were laid to rest recently. We pray that the Lord's comforting hand will be on each of their families.

Sis. Margret Ruegsegger passed away on February 20. We extend our hands of sympathy to her children: Bro. Glenn (Sis. Maria), Anita (Tom) Hine, Clinton (Sherry), Sis. Winifred (John) Gorney, Kathleen (David) Wernli (Emporia, Kansas), Paul (Diane) and Bro. Lee (Sis. Alice, Congerville, IL).

Sis. Helen Wieland passed away on March 3. Sis. Helen's surviving brothers and sisters are Bro. Howard (Sis. Pauline), Margaret Fierke (Deckerville, MI), Sis. Mildred, Sis. Alice, Bro. Guy (Sis. Rosemary, Detroit), Sis. Laura, and Sis. Edith (Gerald) Meier.

Our condolences also go to Sis. Pauline (Bro. Howard) Wieland as she mourns the passing of her brother, Nelson Stoller (Paulding, OH); and Bro. Bob (Sis. Kayleen) Grew in the loss of his grandmother, Marie Badour.

Jennifer Curtis (Jim and Laurel), Matisin Wieland (Matt and Terri), and Sis. Emma Waibel each were surgical patients this past month. We pray that each of these loved ones will soon be able to regain their

strength and resume normal activities.

The Easter season is just around the corner and it causes us to remember the tremendous price that was paid at Calvary. How humbling it is to realize that we were the cause of Christ's death and suffering on the cross. May our lives ever reflect the thanks and appreciation that we owe our Heavenly Father for giving us salvation.

Sit and pause awhile, my spirit,  
This great miracle behold;  
See the King of highest merit  
On the cross, so bare and cold!  
Out of heaven God has given  
His own Son in love untold!

In humility, dear Saviour,  
Thou for me, I know, hast died;  
Though I was Thy foe, Redeemer,  
Thou for me wast crucified.  
Silence keep I, Humbly weep I!  
Thus through Thee I'm justified!  
*Zion's Harp #226, vs. 1,6*

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**MICHIGAN, DETROIT**  
**Tiffany Wieland**  
**Kay Rauhe**

"Then pleased it the apostles and the elders, and the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company... And they wrote letters by them after this manner..."

*Acts 15:22,23*

What a beautiful evening we had together as Elder Bro. Mark Bahr and visiting Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan read the Conference letter to our congregation. Whether we listened that evening or at some other time, we were praying that the end result would be a "renewed sense of joy and consolation and being grounded on truth and having a clarity of vision

for going forward". Our prayers were definitely answered. A special heart-felt thank you to Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl, Rockville, CT) for traveling so far to make this a blessed evening.

"Serve the Lord with gladness;"  
*Psalms 100:2*

This verse is so appropriate as we thank Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta, Alto, MI) for conducting church services at the Woodhaven Retirement Community; it was greatly appreciated. We would also like to thank visiting ministering Bro. Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, LaCrosse, IN) for sharing the Word with us.

Our dear Sis. Judy Aberle recently had hand surgery, and we look forward to her being back to worship with us soon. We are so thankful for answered prayers and will continue to pray for a speedy recovery.

Sis. Kathryn Losiewicz was recently hospitalized, and our prayers and thoughts are with her as she recuperates.

Sis. Helen Wieland of Bay City passed from this life into eternity to be with the Lord.

She was a sister to Bro. Guy Wieland (Sis. Rose) and a sister-in-law to Sis. Perseda Wieland (late Bro. Floyd). May they feel the Lord's peace and know the gentle comfort of His healing touch.

We are truly going to miss Bro. Ted and Sis. Andrea Orcsik as they are moving to Denver and will be worshipping with the congregation there. May God continue to richly bless them, and we pray that they come to visit us as often as possible.

Our love and congratulations to Kevin Rauhe and Deborah Schulz

on their recent engagement. May the days leading up to their August 19 wedding be filled with joy, and we pray that God will guide and bless the life they'll soon be sharing.

"...If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and His love is perfected in us."

*I John 4:12*

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**MINNESOTA  
MINNEAPOLIS  
LaRae Dill**

"Christian greetings are a blessing; as a prayer, console the heart..."

*Hymns of Zion #7*

The blessing of Christian fellowship has warmed our winter months! Three weekends in a row we enjoyed large gatherings of guests! One such weekend included a visit from Bro. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN), and as always we appreciate his ministry and the visits of his family. The Minneapolis singles hosted the other area churches the first weekend of March, and again, love and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

We've enjoyed the fellowship of Sis. Janet Wyson (Lester, IA), as she has been staying with her son and family who live in the area, helping the family for the past several months. It's good to greet Sis. Vera Schmidt, as she has been able to come to church once again. We're keeping her in our prayers as she faces more surgery on her shoulder. Also, Sis. Ethel Bednarski is back from her visit to her family living in southern California. Welcome back!

We do miss the fellowship of Sis. Millie Schmidgall. Sis. Millie has relocated from her assisted living resi-

dence to a nursing home in the area.

Her new address is:

Millie Schmidgall  
Bloomington Care Center  
9200 Nicollet Ave. S., #311  
Bloomington, MN 55420

"That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the father, and with his son Jesus Christ."

*I John 1:3*

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

*I John 1:7*

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**MINNESOTA, MORRIS  
Heidi Nohl  
Katie Koehl**

We appreciate God's Word brought to us this month through Bro. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA), Bro. Galen Rokey (Bern, KS), Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA) and Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN).

Those experiencing health issues are Bro. Ryan Kellenberger (Sis. Joan), Sis. Esther Koehl, Bro. Paul Fehr, Bro. Jason Moser, Bro. Don Esterling (Sis. Josie) and Jackson Koehl (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Julie). We are thankful where God has healed, and trust His will to be done in each one's life.

On March 11, Curtis Koehl (Bro. Roy and Sis. Jenell) and Crystal Rinkenberger (Robert and Mary) were united in marriage. We trust God will bless them in their married life together.

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**MINNESOTA, WINTHROP****Ginny Stoll****Rachel Steiner**

The angels rejoice over each and every sinner who answers His call. Two precious souls have answered the call and have found peace. Brendon Messner and Brett Messner (Bro. Dean and Sis. Wanda) have answered the call and have found peace. We are so thankful that He continues to call and that dear loved ones are willing to answer.

Our hospital patients this month were Gene Schmidt, Lowell Demm (Shirley), Idabell Witt (Donald) and Keith Kuhn (Sara). May God continue to strengthen them as they face these earthly trials. Our prayers are with them and their families.

**MISSOURI, LAMAR****Becky Marti****Mindy Braker**

We've enjoyed our many visitors this past month. We especially appreciate Elder Bros. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) and Don Braker (Kansas City, MO) and ministering Bros. Glen Braker (Princeville, IL) and Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL) for their service in bringing forth God's Word. May the Lord bless and provide for each one.

Bro. Greg and Sis. Wendy Braker are thankful for the arrival of their new son, Kyle Lee. Welcoming Kyle home are his brothers, Levi and Isaac. Kyle's grandparents are Bob and Sis. Janice Stoller and Eugene and Judy Edelman (Sabetha, KS). We wish Bro. Greg and Sis. Wendy the Lord's blessings as they seek His guidance in raising their children.

Recently, Bro. Mark Schurter moved to the Lamar area. We wel-

come him to our congregation.

**MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS****Krista Banwart**

Visiting ministers this month included Bro. Scott Wegman (Sis. Dawn, Taylor, MO), Bro. Ron Bollier (Sis. Edie, Indianapolis, IN), Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridgett, Chicago, IL), and Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Sis. Carol, Cissna Park, IL).

We are happy for the engagement of Bro. Dave Roberts to Sis. Jan Stratton (Taylor, MO). The wedding is planned for June 18 and we look forward to having Sis. Jan as part of our congregation.

We also look forward to the upcoming Easter season and remembering what it cost Jesus that we could know His love for us and experience God's mercy and forgiveness. As Psalm 139:17-18 tell us, "How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! How great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand." It is a humbling thing that God should think such thoughts towards us, and that we should know Christ — the evidence of these thoughts and this great love.

