

The Silver Lining

A tall, white lighthouse with a red roof and a glowing light at the top stands on a dark, rocky cliff. The sea below is turbulent with white-capped waves crashing against the rocks. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, with a bright light source breaking through near the horizon, creating a dramatic, atmospheric scene.

*And I thank God for the Lighthouse,
I owe my life to him
For Jesus is the Lighthouse
And from the rocks of sin;
He has shone a light around me
That I could clearly see
And if it wasn't for the Lighthouse,
Where would this ship be?*

"The Lighthouse"

May 2006

Sermon by Bro. Tom Bolliger, Tremont, IL
I Kings 21 and Philippians 4

I believe there are probably a lot of lessons we could learn from this chapter in Kings. Unfortunately most of them are learning of what we shouldn't do rather than what we should do. Just a couple of thoughts that come as we know Ahab got off on the wrong foot. Ahab rejected God to begin with, before this chapter.

Think about Ahab and think about being a king. He had everything as far as earthly goods he could ever desire. There is no way he could ever have spent whatever he had because he was the king. He looked over there at a piece of property that adjoined - says that Naboth's vineyard joined hard to the palace of Ahab (I Kings 21:1). So it must have been just really close. He could just look out the back window and could see this beautiful vineyard.

Greed came into his mind. He really coveted that. I had to think, that, if we are not careful, could be our lot too. Not that we would go to the extent that Ahab and Jezebel did. But we know if we read in God's Word, that coveting and greed, people who have that in their heart are not going to be in heaven.

I think it is a challenge to each one of us and it would be easy to make the comparison as we think about, we have a lot of farmers in the congregation. That would hardly be fair to pick on just the farmers, because this was a piece of ground and it is easy to kind of correlate it to a piece of ground. But it could be anything. Any possessions that we might see that somebody else has and that we would covet. We can see this is not the direction that we need to go.

The thought just comes to me and I know it has come to you, we just need to be content with what we have. God has given us everything that we need. I don't believe, there is not one of us that He has not given us what we need. That doesn't mean that everybody has the exact same. We know that is not true.

But he looked and Naboth — I don't know what Naboth had. This may be all he had. This was a piece of ground that his heart was really tied to. Probably had family ties just like a lot of things that we have. It may not be what it is worth but it is just that it's got some

kind of sentimental value. I think that maybe that is what it was with Naboth. He had every right to keep that.

Here we have Ahab. He desired it. As I think about Ahab here and I think about how he went back in and he laid down on his bed and he pouted (I Kings 21:4). That is basically what he did and I thought, my. That wasn't acting very grown up. That wasn't acting very much like a king, was it?

But you know, as we think about our own households and how things go, you know, we as parents in some ways, we are over the household. I kind of hesitate to say that we are king of the household. I guess you could kind of draw that correlation a little bit. But when things don't go our way quite, it doesn't really give us any reason to pout and lay down in bed and just kind of roll over against the wall and just kind of stare at the wall and just kind of have a little fit.

That can happen. Maybe we don't physically do that but maybe inside of ourselves we have one of these little pity parties. I have had them myself. It is not just you, it is me too. We really ought to be careful of that.

Ahab made another mistake. His wife Jezebel. First of all that he had married an idol worshipping wife was a huge mistake. But I can't quite in my own mind understand how Ahab, if he really wanted to do right, that he couldn't have questioned in his mind, well now just how is Jezebel going to accomplish this? He didn't give his wife, the queen, much direction. That was wrong. As husbands, we need to take responsibility for the actions, don't we?

What's more, when Jezebel performed her terrible deed, as I think about the children of Israel now, I understand they probably had a lot of pressure. They had a lot of fear of Jezebel. Here they set Naboth up, it says at the table. "They proclaimed a fast, and set Naboth on high among the people." I Kings 21:12. Then brought two men of Belial and said, he has blasphemed God and the king. Seems to me the first thing they should have maybe thought of was what do these two disciples of Belial know about God? Because they had nothing to do with God. They worshipped a god that was of stone.

If they would have just looked back just a little bit, they would have seen - I believe it was back behind, yes I am sure it is - that Elijah, when there had been four hundred fifty prophets of Baal had been slain because they couldn't bring down fire upon the sacrifice. But God did. (I Kings 18:19-40). The people shouldn't have listened to those two. They hold some responsibility because they took him out and they stoned him.

We've got to be careful. We have got to be discerners as I think about that.

Sermon continued on page 44

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Ron Schambach, Tom Stock

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

cleman@dtnspeed.net

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1389 County Road 1600 N

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

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

May 2006

What Will Ye Give Me?

"Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, and said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver. And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him" (Mt. 26:14-16).

Balaam was overcome with a desire for riches that were offered to him if he would curse God's people. He was told that he should not do this evil deed. The offer of riches and fame was increased. He again asked God's permission to go curse God's people. God told Balaam that he could go if the men came again and if he would do as God commanded. Balaam did not wait for the men to return. He "...rose up early in the morning ...and went..." (Nu. 22:21).

God was angry because Balaam was disobedient. In His mercy He caused Balaam's beast to turn away from danger on three separate occasions. Balaam was so intent upon getting the riches offered to him that he became blinded to the warning that God sent. He became so angry and so consumed by his greed that, when his beast spoke to him, he didn't recognize it as being unusual.

Ahab, king of Samaria, was overtaken by covetousness in his desire to get Naboth's vineyard. He offered Naboth money or another vineyard for it. Naboth believed it was wrong for him to give the inheritance of his father to another. Ahab became very angry. Ahab's wicked wife, Jezebel, said that Ahab was governor of the kingdom of Israel and, therefore, he should be able to have what he wanted.

Jezebel falsely accused Naboth of blasphemy, had him killed and said to Ahab, "Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezraelite, which he refused to give thee for money: for Naboth is not alive, but dead" (I Ki. 21:15). It now appeared

that Ahab could have what he wanted and not even have to pay for it.

King David was overcome by the desires of the flesh. He yielded to temptation, took Uriah's wife, and then, after failing to deceive Uriah, had him killed so he could have his wife. David was so consumed with evil desire that he was willing to send an innocent man to his death to try to hide his own sin.

What do these four examples have in common? In each of the examples cited, selfishness, greed, and covetousness drove the guilty men to commit very serious sins. They became consumed by the same sin that is so rampant in our society today: What's in it for me?

So many people believe that they can attain happiness if they achieve material gain, honor in the eyes of man, or some other achievement that will soothe the fleshly desire of man. We hear of many people who suffer a "mid life crises" because they either have not attained the material or social standing that they planned to have or they have achieved that standing only to discover that it didn't bring them the joy that they expected.

The realization that they never would gain the prestige that they dreamed of, or the realization that attaining their goal was really a shallow "victory", becomes a major disappointment. The result is an overwhelming emptiness and guilt that weighs heavily on them.

Judas was consumed for the rest of his life ("from that time he sought opportunity") to do what he needed to do to get thirty pieces of silver. His disappointment and guilt were so great that, after failing to return the silver, he took his own life.

Balaam was fortunate in that he was able to see the error of his way before it cost him his life, but he was required to give up all the reward that was offered him. It took Balaam quite some time to do what was right, but he finally realized that "if Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the commandment of the Lord..." (Nu. 24:13).

Ahab, when faced with the reality and horror of his sin, was able to repent of his sin, "...he rent his clothes, put sackcloth upon his flesh, and fasted, and lay in sackcloth..." (I Ki. 21:27). The judgment that was pronounced upon him was delayed, but Ahab had to live with the knowledge that his sin would bring evil to his country during his son's reign.

When confronted with his sin in the form of a parable, "David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, as the Lord liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die" (II Sam. 12:5). Imagine David's shock and grief when Nathan said "Thou art the man" (II Sam. 12:7). David, as he did throughout his life when confronted with his sin, confessed his sin, repented, fasted and pleaded with God for mercy. A price had to be paid. The child that was born as a result of David's sin died. David recognized that his sin was the cause of great distress and "...has given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme..." (II Sam. 12:14).

What can we learn from these and many other examples from the scripture that could have been cited? If we attempt to find peace and satisfaction in material gains or in the satisfaction of the desires of "...the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life..." (I Jn. 2:16), we will meet with great disappointment. If we are covetous for what we do not have instead of content with what we do have, there will be a price to pay. Our life will be empty and we will be as deceived as the Laodiceans who said "I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing: and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:..." (Rev. 3:17).

There is an alternative. We need not be deceived by "What will ye give me?" The alternative, "Blessings of God", will be the subject of the next article.



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

Visit To Rural Gospel and Medical Mission In India

Over thirty-six years ago, Mr. B.B. Bhagwat asked the Apostolic Christian Church to take the oversight of the Rural Gospel and Medical Missions of India (RGMMI). He had been converted from Hinduism and with his wife founded this Christian Mission. In 1970, several elders made the first of a number of trips to India. This past December, Elder Bros. John Lehman and Kent Heimer and their wives made a visit to India to review the work, offer support to Dr. Parkhe, Administrator, inspect progress of a construction project and assess other current and future needs of the Mission.

The first stop was at the Khardi compound located 50 miles north-east of Bombay. This is the original location that served as headquarters for the Bhagwats' early mission work. The forty "boarding" boys that live on campus greeted the visitors with welcome songs. A tour of the facility revealed changes since the last visit in 2004, which included a new building housing the Vocational Welding School where the students demonstrated their welding skills.

A meeting and inspection with the architect and construction manager revealed good workmanship with quality materials. When fully implemented, all ten grade levels, including kindergarten (perhaps 200 students) will be taught in English, giving the graduates a tremendous boost for their employment and college opportunities. This new building will be completed in early summer. Currently classes in Eng-

lish have begun for pre-school and kindergarten students in temporary facilities. Two English instructors have been hired and more will be added as classes expand. The school is open to boys on the Khardi campus and those from the community.

Khardi also has a clinic and small hospital. A large number of patients were waiting to be treated and several individuals occupied hospital beds. Several of those employed in the clinic were former boarding students. Plans are being considered for upgrading these medical facilities.

The elder brothers had the opportunity to conduct worship services at Khardi, and at the Nashik campus. It is always a blessing to share in the Christian joy and fellowship of the Indian believers. Two days were spent touring the remote tribal villages where a "House of Prayer" consists of a building constructed with bamboo poles, teak pillars and a tile roof. Several facilities had been damaged by heavy rains last year and were being repaired. Worship services were held during the day and many believers came to hear the Word proclaimed by ministers of the RGMMI. Our brothers were advised not to conduct services in these areas because of the strong Hindu influence. The visitors were encouraged to see the zeal the young ministers have for the Lord. Several requests were made for additional prayer halls and repairs for other places of worship.

Nashik (RGMMI headquarters) is a large city situated east of the Ghats Mountains. Another boarding home for forty boys from various backgrounds is located here. The boys are provided an education at the local school and all the necessities

for living. They are supervised by a housefather, who assists with homework and teaching Scripture verses. They attend daily devotions led by the housefather as well as church services held at the campus chapel. The grounds of the compound are neatly maintained by the boys. They presented a program of singing, reciting Psalms and a biblical skit. Their conduct and enthusiasm were inspiring.

A vocational program is also offered on the Nashik campus, which includes electrical and computer training. These classes run for six months. A number of students from the community are also enrolled in this program.

RGMMI sponsors fifty girls at the Manoram Sadam School in Monmad, which was also visited. After a warm welcome, the girls presented a program of song and verse. They are children of RGMMI workers, a few orphans, and several from families who want a structured course of study for their daughters. Each applicant and family are carefully screened. A visit to this school is always a highlight of a trip to India. One of the former employees has served on the Board of this school.

Plans are being made for an addition to the medical clinic at Nashik, as well as facilities for staff training of RGMMI employees. Both of these additions will be attached to existing buildings. The mobile medical staff were very appreciative of a new Jeep medical van purchased last year. Time did not permit a visit to the rural clinics conducted weekly by RGMMI staff.

Much thanks is given to God for the progress of RGMMI, for the Lord's traveling mercies and the many prayers offered by the Brotherhood back home.



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

Hurricane Katrina Project in Biloxi, MS January 1 – March 31

Comments resonated daily as Apostolic Christian World Relief work teams worked to restore the homes of people touched by the ravages of Hurricane Katrina. "Our hearts are overflowing with gratitude for all you and your teams have done for us." "Without the 'Faith Based' organizations like you, we would never recover." "You are the answer to our many prayers."

The impact on those serving was as much as or more than the impact they had on the storm victims. "I don't want to leave." "This is the best spring break I have ever had." "What we accomplished seems so little against so much destruction." "I feel really blessed by what we've done and the lives we've touched." "This was my first work team experience. I've been changed and it will not be my last."

On August 29, 2005 Hurricane Katrina came ashore along the gulf coast moving very slowly and creating a lot of damage. It turned out to be the costliest and one of the deadliest natural disasters to impact the US. The area devastated was approximately the size of Great Britain and the estimated value of property destroyed is \$75 billion dollars. To date over 1,600 people have lost their lives and over 1,800 are still unaccounted for.

The response from the Apostolic Christian Church to the catastrophe was heartwarming. The outpouring of monies and volunteer help exceeded any single outreach to date. For 13 weeks work teams averaging 61 people each and representing 59 churches travelled to Biloxi, MS to reach out and help. Thanks to each

of you who demonstrated how we are to respond to those in need.

Through the World Relief US Disaster Committee, an organization was put in place last fall and "camp" was set up at the Cedar Lake Christian Assembly Church in late December. Building materials were limited in the Gulf Coast area. To help this scarcity, the Midwest Food Bank brought down several loads of building materials from central Illinois. They also brought food donated by many.

Work team members began arriving December 28 and work began January 2, 2006. Although most work was around the Biloxi area with a special focus on East Biloxi, an area very poor and hit with a surge that put up to eight feet of water in most homes, the teams helped people as far east as Gautier, MS and as far west as Pass Christian, MS.



One of 4 new homes built

The focus for a work project of this nature is to help the very poor elderly and handicapped. The majority of the families helped fell into this category. Some what unique to this catastrophe was the group of people that had a nice home and job but no flood insurance since they were not in the flood plain. With no insurance and most damage caused by flooding, they had no means to repair their home, and most had a mortgage that they are still obligated to pay. They also, like the poor, have no where to turn for help.

With so many people in need,

one of the most difficult tasks is to determine whom to help. To assist with this process, three churches in the Biloxi & Pass Christian area were asked to help identify those in need the most. Next those families identified filled out an application providing background information on their family and financial situation. From these applications, families were selected.

During the project 39 families were touched by the loving hands of the volunteers. The goal was not only to assist in their healing process by restoring their home, but also by offering them encouragement and hope received through knowing our risen Lord.

Four families received new homes and 14 had their homes completely redone. The remaining work included replacing roofs, removing debris from yards, pouring slabs for future homes and providing church pews donated by the Wolcott Sunday School.

Countless stories were shared with the volunteers on what it was like to be caught in the storm or to come back after the storm and have nothing. The impact of the enormity of the storm struck one volunteer as he recounted having a fire in his home and even though his life was altered for a while, the rest of the world around him was normal and his neighbors and friends were there to help. But after Katrina, nothing was normal. They lost everything, including possibly family and friends, and there is no where to turn nor no one to turn to.

With everything coming together as it did, there is no doubt that the oversight of the entire effort was in God's hands. "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it" Psalm 127:1

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

"Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, . . . But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

I Corinthians 15:51, 57-58

The truth of this Biblical promise is vivid to us this time of year as we rejoice in the hope of a glorious resurrection day, especially as we said goodbye until heaven to several residents. As we wait for the day when "death is swallowed up in victory", we take courage from the challenge to abound in the work of the Lord.

Many of our residents enjoyed time with their families at the Easter season; others who were at the different homes for the holiday enjoyed a special meal or went out to eat for breakfast or supper.

Lovely spring days provide the opportunity for many to be outside in the sunshine in the courtyards, taking walks, riding bikes and enjoying the backyards at the group homes.

Several church groups have volunteered this season; some have come to play games and bring snacks. One young group came to fix all the bikes! Each willing heart makes such a difference as we do the "work of the Lord".

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Bruce Drayer

Isn't this a wonderful time of year? Springtime. A time of year that life bursts forth all around us. Birds return from their winter homes. The grass grows green. Trees come to life and their branches blossom with buds. Flowers bloom and fill the air with their fragrances. We again hear the sound of thunder and rain. The daylight hours become longer and the temperature becomes warmer. Springtime.

In our busy lives, it is easy to miss the splendor of creation around us. Springtime gives us a wonderful reminder of the awesome God that we serve. Our God is a God of intelligence, power, intricate detail, order and beauty. When we take time to observe nature it points us to a Master Creator. God gives us natural wonders that we may believe in Him.

For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Romans 1:20

As perfect as the creation seems, it also provides us with another lesson – the ravages of sin. For God created the world and it "was very good," God created a perfect world. However, the choices of mankind, our choices, have corrupted the world. In nature we can see thistles, thorns, death and disease. Romans 8:22 tells us that "the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now." But we do not need to be discouraged because we have hope. Christ has paid our penalty so that mankind can live in a

perfect state again in paradise.

"For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind."

Isaiah 65:17

Take time and behold the glorious creation. Soak in the majesty of God. Remember man's fall and corruption. Have faith in God's promises. May the world around us strengthen us!

News

Residential

The population on campus is currently 18 (16 residents, 1 toddler, 1 infant). The West House welcomes a new resident, who is 12 weeks pregnant. Tamra, a resident of the West House, has completed the requirements to graduate from Leo High School. Her houseparents held a graduation open house for her on March 24th. She will go through the graduation ceremony at Leo in June.

Staffing

Bro. Kurt and Sis. Kristen Slagel have announced they feel called by God onto other work. While they feel called, they do not have a plan yet on what they will do. Thus we have an opening for an alternate houseparent couple.

We welcome Bro. Eric Huber from Bloomington, IL as our new summer Volunteer Coordinator. We are always thankful for our volunteers who are willing to come help out over the summer. If you have a heart for serving, please consider volunteering at Gateway Woods this summer. You may call Kirk Plattner or Eric Huber at 888-443- 4283 for more information or to set up a time.

You can fill-out a volunteer application at www.gatewaywoods.org. We look forward to hearing from you!

Sis. Margo Waibel and Bro. Ryan Donaghy have both announced their intention to leave their teaching positions this fall. Sis. Margo is seeking to stay at home, and had only ever intended to teach here for two years. Bro. Ryan is seeking better paying employment that is closer to his home in Ossian. Bro. Tim Wiegand will only with us half time next school year as he will be interning with Northwest Allen County schools as part of his Master's program. Please contact Bro. Kirk Plattner (260-627-2159) or Bro. (260-657-1033) if you have an interest in a teaching at Gateway Woods.

Foster Care

We presently have 19 children in foster care, placed into 12 different homes. Bro. Kirk and Sis. Keri Plattner have recently had their license approved and finalized, and we are very glad to now have them for consideration for foster placements that are suitable to them.

Adoption

Bro. Mike and Sis. Denise Klopfenstein (Leo) are thankful that God has brought Karrine into their family through adoption. Karrine is 17 months of age. Karrine was welcomed home by their 3 sons Grant, Nathan, and Adam. Karrine has many adjustments as she has lived in an orphanage all of her life. They were able to visit her orphanage, and the bus stop where Karrine was found and taken to the orphanage as a newborn infant. Many children in China are abandoned as with the overcrowded population, the government has placed huge fines on families that have more than one child and so many families cannot af-

ford to keep more than one child.

4th House Update

Currently we God has provided us with \$640,000 (includes donated labor and materials) towards this project. We are grateful for your generosity and prayers as the project continues to unfold. Praise God!

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL Athens, Alabama Melissa Slagel

Five fingers on this hand,
And five more fingers on this
hand.

A dear little nose.

A mouth like a rose.

Two cheeks so tiny and fat.

Two eyes, two ears,

And ten little toes.

That's the way that this kid grows!

These kids really are growing up so quickly. The days slip by and if you are not careful you don't even notice how much they are changing. There are those things you don't want them to outgrow that unfortunately they do. Then on the other hand there are those crazy little things that you know they are supposed to outgrow but some days you find yourself wondering. Well they really do! We are blessed with a sweet group of children and the little "I love you's" seem come out of their mouths at just the right moment every time.

We have started practicing for our graduation this month. We have been challenging the children quite a bit by teaching them some new songs and memorizing parts. I felt bad at first thinking that it was too much for them to absorb, but wow, their progress has been amazing. We took a new song and simply began

singing it with them and in nearly one week they almost had it memorized. They may be little but there is a lot more in that little head than what you sometimes realize. We hope and pray daily that we are allowing the Lord to use us effectively enough to impact them so that when they are grown they will not be able to depart from the truth.

A group of volunteers traveled down from Fairbury, IL, this month. They did a wonderful job doing some painting in the preschool. The children were pretty excited when they came back to school on Monday! Girls, you definitely had their approval! We want to thank you all and God bless you for giving so much of yourselves and for your encouraging attitudes.

If there is anyone interested in coming down and volunteering for the summer, we would love to have you. An extra hand is always a blessing and it is a wonderful opportunity to work for the Lord. If you are interested, please contact Bro. Mike Moore by phone (256) 729-0620, by email ALM38@aol.com, or by mail at 8653 Beechwood Rd. Athens, AL 35611.

ALABAMA, ATHENS Louise Hall

Looking unto **J**esus
The author **A**nd finisher of our
faith;
Who for the joy that was **S**et be-
fore him
Endured **T**he cross,
Despising the shame **E** and is set
down
At the **R**ight hand of the throne of
God.
Hebrews 12:2

Easter is a time to reflect on all of

God's great gifts that He showers upon us every moment of every day; the greatest gift being Jesus, His only Son, to die upon the cross for our sins. The second weekend of April was our Easter program. It is so great that even in our little church the kids can come together and prepare a beautiful program. They sang "The Old Rugged Cross" and "Christ Arose." Also on the second weekend in April we were blessed to have Bro. Duane Reutter (Rockville, CT) as a visiting minister! Thank you for traveling down.