**MISSOURI, TAYLOR****Sally Haerr**

Unpredictable is the word that comes to my mind when I think of the month of March. Today is the first day of Spring and there is a major snowstorm predicted. We know, from past experience, it may or may not snow at all. Even with all the modern technology, weather is still somewhat unpredictable, unlike the predictions of our Heavenly Father. In the Bible He tells us of His future

plans for us and what to expect in these end times. Which prediction do we find ourselves taking more seriously?

On February 2, Elder Bro. John Lehman and Sis. Connie (Bern, KS) came to spend a little time here with their family. We really appreciate Bro. John as he brings God's Word to us.

March 1, a Wednesday evening, Bro. Steve Sauder (Sis. Mary, Tremont, IL) came to present our monthly Topical Bible Study. These Bible studies are always an encouragement and we want to thank them for coming so far to share a blessing with us.

Another special event this past month was the Memorandum — the conclusion of the Brotherhood Conference. We are so thankful and appreciate the many hours our Elder brothers spend in prayer and preparation as they watch for our souls. We know, as they have often expressed, their need of our prayers and obedience to God's Word. We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA) help with the Memorandum. Several brothers and sisters from Bloomfield were also here to share the evening with us.

The engagement of Bro. Brian Sutter (Bro. Jim and Sis. Chris) and Sis. Allison Romersberger (Bro. Ron and Sis. Gail) of Gridley, IL, was announced to the church on Sunday, March 19. What a blessing we receive when God is number one in our decision-making and this is certainly true in seeking His will in marriage. May God continue to guide their every decision as they prepare for their wedding.

The sick/hospitalized this past month were Sis. Marge Gerst (Bro. Arnie), Sis. Shelly Hoerr, Vernon

Huber (Sis. Judy), Kip Massner (Melissa), Sis. Nerys Lightner (Peter) and Karley Riney (Steve and Marsha). Good health is such a wonderful blessing and how easy it is to take it for granted. Those hurting and ill need our prayers, as well as those who physically care for these loved ones.

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**NEW YORK  
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG  
Hope Graves**

As Spring begins to peek around the corner, we have completed our winter World Relief projects. Everyone enjoyed working on the many quilts, putting together snack mixes, painting on t-shirts and assembling prenatal kits. On March 3, we broke up our work projects with a potluck meal together in the church basement.

We were thankful that a few from our congregation were able to travel to Biloxi, Mississippi, to help out with the many rebuilding projects taking place in that area. We were overwhelmed with the amount of devastation and were so thankful that our church undertook such a huge project to help with the restoration effort. May the Lord bless each one!

Our prayers remain with Bro. Fred Ebersol as he was hospitalized and is now home recovering from a bad fall.

Our prayers are with Elder Bro. Duane and Sis. Karen Farney in the sudden loss of her father, Clement Briot, on March 6. Prayers of the church also extend to the family of Miriam Schulz who passed away in our church home in Morton, IL, where she had been a resident for many years.

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**OHIO, AKRON  
Rachel Steidl  
Mara Henico**

Father, through Thy word awaken  
Us to faith and true devotion!  
Zeal to serve Thee do Thou give;  
Show us that Thy Son still lives.

This past month we appreciated hearing the Word from visiting ministering Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington). Our thanks to him and we hope he will soon visit us again.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Ron and Sis. Lynell Palitto at the loss of their grandson, Joseph Schar (Rittman), and also to Sis. Martha Palitto, Joseph's great-grandmother. We know that he is resting in peace waiting for that trumpet call.

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away."

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. John Graf who is still in Edwin Shaw at this time. May the Lord grant health and healing according to His will.

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**OHIO, JUNCTION  
Cindy Schlatter**

February 26 was the birth date of Tyler Steven Schlatter, son of Bro. Doug and Sis. Heidi. Tyler's big brother is Mason and his grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Connie Domka (Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Ralph and Sis. Sheila Schlatter.

Our congregation came together

the evening of February 26 to partake of Holy Communion. We appreciate Elder Bro. John Laukhuf (Latty, OH) coming to assist during this blessed and sobering evening. May we all take time to clear our minds of our earthly duties and truly think on all that our Lord and Savior endured for us. We have so much to be thankful for!

Ministering Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH) recently spent a weekend with us. May our Heavenly Father bless him for his labors.

We are thankful that one of our converts was recently announced as feeling that wonderful gift of peace in his heart. Brian Schlatter (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Sheila) continues to walk that narrow walk of life and is looking forward to a weekend in the future to share of his conversion experience.

We continue to pray that as God calls the lost that their hearts will be broken and they will not only hear the call, but answer. It is certainly encouraging to be able to report that Angie Manz (Bro. Don and Sis. Connie) has answered that call. We will continue to pray for you, Angie, that our Savior will walk close by your side to help you with each daily situation.

Brad Gasser (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue) recently had back surgery. We pray that God's healing hand will be upon him and that he will have a speedy recovery.

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**OHIO, LATTY  
Amanda Steffen  
Carmen Eisenmann**

"The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein."

*Psalm 24:1*

Spring is striving to make headway, but winter is still holding on a little. In coming weeks, the earth will warm once again and God's creation can bask not only in physical light, but also every day in the Light of God as He sent His Son to die for us on the cross.

We have much to rejoice about in Latty. Bro. Jason Fiechter (Bro. Dave and June, Bluffton, IN) and Sis. Joni Sinn (Bro. Tom and Sis. Kim) were married on February 26. Visiting us that Sunday as well were Bros. Curt Kaufman (Sis. Caroline, Tucson, AZ) and John Reinhard (Sis. Pam, Bluffton, IN). May God be with this couple as they start their new life together.

Other visiting ministers this past month have been Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH) and Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA). God bless them for their efforts.

We were excited to hear of the engagement of Sis. Janna Sinn to Bro. Tyler Gerber of Smithville. Her parents are Bro. Stan and Sis. JaNahn Sinn while his are Ricki and John Gerber.

Nelson Stoller was laid to rest recently, and he leaves behind his wife, Deloris. He was the brother of Bro. Jud (Sis. Ruby) and Bro. Willis (Elaine) Stoller. God grant them comfort in this time of loss.

Charles Dunham was a hospital patient this past month. May God be with him and grant him grace for each day.

Our congregation has gained two more that will take up residence in the baby room. The two newest babies will share a birthday, as well. They were born on March 8. Jude Benjamin joins the home of Bro.

Reid, Sis. Amanda and and Nyle Stoller. His grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Barb Stoller and John and Penny LaBounty of Payne, OH. The other new baby is Chloe Ann, daughter of Bro. Lee and Sis. Desma Klopfenstein. At home, she will join Timna, Abel, Elisabeth, Rebekah and Jared. Congratulations to these two families and may God help these new babies to grow in grace!

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### OHIO, MANSFIELD Esther Baumann

We joyfully share the good news that Staci Beer (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Robin) has begun her repentance. Pray for her as she seeks her soul's salvation.

Congratulations to Bro. Frank Graszl as he recently celebrated his 90th birthday. We thank God for Bro. Frank's many years as a faithful witness.

Our prayers and best wishes to Heather Stricker (Doug and Karla) and Kevin Ready (Robert and Dianna) who were married on February 18. Heather's grandparents are Bro. Al and Sis. Janet Beer.

We were glad to learn of the engagement of Archie Tucker (Dan and Sis. Barb) to Amber Tschantz (Bob and Trisha). Pray for them as they plan for their life together.

Hospitalized patients this past month still in need of our prayers include Vicki Kirschenmann (Ron), Sis. Katherine Oesch, Bro. Elmer Oesch (Doris), and Sis. Sarah Rice.

We are thankful to Bro. Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, LaCrosse, IN) for his visit and loving service in the ministry.

This Easter season we are reminded of God's almighty power!

Jesus lives! No pow'r of night

From the Lord my soul shall sever...  
*Zion's Harp #120, vs.5*

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### OHIO, RITTMAN Hannah Beery Sarah Bauman

"Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind."  
*Philippians 2:2*

On February 26, Bro. Ethan Schar (Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy) and Sis. Trudie Hartzler (Bro. Tom and Sis. Diane) were united in marriage. Then on March 5, Bro. Shane Hartzler (Bro. Dean and Sis. Jan) and Sis. Suzanne Steiner (Bro. Carl and Sis. Carol) became one in the Lord. May the Lord bless these couples as they establish their homes, serving the Lord as one.

As we had two weddings, we also had two engagement announcements. Sis. Rachel Miller (Bro. Michael N. and Sis. Norene) and Bro. Sandor Davidovics (Irma Davidovics) of our Peoria, IL, congregation made their engagement known on February 19. May they look to God as they continue to plan for their marriage.

We also want to wish Sis. Crystal Riggerbach (Bro. Bob and Sis. Lorie) and Bro. Tim Zollinger (Bro. Ken and Sis. Becky) of Smithville God's blessings as they are planning for an April 30th wedding.

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

*I Cor. 15:58*

We were also blessed these past few weeks with several visiting ministers. Bro. Galen Rokey (Bern, KS), Bro. Todd Stoller (Latty, OH), Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter and Bro. Warren Schlatter (both of Junction, OH), Bro. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN) and Bro. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH) were among us. Their efforts are appreciated!

Bro. Roy Maibach (Sis. Mabel), Bro. Ralph Weber, Sis. Bonnie Hartzler (Elder Bro. Merle), Sis. Elizabeth Beery, Bro. Ken Rupp, Sr., and Sis. Doris Gasser have all spent time in the hospital. May God continue to be with these loved ones.

“Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.”

*Mark 10:14*

Kaitlyn Jo was born to Bro. Tony and Sis. Mary Beth Stoller on February 25 and joins her big sister, Lauren. Grandparents are Bro. Rob and Sis. Joanne Stoller and Bro. John and Sis. Emily Rufener (Smithville, OH).

Bro. Nathan and Sis. Anita Steiner also added another bundle of joy to their family on March 6. Cecelia Lynn joins her big sisters, Hannah and Leah. Grandparents are Bro. Matthew and Sis. Gail Steiner and Bro. David and Sis. Connie Maletich (Smithville, OH).

On March 12, Chloe Mae was born to Bro. Dean and Sis. Julia Ramsier. She is also welcomed by big brother, Luke, and grandparents, Bro. Marvin and Sis. Terry Ramsier and Bro. Bill and Sis. Mim Brake (Sardis, OH).

Michael and Michelle Steiner have adopted a dear little girl from Russia named Emmalai Nadia. She

was born on November 27, 2004, and was adopted on January 27, 2006. Emmalai's grandparents are Donald and Deb Steiner and Ken and Dianna Klingelhafer.

He will gather, He will gather  
The gems for His kingdom;  
All the pure ones, all the bright  
ones

His lov'd and His own.  
Little children, little children,  
Who love their Redeemer  
Are the jewels precious jewels,  
His lov'd and His own.  
Like the stars of the morning,  
His bright crown adorning,  
They shall shine in their beauty,  
Bright gems for His crown.

*Gospel Hymns #638, vs. 2,3 and chorus*

Our prayers and sympathy go to Bro. Gary and Sis. Vicki Schar and sons, Levi, Luke, Benjamin and Abram, as they lost their beloved son and brother, Joseph. Grandparents of Joseph are Bro. Ronald and Sis. Lynell Palitto (Akron, OH) and Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy Schar. He also had two great-grandmothers, Sis. Martha Palitto (Akron, OH), Marie Schar, and a great-grandfather, Glenn Miller. Joseph touched the lives of many people during his four short years and will be greatly missed.

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

*Psalms 116:15*

Sis. Mildred Christian also passed away this month. Her children are Bro. Ron (Sis. Joann) Christian, Charlotte (Terry) Waibel, and Sis. Linda Dotterer. Our prayers and sympathy go to the family.

## OHIO, SARDIS Eric and Jami Hartzler

“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.”

*III John vs. 4*

Surely Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry Zollinger are experiencing this joy as they hear that their son, Joe Zollinger, is repenting. Joe is currently living and working in the Elgin, IL, area and spending week-ends in Chicago. May the Lord grant Joe much grace as he seeks peace with self, man, and God.

“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

*Proverbs 22:6*

We rejoice with Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam Brake as another granddaughter has been born. Chloe Mae was born March 12 to Bro. Dean and Sis. Julia Ramsier (Rittman, OH). Big brother, Luke, helps to welcome Chloe to the family. May Bro. Dean and Sis. Julia lean on God for wisdom to train their precious children in the way they should go.

Prayers are for Bro. Seth Beard (Sis. Faith) as he recently underwent knee surgery. May the Lord bless Bro. Seth with a speedy recovery!

As Mother's Day approaches, let us take this special opportunity to thank the Lord first, and then our mothers for their love and care for us. Truly, a loving mother is a gift from God.

**OHIO, SMITHVILLE****Ruth Gasser  
Edith Miller**

Hallelujah! The Lord arose,  
Our ransom now is paid.  
The Son is victor over death,  
Whoe'er believes is saved.

*Hymns of Zion #257*

We're thankful this Easter message is still proclaimed today, and we rejoice another soul has taken advantage of this blessed promise. Alissa Maibach (Bro. Jay and Sis. Marsha) has answered the Lord's call. We wish her much grace as she begins upon the narrow pathway of life.

Two engagements have been made known to us in past weeks. Bro. Tim Zollinger and Sis. Crystal Riggenbach (Rittman, OH) are planning their wedding for April 30. Parents of this couple are Bro. Ken and Sis. Becky Zollinger and Bro. Bob and Sis. Lorie Riggenbach (Rittman, OH). Bro. Tyler Gerber and Sis. Janna Sinn (Latty, OH) have chosen June 4 for their wedding date. Parents of this couple are John Gerber and Ricki Glessner and Bro. Stan and Sis. JaNahn Sinn (Latty, OH). For both of these couples, we wish God's blessing and guidance as they plan their future together.

Grandparents have an important role as grandchildren are born, and we have three sets of grandparents who have welcomed little ones into their family circles. Bro. Dave and Sis. Dottie Ramsier are thankful for the birth of Kaleigh Grace, born to Bro. Lucas and Sis. Crystal Frank (Detroit, MI) on February 17. On February 25, Bro. John and Sis. Emily Rufener became grandparents to Kaitlyn Jo, born to Bro. Tony

and Sis. Mary Beth Stoller (Rittman, OH). On March 6, Bro. Dave and Sis. Connie Maletich received another granddaughter, as Cecelia Lynn was born to Bro. Nathan and Sis. Anita Steiner (Rittman, OH). May God's blessing be in each of these homes and may we as parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and all set good examples for these little ones to follow.

We welcome Sis. Kyra Klopfenstein (Peoria, IL) to our midst for a time, as she is currently attending school nearby.

Our thanks to a number of brethren who have ministered to our congregation in recent weeks. May God richly bless the efforts of Bros. Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL), Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN), John Grimm (Columbus, OH), Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) and Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH).

We extend our love and sympathy to Sis. Linda Dotterer and family and Sis. Pam Zollinger (Bro. Marvin) on the death of their mother and grandmother, Sis. Mildred Christian (Rittman, OH). May God comfort those who mourn.

We wish the blessing of good health again to Brad Maibach (Bro. Rudy and Sis. Barb), as he was in the hospital, having undergone surgery.

**OHIO, TOLEDO**  
**Teresa Rywalski  
Rebecca Beard**

When peace, like a river, attendeth  
my way,

When sorrows like sea billows roll;

Whatever my lot, Thou hast  
taught me to say,

It is well, it is well with my soul.

Our convert, Brooklynn Lehner, has found that peace and now awaits baptism. May she continue to walk in this sweet precious peace.

Feeding us from the pulpit this past month was Bro. Sam Schlatter (Sis. Linda, Junction, OH). On Thursday, March 2, our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) shared with us the conclusion of the mid-winter Elder Conference. How thankful we are to know that God's Word has been taught to us in all its splendor and truth.

**OREGON, PORTLAND**  
**Brianna Strahm**

We were blessed with several visiting ministers this past month. Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) was with us for an evening service in mid-February along with Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty) and Bro. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie), both of Silverton. Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Sis. Nancy, Elgin, IL) came to assist our Elder Bro. Art in the reading of the Memorandum on February 26. We were then visited by ministering Bros. Bruce Endress (Sis. Elizabeth, Bradford, IL) and Don Sinn (Sis. Linda, Silverton, OR). We thank these dear brothers for their many labors on our behalf.