The fourth weekend in April we were blessed with visitors from Ohio and Illinois. Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH) was the visiting minister. Thank you to him and his family for coming down to Athens. Also that weekend was a group from Fairbury, IL. One group worked up at the Tennessee Fellowship Center and the other group painted around the preschool. We thank you all for your hard work! It was a blessed weekend and as summer approaches, we look forward to many more!

Our prayers go out to Sis. Doris Moore for the loss of her brother, Bobby Barnett. May God give her and everyone who has lost someone the grace to get through; and know that someday you will be reunited. Prayers also go out to Bro. David Coulter (Sis. Barbara) and Bro. J.R. Hall (Sis. Louise) as they have had a rough couple months in and out of the hospital.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron and Ev Hoerr

"O give thanks unto the LORD;
for he is good: because his mercy

endureth for ever."

Psalm 118:1

What a foretaste of Heaven the evening of March 24, when we heard the testimonies of five converts. On Sunday, Elder Bro. Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL) and our Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich baptized Aubrey Lindenbaum, Kaitlyn Meiss, Amber Greenbank, and Carl and Donna Richardson. We welcomed our new Sisters and Brother in the faith and rejoiced together in the Lord.

On April 2, Bro. Nathan Virkler and Sis. Natalie Knochel exchanged wedding vows. Their parents are Bro. Stan and Sis. Beth Virkler (Remington, IN) and Bro. Herbie and Sis. Laurie Knochel. We pray God's blessings and His love to our dear couple; may they feel the prayers and love from their home churches.

Our Sunday School had a lovely Easter program on April 9. Our thanks to the students and their teachers.

Thanks to Bro. Robert and Sis. Christine Baum for hosting Easter Sunrise Services. It was a beautiful morning and all who attended were blessed.

Visiting ministers this month were: retired Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle (Shioda, Japan), Bro. Dan Dubach (Prescott), Bro. Randy Mogler (Washington, IL), and Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL).

We rejoice with the angels in heaven that our friend Whitney Baum has found the need for her Saviour and has made a beginning in repentance. Her parents are Bro. Todd and Sis. Erica Baum.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

Jane Hodges

Following the Lord's direction for her life, Sis. Kara Drayer (Bro. Herm and Sis. Julie) from Bluffton, IN, moved to Prescott in August 2005, to help support our small congregation. So we experienced some sadness when we heard her engagement announcement to Bro. Shawn Leman (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Val Leman) of Bluffton. Sis. Kara plans to move back to Bluffton in June, and the wedding is planned for July 23 in Bluffton. We wish them God's richest blessings as they plan their lives together.

This is the month that we remember our Mothers. The majority of us were raised by godly, loving mothers and as we thank them for passing on their Christian heritage, we also need to thank our God for His many blessings. For it is only by His love and grace that we are who we are today.

"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."

Philippians 1:6

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Steve Ringer (Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Lynn Fiechter (Bluffton, IN). These brothers were here as part of work teams traveling through to Mexico. We always enjoy this fellowship with these work teams and are now enjoying renewing these friendships each year.

Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ) also visited us this past month for a Wednesday evening service. We thank all these

brothers for their efforts on the pulpit.

I don't get to write about this subject nearly as much as I would like so I am thankful to announce that Doug and Young Bauer have been announced for peace and are awaiting giving their testimonies and being baptized, Lord willing, the weekend of May 20-21. God is so merciful; our little church is anxiously awaiting this special weekend.

The last of our winter visitors has gone home and it seems as though they just arrived a few weeks ago – the time went fast. We pray God will watch over them as they resume their lives in the Midwest. We miss them all and pray God will allow them to spend some time with us again.

We have received a little rain to help our drought conditions but not nearly enough. We pray for the rain but we know God is in control. He is certainly faithful with the sunshine! Our temperatures have been creeping up to the 90 degree mark for the past few days. Summer is on it's way again.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA **Suzanne Klotzle**

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

Luke 24:5-6

This year, we have once again been reminded of the depth of Christ's sacrifice for us. Those monumental words, "He is Risen," are the foundation for our priceless and lasting faith. To celebrate the Lord's resurrection, those able in our congregation hiked up to our traditional hilltop in the mountains.

We sang resurrection praises to God as we looked out over the city and enjoyed the crisp, cool Easter morning air. Afterwards, we traveled back to church for a delicious breakfast and a day of celebration and worship.

Sharing the Lord's Supper with us, Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis, OH) served here in April. We also appreciated a visit from Bro. Loren Schrenk (Sis. Betsy, St. Louis, MO) for our Good Friday and Easter services. We thank these brothers for their willingness to visit and serve our congregation in the work of the Lord.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO **Yasmin Koehl**

Warm weather, sunny days, blossoming flowers, and the gorgeous green mountains and hills all around us seem to shout the praise of such a glorious Creator! Everywhere we turn we can see God's magnificence!

Spring break brought many visitors to our area. It's such a blessing for our congregation when traveling brethren make an effort to assemble with us.

Amongst our visitors was ministering Bros. Tom Schambach (Sis. Connie, Elgin, IL) and Paul Messner (Sis. Jan, Winthrop, MN). We are grateful these brothers were willing to lovingly serve us and pray God may be their great Rewarder for their service.

We were strengthened and encouraged by a topical presentation given by Elder Bro. Tom Klotzle from Altadena, CA. We deeply appreciate his willingness to allow the Spirit to use him for our benefit. Especially as we realize the efforts he made to be with us on a Wednesday night. We're thankful for the support and the love we receive many

times from our brethren in Altadena.

As the end of April approached, we sadly recognized that the time for Bro. Leonard and Sis. Christine Locher to spend the next several months with their family in Latty, OH, had come. We understand how special family ties are, but an empty place will not be filled in our church or hearts until we can be reunited again. We hope and pray that their time in Latty would be blessed, and they would be able to return safely with many precious memories.

Together, may we turn our faces upward and walk hand in hand toward our Heavenly Father where separations, pain and tears will not exist, and the joys of being in our Savior's presence together will abound forevermore!

KITCHENER, ONTARIO **CANADA**

Johanna Fortenbacher

This month we were blessed with visiting ministers, Bros. Jesse Bedolla (Sis. Bonnie, Detroit, MI), Todd Graf (Sis. Lydia, Akron, OH) and Bro. Art Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH). We appreciate so much the wonderful support we receive here. God bless you all.

"Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;"

Psalm 103:1-3

Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI) served us Holy Communion on Good Friday. May we never forget what all Christ did for us and love everyone even as Christ loved us.

COLORADO, DENVER

Ann Gonglach

The Wiegand family (Bro. Chuck, Sis. Naomi, Demetrius, Sebastian, Gabriella, Katharina and Alexandra) has been joined by little Katelynne Rose, born on March 21.

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

Psalm 127:3

Our Sunday school presented an Easter program remembering the death of Christ and celebrating His resurrection. We always enjoy hearing the children's enthusiastic voices praising our Saviour.

We'll miss Sis. Sue Katanic, as she has moved away. She plans to settle in Arizona and attend the Phoenix church after spending time with her family in Ohio.

CONNECTICUT

ROCKVILLE

Laura Virkler

Amber Rocke

Greetings dear Brethren! We stand in awe at the beauty that is around us. The trees have begun to blossom, and the birds have begun their singing. It is a blessing to pause a while to admire the handiwork of God. It causes us to be reflective upon the sacrifice our Lord upon the cross. This is such a humbling thought. How often we are reminded that accompanied with the beauty here on Earth are the joys and sorrows of a pilgrimage journey. How thankful we are for the tremendous grace and strength we find in our Lord and Savior!

On March 26, our congregation was blessed to witness the marriage

of Bro. Ben Rocke (Bro. Robyn and Sis. Jan, Eureka, IL) and Sis. Amber Reutter (Bro. Duane and Sis. Kay). It was an humbling experience to see the multitude gathered for such an occasion. We thank God for our wonderful fellowship. Our congregation thanks each one that put forth time and effort to make the weekend such a blessing. We especially thank ministering Bro. Art Mueller (Sis. Marlene, Belvidere, IL) and Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Sis. Pat, Congerville, IL) for bringing forth the Gospel message throughout the weekend.

Our congregation also rejoices with Bro. Sam Moser (Bro. Ben and Sis. Glenna) and Sis. Tyrene Kuenzi (Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda, Silverton, OR) as they have announced their wedding engagement. May the Lord provide for these two couples as they grow in love one with another, and towards their Lord.

It is such a blessing to witness the multitude of children present within our congregation. We welcome several more children into our midst. Allison Louise was born to Ryan and Rachel Dearborne. Grandparents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Luella Hoffman and Steve and Kim Dearborne. Brooke McKenzie who was born to Bro. Phil and Sis. Michelle Bahler. Her siblings are Amanda, Chelsea, Caleb, Kent and Mitchell, and her grandparents are Sis. Maxine and the late Bro. Lee Bahler and Richard and Lorraine Behling. Kerigan Layne was born to Daniel and Melinda Fehr of Fairbury, IL. Her big brother is Carter and her grandparents are Elder Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cheryl Ryan and Ralph and Martha Fehr. Rose Marie was born to Bro. Gardy and Sis. Suzy Moreau. Her siblings are Lily and Elias and her grandparents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Luella

Hoffman and Lucia and Gregoire. May the Lord richly bless these growing families and grant them much grace as they “train up their child in the way he should go” (Proverbs 22:6).

“Never be sad or desponding if thou hast faith to believe; Grace for the duties before thee, ask of thy God and receive” (Tabernacle Hymns #248). Our sympathies extend to Sis. Matilda Ott as she mourns the loss of her husband, Louis. He leaves his children, Nelson, Sis. Lorraine (Bob) Dombek, Gary, Wendy, and Randy and many grandchildren and great - grandchildren. We likewise pray for Sis. Barb (Bro. Dave) Hangartner as she grieves the death of her beloved sister, Margaret (Roy) Wieland. May the Lord provide much comfort to these souls, and extended families, through these times of grief. It is always such an assurance that one day we may meet them again in Heaven.

This past month it was made known to our congregation of the retirement of our ministering Bro. Everett (Sis. Nancy) Gerber. In words we cannot express the tremendous appreciation we have felt for the labors this soul has extended on our behalf. May the Lord continue to richly bless him, and his family, as he moves on to this next stage in life.

It is rather overwhelming when we try to begin to express all the needs of a congregation. It is such a comfort to know that God knows our each and every need, even before we extend our supplications. We pray that the Lord will provide healing for all those who are recovering from surgery. And for those in great tribulation, may we always remember that “They that sow in tears shall reap in joy” (Psalm 126:6). May the love of God radiate in our hearts as

yet another month approaches upon us.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

On March 19, 1951, retired Elder Bro. Nate and Sis. Marilyn Steffen of Elgin, IL, welcomed a son, Phil, to their family. On March 19, 2006, we welcomed Bro. Phil Steffen to God's family following his baptism. We were blest to hear his testimony of God's working in his life on Saturday evening. We had around 80 people here to rejoice with Bro. Phil, Mona Delaney and Kelsey. Visiting ministers that Sunday were Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta, Alto, MI), Bro. James Knapp (Sis. Lisa, Congerville, IL), Bro. Everett Gerber (Sis. Nancy, Rockville, CT), Bro. Dave Steffen (Sis. Linda), Bro. Tom Schambach (Sis. Connie), and Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie), all from Elgin, IL, and Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle) and Bro. Shawn Metzger (Sis. Sandy), both from Philadelphia, PA. Other guests were from Elgin and Congerville, IL; Indianapolis, IN; Kansas City, MO; and North Canton, OH.

Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman, OH) and Bro. Fred Funk (Sis. Diane, Morton, IL). Other visitors this month were from Morton, IL; and Philadelphia, PA

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

If you are planning to visit 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.

**FLORIDA
NORTH FORT MYERS
Naomi Vogel**

We are happy to report that we are still getting visitors for Spring Break and some of our winter residents are still with us, but we realize that will change soon. However, we know that some will be coming back over the summer for short stays, and we hope others will visit, also!

We were saddened by the death of our dear friend, Elmer (Tug) Maibach, from the Smithville, OH, congregation. Our sympathy goes out to his dear wife, Sis. Alma, and all the family who have also spent time with us here in Florida. Our beloved Sis. Sarah Kipfer from Bluffton went home to be with the Lord. We will miss her smile and pleasant disposition and want Bro. Art to know we are thinking of him! We also offer condolences to the family of Bro. Ben Bauer (Peoria, IL) who was a winter Florida resident in the past!

All of us who know Sis. Carol Gottier need to pray for her as she undergoes tests and treatment for her health problems. May God comfort you and Warren during this trying time!

Bro. Ron Koehl came from Sarasota to help Bro. Vic Beer minister to us on April 9. Thanks for being so willing to come to serve us, Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol!

Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary Masters shared their beautiful home with 30 of us for Easter dinner and fellowship. It was a blessed climax for a Holy week of celebrating the death and resurrection of our loving Savior.

**FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Robin Wiegand**

Greetings to all. As Easter is here and the temperatures are rising outside, it is amazing how our church attendance changes from Sunday to Sunday. We miss our northern visitors and thank each one for spending time with us here in Sarasota. We have been blessed with a number of visiting ministers. We thank Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) and Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) for their messages. Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann in serving Communion, which was a special blessing.

The Sunday School Easter program was very inspiring and was appreciated by all. May God's blessings continue to rest upon you.

**GEORGIA, ATLANTA
Kevin Kipfer
Benjamin Stoller**

We were very thankful for our visiting ministers during the past month. On the weekend of March 25-26, Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville, IN) shared Communion and the Sunday message with us. It's always a joy to have our Elder brother come and fellowship with us. Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Sis. Miriam, Tremont, IL) blessed us with his willingness on April 30.

We also enjoyed Easter services this past month while reflecting on

our Savior's death and resurrection. Will Olar has been visiting family up in Ohio over his spring break and Easter weekend and his presence is sorely missed.

Christ came down from Heaven, so
that He can save us
Only through His shed blood, will
we be made just
I deserve the anguish of eternal
pain
But through Christ I now have
eternal joy and gain
H.B. G.G.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE
Sheila McCoy
Doreen Moser

When my heart cries out, "I'm
alone!",
on my cross of despair,
I look at the cross to my left,
and Jesus is there.

Our Sunday School children presented the Easter story to us on Palm Sunday in verse and song.

Bro. Art Mueller led a topical Bible study on "Walking in the Spirit." Bro. Shannon Stahl continued the Bible study of the Old Testament for our congregation.

Elder Bro. Ron Schambach gave our Communion exhortation. Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) was here on Palm Sunday. We appreciate these brothers' faithfulness.

Sis. Marlene Mueller (Bro. Art) completed chemotherapy and was a surgical patient. Let us continue to remember her in our prayers as surgery is planned again in the near future.

As we are busy planting our gardens and fields this spring, may we sow good seed.

Seeds of goodness we are sowing
In the hearts of man today,
Bless it, Lord, that it may prosper,
And bear fruit for harvest day.

ILLINOIS
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL
Ann Nussbaum
Jen Heiniger

Our Passion Week began with the Resurrection story presented enthusiastically by the Sunday School children on Palm Sunday. We thank the children and their teachers for this special Easter program. We pray we will maintain passion for the Lord in our Christian walk throughout the coming year.

We welcomed Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign) to the pulpit April 5 as he joined Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter for the reading of the Memorandum. We appreciated the brothers' teaching on this evening.

On March 22, we rejoiced as Marla Martin shared her testimony and was baptized. We welcome her as our sister in faith. She is the daughter of Gerald "Pooch" and Louise Martin of Princeville.

We are thankful for the moving of the Holy Spirit in the heart of Casey Nussbaum, who recently began her walk with Jesus. She is the daughter of Bro. Jay and Sis. Ann Nussbaum. We offer Casey prayerful encouragement during her time of repentance.

Bro. Duane and Sis. Alissa Kieser became first-time parents with the birth of their daughter, Jenna Beth, on March 22. Grandparents are Bro. Randy and Sis. Marj Schmidgall and Bro. Dave and Sis. Wilma Kieser. We wish this young family much happiness.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Sis. Esther Irene Koehl of Morris, MN, mother of Bro. Dale Koehl, on March 26. Our heartfelt

sympathies are with Bro. Dale and his wife, Sis. Lili, and their two children, Barry and Karmi.

Our prayers are also with members and friends of our congregation who are battling serious illness or recovering from recent surgeries. May they feel the love of their church family and the power of the Holy Spirit in this difficult time.

We are happy to announce the April 2 engagement of Sis. Marla Martin to Bro. Rob Leman. We wish them God's blessings as they prepare for their June 11 wedding. Parents of the couple are Gerald "Pooch" and Louise Martin of Princeville and Sis. Helen Leman of Roanoke and the late Bro. Bill Leman.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Steve Endress

We appreciate Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall's (Oakville, IA) willingness to help Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker serve Communion. We felt very inspired to greater love and faithfulness as a result of what our Lord has done for us.

Our church continues to grow in number for which we are thankful. Bro. Bill and Sis. Kristal Stahl are thankful for the safe arrival of their third son, Tyler William. He was born on March 23 and is welcomed home by brothers, Ryan and Kyle. Grandparents are Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Elaine Wagenbach and Bro. Lyle and Sis. Betty Stahl.

Madilyn Rebekah was born to Chad and Jessica Pyles on April 6. Madilyn is welcomed home by siblings, Gavin and Reaghann. Grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Becky Pyles, Steve McCasky of Toluca, and Donna Dennis of Lacon.

ILLINOIS CHAMPAIGN-URBANA

Karla Aberle

Greetings in our Savior's name! April held one of the most beloved seasons for a believer, the Easter season. We celebrated Christ's death and resurrection. We were reminded of the many things that Christ has done for us by the Sunday School Class as they performed their Easter program for us on Palm Sunday.

Champaign is excited to announce the engagement of another couple! Our Sis. Janelle Schlipf was recently announced for marriage to Bro. Brent Young from Fairbury, IL. Sis. Janelle is the daughter of Bro. Art and Sis. Twyla (Gridley, IL) and Bro. Brent is the son of Bro. Norman and Sis. Lollie (Fairbury, IL). An August wedding is planned.

Several of our congregation experienced loss this past month. Sis. Ila June Hari lost her brother, Arthur Hoerr (Thelma), of Savoy, IL, to Lou Gehrig's disease. In that same week, Roger Belsley (Marty) lost his mother to congestive heart failure and Jerry Vogel (Lois) lost his aunt, Mildred Vogel, from Bloomington, IL. Our prayers are with their families as they cope with their losses.

Our annual business meeting was held at the end of April. The results of several elections were announced. Two new Sunday School teachers were elected; Sis. Heather Messner will replace Sis. Margie Heintz and Bro. Jim Walder will replace Bro. Chad Kupferschmid. We are very thankful to Sis. Margie and Bro. Chad for their efforts and their enthusiasm in teaching and mentoring the children. Bro. Sam Furrer was elected as an usher and Bro. Art Walder was elected to the trustee position. Following the

meeting was the Communion exhortation.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Steve Sauder (Sis. Mary, Tremont, IL) and Bro. Jedd Rocke (Sis. Marsha, Goodfield, IL). We are very thankful for their service behind the pulpit.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Rachel Meyer

Greetings from Chicago. We wish to thank Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) and Bro. Rich Gramm (South Bend, IN) for ministering to us this past month. We also thank Bro. Dave Steffen (Elgin, IL) for presenting a Topical Bible Study on "Self-Sacrifice". We appreciate all efforts made on our behalf.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to Sis. Gladys Fisher as she has lost a grandson, Chris Fisher.

"...my peace I give unto you..."
John 14:27

We will sincerely miss Bro. Larry and Sis. Melinda Gramm, and their daughters, as Bro. Larry has taken employment in western North Carolina. We have had many blessed times with this dear family and wish them God's richest blessings as they transition to a new home. They plan on joining the Atlanta congregation. May God be with you.

A dear sister gave me a book of daily verses accompanied by a thought for each day. I would like to share an introductory thought I found. It has reminded me today of Jesus and the enormous sacrifice He made at Calvary.

It's quiet. It's early. My coffee is hot. The sky is still black. The world is asleep. The day is coming. In a few moments the day will arrive. It will

roar down the track with the rising of the sun. The stillness of the dawn will be exchanged for the noise of the day. The calm of solitude will be replaced by the pounding pace of the human race. The refuge of the early morning will be invaded by decisions to be made and deadlines to be met. For the next twelve hours I will be exposed to the day's demands. It is now that I must make a choice. Because of Calvary, I'm free to choose. And so I choose.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Pam Walder

Andrea Walder

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) with us to assist our Elder Bro. Tom Stock in reading the Memorandum. We thank them for their labors in encouraging us to a closer walk with our Saviour.

On the evening of Palm Sunday, we were privileged to hear the Easter message brought forth through hymns and verses by our Sunday School students. Then, on April 12, Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL) was with us to assist in serving Holy Communion. We thank him for his willingness to serve and appreciated being reminded of the great suffering that Christ endured on our behalf.

We were blessed with several other visiting ministers this past month and pray that God will bless them for sharing the Word with us. They were Bros. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA), Erik Givens (Princeville, IL), Jim Ramseyer (Bay City, MI), Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) and Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL).

Our hospital patients this month were Sis. Doris Knapp, Sis. Marilyn Knapp, and Sis. Harriet Walder. May they feel the Lord's nearness.