"Let us hold fast the profession of our faith, without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:"

*Hebrews 10: 23-24*

**OREGON, SILVERTON**  
**Melissa Kuenzi  
Cindy Metzger**

Congratulations to Sis. Tyrene Kuenzi (Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda)

and Bro. Sam Moser (Bro. Ben and Sis. Glenna, Rockville, CT) on the announcement of their engagement.

We are keeping Bro. Chad (Sis. Megan) Walter in our prayers as he is starting a new course of treatment for his illness.

The work on the fellowship hall is progressing well. At this time, the roof is nearly completed and the inside electrical work is in the beginning stages.

We are thankful to those who were visiting and ministered to us this month. Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily) traveled from Junction, OH, to help Bro. Art with the reading of the Memorandum. Also visiting were Bro. Tim Zimmerman (Sis. Barb, Lamont-Gridley, KS), Bro. Bruce Endress (Sis. Elizabeth, Bradford, IL), Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian, San Diego, CA), and Bros. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy) and Ron Jones (Sis. Liz) of Portland, OR.

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### **TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE** **Mike and Monica Fritz**

Kirk Leman (Bro. Phil and Charlotte, Forrest, IL) has completed his schooling in Nashville and is returning home to the Forrest, IL, area to seek employment. We will miss him in our congregation, but pray that the Lord will be his guide in the future.

In the past month we have been greatly blessed by the Living Word and are thankful to our visiting ministering brothers: Bros. Steve Pamer (Sis. Arliss; Akron, OH), Mark Zimmerman (Sis. Cheryl; Eureka, IL), Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen; Kansas City, MO); and Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia; Washington, IL). We are thankful for the fel-

lowship we have enjoyed with brethren and friends visiting from Denver, CO; Bradford, Congerville, Eureka, Forrest, and Washington, IL; South Bend, IN; Oakville, IA; Kansas City, MO; and Akron, Latty, and Smithville, OH;

If you are traveling in or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. The following churches are scheduled for services in the near future: Detroit, MI (4/23); Fairbury, IL (4/30); Leo, IN (5/7); and Burlington, IA (5/21). We do not have a visiting minister scheduled for Easter Sunday (4/16), Mother's Day (5/14), or Memorial Day Sunday (5/28), 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 mid-week visitors. Contacts are Bro. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder, (615) 373-8928; Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz, (615) 952-9933; and Sis. Gwen Leuthold, (615) 356-5755.

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### **TEXAS, McALLEN** **Sandy Kipfer**

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

On February 26, we were favored by having our Elder Bro. Robert and Sis. Gloria Walder (Congerville, IL). Then on March 12, we were served by Bro. Dean and Sis. Wanda Messner (Winthrop, MN). Also on March 12, the work team from Congerville, IL, going to Reynosa, Mexico, worshipped with us making a total of 41 in attendance. Then Wednesday evening services were

held in Reynosa by Bro. Leland Plattner. Our next service will be held on March 26; April 9 and 23; and May 14.

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.

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### **TEXAS, AUSTIN** **(formerly San Marcos)** **Amy Ringger** **Serenity Ringger**

As we drive along the roadways this time of year, we rejoice in God's beautiful creation because the wildflowers are so beautiful. Of course, we can take photos and show them to you and we can try to describe their beauty, but experiencing it yourself is the only way to really appreciate it. It is likewise true with the mysteries of the gospel (John 3:8); they cannot be adequately described to those who have not experienced them.

It can also be hard to explain the Brotherhood bond we have in our Faith but we have felt it again from brethren who have helped us remodel our new church building. Sometimes even others can catch a glimpse of it. A local merchant delivering the third load of furniture to the church that had been ordered

a few weeks before told me that we had done a nice job on the building. I attempted to acknowledge the brethren who have come to help us and he replied something like this, "Yes, that is what I mean. I think it is very impressive, and shows an interest in your church from those who came to help."

And not only have we appreciated the physical help but, just as important, the spiritual encouragement in the times of sweet communion we have had with our ministers and visitors: Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Sis. Gloria, Congerville), and Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata) were both here for our first Sunday service in the new church on March 5, and for the Memorandum reading the night before.

Bros. Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Fairbury), Dennis Kauffman (Sis. Bonnie, Bloomington), Pat Zaugg (Sis. Julie, West Bend), and Greg Stoller (Sis. Jill, Forrest) were also here for services this month and we enjoyed visitors from Eureka, Congerville, Rockville, Goodfield, Forrest, Bern, Burlington, Morris, and Oakville.

Upcoming churches serving us are these: San Diego (April 23), Gridley (April 30), Alto (May 7), Rockville (May 14).

We extend a warm welcome to anyone who may be in the area to worship with us; even midweek we may meet at times though we don't have a regular schedule for it. 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, perhaps even a month or more if possible, so that we can accommodate you more readily in our weekend gatherings. See the ministers' book for local contact in-

formation.

Directions to our church are these: from the intersection of Hwy 71 and 21 on the west side of Bastrop, go east to the first exit (a landmark is a Ford dealership) onto the frontage road. Immediately turn left and proceed east on the frontage road about 4/10 of a mile, and the church is on the right. It is located about 18 miles east of the Austin airport. The address is 1025 Highway 71 West, Bastrop, TX 78602. It is a one-story building with limestone siding.

In the church, there are two furnished bedrooms for the ministers to use when coming for services. When you contact someone about coming for services, please let them know if you would like to use the bedrooms during the time you are here.

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### TEXAS, ZAPATA Sandy Leman

Our Winter Texans are starting to head back north as the weather warms up. We know they are glad to be able to rejoin their families at home, and we look forward to next fall when they will return to South Texas. We are glad for those who stay a little longer to fellowship with us.

Sis. Marian Schmidgall (Bro. Hartzell) was hospitalized here before being transferred to Burlington. We were glad to hear that her condition has improved since her return home.

Bro. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN) brought us God's Word last month. We thank him for being willing to be used to minister to us.

"Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is

risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, saying, the Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. And they remembered his words, and returned from the sepulchre, and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest."

*Luke 24:5-9*

What a revelation it must have been to Jesus' friends who came to complete the embalming of His body and found in its place messengers who reminded them of His words spoken earlier. They must have been devastated to have seen His suffering and death, after earlier the same week waving palm branches and crying "Hosanna, Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord." They must have thought all was lost as they watched him whipped within an inch of His life, spit on, mocked with a crown of thorns and a purple robe, and finally hung on a cross like a common criminal. When the crowd mocked Him to come down from the cross, they must have hoped that He would do so, only to have their hope die as He cried out in agony, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" and then bowed His head and gave up the ghost with "It is finished."

What was finished? Their dream of His earthly kingdom was finished. But that was not what He meant. God's perfect plan was finished, the promise He made to the first human beings He created: the Seed of the woman would bruise the serpent's head. The debt had been paid with the only acceptable payment, the perfect blood of the innocent Lamb. His purpose in being born was to die; the words His

friends remembered were those prophesying His death and crucifixion and His rising again:

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.

If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honor.

Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.”

*John 12:24-27*

When we are devastated and it seems all is lost, when our hope dies and our dreams are finished, may we also remember His words and respond to His great sacrifice for us by following Him and serving Him. And may we fulfill the purpose of John in writing his gospel, “that ye

might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.”

*John 20:31*

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### **VERMONT, NORWICH** **Areli and Kirby Reutter**

“The Lord watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from another.”

*Genesis 31:49*

Greetings one and all in Christ!

We missed the opportunity to greet you last month. Because of heavy snowfall in CT, we had no minister and thus services were cancelled.

This month Bro. Everett Gerber (Sis. Nancy, Rockville, CT) labored alone to bring us a message from God.

We also want to express a special thanks to the dear couples from Rockville who have graciously assumed maintenance and structural responsibilities for our meeting

place. May God bless one and all for these efforts, both small and great.

Starting in April, Lord willing, we hope to have services twice a month, always on the second and fourth Sundays. We are looking forward to having several dear congregations participate in the minister rotation: Rockville, CT; Smithville, Rittman, Junction, Akron, OH; and Tremont, IL.

If you would like to worship with us, please call Bro. Kirby Reutter at (802) 776 - 5293 to help us plan for your attendance. Services start at 10:15 in the morning and at 12:15 in the afternoon. Sunday school for all ages is held in the morning. Everyone is welcome!

To arrive at our meeting place, please take exit 13 from Interstate 91 and proceed to 344 Main Street. Look for the two-story Grange building (painted gray) on the right side of the road. There is a fire house to the rear of the building. Please park along the street.

May the Lord preserve us in His grace until we meet again.





*"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

...continued from page 3

### Why I Appreciate The Apostolic Christian Church

\*-Separated seating, rather than family pews, helps to make us united and encourages us to branch out among the brethren. We are equal in God's eyes.

\*-We have a cappella singing, and encourage all to participate.

\*-Elder conferences and the annual Brotherhood Conference are a blessing and help keep us united.

\*-We understand the value of keeping our homes free from the evils of television and other worldly entertainment, thereby helping us to avoid much of the works of the flesh.

\*-Children are taught from infancy to have a reverent attitude when praying and worshipping.

\*-We have Sunday School to instruct our children about the importance of loving and serving God. They are taught the value of folded hands and closed eyes during prayer.

\*-Brethren and friends of all ages interact with one another, thereby helping us all to gain from the experience of others. All age groups are important. This mixing of ages is especially important in helping us take advantage of the experiences of those who have weathered many storms and have remained faithful.

\*-The King James Version of the Bible is our standard.

\*-We have midweek services to encourage us to greater faithfulness.

\*-The structure of our leadership is such that no individual must bear too great a load over too long a period of time.

\*-We are taught that we can have a personal relationship with God. Each brother, sister, convert and friend is encouraged to read the Bible and pray so they can learn of their responsibilities toward God. We are taught that He knows and loves each of us as individuals. He is truly our Heavenly Father.

\*-Each one of us has an opportunity to serve. There are multiple opportunities for service in the church and in World Relief activities.

\*-There are many traditions that

make us unique and that help us to stay farther from sin.

\*-Converts are welcome to go to the Elder's home at any time of the day or night, with or without calling first.

\*-We do not use New Age tactics nor entertainment to attract people to church. We attract people by telling them the truth of the Bible.

\*-Our main focus is on Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

\*-Testimonies before baptism are a blessing to the entire church. We are encouraged that God is still answering the prayers of repentant souls.

\*-We are encouraged to take up our cross daily. We are willing to sacrifice for each other.

\*-When we are examining ourselves, we use the Bible as our mirror.

\*-We know that others are praying for us in times of distress as well as good times.

\*-Many of our singings and sermons are on tape so we can listen to them for additional comfort and encouragement.

\*-Many brethren are willing to do servant tasks, regardless of how lowly the task.

\*-Those who were not raised in the Apostolic Christian faith are brought into the faith with no distinction of background, social position, or wealth. They are accepted as equals.

\*-We have been able to establish closer relations with the brethren in Europe and other parts of the world, to help us appreciate our heritage.

\*-Church lunches, funeral meals, etc. are served to all so all can participate.

\*-Funerals are comforting to the families without unnecessary eulogizing.

\*-Written and taped materials are available through the Apostolic Christian Publications. They have helped preserve our heritage and give us information that is helpful when we need additional encouragement.

\*-Apostolic Christian Counseling Services are available for those who need special help.

\*-The Silver Lining provides us with spiritual support and helps us keep in contact with brethren of other congrega-

tions.

\*-Our heritage focuses on God, not on individuals.

\*-We have a common bond that goes beyond age, social position, wealth, or where we live.

\*-We can visit with people we do not know and feel a common faith. We can stay in homes of those we do not know and have no fear of harm nor loss of possessions.

\*-Christian greetings of love are extended from one congregation to another.

\*-The noon lunch period encourages fellowship.

\*-Morning and afternoon services help make the entire day holy, not just a small part of the day.

\*-Travel of the single groups, of married brethren and of friends add a spiritual richness to our lives. Our faith is our social circle.

\*-Special singings at homes or in our fellowship halls add a spiritual richness to our lives.

\*-If we have a serious problem, we have the entire church we can call on.

\*-When we enter the church, we can feel an atmosphere of love and fellowship.

\*-Our faith is a way of life, not just a Sunday diversion.

\*-We share each others' joys and sorrows.

\*-We find doing for others a rewarding experience.

\*-If we move to another congregation, we know that there will be a welcoming atmosphere. We do not have to worry about whether we can make new friends in our new congregation.

\*-"Complete strangers" are not strangers at all. They are simply brethren we have not learned to know yet.

\*-We recognize that what we do really does impact future generations.

It would no doubt be possible for us to add many more statements to this list. We encourage each of our brothers, sisters and friends to prayerfully consider why we appreciate the Apostolic Christian Church.



## Teaching Position Available

Gateway Woods is excited to announce an opening for a teacher position at Gateway Woods School. This is due to our addition of a 4th group home. The School is a fully accredited educational facility serving students 5th-12th grades who have difficulty being successful in public school. Qualifications include a Bachelor's Degree in Education and work experience in the education field. Special Education Certification would be especially useful. If you hold these qualifications and have a heart for children, please ask the Lord if this is the position He has in mind for you. For more information please contact one of the brothers listed below.

Ed Graf  
Residential Program Director  
PO Box 151,  
Leo, IN 46765  
1-888-443-4283

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

### Apostolic Christian Counseling Services

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

**877-370-9988 (toll free)**  
[www.accounseling.org](http://www.accounseling.org)

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

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

### BIBLE DISTRIBUTION


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

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

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

*To order, contact,*

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



# Apostolic Christian Publications

805 W. Cuyler Street, Box 52  
Eureka, IL 61530  
Ph. 309-467-3611  
Hours: Mon.—Fri. 8:30 to  
11:30 CST/CDT

You might be surprised at what is available at our Apostolic Christian Publications book store. Here is just a sampling....

- Over 15 styles of King James Version Bibles including the Bible on Cassette tape or CD.
- 6 different Bible story books for all age groups
- Teacher's guides and commentary on Hurlbut's Old and New Testament stories
- Hymn books: Zion's Harp, Hymns of Zion, Tabernacle Hymns, Zion's Melodies, Gospel Hymns, Children's Harp, Hymns of Christmas and a book that teaches basic music instruction
- Silver Lining Article reprints - "Light From The Word"
- Reference books including: Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, Vine's Expository Dictionary, 1828 Webster Dictionary and more.
- Samuel Froehlich Library (Old Testament Meditations and Set of ten Books)
- Inspirational Books (My Garden of Verse and God's Promises for Your Every Need)
- Children's Harp CD's and cassette tape sets

We also have materials available at no cost. For example: Statement of Faith, Welcome book, Daily Bible Reading Guide, Winds of Doctrine and many more.

### How to Order:

During Business Hours: call 309-467-3611

After Hours: Call 309-467-3611 leave a message, or fax to the same number.

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Order blanks available: at each Church, by calling AC Publications, or by emailing [jeffg@grimmauto.com](mailto:jeffg@grimmauto.com) or [jdvl@frontiernet.net](mailto:jdvl@frontiernet.net)

*Sermon continued from page 2*

God spoke to Eve and she said, "well, it was the serpent." When He spoke to Adam, he said, "it was my wife." (Genesis 3:12,13)

Saul said they, the people did it. But the instruction came to Saul. Right away he accused someone else. It wasn't until the point that he said, I have sinned, it was at that point that there was a turning there. (I Samuel 15:24)

"And Samuel said, What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep..." I Samuel 15:14. What meaneth with these oxen if you have kept the commandment of God? He said the people have brought them back. (I Samuel 15:15) "Then Samuel said unto Saul, Stay, and I will tell thee what the Lord hath said to me this night. And he said unto him, Say on." I Samuel 15:16.