Our congregation was saddened by the passing of Bro. Herman Bauer. We extend our sympathy and prayers to his children, Bro. Randy and Sis. Patti Martin and family, Bro. David Bauer and Ann Hillenburg, as well as his sister, Sis. Helen Janssen. May our Comforter be near to this family during their time of sorrow.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE
Rachel Schrock

As we contemplated the Easter story, a ministering brother commented that one soul betrayed Jesus and another soul denied Jesus. Both of these souls were of Jesus' close circle of disciples. We were admonished to examine ourselves to be sure that we are not denying or betraying our Lord in our daily walk of life.

We are thankful that this walk of life has brought many visitors to our congregation lately. The Tremont Bible Class and their teachers visited one Sunday. Another Sunday was Invite A Guest day. Along with these visitors, we have been blessed with visiting ministering brethren, including Bros. Darrel Stoller (Sis. Gloria, Bern, KS), Matthew Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville, IL), Jedd Rocke (Sis. Marsha, Goodfield, IL), John Bradle (Sis. Jill, Roanoke, IL), and Ted Hirstein (Sis. Joyce, Morton, IL).

Another cause for rejoicing is the knowledge that another soul is turning to the Lord in repentance. Our prayers are with Henry Wettstein (Bro. Denny and Sis. Emily) as he begins his walk with the Lord.

Note of Thanks:

I wish to thank all those who have shown their love to me through their prayers as I underwent open heart surgery. Thank you, too, for the sup-

port during my recuperation at the nursing home. May God bless each one of you.

In His love,
Sis. Marion Miller (Bro. Jake)

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Amy Gasser
Miriam Gasser

"He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

Isaiah 53:5

Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) meditated on this chapter during our Communion service April 1. We appreciated his willingness to come and help Bro. Ron serve. Other visitors who provided a blessing through their ministry were Bros. Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL), Matthew Rassi (Chicago, IL), and Ted Schock (Belvidere, IL).

On the evening of April 9, the Sunday School presented their Easter program. It warmed our hearts to hear students of all ages convey by word and song the account of Christ's great love and sacrifice.

A sweet little girl has entered the lives and family of Bro. Andy and Sis. Lori Tobler. Brooke Pamela was born March 31 and joins her brothers, Zach, Cole, and Ryan. Grandparents, Michael Battuello, Pam Clesen, and Sis. Madelyn Tobler, are happy too!

Bro. Chad Heiniger has moved back to Illinois with his wife, Sis. Heather, after having lived in West Lafayette, IN, for several months. We extend a warm welcome as they establish a new home in the Elgin area.

Recent surgical patients include Sis. Deb Sauder, Sis. Joyce Schifferer, Bro. Delbert (Sis. Jeanette) Schmidt, and Bro. Georg (Sis. Hilde) Schumacher. All have returned home and will have our prayers for courage, strength and healing.

Others are saddened by the loss of family members. We sympathize with Bro. Dave and Sis. Becky (Cargill) Kiefer in the sudden death of Dave's mother, Sis. Delores, of Washington, IL; Sis. Evelyn (Bro. Bill) Gudeman and Bro. Bill (Sis. Marge) Wewetzer as they recently bid farewell to their sister, Ruth Maha, of Elgin; and Mary Jo (Bro. Matt) Kinsinger and Sis. Jan Mogler in the passing of their uncles.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Cindy Stoller
Lisa Metzger

Our congregation has felt another wave of sadness in the passing of our dear fellow soldiers of the Cross, including Bro. Walter Zimmerman (brother to Sis. Dorothy Zimmerman, Sis. Gladys (Bro. Sam) Schmidgall, and Sis. Evelyn (Bro. Don) Gudeman); and Bro. Lewis Blunier (husband of Sis. Clara Lou, father of Sis. Debra Blunier). Also, we were informed of the passing of Sis. Vera Heinold, Goodfield, IL (mother of Sis. Vicki (Bro. Steve) Martin); Sis. Clarice Isch, Bluffton North, IN (sister to Sis. Melba Mangold); and Tim Lukich, Akron, OH (brother to Sis. Marilyn (Bro. Paul) Nenadov). We pray for the sorrowing, and trust they may find comfort in this time of sadness and loss.

We had a very inspiring weekend as our congregation recently shared in Holy Communion. What a blessing to be reminded of the Lord's suf-

fering, death on the Cross, and victory over the grave! We appreciate the help Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) offered in this sacred work.

Other visiting ministers this month include Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL), and Bros. Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL), Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL), Wayne Wiegand and Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL), Brian Huber (Francesville, IN), Don Manz and Tony Manz (Junction, OH), Richard Gramm (South Bend, IN), and Floyd Frieden (Elgin, IA). We appreciate the effort these brothers put forth in the ministry, and pray God will continue to bless them and their families for the sacrifices they make on our behalf.

It is always a blessing to welcome new lambs into the fold of God. We are thankful for Bro. Brent Blunier (Bro. Roger and Sis. Wendy), Sis. Kelly Blunier (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Livy) and Sis. Holly Martin (Bro. Alan and Sis. Sharon). May God always stand mightily by their side as they continue on the path toward Heaven.

"In days of youth, seek ye the Lord..." We wish much grace to Jeni Wettstein (Bro. Jim and Sis. Dianne) as she has recently begun her repentance. We pray she will feel the Lord's nearness and guidance as she takes this most important step of life.

Bro. Tony and Sis. Lisa Metzger and big brother, Levi, welcome home their new little baby, Annelise Marie. Her grandparents are Bro. Harlan and Sis. Shirley Metzger and Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Sherry Stoller. Also, Blake Timothy is the new first-born of Bro. Tim and Sis. Traci Leman. Blake's grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Marilyn Leman and Bro. Arlyn and Sis. LaNae

Rudin (Cissna Park, IL). Another firstborn arrival this month is Sheldon Wayne, son of Bro. Shannon and Sis. Sharon Witzig. Sheldon's grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Elaine Witzig, and Bro. Bob and Sis. Laura Kieser (Bloomington, IL). We rejoice with these couples, and pray they will have the grace and wisdom from God to "train up a child in the way that he should go..."

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

**Lila Fehr
Anna Schmidgall**

"He is not here, but is risen..."
Luke 24:6

We were reminded of our dear Savior's death and glorious resurrection as our Sunday School brought forth the message of hope during our Easter Program on Palm Sunday.

We are thankful to hear of the engagement of Bro. Brent Young (Bro. Norman and Sis. Lola) and Sis. Janelle Schlipf of Champaign (Bro. Art and Sis. Twyla, Gridley, IL). We pray they will feel God's nearness and blessings as their lives become one in Him.

We have had several visiting ministers recently, including Bros. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL), Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL), Craig Martin (Princeville, IL), Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA), Dan Moser (Elgin, IL), and Nate Wieland (Goodfield, IL). We thank each one for giving of themselves to proclaim the Word in it's truth.

Dan, Melinda and Carter Fehr welcome into their family Kerigan Layne born on April 10. Thankful grandparents are Elder Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cheryl Ryan (Rockville, CT)

and Ralph and Martha Fehr. We pray for God's blessing as they raise their children.

Our prayers are with our hospital patients: Paul Hoffman and Sis. Natasha Knapp.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Jill Wenger
Lori Leman**

"Our love shall not diminish, nor fade nor wane away..." April 9 was the wedding day of our Bro. Matt Zimmerman and Sis. Kim Herrmann (Princeville, IL). Their parents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Jeanette Zimmerman and Bro. Dean and Sis. Dawn Herrmann (Princeville, IL). We wish them God's richest blessings on their marriage and hope that Sis. Kim feels welcome in our congregation here.

We are so thankful that God is still calling souls to Him, and we pray that He will continue to guide Ben Rudin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy) as he has made a beginning in repentance. May he build upon the solid rock, Jesus Christ.

Kevin and Jayne Eisenmann are thankful for their firstborn son whom they named Brady John. Brady's thankful grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Bev Eisenmann and Jim and Rita Bahler. We pray that God will give them grace and wisdom to raise Brady to know the Lord.

We have had another couple announce their engagement, and we pray that Stephen Zimmerman and Kaci Taylor will feel God's blessings as they look forward to marriage. His parents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Loretta Zimmerman.

We have also had some loved ones spend some time in the hospital this month. We pray that God will continue to be with Blake Hall (Bro. Don

and Sis. Barb) and Sis. Marge Friedman (Bro. Henry) and continue to grant His healing power.

We extend our sympathy to those in our congregation who have laid a loved one to rest. Our prayers are with Jay and Kay Davis as his father, Darrell Davis, passed away. Sis. Jackie Eisenmann (Bro. David) said farewell to her grandfather, Sam Hoffman; and Bro. Homer Blunier (Sis. Virginia) said farewell to his brother, Bro. Lewis Blunier (Eureka, IL). May God comfort these families in the days to come.

We are thankful for ministering brothers that are willing to share the Word of Life with us, and we pray that God will bless Bros. Jim Butikofer (Iowa City, IA), Ben Walder (Congerville, IL), Mark Zimmerman (Eureka, IL), Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) and Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL). May they ever feel God's wisdom and grace as they labor in His vineyard.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to express our sincere thanks for the many wonderful and loving deeds shown to us while Homer was in the hospital and since returning home. We appreciated it all. God bless each one richly for your special loving kindness and thoughtfulness.

Bro. Homer and Sis. Virginia Blunier

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD
Amber Grimm
Rita Bauman

May God provide healing and restoration to those spending time in the hospital, including Dave Knapp (Sis. Becky), Bro. Glenn Joos (Sis. Bev), Bro. Alfred Kieser (Sis. Marie).

Others that need our prayers are Sis. Clem Joos, Sis. Carolyn Ott

(Bro. Don), and Sis. Brenda Hinrichsen (Bro. Chuck). We pray that they gain strength and that God will touch them with His healing hand, and they will be able to assemble with us again.

Bro. Luke and Sis. Jill Rocke were thankful for the safe arrival of their new daughter, Mariah Ann. Big brothers Caleb, Wyatt and Drake, welcome her home along with her grandparents, Sis. Inge and the late Bro. Dean Zimmerman and Mark and Connie Rocke.

Good Friday was a somber evening as we partook of Holy Communion. We thank Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Sis. Debbie, Peoria, IL) for helping out. May we continue to look to the cross daily.

We were encouraged to hear the Sunday School students tell the story of Jesus on Palm Sunday. It's humbling to think of the price that was paid for each one. May we thank Him daily for the wonderful plan of salvation.

We were thankful to have Bros. Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH) John Bradle (Sis. Jill, Roanoke, IL), Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL), and James Knapp (Sis. Lisa, Congerville, IL) visit our congregation this past month. May God bless them for coming and sharing the Word with us.

Our congregation was saddened at the death of another "pillar" of our church. Sis. Vera Heinold went to be with our Lord. Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Bev (Bro. Glenn) Joos and her children and grandchildren. Also leaving family behind was Bro. Lewis Blunier (Eureka). Our thoughts and prayers are with his son, Bro. Daryl (Sis. Lucy) Blunier, and daughter, Diane (Rob) Gregoire. May God be with each of them in their sorrow. We are thank-

ful that they had made preparation to meet their Maker.

We had Invite-A-Guest weekend on April 23. We were blessed to have six ministers: Bros. Gary Endress (Sis. Evelyn, Bradford, IL), Ted Hirstein (Sis. Joyce, Morton, IL), Paul Kilgus (Sis. Carmen, Fairbury, IL), Paul Zimmerman (Sis. Loretta, Forrest, IL), Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucy, Eureka, IL), and Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL). Thank you for bringing forth God's message.

On April 30 we witnessed the marriage of Sis. Kara Schieler and Bro. Ryan Kuenzi. Their parents are Bro. Brian and Sis. Teresa Schieler and Bro. Terry and Sis. Ann Kuenzi, Silverton, OR. We trust God will richly bless them as they make their home in Oregon.

Notes of Thanks:

I want to thank all my family, friends and church family for the visits, cards and prayers while in the hospital. I will never forget it. May God bless you all.

Bro. Wilbur Heinold

Thanks to everyone for your faithful prayers, gifts & lovely deeds of kindness during my hospitalization and recovery. May God bless you!

Sis. Arlene Hinrichsen

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY
Perry A. Klopfenstein

"Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing"

Proverbs 18:22

We have had several wedding announcements at our congregation lately.

Sis. Alison Romersberger is en-

gaged to marry Bro. Brian Sutter of Taylor, MO. She is the daughter of Bro. Ron and Sis. Gail Romersberger. His parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Chris Sutter of Taylor.

Bro. Bob Witzig was announced to marry Sis. Terri Gramm of Leo, IN, and a native of Gridley. Her parents are Bro. Don and Sis. Rosie Gramm, and he is the son of deceased parents, Bro. Ed and Sis. Dorothy Witzig.

Sis. Ashley Kiefer was announced to marry Bro. Nathan Hodel. She is the daughter of Bro. Rich and Sis. Gail Kiefer, and his parents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Brenda Hodel.

Bro. Jeremy Schlipf is engaged to Sis. Rachel Feucht of Roanoke. He is the son of Bro. Art and Sis. Twyla Schlipf. Her parents are Bro. Randy and Sis. Carol Feucht of Roanoke.

We wish the above couples God's richest blessings as they begin their lives together in a three-fold cord.

We welcome Jim and Tracy Brown of El Paso to our congregation.

May is the time of graduations, and we extend our best wishes to the many graduates from our church who will be graduating from college, high school and grade school.

A total of 20 persons will be graduating from the three entities mentioned.

Kathy Taylor was scheduled for surgery on May 1. Others dealing with health ailments are Sisters Winifred Schlipf, Wava Kaupp, Mary Stoller and Sandy Yergler. Bro. Jerome Witzig is recovering from surgery. Sis. Peggy Poppin has also been dealing with health issues along with her daughter, Darci. May God's benevolent hand of healing be realized according to His will.

Dean Loren Witzig was born to Bro. Brandon and Sis. Raneé Witzig,

their second child. This birth took place on March 29. Dean has an older sister, Victoria. Grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Elaine Witzig of the Eureka congregation, and Ron and Judy Schallmo of Chicago. Great-grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Marjorie Witzig.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Annette Tanner

Julie Bahr

Our Easter Program was presented on April 9. Different music groups presented their numbers to convey this year's message entitled "Father Forgive Them". A special number presented by the Timber Ridge Residents was especially remembered, when one of their group stepped forward with a commanding salute to the group. In response, the rest of the group called out and saluted back ... Big smiles filled their faces and then they were off — to bring the message of their song! What a delight to have the privilege to still enjoy hearing and presenting the Gospel in so many inspiring ways. Our Easter Sunrise service and breakfast on April 16 was indeed a precious blessing to those who prepared themselves early. An older sister in faith once told me she always wanted to attend as early as she possibly could because she never knew when the greatest blessing would occur and she didn't want to miss out on it! Her insight was a blessing and a testimony to me.

Baby Alia Nicole arrived on March 26 to thankful parents, Bro. Brett and Sis. Lena Grimm. Big sisters, Jacie and Naya, and grandparents, Bro. Mark and Sis. Becky Grimm, welcome her home.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN) and Bro. Tim

Hohulin (Sis. Cathy, Roanoke, IL). Bro. Tim was so gracious to come serve us on our Wednesday eve Family Night, the topic being "Is there anything too hard for God?"

Newly elected Sunday School teachers gave of themselves to be of God's vessels. They are Bros. Scott Sauder and Ross Wuthrich and Sis. Jane Kieser.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Kristin Menold

Carissa Klopfenstein

Elder Bro. Ted Witzig, Sr. (Morton, IL) visited our congregation on April 5 for our Bible Study. His topic was Prayer. We are thankful for the many insights and practical applications he shared with us regarding this important spiritual discipline.

It is with great joy that Bro. Carl and Sis. Debby Hoerr announce the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Abby Hoerr, to Bro. Brent Schmidgall, son of Bro. Randy and Sis. Cindy Schmidgall of Goodfield, IL. Their wedding is scheduled for July 30.

We are happy to have three new converts that have begun repenting this month: Willie Hofstetter (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Karen), Brittany Brecklin (Tom and Karen), and Blair Dimmick from the Tremont area.

We rejoice with our new Bro. Jake Meister (Bro. Spark and Sis. Rhonda) and our sisters, Allison Aupperle (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Cindy), Larissa Feucht (Bro. Tim and Sis. Robyn) and Jessica Waibel (Bro. Mike and Sis. Rose) as they gave their testimony and were baptized March 25-26. We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (San Diego, CA) assist with this service. We appreciate his being with us for this momentous occa-

sion.

Our prayers are with Sis. Linda Leather and Sis. Clara Perdelwitz that their health would improve and with our Bro. Dale Hunziker as he is going through testing and cancer treatments at Mayo Clinic.

The Easter program was held on April 2. All Sunday school students, Bible Class, and Young Group participated in this event. We were blessed by their enthusiasm and heartfelt praise.

Our annual Communion Service was held on Palm Sunday. Officiating were Elder Bro. Tim Funk, retired Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer, and our deacon, Bro. Ken Hoerr.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Connie Christ Vera Baer

"Anywhere with Jesus I can safely go, anywhere He leads me in this world below." (Hymns of Zion #179). Bro. David and Sis. Kara Blunier and their children have moved to Fairbury. We wish them God's blessings in their adjustment to the community and new job.

Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL) helped our Elder serve us Communion March 25. We thank him for his labors for us.

Sis. Kim Herrmann (Bro. Dean and Sis. Dawn) and Bro. Matt Zimmerman (Bro. Mike and Sis. Jeanette, Forrest, IL) were joined in marriage April 9. Visiting ministers for their special day were Bros. Paul Zimmerman (Forrest, IL), Chris Wuethrich (LaCrosse, IL), Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL), Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL), Tom Troxel (LaCrosse, IN), Gary Endress (Bradford, IL), and Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN). Also visiting were Elder Bros. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and Wayne

Anliker (Forrest, IL). May God's love bind them together.

In the evening of April 9 our Sunday School children presented an Easter program for us to enjoy.

Richard Stahl is back to his home after spending a little time at Skyline Home. We are thankful he is again assembling with us in church.

Bro. Dean and Sis. Dawn Herrmann are thanking God that their son Scott has felt the need to repent and become converted. Bro. Larry and Sis. Tiffany Martin are also thankful that their daughter Brittany has also answered God's calling. May they each build a firm foundation on the Lord.

Bryson Troy was born to Bro. Troy and Sis. June Wagenbach on April 10. Kendra, Nolan, and Shayna have welcomed him home. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Elaine Wagenbach and Bro. Joe and Sis. Marcella Steiner (Tremont, IL).

Bro. Fred Witzig (Indianapolis, IN) and his family were here for Good Friday and Easter services. May they also feel God's love and blessings.

Kenneth Riley is home after spending some time in the hospital. We wish him God's nearness.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE Doris Fischer Dee Fehr

My whole salvation then is to Thy credit,
To Thee alone, O, Son of God and man;
My ransom is achieved through
Thine own merit;
I take as a free gift the purchased crown.

Zion's Harp #184

As we gathered together as a congregation to take part in the Lord's Supper, we had the blessed privilege and duty of remembering the awesome work of salvation that our Saviour achieved on the cross of Calvary.

We were blessed with many visiting ministers in the past month. Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL) spoke on igniting our passion for Jesus while running the race of life, taken from the passage of Scripture in Hebrews 12:1-3. Others visiting included Elder Bros. John Lehman (Bern, KS), Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) and Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN), and Bros. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Neal Widmer (West Lafayette, IN), and Max Reimchisel (Wichita, KS). Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL) assisted in serving Communion.

"Though all this world be fleeting, True love will still abide." The engagement of Bro. Rob Leman and Sis. Marla Martin was announced in Bloomington on April 2. Bro. Rob is the son of our Sis. Helen (and the late Bro. Bill) Leman. On April 8, the engagements of two couples were made known. Bro. Benji Leman (Bro. Ben and Sis. Janet) is marrying Sis. Kyle McKimmey (Keith and Tina). Bro. Jordan Schroeder (Bro. Duane and Sis. Rachel) was announced to Sis. Katelyn Thames (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Brenda, Washington). On March 18, Matt Leman (Russ and the late Sis. Joan) and Nicole Bianchetta became husband and wife. We extend our congratulations and best wishes to all of these dear young couples.

The Bible Class students and many of their parents spent their spring break working at the orphanage in Magdalena, Mexico. Others have been traveling on work trips to Reynosa, Mexico; Biloxi, Missis-

ssippi; and to Haiti. May each individual receive a blessing for giving so generously of their time and talents.

Bro. Larry and Sis. Sharon Neukomm are enjoying a new grandson, Kyler Larry, who was born on March 3. Kyler's parents are Michelle and Mark Simpson of McLean.

As there is rejoicing in the lives of loved ones, so there are also times of sorrow. Sis. Norma Bowald passed from this life on April 18. She is survived by one sister, Sis. Anna Bradle, and one brother, Bro. Dick (Sis. Mardell) Bowald. Bro. Duane (Sis. Rachel) Schroeder's mother, Alma Schroeder, died on March 18. Sis. Pearl Leman's brother, Bro. Lewis Blunier, passed away on April 9. We ask God to comfort all who are experiencing the loss of loved ones.

Once again, we witnessed the mighty power of God in the winds and clouds, with our Communion service concluding in the church basement as we sought refuge from the storm, and again when Good Friday services were cancelled due to a two-day loss of electricity. This made it especially gratifying to be able to assemble on Easter Sunday as we rejoiced in the resurrection of our Lord and His victory over sin and death.