There he explained to Saul what the Lord had said. He was going to take that kingdom away from him and He was going to give it to someone else because of disobedience unto God. (I Samuel 15:28) Saul said, "we've taken the cattle, we've taken the oxen. We've brought them for a good purpose. We've brought them for the purpose of sacrificing to God" (I Samuel 15:21). He tried to compromise there a little bit. He tried to say, well look, we've done this for the purpose of giving them to God.

Samuel told Saul - it's words that we've heard many times isn't it - is God pleased with sacrifice more than obedience (I Samuel 15:22)? He wants us to obey when He asks. He wants us to serve Him with our whole heart.

"And Samuel said, Hath the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry..." I Samuel 15:22,23. It just seems almost ironic and yet we know it is not that way, because it is

the way of God. Why was it that God took Saul's life? It was because he went and inquired of a witch. The scripture tells us it was because of that that God took his life from Saul. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft. Probably on this very day, if Samuel would have said to Saul, the day will come when you will go and inquire of a witch, he would say, that never would happen. I wouldn't think of doing that. But it started out in rebellion. It started out in disobedience. Look where it took him.

That is just how sin is, loved ones, isn't it? It just starts out maybe a little bit like rust. We just see it a little bit under the surface. Pretty soon it is just fully exposed. "...and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being king. And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice." I Samuel 15:23,24.

There was a penalty there also for the people wasn't there? They went through some terrible times there in the time of Saul's last days. They became a divided nation for a short time. Then David became king over both Judah and the rest of Israel. But those were tough times for the children of Israel. (II Samuel 2-5) They caused Saul to disobey God's Word. It was because of their greed. It was because of what they wanted when they went out here to conquer this nation.

He told Saul that he had had the kingdom rent from him. And Saul said, I have sinned. Yet honor me now, I pray thee, before the elders of my people (I Samuel 15:28-30). We can see he wanted yet to be honored. We can say he had pride. There is just no question he had pride in his life still even at that point. Because he wanted to be honored in front of the people.

Samuel went and it says he brought king Agag (I Samuel

15:32,33). We read that account and it almost seems just extremely gruesome. And yet loved ones, that was representative of sin. The Amalekites in the Old Testament was symbolic of sin. We just can't have sin in our lives. We see the separation that it has for us and God when sin is in our life. Here he slew this king and he utterly destroyed him. That's what God wants in our lives. That is what God expects, that as we come unto Him, we just fully remove, we fully let go. That we don't allow any sin to be in our lives.

"Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house to Gibeah of Saul. And Samuel came no more to see Saul until the day of his death: nevertheless Samuel mourned for Saul..." I Samuel 15:34,35. We can see the love that the prophet had for God's elect, for God's chosen king. "...and the Lord repented that he had made Saul king over Israel." I Samuel 15:35. We can see that even though he was rejected, there was still a love there by Saul. We can see that even though there was sin, that God still loved the sinner. He hates sin but He still loves the sinner.

When we think of the preciseness that God through Samuel gave to Saul, it just seems as though he should have been able to carry that out just without any question because it was so precise. Yet here as we turn to the New Testament, we see the preciseness again of what God asks of us.

We read here of the works of the flesh. At the end of that list it says, "...they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." Galatians 5:21. It is just extremely clear, isn't it? If we were to go down the pews and we were to ask, is there anyone here who thinks that that is not true, there just probably wouldn't be any of us. Because the Word of God says it. It just says it that clear. But as we look at the works of the flesh, we understand those are works that are to tear us down. Those are works that Satan would

have for us to do that would cause us to sin. It would cause us to eventually destroy ourselves. There would be no question there that we would all agree with those items, that we would not want them in our lives. But perhaps if there would be any disagreement at all, perhaps it would be the disagreement of, what are those things that would have a tendency of leading us back to the works of the flesh?

He says here in verse thirteen, "For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty..." Galatians 5:13. When we think of being called unto liberty, when we think of liberty, we think of being free, don't we? We think of our nation, those men came, they came for the freedom of worship, the freedom of speech, the freedom to bear arms. The many freedoms that they wanted to have as they live here. They wanted to have that liberty and justice.

Yet here he is speaking of a liberty that we could just speak of a lot of things. Liberty from sin. Liberty from the consequences of sin. We have been called unto liberty to be free from the guilt of sin. To be free from those things that come - the works of the flesh. We have been called unto liberty. But he is saying, "...use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another." Galatians 5:13. That we not, just because we have been called from sin, just because we have been given a peace in our heart, doesn't mean that we can use that for our own selves. But we use that to serve one another.

He went on here and he said, "...Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." Galatians 5:14. First of all we have to love ourselves, don't we? Sometimes Satan would come and tell us we just aren't worth anything. Sometimes we find that. Where Satan will come and will try to discourage us and tear us down. We just don't think of ourselves very much at all. But that's not what the Word tells us. The Word tells us that we have been created in God's own

image, after His likeness (Genesis 1:26,27). That He has placed us here upon this earth for His praise and for His honor and for His glory that we might serve Him, that we might be called unto liberty, that we might have a life of abundance. He lays out here just this exact so that we don't become entangled again in those things that would bring sorrow and sin in our lives.

It says, "But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another." Galatians 5:15. Again, we can look at this list and we can say without a doubt we all agree. We don't want this in our lives. But what are the things that would have a tendency of bringing these back into our life? If we are busy spending time loving one another, serving one another, loving our neighbor as ourselves, we will not be as quick to become engaged in those things that would have a tendency of bringing envy, lasciviousness, fornication, adultery, seditions and heresies and those things back into our lives. Because those are the things we repented of, aren't they, brothers and sisters? Those are the things that we were once entangled in.

Dear friends, if today you find yourself entangled in those things, today is the day of grace. He asks, come and I will give you peace and I will give you rest from these things. I will give you this liberty that He speaks of here.

"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh." Galatians 5:16. Our mind is set in such a way that we can't think of a lot of things all at the same time. So if we spend our time thinking upon those things that are spiritual, we will not be caught up in thinking of those things that are evil. If we spend our time doing what God asks of us, we'll not be caught up in doing those things that will lead us back into the works of the flesh. But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.

One of the works of the flesh is hatred. Hatred works a little bit like we spoke there of Saul. It doesn't start just immediately. Maybe it starts with a little bit of biting and devouring. Maybe it starts a little bit with ill feelings. We let them fester. Pretty soon we find we've went to a different level. Now it is just not feeling but now it is pretty forceful. If it is let go, if it is let unchecked, it becomes hatred eventually. But if ye bite and devour, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another. Let's not even let that get started, loved ones. Let's just continue to pray for peace in our own lives and pray for peace as a brotherhood. Because it will consume us eventually if it is let go.

"For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would." Galatians 5:17. There is a war, isn't there? There is a battle there. Yet it is what we feed is what is going to grow. If something is dead in our lives, we don't want it rejuvenated, do we? If something is dead in our lives, we don't want to continue to feed it. We don't want to continue to give it a life, to bring it back up again. But we want it to remain dead. We want to feed this spiritual man, that the fruit of the Spirit that we read will come forth.

"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these..." Galatians 5:19. The works of the flesh are manifest meaning they will come forth. "...Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness," Galatians 5:19. Those lusts of the flesh. Those sins of the flesh. We could take all of these and we could break them down into three categories, couldn't we? The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of life.

"Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations..." Galatians 5:20. As we read those words, they just are words that aren't pleasant,

*Sermon continued on page 46*

*Sermon continued from page 45*

are they? They are words that bring sorrow and pain. That's just what Satan wants for us to become entangled with.

And it says and such like. It says, "Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like..." Galatians 5:21. If there is anything in our life that is similar to these, he is saying that is included. "...they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." Galatians 5:21. That is what makes it so important, loved ones, that we don't allow these things to become alive in our lives. That is why it is so important, dear friends, that we come unto Him and we allow Him to convert our lives.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace..." Galatians 5:22. We could just take the very first one, of love, and if we would just truly love, the rest of them would already be a part of our life. If we would truly love as we can read in I Corinthians 13, we read through that and what does it say? Love is longsuffering, beareth all things, believeth all things, endureth all things.

Joy. We think of joy as being something that even in time of sorrow, we can just feel a joy there within our heart, knowing that God is in control. Peace and longsuffering (v.22). I think of longsuffering. There might be some here who have suffered something for many, many years. Loved ones, we can read in God's Word, it will be worth it all. It will be worth it when we make it to heaven by His grace. So if you find yourself as longsuffering today, just continue to press on. It will be worth it.

Gentleness (v.22)...as we go through the fruit of the Spirit, it is important that we remember, it is the fruit of the Spirit. It is not the fruit of us. But it is the fruit of God's

Spirit dwelling within us. We think of gentleness. We think of a little child. We think of peace and joy and love. The scripture tells us that we are to be childlike, doesn't it? (St. Luke 18:17)

Goodness (v.22)...morally pure. Pure in our thoughts, in our actions. Faith (v.22). Perhaps here in this faith it means to be reliable. To be trusted. That what we say is really the way it is going to be. That we don't have to wonder, well does it mean something different than what it sounded like? But we can be trusted.

Meekness and temperate (v.23). Temperate that we don't get all shook up when things don't seem to go our way. That we don't lose our cool. But that we continue to be consistent, grounded upon the Word of God. Grounded upon the Lord Jesus Christ and His shed blood.

"...against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." Galatians 5:23-25. But in our daily walk of life, these fruit of the Spirit will be exhibited in our lives to those that we come in contact with. To those who do not have God's Spirit in their lives. But it will come forth and it will show forth.

"Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another." Galatians 5:26. When we think of vain glory we think of Saul there where he wanted to be honored. He wanted Samuel to go with him to worship the Lord. (I Samuel 15:30) Really at that point, it almost seemed like what difference would it have made? What difference would have it made if he would have been honored in front of the people when he sinned against God? That is vain glory, isn't it loved ones?

Provoking one another. Again we see the contrast in that verse, by love serve one another. That we not provoke each other. That we not do something in our lives that makes someone else angry. Because we go back, if we bite and devour, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.

Then envying one another. It almost seems as though this verse maybe is out of place. He speaks of the works of the flesh. Then he speaks of the fruit of the Spirit. Then after that he again reminds us, let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another. It almost would seem like he has already covered that. Yet it's a reminder, loved ones, that even though we are a child of God, we still need God's mercy, don't we? We still need to be merciful one to another. That we don't allow these things back into our lives. Because it is real, it can happen, just as it happened to Saul. He had the Spirit of God. It was given unto him after he had been anointed to be king (I Samuel 11:6). Yet we see what happened because he was too caught up with what the people thought. He was too caught up on his own pride. We see he disobeyed God and the consequence that came with that.

So we're reminded here, it takes God's grace, doesn't it? We can't do it of ourselves. It needs the grace of God day by day. That grace can only come to us if we are humble and submissive unto Him. If we are submissive one to another. But he encourages us here, with the Spirit of God in our lives, those fruit will come forth and we will be able to be at peace with one another. We will be able to feel the joy, the love He would have for us to feel. We'll be able by His grace to overcome, to serve Him faithfully day by day.



## 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](mailto: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.

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

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Tabernacles*

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Books are mainly distributed to India, Philippines, and Africa.

Jerry and Arlene Banwart  
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Congerville, IL 61729  
(309) 448-2416

## "Zion's Melodies" Instrumental CD

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](mailto:chetrink@juno.com)

## 2006 Athens/Tennessee Memorial Day Weekend

On Saturday, May 27, and Sunday, May 28, Lord willing, this year's Athens/Tennessee Memorial Day Weekend will be held. 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), "Lukewarmness (*both in personal life and church support*)" by Bro. Todd Stoller (Latty, OH), 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](mailto:leutholdg@aol.com) Tennessee Fellowship Chairman Don Sauder (615)373-8928 or e-mail [don.sauder@juno.com](mailto:don.sauder@juno.com) Tennessee Fellowship Treasurer Mike Moore (256)729-0620 or e-mail [alm38@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:thitzhome@juno.com). For Jamaica, direct your inquiry to Bro. Mike Rassi, Ph. 1-309-359-5240 or E-mail [michael\\_rassi@hotmail.com](mailto:michael_rassi@hotmail.com).

HAITI					
ORG.	DATE	AREA	COORDINATOR	PROJECT	CAPACITY
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	<a href="mailto:rbeebe@surfpure.com">rbeebe@surfpure.com</a>
Rich Bertschi	309-467-6110		<a href="mailto:lemangm@mtco.com">lemangm@mtco.com</a>
Tom Hitz	734-454-9229	734-454-9259	<a href="mailto:thitzhome@juno.com">thitzhome@juno.com</a>
Bill Rager	419-263-2989		
Jon Zeller	309-266-9009		<a href="mailto:jzeller@mtco.com">jzeller@mtco.com</a>
Rick Wuethrich	219-567-9488	219-567-2542	<a href="mailto:topnotch@home.ffni.com">topnotch@home.ffni.com</a>
Troy Struber	309-925-2603		<a href="mailto:tstuber@highstream.net">tstuber@highstream.net</a>
Jon Schwab	219-261-2935		<a href="mailto:schwab@ffni.com">schwab@ffni.com</a>
Rusty Adrian	573-769-3650		<a href="mailto:aadrian@socket.net">aadrian@socket.net</a>
Terry Miller	941-485-4302	941-485-4302	<a href="mailto:kjs@a5.com">kjs@a5.com</a>
Pete Webel	419-756-2587		<a href="mailto:peter.webel@gm.com">peter.webel@gm.com</a>
Ted Hirstein	309-266-8769		<a href="mailto:hirstein@mtco.com">hirstein@mtco.com</a>
Scott Bahr	734-513-5907		<a href="mailto:spb9@dcx.com">spb9@dcx.com</a>

**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](mailto:mfiechter@adamswells.com)

Location	Date	Project	Coordinator	Phone	E-mail
Magdalena	June 3-10, 2006	Construction	Roger Herrmann	309-446-3502	<a href="mailto:rdkidz@juno.com">rdkidz@juno.com</a>
Magdalena	July 8-15, 2006	Construction	Rick Kaisner	847-942-1174	<a href="mailto:rick@kaisner.org">rick@kaisner.org</a>
Magdalena	July 15-22, 2006	Construction	Duane Meyer	785-336-3385	<a href="mailto:dhmeyer@bbwi.net">dhmeyer@bbwi.net</a>
Magdalena	July 22-29, 2006	Construction	Tyler Banwart	620-223-1362	<a href="mailto:tybanwart@hotmail.com">tybanwart@hotmail.com</a>
Juarez	September 20-27, 2006	Medical	Cheryl Herrmann	309-385-1082	<a href="mailto:cherylh@mtco.com">cherylh@mtco.com</a>



### 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](mailto: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](mailto:mmksblf@dpc.net)

**Indiana:** Gerry Waibel  
 Phone/Fax: 219-279-2582  
 E-mail: [glwaibel@hotmail.com](mailto: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:

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

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:

Bro. Mike Moore  
 (256) 729-0620  
 8653 Beechwood Rd.  
 Athens, AL 35611  
 Email: [ALM@aol.com](mailto:ALM@aol.com)



# REMEMBERING

## *Our Spiritual Heritage*

### Immigration

With immigration in the news these days, it is interesting to look back one hundred years or more and observe some of the conditions our foreparents endured as they emigrated from many places in Europe to America.

The Jacob and Mary Wittmer family (he 26 and she 21) left Bern, Switzerland with their two small children (Mary - 21 months old, and Jacob - 6 months old) to come to America. They spent 36 days on their boat. These two children, along with another child, were only three of thirteen children who survived to reach the American shore.

In *Marching To Zion*, Elder Samuel Aeschleman, who served for many years as Elder at Bluffton, Indiana, recalled how his grandparents came to America in 1853 and settled initially in Monroe County, Ohio (the Sardis area). The ocean trip took 49 days on a sailing vessel. During the Atlantic crossing, one of their children died and was buried at sea.

Death and burial at sea were not all that uncommon. Sometimes diseases would spread in the cramped traveling conditions and death would overtake some of the emigrants. Children, especially were vulnerable in such conditions. One can hardly imagine the grief and sorrow that parents felt.