So this must then conclusively be, That Thou, my slaughtered Lamb, my all in all shall be.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

**Teresa Rowell
Sheri Allen**

Spring is such a special time of year. We are enjoying the sunshine and the warmer weather. Many of us are busy cleaning up our yards and preparing to plant flowers and gardens. It is a time to get rid of the extra clutter and start fresh. That is true

with our spiritual lives as well. We need to take time to reflect on our lives. Evaluate our hearts. What are our priorities? How are we spending our time? Are there things that we could improve upon? Hopefully we will each take a look at ourselves to see if there are things that we need to "clean out" of our lives.

We are thankful that Elder Bro. Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL) was willing to assist Bro. Charles with Communion.

We are also thankful that we were able to witness the testimonies and baptisms of five dear souls. They are Jeni Sauder (Bro. Gregg and Sis. Cindy), Debbie Bolliger (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jane), Julie Kaeb (Bro. Dave and Sis. Barb), Brent Dill and Kim Dill (Bro. Dave and Sis. Ann). We joyfully welcome our new brother and sisters in the faith. It is comforting to see how God is still calling souls. Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL), Bro. Virgil Kaeb (Sarasota, FL) and Bro. Jon Zeller (Morton, IL) were here for the baptism weekend.

Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL), Bro. Vern Wettstein (Congerville, IL), Bro. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington, IL) and Bro. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL).

We rejoice with Laura Sauder and Brett Herrmann on their engagement. Their parents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Janice Sauder and Bro. Marvin and Sis. LaVonne Herrmann (Princeville, IL). Travis Stuber and Elizabeth Caudle were united in marriage on April 15. We wish them God's abundant blessings as they begin their lives together as husband and wife. Travis's parents are Bro. Todd and Sis. Beth Stuber.

Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz Wagenbach are thankful for the safe arrival of

Gloria Grace on April 5. Gloria is welcomed by siblings, Bro. Paul (Sis. Beth), Bro. Gary (Sis. Kathy), Sis. Holly, Lisa, Wendy, David, Emily, Mary, Lydia, Naomi, Aaron and James.

Also rejoicing are Bro. Tim and Sis. Ruth Kaiser as they welcome little Julia Danielle on April 10. Excited siblings are Levi, Jesse, Tori, Jacob, Kaitlyn, Benjamin and Sarah. Julia's grandparents are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Marlene Kaiser and Bro. Richard and Sis. Ann Steiner.

Bro. Joe and Sis. Marcella Steiner are blessed with another grandchild as Bro. Troy and Sis. June Wagenbach (Princeville, IL) add a precious little boy to their family. Bryson Troy was born on April 10. Kendra, Nolan and Shayna are glad to welcome him home.

Hospital patients this month are Bro. Earl Sauder (Sis. Glenna) and Bro. Bob Sauder (Sis. Elizabeth). We pray the Lord will bless them with comfort and healing.

"And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost."

Luke 23:46

We enjoyed watching the Sunday School children at the Easter program. It is touching to listen to them sing of the death and resurrection of our Saviour. It was such a blessing to assemble together for Good Friday and Easter services. We were again reminded of what Christ did for each of us.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

**Barb Banwart
Nancy Knepp**

"There is a Balm in Gilead for the

ache within," comforted Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN) when he was here to assist with our Holy Communion service. Many hearts are in need of comfort.

Sis. Delores Kiefer was taken in a twinkling of an eye. Sis. Delores, the mother of Sis. Brenda (Bro. Jeff Thames, moved here about a year ago. She was a blessing to our congregation. Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Oakville, IA) had a beautiful service for her. What a comfort to know she was ready to go!

Sis. Cathy (Bro. Keith) Steffen's mother, Sis. Clarice Isch of Bluffton, was also called home. We have been vividly reminded how some are taken instantly while others have suffered a long time before their souls are released. What a comfort to know God is in control!

Sis. Mickey (Bro. Nile) Schumm spent many weekends in Springfield assisting her mother who is recovering from a traumatic shoulder injury. Sis. Sue Ruppert is also recovering from surgery for a shoulder replacement due to severe bone deterioration. What a comfort to know that even as we suffer with Him, we shall also reign with Him!

Bro. Tim Hohulin (Sis. Cathy, Roanoke, IL) and others from the Roanoke congregation came to share our Good Friday service. Among our many visitors was a group of Chinese students from the University of Illinois who had never before been to a church. As we listened to Bro. Tim expound the whole plan of salvation from Genesis to Revelation, we surely felt the inspiration of God. The students were here to share the Easter holiday with host families from church. May they also be comforted someday by the Balm in Gilead!

Sis. Katelyn Thames (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Brenda) is engaged to Bro. Jordan Schroeder (Bro. Duane and Sis. Rachel, Roanoke, IL). What a comfort to know that our children walk in truth when making such life-changing decisions.

Bro. Ed Sauder (Sis. Bonnie, Roanoke, IL) led our monthly topical Bible study on overcoming temptation. He reminded us of the many promises to the overcomer and gave us good advice on how to overcome. What a comfort to hear and sing of the eternal rest prepared for the overcomer!

Bro. Eric and Sis. Gina Hodel, Ethan, Kara and Ty, have moved to the Chicago area due to a job transfer. What a comfort to know there are many faithful brethren in the Chicago area with whom they can worship and fellowship.

Our prayers are with Bro. Gene (Sis. Kathryn) Funk as he is in the hospital at this time.

As our hearts are comforted and blessed, it is good to remember, "God does not comfort us to make us comfortable, but to make us comforters."

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Amber Steffen

Amy Gerber

"Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee, he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved."

Psalm 55:22

How comforting to know that the Lord will carry our burdens if we just hand them over to Him. We have seen it firsthand in the Bluffton congregation with Bro. Rick Stucky (Sis. Cathy). Bro. Rick began treatments for his recent diagnosis of leu-

kemia on March 13. After seven days of treatment, his blood work has improved. He and Sis. Cathy extended their thanks for the love and many prayers offered on their behalf. We are continually praying for them, that God will give them the strength they need to get through this difficult time.

We had a number of births the last two months. Anthony and Molly Campbell welcomed Sophia Elaine on February 28. Sophia's grandparents are Bro. Doug and Sis. Ruby Gerber. Maxton Roy was embraced on March 7 by his excited parents, Bro. Vince and Sis. Brandy Pfister. On March 10, Adam and Breonne Popplewell gave birth to Kyle Dale. Kyle's grandparents are Bro. Dick and Sis. Rita Everett. Conlin Jay was greeted by Bro. Corey and Sis. Erika Gerber on March 15. Bro. Jason and Sis. Gwen Craighead welcomed Claire Denise on March 23. March 29 marked the arrival date of Zachary Carson, born to Tye and Carla Cook. Zachary's grandmother is Sis. Sheri Cress. Audrey Anne made her entry on March 31. Audrey was greeted by expectant parents, Brett and Krista Eisberg, and grandparents, Bro. Phil and Sis. Jean Moser. John and Lisa McAfee welcomed Wyatt John on April 6. Wyatt's grandparents are Bro. Jeff and Sis. Linda McAfee. Bro. Rich and Sis. Amber Pfister gave birth to Kendra Nicole on April 11. Gracie Anne arrived on April 12 to Bro. Linc and Sis. Catrina Rinckenberger.

Also growing this month was the number of converts as we saw three souls come to the Lord. Jamison Grube (Bro. Jay and Sis. Ronda), Austin Gerber (Bro. Dean and Sis. Jaci) and Matthew Brooks all made the important choice to repent and devote their lives to God. It is so en-

couraging to see the many ways God calls the lost, and we are prayerful as these three start their new life with Him.

Setting a good example for the new souls are five converts who are ready for baptism. Jamin Steffen (Bro. Bob and Sis. Marcia), Travis Tonner (Bro. Tim and Sis. Susie), Joel Fiechter (Bro. Mark and Sis. Shelly), Jarin Tucker and April Fiechter (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Ronda) were announced for baptism on May 7. Our prayers will be with these five during this special weekend.

As we are rejoicing with these happy families, we also are sorrowing with the families of Sis. Amelia Heyerly and Sis. Sarah Kipfer. These two dear sisters left for their heavenly home this month. Sis. Amelia passed away on March 24. Those surviving Sis. Amelia are four sons, Ron, Galen, Stan and Lynn; two daughters, Anita Heyerly and Sis. Denise Steffen; a brother, Bro. Laverne Ringger; 15 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Sis. Sarah Kipfer met her Saviour on April 4. Mourning her loss are her husband, Bro. Arthur Kipfer; daughters, Judy Fleming and Nancy Birch; son, Philip Beer; foster son, Charles Fess; stepdaughter, Kristie Meyer; and stepson, Bro. Lynn Kipfer. Sis. Sarah also left behind five sisters, three brothers, 15 grandchildren, six step grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, and six step great-grandchildren. We take comfort in knowing that both Sis. Amelia and Sis. Sarah are wrapped in the arms of our Lord.

We also are mourning with Sis. Deb Gerber (Bro. Jay) as her mother, Maxine Freiburger, passed away. We lift Sis. Deb and her family up in prayer as they go through this difficult time.

Our congregation was excited to share in the joy of an engagement this month. On April 9, Bro. Jerome and Sis. Gale Reinhard announced the engagement of their son, Bro. Jeremy, to Sis. Kristi Schlipf (Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy) of Milford. We lift up prayers on behalf of this couple and their new life together.

We were privileged to have two visiting ministers this month. Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North) stood before us on March 22, and Bro. John Baumgartner (Sis. Tammy, Bluffton North) on April 5. We truly appreciate the love and service that our ministers show us.

This month marked a special event for Bro. Gerald and Sis. Eunie Fiechter as the couple celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They have been such an example of Christian love and commitment to our congregation, and we rejoiced with them on his special day.

On April 17, we had our annual Easter program. The innocence of the children touched our hearts. One class recited Matthew 28:6, "He is not here for he is risen, as he said..." What an encouraging reminder of what Jesus did for us!

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Tiffani Schladenhauffen
Darren Drayer**

On March 23, Amelie Rose was born to Joe and Jessica Honegger. Amelie's grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Mary Honegger.

A few hours later on that same day, Bro. Tony and Sis. Peg Fiechter became the grandparents of Wrigley Kaehr, the son of Kyle and Marci. On a side note, both Bro. Bob and Bro. Tony were my Sunday School teachers at one time.

On April 4, Sis. Sarah Kipfer

(Bro. Art) went to be with Jesus. She leaves behind two daughters, Mrs. David (Judy) Fleming and Mrs. Nancy Birch; a son, Philip Beer; a foster son, Charles Fell; a stepdaughter, Sis. Kristie Meyer of Detroit, MI; a stepson, Bro. Lynn Kipfer; five sisters, Sis. Minnie Aschliman, Sis. Anna Isch, Sis. Leona Schwartz, Sis. Alice Schwartz and Sis. Josephine Schwartz; three brothers, Bro. Sylvan Gerber, Bro. Floyd Gerber and Bro. Edward Gerber of Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Our Sis. Clarice Isch (Bro. Harry) also went to be with the Lord this month; she passed away on April 14. She leaves behind a son, Dr. John Isch; two daughters, Sis. Cathy Steffen (Bro. Keith) of Washington, IL, and Sis. Connie Witzig (Bro. Bill).

While it is difficult to part with loved ones, it is comforting to know that Christ conquered death at His resurrection. Our children reminded us of Christ's triumphant victory during our Easter Program this month.

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

I Corinthians 15:57

**INDIANA
FRANCESVILLE
Jessica Murray
Barb Huber**

Greetings loved ones, in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

This month has gone by very quickly and there was not too much activity in the church, but the prayers were sure going up, because the blessings sure did come down.

We want to express our many thanks to Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN) for being

here for the reading of the Memorandum and to share the Word with us this month. May you take our love and blessings home with you, and may God continue to bless you and your family.

Sis. Pam Leman (Bro. Larry) and her family has been in our hearts and prayers since the passing of her mother, Annabell Ruff. May you continue to lean on the Lord for His strength, as this time of your life is one of the valleys that He will lead you through. Our love and sympathy are with you, and we will continue to lift you up in prayer.

"Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."

Luke 15:10

There are several in our congregation that have turned their hearts and lives over to the Lord and now have peace. We look forward to the upcoming baptisms. Many others are growing in faith since they have begun their walk with the Lord, and have need for prayer, as they are searching for peace in their hearts.

"And they shall mock him, and shall scourge him, and shall spit upon him, and shall kill him; and the third day he shall rise again."

Mark 10:34

What a true promise that we know took place for each and every one of us. When I think of this, it reminds me of just a small portion of the suffering that the Lord did for me. Is it too much to ask that we seek His will daily and take up the cross and walk with him? Actually, our lives get much easier if we do His will and don't struggle with our own issues. Each Easter I am reminded of

the strength and love that is in our Heavenly Father and how I need to lean more on Him. I pray that you all heard a similar message this past week and can apply it to your lives, no matter what else is taking place at this time. There is no greater love than the love of the Father.

**INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS
Sandy Lichtle
Gail Bradford**

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

Ecclesiastes 3:1

These four weeks brought both joy and sorrow to our Indianapolis congregation.

Bro. Brian and Sis. Cherise Blume welcomed little Zachariah Antonio to their home on February 1. His birthplace is Guatemala. BJ is proud of his new baby brother who will be one year old on April 28.

We said goodbye to two doctors and their families. Sis. Keyna Martinez, Bro. Joshua and their son, Marty Jo, will move to South Bend where Keyna will begin her residency at Memorial Hospital. Bro. Aaron Zeller, Sis. Julie and children, Lydia and Micah, will move to Greenwood, SC, where he will start his residency at a regional medical center. We will miss these two lively young families and their children, and wish them God's blessings as they continue in their chosen profession.

We said farewell to Sis. Clarice Isch, mother of Sis. Conni (Isch) Witzig (Bluffton North). She and her husband, Bro. Harry, often visited Indianapolis. No matter how poorly she may have been feeling, she had a

smile and pleasant word for everyone. We will greatly miss her but we are comforted because we know she is at rest in her Father's house.

Bro. Ben Pearson returned home from several weeks in Japan.

Young Ben Frauhiger, who sings alto in the Indianapolis Childrens' Choir, made an exciting journey along with grandparents, Bro. Les and Sis. Ann Frauhiger (Bluffton), and parents, Bro. Chris and Sis. Sara Frauhiger, to sing at Carnegie Hall. He was pleased to report that the choir sang a favorite Sunday School song: "This Little Light of Mine."

Young people from throughout the Midwest came together for semi-annual community outreach activities. Small groups took part in Bible distribution, sharing the Gospel with Muslim students, home construction, repair and clean up projects, visiting a nursing home and a youth center. Every time this event occurs, we gain a renewed appreciation for the enthusiasm and Biblical grounding demonstrated by our teenagers and young adults. There are many worldly activities available on a Saturday, and we praise God for the choice they made.

At Indy Outreach, Bro. Tim Sauder (Leo, IN) shared news about the latest Gateway Woods projects. Many young people begin volunteer experiences there.

Bro. Phil Gutwein (Francesville) gave a brief talk about World Relief efforts in Biloxi, MS. Bro. Matt Freed and Ben Graham both spent time recently helping in this work.

On Palm Sunday, the Sunday School presented their memory verses and songs that recalled the Passion of our Lord and Savior. For this gift of everlasting life we must be eternally grateful, and live on this earth with an "attitude of grati-

tude.”

INDIANA, LACROSSE
Bethany Johnson
Julie Rocke

“He is not here: for he is risen as he said.”

Matthew 28:6

Easter is a time to rejoice for the grave is empty! Our Sunday school and young people brought the message once again at our Easter program on Palm Sunday. They all did a wonderful job learning their pieces and songs. Many thanks to the students, teachers and parents alike, for all of the effort put into the program.

We gathered for a time of remembrance and rejoicing as we partook of Communion on April 1. Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit) joined our Elder Bro. Curt Frank to assist with the evening. We were exhorted to view Communion with humility, solemnity, and joy.

Other visiting ministers this month were Bros. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH), Bob Beebe (Sis. Sue, South Bend, IN) and Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI). Our prayer is that they can be blessed for their labors of love on our behalf.

We were blessed with the opportunity to host the Agenda Committee meeting this month. We thank each of the Elder brethren who came and spent their time preparing a schedule for this year's General Conference.

The evening of April 7 found many of our congregation busy with World Relief Family Night. We enjoyed the fellowship as we packaged health kits, school kits and rice pilaf mixes as well as knotted comforters. A heartfelt thanks to those who

came to help and especially those who worked hard to prepare for the evening.

Sis. Dorothy Stewart was hospitalized this month. We are thankful to see her up and about and able to attend church with us.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Pearl and Sis. Lucille Nuest in the death of their sister, Sis. Irene Nuest (Valparaiso, IN). Sis. Irene has many nieces and nephews in the LaCrosse congregation and our thoughts are with each of them.

“When peace like a river attendeth my way...It is well, it is well with my soul” (Hymns of Zion #55). We are thankful that our dear convert, Emily Elcock, has found peace with God and man. We look forward to her testimony in the near future.

INDIANA, LEO
Ethelyn Schlatter

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Brace and Sis. Brenda Wieland family as they felt the loss in parting from their mother and grandmother, Margaret Wieland (Roy). Her memorial service was on April 7.

The Easter program was presented by the Sunday School on April 9. “A man's heart plans his way; but the Lord directeth his steps” (Prov. 16:9). The tale of three trees was portrayed. Three trees on a mountain side told each other what they wanted to be when they grew up: a treasure chest, a mighty ship and the tallest tree reaching into the sky – high ambition – years later the first tree was cut down and made into a manger which eventually held the baby Jesus (a true treasure), the second tree was made into a row boat which held the Mighty Lord Jesus who calmed the storm, and the third tree was made into a cross which

held the suffering Saviour, who opened the way for us to enter the gates of heaven. It was only a parable but presented the truth, along with hymns that He directs our way. He lives.

We welcomed Elder Bro. James Plattner (Princeville, IL) on Wednesday evening, April 12, as he came to help Elder Bro. Lynn serve Communion to the congregation. We thank Bro. James and Sis. Marlene for coming.

April 14, we again gathered for Good Friday service, and on Resurrection Sunday sunrise service, breakfast and a morning service. Elder Bro. Lynn concluded the service with words from I Cor. 15:51-58, “Behold I show you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed ... therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” A blessed week as we remembered what our God and Saviour did for us.

Sis. Marie Bertsch is in the hospital and at this writing receiving therapy. Our prayers are for restored health for her and others who have not been able to attend services.

Our prayers are with Bro. Dan Schafer who is serving in India with Bro. Stan and Sis. Andrea Gutwein on a short term basis.

We welcome back Bro. Bruce Schafer, who served several weeks on a work team in Biloxi, MS.

Bro. Mike and Sis. Denise Klopfenstein returned from China with a little girl, Karinne. She is 18 months old but very petite and shy,

maybe overwhelmed is a better word. She joins three brothers, Grant, Nathan and Adam.

We welcome Abby Klopfenstein home who has been studying in China. Her parents, Loren and Sis. Rita, were visiting her for a couple weeks and returned home with her.

The engagement of Sis. Kristi Schlipf to Bro. Jeremy Reinhard (Bro. Jerome and Sis. Gale, Bluffton, IN) was announced at church. Sis. Kristi's parents are Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy Schlipf (Milford, IN).

Note of Thanks:

I appreciated the cards and gifts I received to help celebrate my 80th birthday. "... God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you." *I Sam 12:23.*

Love and prayers,
Ethelyn Schlatter

INDIANA, MILFORD

**Carol Haab
Carlton Beer**

Bro. Don Manz was our guest on March 26 and he emphasized the importance of a steadfast faith. He also spoke of the forgiveness we received from God because of Christ's intercession. Also how we should forgive others.

As the Milford and South Bend congregations will be hosting the World Relief meeting this fall, we held an organizational meeting on April 5 at our fellowship hall. We hope all interested brethren will feel welcome to come and share our love and concern for the world's needy.

In the absence of Bro. Dan, Bro. Gary Tonner spoke to us on April 2. He talked of the importance of Christian fellowship and our opportunity of encouraging each other. Also to keep a fervent love for everyone. We appreciated his love and ser-

vice to us.

We had a beautiful Easter season. On Palm Sunday we had our Easter program. Darcy Price, one of our Sunday School students, read a poem of how Jesus didn't seem to have any earthly possessions although He really owns the whole world. Our Sunrise Services were well attended with several people that used to worship in attendance. Our young people got up early to take part.

At this time the flowers and the fruit trees are blooming. A variety of birds are back from the south and we enjoy their beauty and their song. How great are God's creations, but still we want to worship the Creator more than the created.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Beth Virkler
Tammy Waibel**

Oh, the gift of Spring! The bright flowers, the vivid green grass along with the fragrant blossoms sing together a chorus in praise to our Creator. What a blessed environment to experience Communion in as it reminds us of our constant hope in the Risen Savior, the only solution to our sinful natures. Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) served us as our visiting Elder for Communion on April 1.

The Sunday School children spoke their pieces with such sweetness and clarity at our annual Easter program on April 9. Bro. Ken Weerts (Cissna Park) was our visiting minister for the day.

Bro. Nathan Virkler and Sis. Natalie Knochel became husband and wife in the Lord in Phoenix, AZ, on April 2. Bro. Herb, Jr. and Sis. Laurie Knochel along with Bro. Stan and Sis. Beth Virkler are their parents. Attending South Bend congre-

gation, this young couple's new address is: 59303 Bremen Hwy, Mishawaka, IN 46544.

Little infant Kaiden Schini (Bob and Heather Schini) spent some time in the hospital but is recovering well.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**Amy Gerst
Laura Vercler**

Our small congregation was blessed this past month with visitors, including Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and ministering Bro. Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA).

We welcome Bro. Josh, Sis. Keyna and Marty Jo Martinez back into our congregation. Sis. Keyna will be starting her family practice residency at Memorial Hospital in South Bend.

"Heart with heart in love united..." Bro. Nate Virkler was united in marriage to Sis. Natalie Knochel from Phoenix, AZ, on April 2. May God's love fill their home as they begin their new life together. We are excited to welcome Sis. Natalie into our midst.

Easter sunrise services were a blessing to all who attended. We also enjoyed the Sunday school children as they shared to us the miracle of the empty tomb in their Easter program.

Sis. Laura Vercler is going on a work team to Jamaica in May. Sis. Amy Gerst has recently returned from a work team to Mexico. Our prayers are that God would provide the increase to our efforts. Many times we feel that we bring home a larger blessing than we take with us.

As Mother's Day approaches, we think of the wonderful blessing God has given so many of us to have a godly example in the home. May we cherish this gift!

**INDIANA
WEST LAFAYETTE
Andria Sprunger
Hollie Meister**

We are rejoicing for the new births God has given us at West Lafayette. We are thankful to announce another blessed birth: Bro. Alan and Sis. Connie Furrer (daughter Havilah) are grandparents of a healthy baby boy.

Our prayers go out to Bro. Leon and Sis. Reva Waibel as they lost their daughter, Victoria Roberts, to cancer. We are thankful that she can be relieved of her pain and suffering; however, we mourn the loss with our dear brother and sister in the faith.

We are always thankful for all the ministers and their wives who so generously give of their time and energy to come to visit us at West Lafayette. We were blessed this month by our Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN), Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS), Bro. Allen Stoller (Sis. Susan, Bluffton, IN), Bro. Chris Huber (Sis. Sharon, Francesville, IN), Bro. Nelson Beer (Sis. Shelby, Milford, IN), Bro. Bob Meyer (Sis. Ann, Bluffton, IN), Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Francesville, IN), and Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN). God bless them all for their service in the Lord's work.

**INDIANA, WOLCOTT
Elaine Bahler
Lowell Bahler**

"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;"

Song of Solomon 2:11,12

On Saturday, March 18, the Sunday School Bible Class, along with teachers, a number of parents and several of our young group and converts – 38 in all – left for a work trip to Jamaica, returning on March 26. We are thankful for God's traveling mercies and pray that His name could be glorified in all things.

Wednesday evening, March 29, Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IN) brought us the special Bible topic of being "Doers of the Word." We were exhorted to not only be hearers, but also willing workers in His vineyard. Thank you, Bro. Dan.

Sunday, April 4, we partook of the cup and breaking of bread in Holy Communion. We appreciated Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL) and our Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN) being with us for this most humbling service. Our retired Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Sis. Frances) also assisted. May God richly bless each of them for their labors of love.

Monday, April 3, was our annual church cleaning which was shared by a good representation. "Many hands make light work" surely is true!

On Friday, April 14, the Sunday School presented our Easter program, bringing songs and verses telling of our Saviour's extreme suffering and death, as well as His redeeming love, all for unworthy us. During the program, a severe storm with heavy, damaging hail descended, reminding us of the very hour of darkness and turmoil when our Lord was crucified and cried unto the Father, giving up the ghost!

Brett Schwab (Bro. Jon and Sis. Wendy) is recovering from a broken

collar bone suffered in an accidental fall. We wish him a full and quick recovery.

At this writing, Sis. Norma Blume (Bro. Glenn) has just been hospitalized and is undergoing tests. Our prayers are with her and Bro. Glenn. May God's peace and blessings abide with all.

**IOWA, BLOOMFIELD
Barbara Schock**

This month, we were blessed with a visiting minister on March 19. Bro. Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa, Bradford) was here for the weekend. We thank him for his willingness to come and share the Word with us. Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke) was with us the same weekend on Saturday night. Sunday, he went to assist our Elder Bro. Doug with Memorandum with the Garden Grove congregation. May the Lord bless these brothers.

This spring we have four graduates. Graduating from high school are Holly Teubel (Carolyn) and Bro. Craig Dotterer (Bro. Joe and Sis. Rose). Graduating from college are Nathan Schock (Elder Bro. Doug and Sis. Clara) and Brent Wuthrich (Bro. Roger and Sis. DeAnn). May these four feel the Lord's hand guiding them as they make the next step in life.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Evelyn (Roy) Metzger, as she underwent surgery this past month.

A Mother's Prayer

Father, I thank Thee for the children.
Help me to remember that Thou love them
Even more than I, and that Thou Desire to bless them

Beyond what I can hope or imagine.

Help me to be faithful in prayer
for them

Whether they're home or away.
And help me, Dear Lord,
To teach them Thy ways.

Mother's Day is approaching. Let us remember our mothers with our prayers.

IOWA, BURLINGTON
Krystal Knapp
Laurie Schulz

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

St. John 14:27

We rejoice as our dear friend, Marilyn Anderson, has found peace with God and man.

We were reminded of the great love of our Lord when we partook of Holy Communion. We were exhorted to have this same love toward our brother. Helping our Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall was Elder Bro. Dave Graf (Akron, OH). We are thankful for their willingness to serve.

Bro. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) also ministered to our congregation. May God be his rich Rewarder.

IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden
Heidi Butikofer

"Can a woman forget her suckling child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee."

Isaiah 49:15

In this verse, the love of mothers is compared to the love of God. We

know how hard it would be for a mother to forget or neglect to feed her hungry baby. But here we are reminded that, even if a mother would forget, God's love is greater. He will never forget us, but will faithfully provide for our needs. May God help us to appreciate the sacrificial love of our mothers, and our God.

"May God grant us the understanding to grasp the depth of the meaning." These words were mentioned in a prayer that was offered during our recent Communion service. Is it humanly possible for us to grasp the depth of the meaning of the magnitude of the suffering our Saviour endured for our salvation? How sad, that so many choose to ignore it. What a sacred blessing to have this yearly reminder as we partake of the cup and the bread, symbolizing the body and blood of our Redeemer.

Our thanks to Bro. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA) for sharing God's Word with us on Easter Sunday.

We have three high school graduates this year: Sis. Maria Butikofer (Bro. Lon and Sis. Sandy), Brad Schneider (Bro. Charles and Sis. Sue) and Michael Schupbach (Bro. John and Sis. Janet). Also two college graduates: Molly Hanson (Albert and Trudy) and Brenda Schneider (Bro. Charles and Sis. Sue). May God be with them and guide their steps as they continue their pilgrim journeys.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to thank all our dear brethren and friends for your much needed prayers and the many words of encouragement, gifts and deeds of love shown to us during the time of Kent's fall and recovery. We are so thankful for God's mercy, the power

of prayer and the love of our church family. May God bless each one.

Bro. Kent and Sis. Betty Getz and family

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE
Willa Clark

Visiting brothers who shared the Word of God in our congregation included Elder Bros. Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) and Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield, IA) and Bros. Arnold Gerst (Sis. Marjorie, Taylor, MO) and Brandon Emch (Sis. Maria, Kansas City, MO). We are thankful for our visitors and the fellowship we share.

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Diana Butikofer

We appreciated the visit of Elder Bro. Curt and Sis. Lyla Frank (La-Crosse, IN) in March. Bro. Curt willingly spoke the Word and we are grateful for his service.

Bro. Brad and Sis. Joyce Eland welcome another granddaughter with the birth of Summer Grace to Ryan and Beverly Eland on March 23. Sis. Joyce was able to fly to Utah to be present as Summer was born. We wish these new parents God's grace and wisdom for their new responsibilities and joys.

IOWA, LESTER
Gloria Moser
Polly Metzger

"the flowers appear on the earth, the time of the singing of birds is come..."

Song of Solomon 2:12

This time of year is always so refreshing, life in it's newness.

Our best wishes go with Emily

Kellenberger (Bro. Verlyn and Sis. Linda) and Mike Rozeboom, as they spoke their vows on March 18. May God bless them as they establish their home.

On March 26, Sis. Katie Kellenberger (Bro. Verlyn and Sis. Linda) was announced to Bro. Arlan Miller (Bro. Orlan and Sis. Carol) of Gridley, IL. May God lead them as they plan for their life together.

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Bro. Dennis and Sis. Shirley Kellenberger and family in the loss of her mother, Sis. Esther Koehl (Morris, MN). May God comfort them and ease their sorrow.

We are assembling in church once again, since our remodeling project has been completed. A heartfelt thank you is extended to everyone for their patience and cooperation, and to all who helped in one way or another. It is truly a blessing to have a full day in church once again.

Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL) was with us for Communion on April 9. We enjoyed a blessed weekend and wish to thank him for his efforts. Other visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN), Bro. Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL), Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Bro. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA), and Bro. Bruce Frank (Cissna Park, IL). May they be blessed for their efforts.

Bro. Art Knobloch (Elgeva) was hospitalized. We always want to remember those who are or have been ill. May they feel the healing hand of God as the days go by.

Joel TeSlaa (Jim and Ronda Thielen) and Kristi Klarenbeck are engaged and we wish them God's blessings as they make plans for their marriage.

On Easter weekend, we bid farewell to Bro. Bill and Sis. Leona Wulf.

We will dearly miss them in Lester and wish them God's nearness as they make their new home in Sabetha, KS. Bro. Bill will celebrate his 90th birthday on April 19. He is the oldest brother in our congregation.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to thank everyone for your cards, comforting words, memorials and especially for your many prayers during our brother's hospitalization and since his death. There is great strength in the prayers of others. May God bless you for your many deeds of kindness.

Jerry and Mary Ter Wee and family

Bro. Jim and Sis. Betty Leuthold and family

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Sharla Wiegand
Rosalie Wiegand

When a Christian dies,
Precious is the prize!
Lasting joys for days of sorrow,
Rest from conflict on the morrow
Follows when he dies.

Hymns of Zion #248

Our beloved Sis. Delores Kiefer has gained that precious prize when she went to meet our Lord and Saviour on March 21. Death to the overcoming believer is just a passageway to life and peace and rest for all eternity. As we look at the destruction and turmoil and unrest of the world around us, doesn't our heart yearn more to be safe in the arms of Jesus? Sis. Delores was preceded in death by her husband, Bro. Robert Kiefer. Our heartfelt sympathy goes to their family, Mark and Mindy Kiefer (Greeley, CO), Mary Lou Grimm (Wapello, IA), Bro. Jeff and Sis.

Brenda Thames (Washington, IL), Bro. David and Sis. Becky Kiefer (Los Angeles, CA), and many grandchildren.

The Father hears Him pray, His dear anointed One;
He cannot turn away the presence of His Son,
His Spirit answers to the blood, and tells me I am born of God.

Hymns of Zion #164

The reason death does not need to be feared is that death has been conquered by our risen Lord, Jesus Christ! We remembered the price He paid for our sins and guilt at our Communion service on March 25. Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) was here to assist our Elder Bro. Jon. May God be his rich Rewarder!

Break thou the bread of life,
Dear Lord, to me,
As Thou didst break the loaves
Beside the sea.

Hymns of Zion #10

As a Sunday School teacher, it is always touching to see the children's belief in the Word of God and the stories we teach of Jesus. It makes us stop to think if we truly believe as they do. Did Jesus really feed 5,000 people with a few loaves of bread and a couple of fish? But then we see how He feeds a congregation with the Bread of Heaven and each one with a different need comes away filled. Our thanks to Bro. Fred Eberhardt (Burlington, IA) for sharing the Word of Life.

IOWA, WEST BEND
Sue Schneider
Lori Skoglund

"Search me; O God, and know my

heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

Psalm 139:28-29

These verses were brought to our attention recently by a visiting minister. Heartfelt thanks to all of those who have traveled to assemble with us and then diligently brought forth God's Word: Bro. Dale Moore (Sis. Cheryl, Elgin, IA), Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, Portland, OR), Bro. Roy Koehl (Sis. Jenell, Morris, MN), Bro. John Hartman (Sis. Rosemary, Fairbury, IL), and Bro. Virgil Metzger (Sis. Mary, Chicago, IL).

Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) shared Communion with us recently as we were reminded of the supreme sacrifice Jesus became for our redemption.

“But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.”

Is. 53:5

May the hearts and new home of Brice Metzger and Sara Grandgenett be blessed as they were united in marriage on March 25. The couple's parents are Bro. Leland and Sis. Kathy Metzger and Mr. and Mrs. Dean Grandgenett.

Todd Kellenberger (Joel and Teresa) and Emily Trytten, daughter of Dick and Diane Trytten, announced their engagement and intentions to marry in June. We extend our good wishes and God's blessings to them.

Paige Metzger (Jerry and Joy) underwent surgery this past month. Also hospitalized were Bro. Melvin Fehr (Sis. Glenagene), Bro. Paul

Demiter (Martha), Sis. Edna M. Banwart, and Sis. Marie Metzger. Bro. Melvin and Sis. Edna have returned to their respective homes. Sis. Marie is now residing in the West Bend Care Center.

Our congregation bid farewell to a faithful 96 year-old brother in faith. Bro. Melbert E. (Bert) Thomann passed away on April 12 after spending many years in the West Bend Care Center. We extend our sympathy to Bert's one surviving brother, Earle Thomann (Shirley), of Rochester, MN, and his nephews, nieces, and cousins.

With love and gratitude we want to remember and honor mothers on Mother's Day.

“Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come. She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.”

Prov. 31:25-28,31

JAPAN, SHIODA Ayako Inoue

Greetings from Shioda.

We celebrated Easter on April 16. As our custom, we were planning on an early morning service on top of a nearby hill, but had to have it at the church because it rained. Still it was a nice moment to think and imagine the early morning when the women found the empty tomb after our Savior arose from the dead.

The scripture from Romans 8 was read one Sunday. I had to work so I could not attend the service, but Bro.

Willis suggested to have a short meditation after we had dinner together. So I could hear the word that was spoken that day.

It talks about the conflict of the Spirit with the flesh. We all have that conflict in our daily lives. The Word is a guide and a reminder to us. If we pray and ask God for strength to fight against the flesh, He will surely lead us.

“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you.”

JAPAN, TOKYO Jana Klaus

The beauty of God's handiwork was especially vivid this spring in the blooming pink cherry blossoms all around schools, rivers and parks as they bloomed longer than usual. Each time I went out along the river, I saw people of all ages enjoying the beauty in various ways— picnicking beneath the trees, biking, walking or jogging along the paths under them, taking pictures with high tech digitals or just a cell phone, lying in the grass gazing up and around, and one elderly man was sitting on a chair painting what he saw with one hand as he held an umbrella with the other to shade the sun (from the view I got of his painting, he was quite talented).

Sisters Jamie Marti and Tina Fehr (both of Kansas City) came touring Japan this spring with the hope of seeing all the blooming cherry blossoms. We hope they did enjoy the beauty, but we also appreciated their worshipping and fellowshiping with us in church and at a picnic afterwards. We also thank them for so kindly lending themselves to help out in ways they could through the week. And two weeks later, Bro. Neil and Sis. Linda

Schmidgall (Morris, MN) joined in our worship service as they stopped through Japan on their way back from a visit to China. It was nice to see them back again as they came just two years ago in the spring.

We held our Easter program on Easter Sunday in the afternoon. It was a very blessed time, as usual, and we thank God. Many in the church participated with songs and verses, often in both Japanese and English. Much preparation goes into "behind the scenes" and I pray a big blessing on those who labor so hard. Church was full, both morning and afternoon with both believers and seekers. It is our prayer that the Lord spoke to each precious heart.

Andrew and Jana Klaus and family are so thankful to be back safely after a four month stay with Andrew's work in San Jose, CA. The experience was wonderful for our family and we send a hearty thank you to the Altadena congregation for welcoming us with open arms at those times we could worship and fellowship together.

KANSAS, BERN
Sheri Edelman
Rita Menold

Our body of believers met and partook of Holy Communion this month. We thank Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Sis. Karen, Croghan-Naumburg, NY) for helping to serve us and then ministering to us on Sunday. May God bless you!

Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty, Silverton, OR) came and ministered to us. Thank you for your labors.

Bro. Todd and Sis. Sheila Rokey were pleased to welcome Sarah Jean into their home on March 22. Hannah, Travis, Kristin, Jared and Luke will be great playmates for her!

We pray for them as they raise their little ones!

Brock Randy was born on April 4 to Bro. Neal and Sis. Kim Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO). Excited grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Joan Kaeb. May God be with your families.

Our deepest sympathy goes to Bro. Gordon and Shari Grimm on the death of their daughter, Sally. Her brothers, Michael, Jonathan and Jesse, as well as her grandmother, Sis. Marie Grimm (late Bro. Harvey), will surely miss her. May God comfort you as only He can.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT
Karen Kellenberger

A minister recently related how he had stepped on a thorn, resulting in great pain. He compared this small, minor prick to the deep gashes inflicted on Christ's innocent head by an entire crown of very long, very sharp needles. When I was in the Holy Land I saw a replica of one of these torturous crowns and it made me shudder. The words of the hymn writer came to me with new meaning: "Blessed Redeemer! Precious Redeemer! Seems now I see Him on Calvary's tree; Wounded and bleeding, for sinners pleading - Blind (from the flow of blood caused by the thorns on His brow!) and unheeding - dying for me!" (Gospel Hymns #363). We cannot fathom the affliction Jesus suffered for us before and during His crucifixion on the cross.

The Sunday School gave a moving program on Palm Sunday and the message of our Lord's resurrection gladdened our hearts.

Elder Bro. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kansas City, MO), and our Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) served our congrega-

tion Holy Communion on a Wednesday evening. Our hearts were knit together in unity as the tokens of Jesus' body and blood were passed to each of us, including to some partaking for their first time.

We very much appreciated our visiting ministers, Bro. Scott Wegman (Sis. Dawn, Taylor, MO) and Bro. Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield, IL). May God richly bless them and their families, to whom we enjoyed the opportunity of getting acquainted.

We were reminded in a recent sermon that when we are Christ's, we are yoked with Him. That clearly indicates that He is not only beside us, but is extremely CLOSE beside us, exactly as we envision two yoked animals. We don't have to reach out very far to touch Him. Jesus kindly and lovingly entreats to take on His light and easy yoke because He desires to offer us rest unto our souls. That is a refreshing and soothing promise.

"Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Matthew 11:29-30

We keep Bro. Harold Kraft and his wife and family lovingly in our thoughts and prayers as he struggles one day at a time with a debilitating disease.

If your body suffers pain and your health you can't regain
 And your soul is almost sinking in despair,
 Jesus knows the pain you feel: He can save and He can heal;
 Take your burden to the Lord and

leave it there.

When your youthful days are gone
and old age is stealing on
And your body bends beneath the
weight of care,
He will never leave you then, He'll
go with you to the end;
Take your burden to the Lord and
leave it there.

Leave it there, leave it there.
Take your burden to the Lord and
leave it there.
If you trust and never doubt, He
will surely bring you out;
Take your burden to the Lord and
leave it there.
Gospel Hymns # 767

KANSAS, KIOWA
Janice Bahr
Jenny Stewart

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

Proverbs 3:5-6

The hardest thing for people to do, it seems, is to give up our will, and completely trust the Lord to show us His will! It takes a lot of patience and trust, and the human race seems to want everything right now, if not yesterday. But when we wait on the Lord, and let Him direct our paths, things fall into place (not in our time but in His time), in perfect order for our lives. We have two young people in our Kiowa church who are seeking, through prayer, the guidance and direction from the Lord for their futures. One is our Sis. Stephanie Bahr, who is graduating from college this month and awaiting God's will for her life. The other is Bethany Hamilton, who has for many years of

her young life, lived with the pain of a long term illness. In visiting with her, she says she knows the Lord has a purpose for all this, and that someday she will understand why. We are taught in I Thess. 5:17 to “pray without ceasing”, so may we all hold these young people up in prayer (along with our dear Sis. Shirley Nelson, who is still unable to worship with us due to her recent illness) that our great and faithful God may direct their lives and heal their pain!

We look forward in May to remembering our Lord's death and crucifixion through the sacred Communion service. May we prayerfully search our hearts that we may be prepared to partake of this beautiful occasion.

KANSAS
LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Eileen Bahr

As I write this in the middle of April, we have a lot of wind and unusually warm days in the 90's. The old prairie grass residue that was able to be burned off, God has turned a beautiful green. Could that be similar to when a person repents and gets rid of the old self, with the help of God they can become a beautiful new person?

Our spirits have been refreshed when Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Denver, CO) assisted Elder Bro. Jay reading the Memorandum. Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) served us Communion and Bro. Max Reimschisel (Wichita, KS) had the Good Friday services. Easter blessings were Bro. David Hartter (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Brandon Emch (Kansas City, MO). May God bless them and their families for their efforts.

KANSAS, SABETHA
Rebekah Beyer
Dawn Strahm

Our visiting ministers this month included: Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Greg Stoller (Sis. Jill, Forrest, IL), Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Lisa, Eureka, IL), Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Sis. JoAnn, Winthrop, MN), Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Sis. Sandra, Lamar, MO), Bro. Darrell Stoller (Sis. Gloria, Bern, KS), Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Elizabeth, Silverton, OR), Bro. Rod Bajema (Sis. Twyla, Lester, IA), and Bro. Greg Braker (Sis. Wendy, Lamar, MO).

Bro. Harvey and Sis. Arleta Wenger celebrated 50 years of marriage on April 1. May the Lord continue to bless this marriage union with more fulfilling years.

Beginning their marriage union on March 19 were Sis. Brooke Huber (Bro. Gordon and Sis. Sharlyn) and Bro. Vincent Francesi (Bro. Len and Sis. Mary, Bluffton North, IN).

Joshua and Diane Krogmann and young Sadie, age 2, are pleased to announce the birth of Mason Franklin Krogmann on March 16. Delighted grandparents are Frank and Sis. Julie Krogmann and Don and Doris Wiens of Kensington, KS. Great-grandparents are Bro. Harvey and Sis. Arleta Wenger. During this month, little Mason was also hospitalized for open heart surgery. We are grateful for the doctors that successfully operated on him and to God for His abundant mercy in providing this infant with life and health.