On a brighter note, the John Adam Eisenmann family, while

worried their child might die, experienced a happy ending. Their child, during a bad storm on the ocean, became very sick. Her mother thought the baby would die. The unwavering faith of her father caused him to kneel in prayer and ask God to spare the child. Suddenly, someone appeared with some medicine, and the baby survived. The mother was convinced that God sent an angel to save the child because during the remainder of the trip she could never find anyone who resembled the man who gave medicine to her sick child.

Around the year 1900, immigrants had to check in at Ellis Island. 5,000 per day came through that entry point. Officials asked 29 questions and they were given physical examinations, answering 15 questions. Governmental officials were careful in letting persons into this country. Back then "illegal" aliens were rare.

### The New Birth

In a 1975 issue of the *Silver Lining*, Bro. Sam Kilgus, who served in the ministry at Remington, Indiana, from 1932 to 1975, listed a definition of the "new birth". He wrote:

"The first step is to see ourselves as a lost sinner that can be saved by grace. Jesus paid a tremendous price to cleanse our sinful heart. He gave His life and blood. We go through a process of repentance and conversion, a thorough change of mind. That changes a carnal into a

spiritual mind. When this change has taken place, we are baptized and promise to stay true and faithful until death. Then, we belong to a body of believers called 'the church.'"

### Historical Booklet

An old 48-page booklet exists entitled *To The King's Administration of Justice*. In part, it consists of many written appeals to the various governments of Europe by our brethren pertaining to our spiritual convictions. It was put together by Elder Bro. William A. Stettner of Elgin, Illinois, very likely in the 1940s or so. Excerpts from this interesting booklet will be referenced in subsequent *Remembering* columns. Bro. Stettner was the brother of Elder Bro. Jacob Stettner, also of Elgin, Illinois. A short poem in this booklet follows:

The mills of God grind very slowly,  
But they grind exceedingly small.  
Where with patience God is waiting

With exactness grinds He all.  
(Author not listed)

By Perry A. Klopfenstein

### Next Issue:

Excerpts from  
*To The Kings  
Administration Of Justice*

# The Light Of Hope

## From Across The Ocean

### 希望の光

#### “Abound In Hope”

*Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan*

Abound means to have plenty of something, enough to share with others. In Romans 15:13 it is written that ye may abound in hope. In our risen Saviour, we have such an abundance of hope that we can share with others and still have an ample supply ourselves. In fact, the more we share with others, hope, joy, and peace, the more our own is multiplied. It is like the widow oil in I Kings 17:14, or thus saith the Lord, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail. In Proverbs 28:20 we read, faithful man shall abound with blessings. This puts responsibility on us about being faithful, and I believe it means over a long period of time, a lifetime. To be faithful to God means to do what pleases Him and what is His will, and what brings Him glory. We teach at the time of baptism that this is only possible by His grace, and we must make ourselves recipients of His grace. If we fail, we can hardly excuse ourselves by say-

ing that God did not give us enough grace. But if we are faithful, we shall abound with blessings.

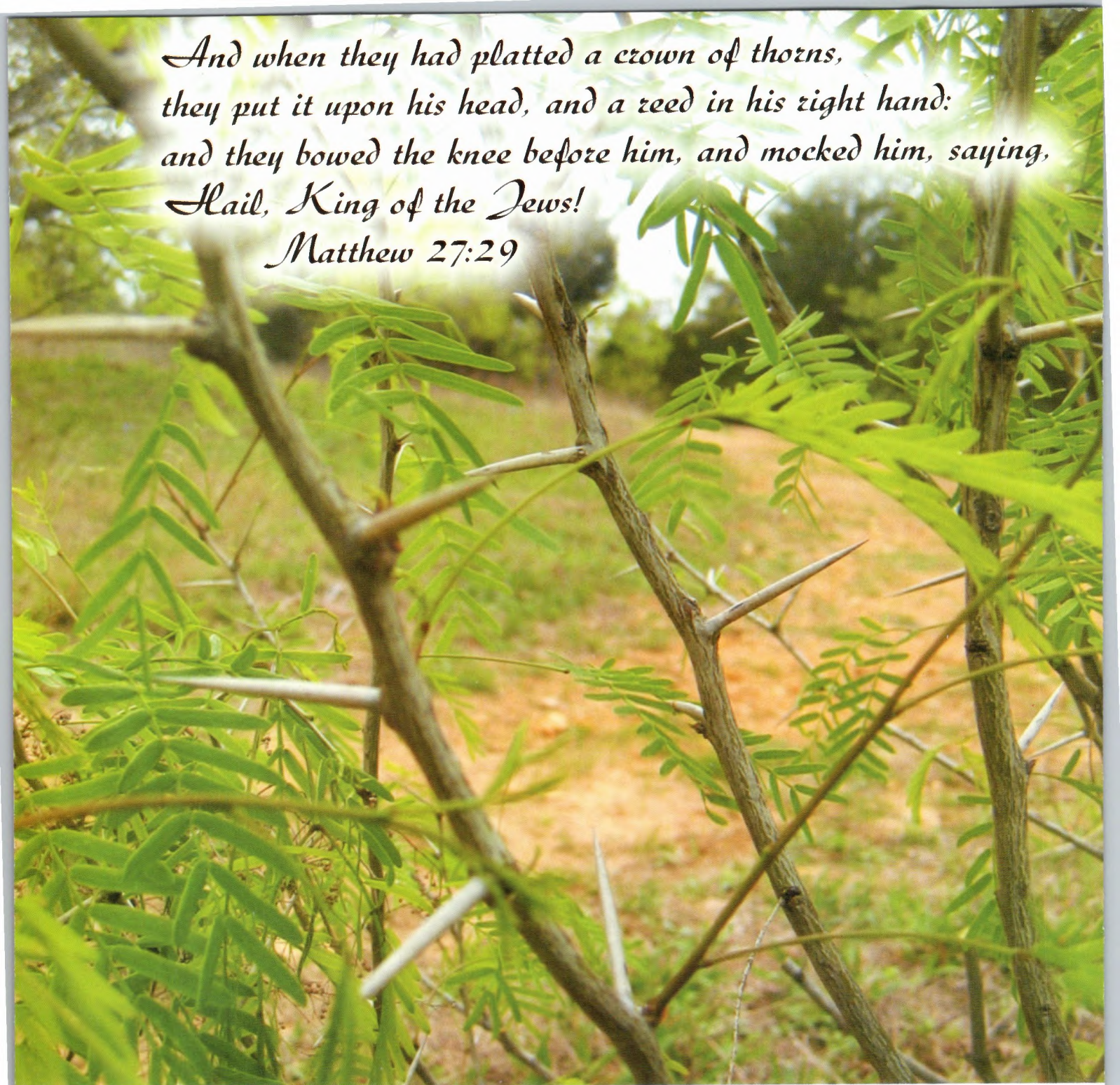
The word bound is used in II Corinthians 8:7, herefore as ye abound in everything, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also. Paul had been telling the Corinthians about the generosity of the churches in Macedonia and he wanted them to abound in the race of generosity, also. It takes race from God to be truly generous, which means to share with others not only our money, but also our love, patience, forbearance, and time. Paul terms this as abounding in everything, an endless supply of everything, except money, perhaps.

Paul uses the word again in II Corinthians 9:8, and God is able to make all grace abound toward you. Here the word bound is used to describe an endless supply of grace, or power, consolation, and hope, from God.

In II Peter 1, verses 5, 6, and 7, many attributes or fruits of the Spirit, are listed, very much like in Galatians 5:22,23. Then he says in verse 8, or if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren or unfruitful in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. Peter insinuates that these fruits of the Spirit should abound in us, be in plentiful supply, so that we can share them with others and our own supply will continuously increase. It is like an artesian well.

We can abound in all these things, including hope and the assurance of salvation, because the Lord Jesus Christ not only died for us but He arose again. Our hope and our abounding in all these spiritual blessings hinges upon what the angel said to Mary, he is not here for He is risen. Matthew 28:6. As we celebrate Easter, may we by God grace, abound in hope, and in everything good.

# 希望の光



*And when they had platted a crown of thorns,  
they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand:  
and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying,  
Hail, King of the Jews!  
Matthew 27:29*

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