Our Spring Invite-a-Couple weekend was held March 25-26. It was refreshing to meet new people and hear the Word proclaimed by the

visiting ministers.

Convert Renee Grimm was welcomed into the fold as a babe in Christ on April 2. Her parents are Bro. Kevin and Sis. Nita Grimm.

May our prayers continue heavenward for those who have been hospitalized or are seeking treatment for various reasons. Sis. Ruth Hertzell (Bro. Frank) was hospitalized this month. Bro. Doug Metzger (Sis. Betty) underwent knee surgery. Sis. Lucille Kellenberger also underwent knee replacement surgery. Bro. Elmer Strahm (Sis. Phyllis) had back surgery. Sis. Arleta Wenger (Bro. Harvey) successfully underwent hip surgery. Let us pray for God's strength and healing as Sis. Sharon Strahm (Bro. Carl) continues to battle illness.

With the Easter season upon us, our minds and hearts are renewed with the sacrifice that God made on our behalf and His promise that Christ would rise again on the third day. Good Friday services were held with the Bern congregation.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

First, I must apologize to the readers who noticed some of my articles being repeated and some of the worthy happenings not being recognized. I do not know how the mix-ups occurred but I suspect some of it is because I use e-mail rather than snail mail.

Our dear sister-in-faith, Nellie Lambert, went to be with her Maker, March 21. She had been released from the hospital that morning. When she and her daughter arrived at her apartment, Nellie sat down, closed her eyes and was gone. Last fall when she was observing her 99th birthday, she said her wish was to hold her next birthday party in

Heaven. Nellie had a calming influence in our congregation, plus her ability to rescue a faltering hymn. Her daughters, Sally and Bonnie, and their husbands, Dave Dewey and Wayne Walker, and her son, Andy, and his wife, Anne, survive her. Sis. Nellie had 11 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren and 7 great - great - grandchildren as well as many nieces and nephews.

The weekend of March 25-26, the Mortonaires honored the Wichita congregation with their presence and their song ministry. We also had visitors from the Kiowa, Ft. Scott, and Lamont-Gridley congregations. What a happy time praising the Lord, renewing acquaintances and making new friends. Thank you all who made the long bus trip to Wichita.

Many of the congregation and their guests gathered at the church for breakfast on Easter morning. The Sunday School teachers and students had prepared an Easter program that they presented before the morning service. It is a joy to observe the eager effort the children displayed in their presentation.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Barb Huber

"Praise ye the Lord. I will praise the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation."

Psalm 111:1

Again, the Lord has richly blessed us with visiting ministers. We are grateful to Bro. Earl Beery (Sis. Suzanne, Rittman, OH), Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis, IN), Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Debra, Remington, IN), Bro. Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, LaCrosse, IN), and Bro.

Paul Kilgus (Sis. Carmen, Fairbury, IL) for traveling many miles to share the wonderful life-giving Word of God. May the Lord bless these dear brothers, their wives, and all who accompanied them.

What a blessing it is to fellowship with our dear Lord daily through His Word and prayer. "As 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). We were thankful for the fellowship of brethren and friends also represented from Bloomington, Eureka, Goodfield, Gridley, Morton, Peoria, Princeville, Roanoke, IL; Francesville, IN; Alto, MI; Taylor, MO; Latty and Smithville, OH.

Many prayers were offered and God's mercy was felt since the last writing of your correspondent. My nephew, Justin Huber (Ben and June), suffered severe injuries as the result of a car accident, and my dear Mother (Sis. Glendoris Huber) became very ill in February. Thanks be to God for answered prayer; He has restored both of them to good health again. They wish to extend their thanks for all your prayerful concern.

Note of Thanks:

I want to express heartfelt thanks and appreciation to you all for your prayers, cards, gifts, and letters sent following surgery and during my recovery. May God bless you.

Sis. Glendoris Huber

MOTHER

Ears that truly listen; arms that always hold;
Love that's never ending, a heart that's made of gold!

"...A woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised."

Proverbs 31:30

We appreciate our dear mothers and, especially this Mother's Day, we pray God's blessings be with each one.

Visitors are always welcome here in Lexington. Anyone who may be in our area or traveling through may contact Bro. Doug Germann (859-224-8710), Bro. Lester Huber (859-745-2541), or Bro. Jan Neukomm (859-273-8574).

MEXICO, IXTLAN
Claudia Gonzalez

As we rejoice with each addition to our little congregation, we also feel the loss of those that have to move. Bro. Lalo and Sis. Silvia Ugalde with their two children, Luis Eduardo and Jana Keila, moved to Queretaro. We wish them the Lord's blessings there.

"As cold waters to a thirsty soul,
so is good news from a far country."

Proverbs 25:25

We enjoyed having retired ministering Bro. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL) and his family, who shared God's Word with us last month.

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Terri Huber
Rose Watson

As we entered the Easter season, we enjoyed our youth as they shared their joy and praises in song of our risen Saviour. Thanks to all of our teachers and helpers who made it a success.

Out onto Calv'ry's hill,
Where Jesus died I'll go,
To hear the words He speaks,

To see Him in His woe.
He bows His head and cries
"Tis finished, all is done,
O God, receive my soul,"
Life's victory is won.

Zion's Harp #89, vs. 1, 7

We would like to share our heartfelt thanks for Bro. John Jackson (Sis. Peggy, Bay City, MI) for his service and assistance of Communion this past weekend. It was a blessed evening.

Also, we would like to thank Elder Bros. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) and Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) for their time and service they provided our church this past month.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Wes (Sis. Sue) Daniels as he is home recovering from surgery. May God continue to heal and watch him and his family.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Sarah Knochel
Janelle Ramseyer

Thy word, O Lord, forever is
The mirror where we see
Our faults and duties as they are
Our likeness unto Thee.

Zion's Harp #142

We gathered together on March 22 to hear the Memorandum. Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta, Alto, MI) and Bro. John Jackson gave timely exhortations to our congregation. It truly was a blessed evening.

Our annual Invite-A-Friend weekend was April 8-9. We have such a blessed heritage that we can have weekends such as these to reacquaint friendships and make new ones. Three visiting ministers were with us for the weekend. Special thanks go to Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis.

LaVonne, Sabetha, KS), Bro. Howard Plattner (Sis. Kristen, Alto, MI), and Bro. Nate Wieland (Sis. Suzanne, Goodfield, IL).

Bro. Dave Steffen (Sis. Linda, Elgin, IL) spent Good Friday and Easter Sunday with our congregation. We appreciate the efforts he puts forth when he visits our congregation.

We pray for healing for Bro. Howard Wieland (Sis. Pauline) as he spent time in the hospital recently.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Esther Waibel's family as she passed away on April 15. She will be missed by her children, Lee (Karen, Virginia), Don (Bay City), Terry (Charlotte, Ohio), Sis. Kathy, and David (Kawkawlin).

MICHIGAN, DETROIT
Kay Rauhe
Tiffany Wieland

"For God is my King of old, working salvation in the midst of the earth."

Psalms 74:12

Our congregation was privileged to listen as our Sunday School children and young adults presented their annual Easter Program. This year's program's theme was "That's my King!", which was repeated several times throughout the evening as each class expounded on God's mercy and compassion, His might and strength, His sending Jesus to suffer and die for our sins, and Jesus' resurrection from the dead. In this Easter season, we can be thankful that we have such a King whose resurrection we can share by repenting for our sins and accepting His gift of salvation and eternal life in Heaven. As we gathered for Good Friday ser-

vices, we were thankful that ministering Bro. Art Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH) was able to assemble with us and lend of himself in the ministry before continuing on in his travels to visit the Kitchener congregation.

“And when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.”

I Corinthians 11:24-25

We were thankful for the opportunity to gather this month to partake of Holy Communion. The evening was a blessing for our congregation, and we appreciated Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta, Alto, MI) coming to assist our Elder Bro. Mark Bahr in the Communion service.

Announcing their engagement this month are Trisha Hitz (Bro. Tom and Sis. Cindy) and Joe Kondratek (Gary and Melody). We wish them God's blessings as they plan their life together and pray He will be a constant presence in their marriage.

We want to remember Sis. Kathryn Losiewicz and Sis. Anna Sabados in prayer as both of them endured recent stays in the hospital, and we are thankful that they are both home and doing better. We are also thankful that Bro. Tommie Hitz (Bro. Tom and Sis. Cindy) was not severely injured after a serious fall at work. We can read in God's Word that He watches over each one of us, and we can see evidence of that in our local congregation.

Several in our congregation have recently endured loss of loved ones. Sis. Kristie Meyer's stepmother, Sis. Sara Kipfer (Bluffton, IN), passed away and Sis. Perseda Wieland's sister-in-law, Sis. Ester Waibel (Bay City, MI), went on to her eternal reward. Sis. Martha Szilagyi has recently lost several loved ones in her extended family, among them her sister-in-law, Sis. Kathryn Nagy (Akron, OH). While there is a blessing in passing from this life to the next with the promise of Heaven for God's faithful, we always need to remember those left behind to tarry on without their loved ones. We pray they can feel God's nearness and comfort during their time of grief.

MINNESOTA MINNEAPOLIS LaRae Dill

“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

The changing of seasons here in Minnesota is exhilarating; and spring seems especially so with the lush green appearing once again. One of my favorite scenes here is the view from the Mendota Bridge, a historic bridge near our church which overlooks the river valley. The green “haze” as one looks over the tree tops is just beautiful and refreshing. So the seasons of our lives....

Our congregation enjoyed the refreshment in spirit that the Easter season brings, including Holy Com-

munion, served on Saturday evening, April 1. Elder Bros. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA) and Art Nohl (Morris, MN) were here for the occasion. The Sunday School students shared the resurrection message of new life that Sunday as well. Also visiting this month was Bro. Rod Bajema (Lester, IA).

The experience of new life is apparent in the heart of Zenna Davila. Zenna has been attending here for several months and has turned her life to Him; for this we rejoice.

Sis. Vera Schmidt is once again enduring recovery from surgery on her shoulder. Our prayers are with you, Sis. Vera.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS Shelia Reuter Heidi Nohl

Brett and Heather Duncan were blessed with a baby girl, Kristin Paige. Her grandparents are Alan and Sis. Eileen Burnham and Roger and Arlene Duncan. Kristin spent some extra time in the hospital, but we are thankful she is home and doing well. Bro. Mark and Sis. Lori Mattson also welcome Rylie Ellen into their family. Also excited about a new sister are her siblings, Sabrina, Ashlyn, Haley and Lindsey. Rylie's grandparents are Bro. Aldean and Sis. Charlotte Luthi and Rodger and Patty Mattson. Dustin Jon joined the family of Bro. Jon and Sis. Sally Nohl. Welcoming him home are Devin, Erin and his grandparents, Bro. Dan and Sis. Eunice Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Bro. DeWayne and Sis. Janice Nohl. We wish all our parents God's blessings as they raise their children in the fear of Him.

Our prayers are with the family of Sis. Esther Koehl. She passed from this life leaving behind her family,

Bro. Ken (Sis. Karen), Bro. Harv (Sis. Wilda), Sis. Shirley (Bro. Dennis, Lester, IA), Bro. Dale (Sis. Lili, Bloomington, IL), Bro. Randy (Sis. Shirley) and many grandchildren. We wish them God's nearness during this time in their lives.

Visiting us this month was Elder Bro. Ted Witzig Sr. (Morton, IL) and Bros. Rod Bajema (Lester, IA), Wes Moser (Lester, IA), Ed Knecht (Silverton, OR), and Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL). We pray God will bless them for their willing service.

Hospitalized this month was Sis. Lillian Koehl, Harold Luthi (Bernice), Sis. Lily Luthi and Sis. Thelma Dogotch (Bro. Leo). We pray God will be with them and heal them according to His will.

Our best wishes and prayers are with Matthew Schmidgall and Kelly Lussenden as they begin their married life together. Their parents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Ruth Schmidgall and Randy and Peggy Lussenden. May they feel God's presence in their marriage.

Note of Thanks:

I want to thank my family for a surprise 80th birthday card shower for me while vacationing in Florida and to all my many friends who sent cards and gifts. Your love and kindness will always be remembered.

Thank you again,
Sis. Shirley Nohl

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Ginny Stoll
Rachel Steiner

Marc and Tina Messner are thankful parents of Jada Clair. She was born on March 21 and was welcomed home by her two sisters, Kali and Maty. Grandparents are Elder Bro. LeRoy and Sis. JoAnn Messner.

Our prayers are with Lowell Demm (Shirley) as he was in the hospital again. We just pray that God will continue to strengthen him and his wife.

MISSOURI, LAMAR
Mindy Braker
Becky Marti

Among our visitors this past month was ministering Bro. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN). May we continue to pray that the true Word comes forth each time we gather in His name.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to express a sincere thank you for the many kind deeds on behalf of our family in recent months. We feel unworthy, but truly appreciate your prayers and acts of love. We trust that God will reward each one according to His good will.

In Christian love,
Lawrence and Sandra Luthi and
boys

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS
Krista Banwart

Visiting ministers to St. Louis recently include Bro. Ron Bollier (Sis. Edie, Indianapolis, IN), Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Lisa, Eureka, IL), Bro. Matt Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville, IL), Elder Bro. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kansas City, MO), and Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North, IN). We look forward to worshipping with those whose summer travels will include a stop in St. Louis.

May we worship Him each day,
because He is our King.
May we take the time to pray
for the big and little things.
May we thank Him for His mercy

and the cross that sets us free,
and may we be the witnesses
He longs for us to be!

MISSOURI, TAYLOR
Sally Haerr

What a refreshing time to feel close to our Lord Jesus. The vigor of spring and new beginnings. Planting seeds in faith and hope of a bountiful harvest. As I write this, I ask myself if I have been as excited and concerned about sowing seeds of goodness, the love of Jesus and the hope of salvation in the hearts of those I come in contact with daily? For me, it's a humbling question and I need to do much better. There is a song in the Hymns of Zion, #46, that starts out "Seeds of goodness we are sowing in the hearts of man today. Bless it, Lord, that it may prosper and bear fruit for harvest day." Then the chorus challenges us to "Hasten gladly to the labor. Consecrate to God your heart. Say this day unto your Saviour, 'Lord, I'll gladly do my part!'"

How about spring housecleaning? I'm so sure many people do this anymore. I think most of us clean daily or at least weekly. I often compare this practice to our preparation when we take Holy Communion. We are "exhorted" to do a full soul searching, "clean out the corners" of our hearts using God's Word/The Holy Bible, as our guide. There is no question that this is best done daily.

Holy Communion here in Taylor was held on Saturday evening, April 1. Elder Bro. John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia, Latty, OH) came to assist our Elder Bro. Kent in this service. What a blessing it was for all of us and we want to thank Bro. John and Sis. Marcia for coming so far and sharing their time and love with us.

On April 5, Bro. Jim Kaeb and his

wife, Sis. Diane (Bern, KS), came to present a topical Bible Study. He chose to speak about "Adoption". To be legally adopted is to be chosen. How special it is to all of us to be chosen. If we are redeemed, we have been adopted/chosen by a loving Father and Saviour Jesus Christ. As parents, we know that our children, in a sense, represent us. How are we representing our Heavenly Father? A sincere thank you to Bro. Jim and Sis. Diane for taking time for us.

Our Easter program was on Palm Sunday, April 9. The children and teachers put forth so much time and effort as they prepare for this event. Time and effort well spent, as the blessing and the call went out to all who cared to listen.

Elder Bro. John Lehman and Sis. Connie (Bern, KS) were here on April 16 to visit with some of their family. We enjoy reaping the benefit of their visits as Bro. John serves us from the pulpit.

Bro. Ron Hodel and Sis. Donna (Bloomington, IL) spent this past weekend with his mother, Sis. Loida Hodel, and other family members. They have just recently returned from Biloxi, MS, where they were in charge of organizing the many work teams that went to that area to help rebuild homes and encourage the people who lost so much during Hurricane Katrina. He was asked to give our congregation a brief overview of the situation there. We want to thank him for sharing those experiences with us and wish God's blessings on all those who so willingly helped.

The sick/hospitalized this past month were: Hayden Hoerr (Stacy and Jody), Jacob Gehring (Bro. Brad and Sis. Ellen), Karley Riney (Steve and Marsha), Seth Redd (Dean and Gaye), Sis. Ruthie Hoerr (Bro.

Louis) and Sis. Marge Gerst (Bro. Arnie). We pray for healing for each one.

NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Hope Graves

We have been blessed with a lot of company over the past month. Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA) and ministering Bro. Dan Beer (Milford, IN) were among a group that came out by train to spend some time with us. We were thankful for Bro. Doug's help with the reading of the Memorandum on Saturday evening, March 25, following a potluck dinner. The Lord provided a beautiful weekend for us to tour some local sugar bushes as the sap was flowing! We also enjoyed company from Rockville, CT, in April who came to take a load of maple syrup back with them. We spent Saturday evening, April 8, together for a potluck and singing.

Our hearts and spirits were renewed over the past Easter season. It was an additional blessing to see the children do their Sunday School Easter program during the noon hour on April 16. They all did a beautiful job reciting pieces and singing songs about Jesus' sacrifice and love for each of us.

Through the power of Thy dying,
Into Thy death, Lord, draw me.
Let my body, all my being,
There be nailed, Lord, with Thee.
Calm and gentle may my will be,
To my love give purity.

Zion's Harp #226, vs. 8

Our prayers continue with Sis. Anna Mellnitz who has been sick and unable to assemble with us for several weeks.

OHIO, AKRON Mara Henico Rachel Steidl

We are thankful that God has sent beautiful spring days. As we see the beauty of God's creation, we are reminded of the many ways that He provides for His children. How thankful we can be that, as the hymn states, "Yesterday, today, forever; Jesus is the same. All may change, but Jesus never. Glory to His name."

We are glad that two new babies were born to families in our congregation. Javan Luke was welcomed into Bro. Joe and Sis. Carla Miller's home by Trina and Landon on March 21. Allyson Anne joined Zach and Hannah at Kevin and Jennifer Sancraint's home on March 26.

It is good to see that God has strengthened Bro. John Graf (Sis. Janice) so that he has been able to reassemble with us since his recent illness. We pray that God will continue to grant healing to those who have health concerns.

This life also comes to an end, as we were reminded when God called our Sis. Kathryn Nagy home. How thankful we are that He provides grace for each day until our journey is done. Our prayers are with Bro. Greg and Sis. Sarah Henico's family as they recently bid farewell to Sarah's sister, Mary Riffle. May God grant comfort to these dear families.

It was a blessing to be served by Bro. Gary Maibach on April 16, and we hope he will be able to visit us again. May God richly bless all of our ministering and Elder brothers for their willing service on our behalf. It is such a comfort to see those who are willing servants for the Lord. May God give each brother and sister grace to serve Him faithfully in whatever place He directs.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Nancy Banks

Greetings from Columbus. We have appreciated the labors of several visiting ministers in the last two months. Those visiting with us were Bros. Mike Baumann and Tim Gerber (Mansfield, OH), Bro. Ron Steiner (Rittman, OH), Bro. Nile Bucher (Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Matthew Rassi (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH). We thank these brothers for their willingness to serve on our behalf.

We would like to share the joy of having two new babies brought into our small congregation. On April 5, little Aubrey May was welcomed into the loving arms of Bro. Josh and Sis. Jenna Boliantz. Thankful grandparents are Bill Older, Joyce Older and Bro. Doug and Sis. Connie Boliantz (Mansfield, OH). Then on April 7, Bro. Casey and Sis. Rachel Banks welcomed Caleb Dean into their hearts and home. Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty Baltic (Indianapolis, IN) and Bro. Larry and Sis. Nancy Banks (Columbus, OH) are Caleb's grandparents. These first-time parents are filled with great joy as they see what a true miracle the Lord creates when He brings a small child into the world.

We would like to congratulate Sis. Marty Schlatter (Bro. Tim and Sis. Becky, Latty, OH) on her graduation from Ohio State. We are so pleased that she will be using her degree in Ag Economics in the southern Columbus area and worshipping with us.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Cindy Schlatter

We enjoyed hearing the Word of Life brought forth by ministering

Bro. Ron Steiner (Rittman, OH) this past month. We trust the Lord will richly bless him for his efforts.

"The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;"

St. Matthew 13:38

As many hours are put into planting seed in the ground, may we all spend much time tilling the seed in our hearts that we may be found as the "good seed" when the Lord calls our name.

OHIO, LATTY

Amanda Steffen

Carmen Eisenmann

Our congregation was blessed with several visiting ministers this month. They were Bro. Bill Waibel (Sis. Carol, Bay City, MI), Bro. John Jackson (Sis. Peggy, Bay City, MI), Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH) and Bro. Tony Manz (Sis. Denise, Junction, OH).

We rejoice with Bro. Bob and Sis. Joan Graf as their daughter, Kristy, has answered the call to repentance. We also are thankful with Sis. Irma Stoller that her son, Chris, has begun his repentance. We pray that God will give these precious souls much grace as they begin their walk with the Lord.

We pray God's blessings on Andy Stoller and Gretchen Heindorff as they were united in holy matrimony on March 17. Andy is the son of Bro. Jim and Sis. Tam Stoller and Gretchen is the daughter of Kay and Dan Heindorff (Toledo, OH).

On February 5, Bro. Chad and Sis. Jennifer Keysor were blessed with a daughter, Kelsey Nicole. Dylan, Andrew, Kaleb, and Alexis all

helped welcome her home. Bro. George and Sis. Sharon Keysor and Jack and Joy Landskroener are thankful grandparents.

Ashlyn Kate was born to Bro. Tim and Sis. Kari Stoller on March 16. Her big sister is Kasee. Bro. Rod and Sis. LeAnn Stoller and Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat Beer (Milford, IN) are her grandparents. We pray God's blessings on these families.

We pray God's healing touch will be felt by Bro. Dwain Laukhuf, Bro. Melvin Stoller and young Landyn Whitman as they spent time in the hospital this month.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Esther Baumann

"Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the Lord Jehovah is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation."

Isaiah 12:2

We joyfully heard the good news that Marcia Rice has begun her repentance. Continue to pray for her as she earnestly seeks the God of her salvation.

On April 1, we had the blessed privilege of sharing Holy Communion. We sincerely thank Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Sis. Judy, Forrest, IL) for assisting in this service and for his willingness to be used in the ministry on Sunday.

On April 9, we delighted in hearing the young voices of the children in their annual Sunday School Easter Program.

Our prayers and sympathy to Bro. Wallace Ramsier whose sister, Gladys Ramsier (Rittman, OH), passed away.

Please continue to pray for our recently hospitalized patients: Marcia

Rice, Sis. Sarah Rice, Bro. Art Stuenzi (Sis. Lore), Elmer 'Bud' Sauder, Emily Dawson (Bro. Ed and Sis. Judy) and Bro. Phillip Keiper (Sis. Theresa).

OHIO, RITTMAN
Sarah Bauman
Hannah Beery

Ruler of Life! O now rule in my
heart and endeavor,
That all my life may be holy and
God-pleasing ever;
Thy Spirit give, that to Thy glory I
live
Here and in heaven forever!
Zion's Harp #6, vs. 4

With great joy we report that God has given Jason Stoller (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Lori), Myra Pierce (Mike), Abram Rufener (Bro. Leon and Sis. Lori) and Calla Steiner (Bro. David and Sis. Lynn) the grace to give their hearts to the Lord in true repentance. It is so encouraging to witness this sincere surrender in each of them.

Assisting our brothers in the ministry this month were visiting Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) and Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL). Elder Bro. Art Metz (Silverton, OR), Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) and our retired Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer labored with Elder Bro. Merle for our Communion service on April 8. We trust our Lord will richly bless each of these for their diligence and love on our behalf.

Bro. Joe and Sis. Carla Miller (Akron, OH) announced the birth of their son, Javan Luke, on March 21. He was welcomed home by siblings, Trina and Landon. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Randy and Sis. Carolyn Miller (Akron, OH) and Bro.

Fred and Sis. Joyce Stoller.

Bro. Douglas and Sis. Joanna Ingold also welcomed home a new bundle in the birth of Reese Makenna on March 27. Older siblings, Tori and Tagen, along with grandparents, Bro. Arthur and Sis. Bonnie Ingold and Bro. John and Sis. Joyce Schamback (Akron, OH) anxiously awaited this arrival.

Evan David was born to Bro. Luke and Sis. Pam Steiner on April 3. Their son, Aidan, completes the family. Rejoicing together are grandparents, Bro. Matthew and Sis. Gail Steiner and Bro. David and Sis. Connie Maletich (Smithville, OH).

Sis. Vicki Pelfrey, Sis. Erma Ingold, Sis. Carol (Carl) Steiner and Sis. Violet (Bro. Mitchel) Baltic all spent some time in the hospital this month. We trust that the Lord will provide them adequate strength on their road to recovery.

We mourn with the family of Gladys Ramsier as she passed away on April 1. We were all thankful to know that Gladys made a confession of faith prior to her passing. Surviving her are siblings, Sis. Eleanor Ramsier, Sis. Arlene Ramsier, Bro. James (Sis. Dorothy) Ramsier (Smithville, OH), Bro. Robert (Sis. Inez) Ramsier (Smithville, OH), Bro. Harlan (Sis. Vivian) Ramsier, Bro. Wallace Ramsier (Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Kenneth Ramsier. We also sympathize with Sis. Sherri Atanasov (Bro. Mike) in the passing of her grandmother, Sis. Kathryn Nagy (Akron, OH).

OHIO, SARDIS
Eric and Jami Hartzler

"Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end."

Proverbs 19:20

Our Sardis congregation heard counsel and received instruction as we listened to the Memorandum this past month. We are thankful to the Lord that Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH) was able to help our Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle in carrying out these duties. May God grant grace to each of us to apply this instruction in our lives.

At Home, 'tis well! There shall the
pilgrim tarry,
When tired and worn by sorrow,
grief, and strife;
In heav'n, when the hard race of
earthly life is run,
The long-borne load no more he'll
carry.

Zion's Harp #170

After 93 years of this pilgrim life, Sis. Hazel Rigggenbach went home to heaven on April 6. Our prayers and sympathy are with her children, Vernon Rigggenbach (Sis. Martha, dec.), Gene and Ruth Ann Rigggenbach, Wayne and Clara Rigggenbach, Eleanor and Roy Schindler, Sis. Ruth Headley (Bro. Raymond, dec.), and Betty and Dwayne Hardbarger. Sis. Hazel also has 15 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren, and 5 great-great-grandchildren, as well as two brothers living yet, Woodrow and Willard Fankhauser.

We were thankful to have a couple of visiting ministers this month. Bro. Tim Gerber (Sis. Wendy, Mansfield, OH) was with us on Palm Sunday and Bro. Ron Palitto led our worship service on Good Friday evening. May the Lord be Bro. Tim and Bro. Ron's rich Rewarder for their willingness to share the Word with us.

Sis. Martha Indermuhle is in our thoughts and prayers as she has been hospitalized recently.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Edith Miller
Ruth Gasser**

We have been richly blessed this spring as the Word of Life has been brought to us by visiting Elder Bros. Dave Graf (Akron, OH) and Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH), Bros. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), Joe Dotterer (Bloomfield, IA), Ted Witzig Jr. (Morton, IL) and Jesse Bedolla (Detroit, MI). Elder Bros. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) and Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH) assisted Bro. Andy in our Communion service as we gathered for a very special evening to remember our Lord's death and suffering. We thank these brethren for all their efforts and hope that memories of these special times will help us walk closer to our Lord and Saviour.

On March 19, we welcomed four new lambs into the fold, after hearing their testimonies of conversion and faith. Our new Sisters are Brianna and Brittany Indermuhle (Bro. Brian and Sis. Bev), Janelle Bauman (Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie) and Juliet Dotterer (Bro. Dave and Sis. Luanna). We wish them continued grace to grow and walk a life of faith.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Connie Maletich rejoiced as they again became grandparents. April 3 was the birthdate of Evan David, added to the family of Bro. Luke and Sis. Pam Steiner (Rittman, OH).

Our hearts were saddened as we bade farewell to a dear one, Elmer ("Tug") Maibach, who passed away while wintering in Florida. We extend our sincere sympathy to his

wife, Sis. Alma, and children, Bro. Gary (Sis. Mary Ann) and Sis. Gail Spangler (Bro. Ned, Akron, OH), and also to numerous grandchildren and other relatives. Bro. Bob (Sis. Inez) Ramsier and Bro. Jim (Sis. Dorothy) Ramsier have also experienced loss as their sister, Gladys (Rittman, OH), completed her life's journey after a battle with cancer. We pray for the comfort of God's Holy Spirit to those in sorrow.

Others in our congregation have experienced pain and have been hospitalized. Those undergoing surgery were Boyd Nieman (Teri), Sis. Bonnie Nieman, and Sis. Elaine Dotterer (Dale). Our prayers are for their healing and assurance of God's care in their every need.

Does Jesus care, when my heart is
pained
too deeply for mirth and song;
As the burdens press and the
cares distress,
and the way grows weary and
long?

O yes, He cares; I know He cares,
His heart is touched with my
grief;
When the days are weary, the long
nights dreary,
I know my Saviour cares.

Tabernacle Hymns #99

OHIO, TOLEDO

**Teresa Rywalski
Rebecca Beard**

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;"

Ecclesiastes 12:1

Our church was full the weekend of March 25, as we gathered to-

gether for the baptism of Brooklynn Lehner. How thankful we are to know that God is still calling precious souls.

Joining us for the baptism was Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH), Bro. Art Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH), and Bro. Neil Ramseyer (Sis. Sharon, Bay City, MI). On Easter Sunday, Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sis. Alice, Sardis, OH) shared the pulpit with our home ministers. We wish to thank these brothers and their families for serving on our behalf.

Dave and Sis. Connie Sancraint have a new granddaughter to teach about Jesus. Allyson Anne was born to their son and his wife, Kevin and Jennifer Sancraint.

May we remember our Sis. Clara Beard with prayers as she deals with health matters.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Brianna Strahm

Greetings to all from the Northwest. We appreciated a visit from our Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty, Silverton) one Sunday to assist with our annual business meeting. We thank him for his labors throughout the day and also for his part in the meeting. Bro. Nathan Kuenzi (Sis. Sarah) was elected to replace Bro. Mark Gallup (Sis. Louisa) as a Sunday school teacher. Bro. Allen Knecht (Sis. Jennifer) was chosen as our new trustee, replacing Bro. Ron Jones (Sis. Liz). Bro. Lee Jones was elected to assist Bro. Ray Moser with the sound system. We appreciate the efforts of each one in their respective duties.

In sorrow and pain,
Thy trust do retain
In Jesus the merciful Saviour.

When burdened with care,
When thou wouldst despair,
Then call on thy loving Redeemer.

He'll lighten the load,
And level the road
And bear thee on hands of com-
passion.

Zion's Harp #46, vs. 1-3

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy Fehr in the recent passing of Sis. Kathy's aunt. May the Lord grant comfort as only He can.

OREGON, SILVERTON

**Melissa Kuenzi
Cindy Metzger**

On April 3, Bro. Todd, Sis. Richelle and Levi Haun were blessed with a little girl named Rosanna Joy. Her grandparents are Dorothy Haun and Bro. Richard and Sis. RosaLee Kuenzi (Silverton, OR).

We are thankful that both Gary Dettwyler (Sis. Tami) and Bro. Clarence Dietrich (Sis. Betty) are home from the hospital and doing well.

Currently, we are working on the insulation and drywall in our Fellowship Hall Project. We are looking forward to the outside brick work to begin in May.

We are thankful for our visiting ministers, Bros. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy) and Ron Jones (Sis. Liz) of Portland, OR.

PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

**Nathan and
MaryElizabeth Gasser**

What a blessing this month to observe another Good Friday and Easter Day! The story of Christ's death and resurrection, like that of His birth, never grows old. Let us keep that story and that message in

our hearts throughout the year.

We had another successful World Relief project on a Saturday evening this month. Thanks to all who were able to come and help. Our prayers are with those who receive the materials we prepare and we thank the Lord for an opportunity to serve others in this way. We also enjoyed a day of working together to give our church building and grounds a good spring cleaning.

We were grateful to have Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) share Communion with us recently, and to have Bro. Darren Fehr (West Bend, IA) share the Word with us this month as well. If your summer travel plans bring you out east, we encourage you to consider worshipping with us in Philadelphia!

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

Mike and Monica Fritz

We were greatly blessed to be able to share Holy Communion recently, and we are thankful for Elder Bros. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN) and Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis, OH) who were here to serve and minister to us.

We are also thankful to Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Sis. Gloria, Congerville, IL) and Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie, Elgin, IL) who were also here in the past month to encourage us from God's Word. In addition, we have enjoyed and appreciated the fellowship with brethren and friends visiting from Congerville, Elgin, Fairbury, Forrest, and Gridley, IL; Bluffton North, IN; and Sardis, 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: Burlington, IA

(5/21); Junction, OH (6/4); Bluffton, IN (6/11); Indianapolis, IN (6/18); and Bern, KS (6/25). We do not have a visiting minister scheduled for 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 midweek visitors. Contacts are Bro. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder, (615) 373-8928; Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz, (615) 952-9933; and Sis. Gwen Leuthold, (615) 356-5755.

TEXAS, AUSTIN (formerly San Marcos)

**Amy Ringger
Serenity Ringger**

Lord willing, we plan to have a Dedication for our newly renovated church building on the weekend of June 10-11. We welcome everyone interested to join us that weekend. There will be a gathering at church on Saturday evening as well as Dedication on Sunday. Please call Bro. David Brummitt if you plan to come at 512-360-3379 or (cell) 512-304-5085.

Our ministers this month were Bros. Brandon Emch (Sis. Maria, Kansas City), Dan Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford), Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam, Latty), and Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lynn, Indianapolis) and we enjoyed visitors from Roanoke and Morris.

Upcoming churches serving us are these: Lamar (May 21), South Bend (May 28), Goodfield (June 4).

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 information.

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.

TEXAS
DALLAS/FORT WORTH
Judith Fehr

Greetings from Dallas/ Ft. Worth.

In March we were happy to welcome Bro. Dewayne Dill (Sis. LaRae, Minneapolis, MN) and Elder Bro. Dave Graf (Sis. Barbara, Akron, OH).

In April, Bro. Tim Hohulin (Sis. Cathy, Roanoke, IL) came to share God's Word with us. We thank these Brothers and their dear wives for their willingness to come and lead in worship and for the fellowship that we here all look forward to. At the

end of April we are expecting Bro. Paul Schmidgall (Sis. Shawn, Morris, MN).

Many thanks to the visitors who joined our worship services. We are always happy to have anyone who wishes to join us. To those who have been here, please, come back soon.

We welcome anyone living near or traveling through the area to worship with us. We currently meet in Grapevine, TX, at the Holiday Inn Express just northwest of the DFW airport, near the intersection of Highways 114 and 121. To reach the hotel while traveling either direction on Highway 121, exit on Main Street; the hotel is on the south side of the highway. For worship times or other information, please contact Sis. Judi Fehr (972-956-0597) or Beverly and Ralph Riggerbach at (817-741- 1502)

TEXAS, McALLEN
Sandy Kipfer

A hardy Christian greeting to all. The Lord blessed us once again as this was another exciting month here in McAllen.

On March 26 Bro. Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX) ministered to us; then on April 9 we were served by Bro. Edwin and Sis. Ramona Strahm (Bern, KS). We appreciate the support given to us by vacationing brethren and also a small work team on their way to Mexico. Our next service will be held on April 23, May 14 and June 25.

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 1/2 blocks off the Expressway (Highway) on 10th Street. Services will be held at 10:30 and 12:30. Please contact Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Joyce Nohl

(956) 581-8266; Sis. Kim Kaiser (956) 357-2591; Sis. Erin Knobloch (956) 357-1657; Andy and Kristi Plattner (956) 433-9844 or (956) 607-8329; Pam McMaster (956) 787-7881; Bro. Aaron and Sis. Sandy Kipfer (winter only) (956) 581-5612.

TEXAS, ZAPATA
Sandy Leman

This month we said farewell to the last of the Winter Texans. By now they should all be safely home, and we look forward to next fall when we hope to see them again. The few of us who remain will be joined by Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Joyce Nohl, who have bought a weekend home in Zapata. Usually during the summer we join them in McAllen every other week, and they usually come to Zapata on the weeks when there is no minister sent to McAllen. Now they will be able to fellowship a little longer by coming to Zapata Friday or Saturday and going back on Monday morning.

VERMONT, NORWICH
Areli & Kirby Reutter

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season."

II Timothy 4:2

Greetings dear ones in the Lord!

This month Bro. Everett Gerber (Sis. Nancy) retired from the ministry in Rockville, CT. We will miss Everett and Nancy deeply as they labored many, many weekends on behalf of the Norwich flock. We sincerely hope they continue to support the gathering by visiting often!

Last Sunday, our dear Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl) brought us a special Palm Sunday message to

prepare our hearts for the crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord.

We are so thankful that other congregations as well are willing to share their ministering brothers to serve the least of the flocks. These churches include Smithville, Rittman, Junction, and Akron, OH, and Tremont, IL. May the Lord reward the smallest deed done in His name.

We invite all to come and worship with us in the beautiful Northeast.

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.

If you are interested in purchasing head coverings made by Sisters from Ixtlán, Mexico, please contact Sis. Areli Reutter at the number listed above. An inventory of the coverings is available upon request.

"For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head."

I Corinthians 11:10



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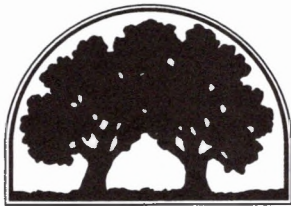
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Teaching Position Available

Gateway Woods is excited to announce an opening for a teacher position at Gateway Woods School. Student census will be expanding with the addition of a 4th group home. Gateway Woods School is a fully accredited educational facility serving 5th-12th grade students who have difficulty in public school.

Qualifications include a Bachelor's Degree in Education and/or an active teacher's license. Special Education Certification and previous teaching experience is especially useful, but not required. 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.

Kirk Plattner
 Director of Education
 PO Box 151,
 Leo, IN 46765
 1-888-443-4283

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

Interested in Houseparenting?

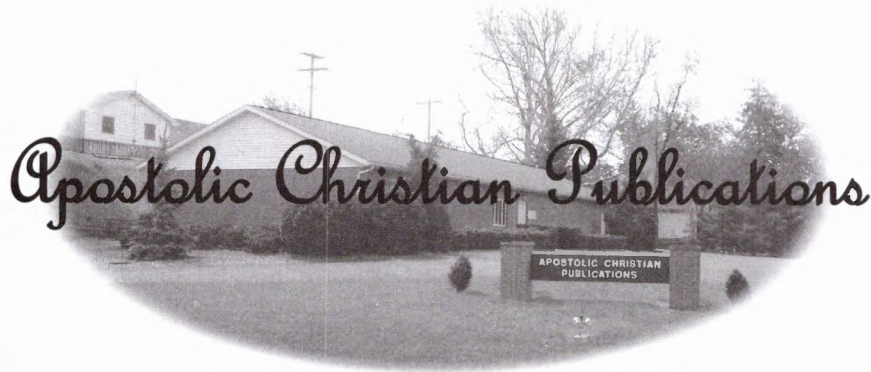
Houseparenting at Gateway Woods offers an opportunity for a couple, directed of the Lord, to come to work in a full-time on going ministry at Gateway Woods. We are expanding and have need for several couples. This position offers competitive wages and benefits and a close relationship with brothers and sisters whose hearts and lives are dedicated to a common mission with an eternal reward. If you feel the call to explore these possibilities, please call one of the brothers listed below.

Assisted Houseparent Needed

Gateway Woods has appreciated the Lord's blessing of being fully staffed with Assistant Houseparents for some time now. We are expanding our Residential Program, so we will have an opening for a single sister to work in a full-time ministry with troubled children. The Assistant Houseparent position offers competitive wages and benefits and a close relationship with brothers and sisters whose hearts and lives are dedicated to a mission with an eternal reward. If you feel the call to explore the possibilities, please call one of the brothers listed below:

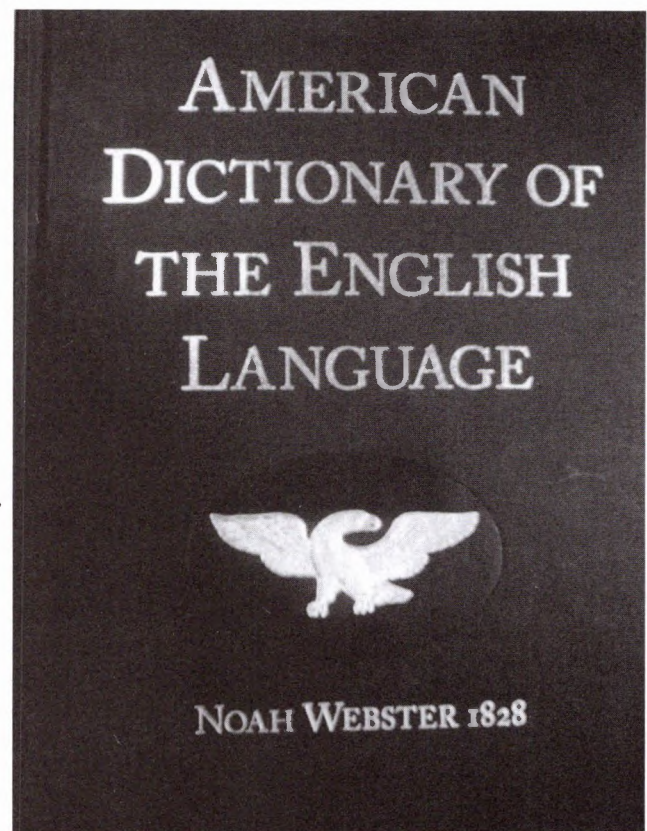
Ed Graf
 Residential Program Director
 PO Box 151,
 Leo, IN 46765
 1-888-443-4283

Lynn Stieglitz
 Counseling Elder
 15417 Doty Rd.
 New Haven, IN 46774
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Sermon continued from page 2

We hear a lot of things out in this world and not all of it comes from God. We need to be able to discern that. We have the tools that have been given to us. God has given us the Holy Spirit. We need to utilize that Holy Spirit. We need to utilize the Word of God. We need to be able to discern the spirits. Does it come from God or does it not?

Then we think about Ahab once again. Jezebel came back and said, it is no problem. Everything has been taken care of (I Kings 21:15). It doesn't seem like he bothered to ask the why or wherefore. He just went out into the vineyard. Because of that, God, through Elijah, pronounced doom upon him and upon his family. (I Kings 21:16-26)

Now we can see that Ahab did repent for a time (I Kings 21:27). But if I am not mistaken, that didn't last very long. The doom that was told of God did not happen during his time but it did happen to his children. Everything that was prophesied by Elijah happened. That is how they could tell that it was a true prophet of God because everything came true, just like it was said.

He was wicked. We live in wicked times. We really do. We kind of have a wall around us a little bit though, don't we? It seems like the Spirit really protects us from a lot of this wickedness and we are thankful for that. But we need to make sure that the wickedness that we see around about us, maybe not directly right around us, but in the world, the things that are going on, let's not let it affect us as God's children. Let's always be a discerner of the spirits so that we can tell good from evil. It is a daily challenge, isn't it? With the Spirit it will be okay. God will provide.

The heading of this chapter (Philippians 4) says "appeal for harmony, joy and peace". If you really think about that, if we could have harmony, joy and peace, why there just wouldn't be very many problems would there? It is a challenge each day. But we are exhorted in this chapter here about many things that tie in with harmony, joy and peace. Let's go through this chapter and let's just think about it and meditate upon it a little bit and may the Spirit lead us.

It talks about standing fast in the first verse here. "Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved." Philippians 4:1. Talks about it being my joy and my crown. It is really talking about the church. In many ways, Paul was talking about how joyful it made him feel when he could see the faithful brethren and it being his crown. It was his life's work - at least his latter part of his life - to win souls for the Lord. He wasn't really claiming that it was his doing. I don't believe that is what he was saying. He was really expressing a joy that he felt within his heart when he could see the faithful followers.

I truly believe it is the same for Christ. He looks down and He sees faithful followers and it just makes Him joyful. It just should make each one of us have that desire, what can we do just to make Christ just a little bit more joyful? What can I do with my life that I can serve Him just a little bit better?

The first thing he talks about is, stand fast in the Lord. Standing fast. Some could maybe, some would like to maybe say that standing fast could be interpreted as being stubborn. I don't think that that is what standing fast is. Standing fast is knowing the Word, first of all. Knowing what Christ did for us. Knowing what God directs us to do in His Word and taking a firm stand and saying that is the way I need to live and you need to live.

When I think of something standing fast, I think of something that is anchored really solid. So that when the storms come we are not blown away. We are not moved. Our direction is not changed. Because we know the direction that we are headed is the direction Christ wants us to go.

As we think about like even the hurricane that happened down in New Orleans, we think about comparing that to life. Think about comparing that to the way Satan works on us and he pushes us or he tries to push us this way and that way. I am sure that there was down there, that there were probably some structures that withstood the hurricane a whole lot better than others. We know that, as we just think about that a little bit - and I am not an expert on it - we know that part of New Orleans is way below sea level. It was

really not a very good place to build. I think about us building our ship of faith. We always want to make sure that it's built upon a place that is solid and it's in a good position to stand for a long time. If you really compare that to a spiritual stance, we would never want to build our spiritual basis in a place that was a little bit shaky, would we?

As we look around and we build, what is the first thing we look at? We like to build on a place that is a little higher. We like to build on a place where we can see the water is going to run off and run away from the house. Because we know what water does to a house, don't we? We want it to be able to shed it. We know the water getting around the foundation, it will crack it, it will seep in and eventually it will deteriorate. So we want to head toward that higher ground, don't we?

There is a song about that. It speaks about the higher ground. That's Christ's ground. That's where He wants us to have that firm foundation. We can think about it a little bit in both the earthly sense and the spiritual sense. Let's make sure that where we build our base is upon that higher ground. That those roots go deep. That's what it means to be steadfast. To stand fast. Steadfast is another word that comes to mind when we think about standing fast.

Talks about, in verse two, being of the same mind in the Lord. That's a challenge, isn't it, brothers and sisters? That's a challenge to be in the same mind. Because there are so many different directions that Satan would like to pull us. Think about the same mind. It just comes to my heart a little bit. Satan, there is no doubt in my mind, has worked upon the church here in the world.

Yea, we really say church because there is really only one church when it comes to Christ. It doesn't say in the Word, it doesn't talk about the Apostolics and all the other different faiths. It talks about "the church". We know there are all different congregations as you go across the land, across the world. I think about how things have really changed as you look at those different congregations. We don't want to be judgmental of one or the other. But we think about the influence that even the New Age movement has had upon the church. They have

gone to great lengths to make it look attractive. They have gone to great lengths to draw young people.

If you think about that in itself, just trying to draw young people, there is absolutely nothing wrong with that. Our desire is that all of our young people and others outside would come. But we've got to be careful in what ways we do that. We've got to let Christ be the draw and not man. If it is not good enough that the desire to serve Christ is the real reason why we would come to church, I think we would need to step back and say, wait a minute. Do we have the right intent?

If we are not careful, we can see how that can even work into our precious faith that has been established upon the Word of God and through the shed blood of Christ. We need to make sure that we don't have one group drawn to do this and one group drawn to that if it is not according to the Word of God. We need to be careful. It's a challenge, isn't it?

I don't mean to step on anybody's toes, but to be of the same mind is something that we really need to work on. Because when you are of one mind, then we are all heading in the same direction. We don't have a few off going off here and a few off going off on the other way. When you get that unifying force that can pull all in the same direction for Christ, what a blessing that is. We could physically move mountains, if we could do that. Not that we want to do that. We want to move spiritual mountains. That's what we want to move. I just want to encourage each one. Let's stay focused on the Word of God. Let's not be drawn into maybe some of these activities that just kind of weigh heavy upon many of our hearts. Let's not be drawn into that. Let's try to keep our precious faith focused upon Christ. Focused upon His shed blood. Focused upon doing God's will. Focused upon, even as it said here, harmony, joy and peace.

It talks about rejoicing. "And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice." Philippians 4:3,4. It talks about hoping. There apparently, I don't know the women by name, I know it men-

tions some of them throughout the Word. It does mention Clement. But these were God-fearing women. They had apparently given their whole life to the Lord. To the intent where they really needed somebody else to kind of help them out some. Apparently they had so fully given themselves that they really probably didn't have sustenance to keep themselves going. So it was really an encouragement that they should help others.

But to rejoice in the Lord. I hope it is for each one of us as we - I am talking to myself first - arise to another day, that we just get down on our knees and we just thank God and we rejoice for the high calling we have been given. If we can't get down on our knees and be joyful, we need to be maybe examining ourselves a little bit. First of all, for the brothers and sisters, we have every reason to rejoice.

But friends, if you don't feel like you really have anything to rejoice about or you know that there is that empty spot in your heart and you know you need to do something, get down on your knees. Just get down on your knees and say, Lord, I want to be able to rejoice every morning, too. I've got that heavy feeling, almost a weight on my chest all the time. I just don't feel very joyful.

You probably don't feel very joyful. Many of us well remember that time. But ah, to be able to rejoice in the Lord, to know that as we get up and start the day, that the Lord is going to be there right hand in hand. He is going to be walking ahead of us and making sure that the way is plain for us to follow. It is almost kind of like you can just knock the road blocks out of the way. Not that there aren't any road blocks. But He makes a way for us. There is hope. There is hope in the heart of every Christian because they know, he or she knows that Christ is in their heart. There is just not a question about Christ being in our heart because we know. We can't pull it out and say here it is. Can't show it to you. But that joy and that peace that we have in our heart is something that Christ wants for everybody, not just us.

"Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand." Philippians 4:5. If you look up that word moderation, I had to do that a while back. Moderation, if you look at it in the Strong's concordance, it really

means gentleness. Somebody had to correct me on that a while back because I hadn't really looked it up before. If you really think about that, a gentle person, that is the way we want to be. You can really tie being a gentle person into being a person that is moderate. Somebody who is gentle is not somebody that goes to extremes either way. As I think about that, I think of a moderate person, I think of a gentle person. I think of somebody that knows where they stand. They know that they want to stand fast in the Lord. They know the benefits of being of the same mind. They just know what direction that they want to go. With gentleness and with firmness they are willing to take that stand. Walk right down the middle of that road. The middle of the road which is the Word of God.

I think we've got to be careful with that word moderation. So many times people like to put labels on people. We've got to be careful. As long as we're going right down the middle of the Word of God, that's where we want to be. We don't want to be too far to the right. Don't want to be too far to the left in extremity. Right down the middle of the Word of God. Let's all focus on that. Let's strive to do that.

"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." Philippians 4:6. I really believe that means let's not get too overwrought. Let's not get too anxious. Christ is going to direct us where He wants to direct us. So if we have that peace in our heart, it talks about prayer. But in everything by prayer and supplication.

Prayer can work wonders. It can work miracles. It does work miracles. It has worked miracles. It will work miracles. But there has got to be a vehicle for those prayers to rise up and that's us, brothers and sisters. Friends, that's you too. Prayers need to arise to Christ. With thankful hearts is the way that they need to come up. Let your request be made known unto God. God wants to know what we are thinking. We may think, well, God already knows what I think. He does. But God wants us to come to Him in prayer. He wants us to come and ask. He wants people who serve Him willingly and ask freely. To

Sermon continued from page 45

acknowledge that He is the great God. He is the great I AM. He is the creator of the heavens and the earth. He can guide us and we believe that He can guide us in every step of our lives. He wants us to come to Him with supplications and with prayers. That pleases Him. We want to please Him.

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:7. That's the result of the verses above. That's the result. If we could just follow those verses to the letter. Now there's not a one of us that can't do better. If we could follow those verses above, verse seven, then the peace of God which passes all understanding shall keep our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. I don't think there is a whole lot more explaining that needs to be done about that verse. If that is what we really desire.

"Finally, brethren...", this is probably a verse that many of us have memorized and it is a good one to memorize, "...whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest..." Philippians 4:8. As we walk, truth and honesty kind of go together, don't they? As we walk, we need to walk in truth and we need to be honest. We need to really work on that. Let's not let Satan bring in a little bit of that gray. Because truth and honesty - we can really justify what we want to do. We can convince ourselves that it is true. We can convince ourselves that it is honest. If we really go back to the Word of God, sometimes, not all the time, sometimes, is it really true? Are we being 100% honest?

I have said this before. But people, we are really good at justifying our own positions. I am not quite sure where that comes from, but I believe that falls on each one of us. We can maybe even go into the Word of God and we can pull out a verse here or a verse there to justify our position. Oh, we have got to be so careful with that. Because we've got to take the whole Word of God. If you ever find yourself doing that, trying to

justify what you are doing just by relying on a couple of verses without looking at the whole Bible, be careful. Be careful.

"...whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure..." Philippians 4:8. As I think about that, I think about purity. I think about God's holiness. It says He is holy. He wants us to be holy. To be holy, to be 100% holy, we've got to be pure. It is pretty hard to make anything on this earth completely pure. If you tried to find some pure air, pure oxygen, you'd probably have a hard time. If you tried to find some pure metal, gold, silver, you might get 99.99%. But never is anybody going to claim that it is 100%. God wants His people to be pure.

So what would be that little bit that would keep us from being pure? That's sin. If we are not pure, then there is sin. We've got to be careful of sin. We need to be striving to be pure or without sin. God says - I can't remember where it says - it says it is possible to live without sin. I probably haven't done that. I think each one of us, it's a challenge. We don't ever want to justify any sin. We know we definitely need to stay away from gross sin. We could go into the Word in different places and we could talk about gross sin. We all know those, we've got to stay away from them. But it is the daily challenge of how we walk, what we say, how we treat others and what is in our heart. It's those things that are the real challenge. The ones that are in our hearts, those private thoughts that we have in our mind, that's the real challenge that we need to work on, isn't it? Least it is for me. To keep those thoughts pure. We need continual prayer to do that.

So here as we think about, we think about being just, we think about being pure. "...whatsoever things are lovely..." Philippians 4:8. I think we are talking about the heart when we are talking about lovely. This doesn't mean that everybody's got to be, on the outside have this certain look that maybe the world would say here is lovely. Here is something that is beautiful. I don't

think that is the loveliness that Christ is talking about here that Paul recorded here. We are talking about the heart. We are talking about what the heart is like. Not what the outward appearance looks like. What is in the heart? Does it have that true desire to serve Christ? That is what he means when he talks about loveliness.

"...whatsoever things are of good report..." Philippians 4:8. If we could listen to what others would say about us, ourselves, I think that is what it's talking about when it talks about a good report. When they say, Oh that Tom - put your name in there. He or she is willing to take a stand. I just know whenever they say something to me, I know it is the truth. I know that they are not hiding things from me. I know that when they say it's this, that is really what it is. They are so kind. They never say a harsh word. That is a good report. That person, boy they do a good job too. They are a hard worker.

There is nothing wrong with being a hard worker. I've thought about that more over time, over the years, I think about this. As we have employers, they pay us for a certain amount of time. If we are not giving them that amount of time, we are really stealing. The thought just kind of came to me, we need to be really diligent to give them their dues.

There are so many things that we could talk about in this chapter and I see that time has gotten away from me a little bit. I apologize for that. Let's just really go home in this afternoon, tonight, tomorrow, let's reread this chapter. Let's try to do those things that would bring harmony to our families, to our church. Let's try to be joyful. Let's try to be at peace with one another. If we haven't memorized verse eight, let's memorize verse eight. Let's work on those things in there. Might each one be blessed.



Zion's Melody Music CD

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

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

Phone: (309)448-2422 - ask for Chet

Mail: ZM on Piano, 319 First Street, Congerville, IL 61729

Email: chetrink@juno.com

2006 Athens/Tennessee Memorial Day Weekend

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
Tennessee Fellowship Chairman Don Sauder (615)373-8928 or e-mail don.sauder@juno.com
Tennessee Fellowship Treasurer Mike Moore (256)729-0620 or e-mail alm38@aol.com.*

CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 2006

All volunteers should contact the project coordinator. Should you not be able to contact the coordinator, for Haiti direct your inquiry to Bro. Tom Hitz, Ph. 734-454-9229, Fax 1-734-454-9259 or E-mail thitzhome@juno.com. For Jamaica, direct your inquiry to Bro. Mike Rassi, Ph. 1-309-359-3020 or E-mail michael_rassi@hotmail.com.

HAITI					
ORG.	DATE	AREA	COORDINATOR	PROJECT	CAPACITY
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	May 19-27, 2006	Deaf Village	Work Project/Ted Hirstein	Work Place	40/50
CCCD	June 3-10, 2006	Deaf Village	Taylor SS/Rusty Adrian	Work Place	40/50
CCCD	July 1-8, 2006	Knockpatrick	Mansfield SS/Pete Webel	Deaf School	40
CCCD	July 22-29, 2006	Montego Bay	Detroit SS/Scott Bahr	Deaf School	40

COORDINATOR	PHONE	FAX	E-MAIL
Bob Beebe	574-291-2158	574-299-8173	rbeebe@surfpure.com
Rich Bertschi	309-467-6110		lemangm@mtco.com
Tom Hitz	734-454-9229	734-454-9259	thitzhome@juno.com
Bill Rager	419-263-2989		
Jon Zeller	309-266-9009		jzeller@mtco.com
Rick Wuethrich	219-567-9488	219-567-2542	topnotch@home.ffni.com
Troy Struber	309-925-2603		tstuber@highstream.net
Jon Schwab	219-261-2935		schwab@ffni.com
Rusty Adrian	573-769-3650		aadrian@socket.net
Terry Miller	941-485-4302	941-485-4302	kjs@a5.com
Pete Webel	419-756-2587		peter.webel@gm.com
Ted Hirstein	309-266-8769		hirstein@mtco.com
Scott Bahr	734-513-5907		spb9@dcx.com

CCCD=Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf

MEBSH = Missions of Evangelical Baptists of South Haiti

Palm Grove = Mission of Haiti

S.E.E.D. = An Agricultural School & Extension Service

TBA = To Be Announced

Palm Grove = Mission of Haiti

A.W.A. - B. = Apostolic Water Aid/Bluffton

A.W.A. - FRW = Apostolic Water Aid/Francesville, Remington, Wolcott

A.W.A. - T = Apostolic Water Aid/Tremont

(*) = Changes or additions since last issue

(**) = Spring Break Timeframe

Mexico Work Teams 2005-2006

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

Location	Date	Project	Coordinator	Phone	E-mail
Magdalena	June 3-10, 2006	Construction	Roger Herrmann	309-446-3502	rdkidz@juno.com
Magdalena	July 8-15, 2006	Construction	Rick Kaisner	847-942-1174	rick@kaisner.org
Magdalena	July 15-22, 2006	Construction	Duane Meyer	785-336-3385	dhmeyer@bbwi.net
Magdalena	July 22-29, 2006	Construction	Tyler Banwart	620-223-1362	tybanwart@hotmail.com
Juarez	September 20-27, 2006	Medical	Cheryl Herrmann	309-385-1082	cherylh@mtco.com



U.S.A. BOARD WORK PROJECTS

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

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

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

Illinois: Marvin Sauder
 Phone: 309-925-4171
 Fax: 309-925-4171
 Cell: 309-339-9894
 E-mail: mmksblf@dpc.net

Indiana: Tom Neuenschwander
 Phone/Fax: 260-824-4773
 E-mail: tsneuen@adamswells.com

Ohio: Ken Zollinger
 Phone: 330-925-6370
 Fax: 330-927-6370

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

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

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



REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

This month's issue begins a series of excerpts from a 48-page booklet entitled, "To The King's Administration of Justice." This was compiled by Elder William Stettner, formerly an Elder at Elgin, Illinois. A portion of the booklet is a lengthy statement of faith to the government in Wurttenburg, Germany, written on September 18, 1878. Also included are various letters, sermons, poems and heritage-related items.

A Minister's Advice

Many years ago in a small village in Europe lived a family who had a young daughter. This young daughter repented while she was still quite young, and was baptized and taken into the fold.

It was only a short time after her baptism that she could not rejoice anymore and was very unhappy. She became more downhearted and depressed day by day and would hardly speak any more. This caused a very sad condition for her parents and also herself.

It so happened that one day a brother (minister) called on these members and had a visit with them. He noticed this young sister and became very concerned about her.

Now in those days, travel conditions were entirely different than in our day. People did not ride as we do now. They walked from one town to another. So when the time came for this brother to leave again he spoke to the young sister and said to her,

"I am going to such and such a village. Don't you think that you would like to walk with me?"

"Yes, I believe I would like to go with you," replied the young sister. So the two started out to walk and go on their way to the next village. But the poor little sister did not walk beside the ministering brother. She always stayed a few steps behind and followed him in that fashion. They walked along in this manner for quite awhile and had no conversation for some time.

So after quite a span of time, the brother stopped and turned around and said, "Now, sister, will you tell me just when and how it happened and where did it first take its start and beginning that you became so downhearted and distressed?"

Then she opened up her heart and said, "Yes, I can tell you why. When I was baptized the water did not go all the way over my head." This either happened or she imagined that it did, and on this the enemy held her, and brought doubt in her mind and tried to make her believe she was not right.

The brother spoke with her and said, "Tell me now, do you believe on the form or the principle and faith in baptism?"

She replied, "Why, not on the form, but on the principle and faith." From that time on she could open her heart and the brother explained to her that we must take these things in faith and not in form only — and she again could rejoice

in the Lord and again became one of the happiest sisters in that community.

From this we can learn how Satan often tries to make a mountain out of nothing to mislead God's children, and tries to uproot their faith. Therefore, it is very good when anyone has some special trials or cares on his heart if he will go to some brother or sister and open his heart and look for advice. Bringing things to the light will reveal Satan's work, and with God's grace we can then find relief.

We thank Thee, precious Saviour
 dear,
 That we are not left weary,
 As poor neglected orphans here
 On lonely ways so dreary.
 'Mid people strange, in foreign
 land
 And where our speech has no de-
 mand
 As foolish ones regarded.
 Nay, not as orphans stand we
 here.
 To us, O Lord, at all times near
 Thy presence is accorded.
Zion's Harp, Page 204

Edited by: Perry Klopfenstein

Next Issue:
*Continued excerpts from
 "The King's Administration
 Of Justice."*

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

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"The Gospel Is A Way Of Life"

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

The Gospel is the good news that Christ died for us and arose again. This, I believe, is the standard definition for the Gospel. But it is not some abstract or theoretical idea which does not affect us in a concrete manner. The Gospel is a message, which if we believe, shakes the very foundation of our being. We cannot, and we must not, say we believe in Christ and live like we believe in the world.

The Gospel is a way of life, that is, it affects what we do and how we do it, as well as what we say and how we say it. Since Christ makes the difference between heaven and hell, how can we be unaffected and complacent about it?

We become broken, not that we are sad, but we cannot throw our weight around as if we saved ourselves. "And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken." Matthew 21:44. This is not a matter of having many sorrows in our lives, or having difficult circum-

stances, this is a humility that penetrates our souls and makes us willing to listen, and to look up to and respect others. After all, Christ has died for us and changed our residence for eternity. If I fail to respect others as I should, I feel convicted. Also, being broken enables us to accept the grace which offers us salvation.

In addition to feeling our own unworthiness, we become servants. We realize that we are not living to please ourselves but we are living to serve others and thus to bring glory to our Lord Jesus Christ. I John 2:6, "He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked." Our way of life walking in the Gospel is one of humility and service, but it also includes being more joyful than if we were not in the family of God. We need to cultivate joyfulness, it usually doesn't come by itself. Jesus said, "In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

John 16:33. It is good to smile more, it is good to give others a cheerful greeting. At first it may be put on, but pretty soon you get to feeling better yourself. Jesus said, "Be of good cheer," as if it is something that requires effort when the world caves in around you.

Something else about the way of life the Gospel teaches us is that it is easily satisfied. I've got to have this and I've got to have that, is not part of the curriculum of this way of life. The Bible teaches, "But godliness with contentment is great gain," and "Having food and raiment let us be therewith content." I Timothy 6:6 and 8. We should try never to complain. Better people than we are, have died in wars and in accidents. Let's try to be content and satisfied, as a way of life.

Mothers who believe in Christ are especially influenced by the Gospel because they and their husbands have the noble work of rearing precious children. Bless you.

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*Yea, the sparrow hath found an house,
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young...
Blessed are they that dwell in thy house:
they will be still praising thee.
Psalm 84:3-4*



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