

# *The Silver Lining*

A photograph of a rustic log cabin nestled in a snowy forest. The trees are heavily laden with snow, and the ground is a thick blanket of white. The cabin has a gabled roof and a small porch. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and serene.

*For he is our peace, who hath made both one,  
and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;*

*Ephesians 2:14*

*February  
2007*



*Sermon by Bro. Ted Schock, Belvidere IL*  
**Esther 8:1-8; Romans 12:1-21**

For our first reading I've opened to the book of Esther. I've opened to chapter 8, towards the end of the story of Esther. But here was a person that was in a foreign land. The Israelites were taken from their land of Israel, and Judah, and Jerusalem because of the unfaithfulness of the nation towards God; the worshiping idols and turning to the ways of the people around about them. And yet there was still a faithful remnant even among those Israelite people, and Jews. We can think of Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. Their names were changed to Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego by the king. (Daniel 1:6-7). And Mordecai, and Esther. And even though they were way out numbered, they were in a foreign land of Babylon, or Assyria or whatever the nation happened to be that they were in, they were faithful to God and God used them to work His work upon the earth.

We know the story of Esther, how she was raised by Mordecai (Esther 2:5-7). Her parents had died, (I don't know if they were ill, or if they were killed when Jerusalem was sacked), but anyhow, she might have a reason to feel all alone in the world with just her cousin Mordecai, and in a foreign land. And maybe there were little neighborhoods of Jews around about. We get that idea from what we read here. And then she was not only in a foreign land, but then she was taken out of her own little household when the king decided that he was going to gather up all the fair maidens to choose a new queen. (Esther 2:8) And so she is taken out of her house and taken away and put in the harem, or whatever it is called. And yet she was still faithful to God, and God was faithful to her.

So when we feel all alone, we can rely, we can lean upon God, we can lean upon Christ, we can lean upon His Word, and His promises, and His Holy Spirit. And we can believe also that there will be ministering angels to minister unto us. We don't often think of that, but we sang in the hymn how, when Jesus was in the garden of Gethsemane in agony, angels came to com-

fort Him. And we read in Hebrews how the angels are ministering spirits to comfort us. (Hebrews 1:14) And so when we think about it, we have Christ our intercessor. We have God who loves us so much that He gave His only begotten Son. We have the comforter that He sent to be our comforter - the Holy Spirit. We have angels. We really have quite a bit here on this earth.

So, let's read here from Chapter 8. This is after Haman, his plot was found out, and he was hung because he was angry at the Jews because of Mordecai and he wanted to destroy them. But then his plan came to light through Mordecai and Esther, and King Ahasuerus had him hung on the gallows he prepared for Mordecai. (Esther 7:10)

And then we could read on how, we believe, it is said (you could confirm it) that if the Jews were attacked, that it was okay for them to defend themselves and to take the spoil of those that attacked them. (Esther 8:11) And you know, God promised through the prophets even before Jerusalem fell to Babylon, that He was going to preserve a remnant for Himself, and that some day they would return back to the land of Israel. (Jeremiah 30:3)

We see how Satan also works. Sometimes it's given us to see, like with Job no one else saw what was going on, but we have the benefit of God's Word. How Satan came before God and God said, have you seen my servant Job who is perfect before me? (Job 1:8) And Satan got permission to tempt Job, and to have horrible things happen to him. And we see how in the Garden of Eden, how Satan came and caused Eve to be deceived. (Genesis 3:1-6) We see when David numbered the people, we read in one of the accounts how Satan tempted him. And I believe here, maybe, that Satan (even though we don't read it) he was working in the heart of Haman through pride and through emulation that he himself wanted to rise up. We know that that's how Satan got cast out of heaven, because he wanted to raise up to be like God, and there's no one that can be like God but God. God's it.

But we see Haman, here, he wanted to kind of start raising himself up to be like the king. Remember when the king asked him, what would you do to someone who saved the king's life, or something like that? Because, remem-

*Sermon continued on page 43*

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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

February 2007

For The Lord Hath Spoken It

One of the advantages human beings have over other creatures is that we have the ability to learn from the mistakes of others. If we are willing to do so, we could learn from their experiences and avoid much of the suffering previous generations have endured.

In no segment of our life is this privilege more important than in our relationship with God. We have many wonderful examples of godly men and women who have followed the Lord with diligence and their lot in life, and more importantly in eternity, was blessed. Unfortunately there are also many examples of individuals who refused to follow the Lord and their lot in eternity is one of unending grief (Lu. 16:19-31).

A man, only identified as a rich man, seemed to care only about his own comforts. An opportunity to serve God was laid at his gate - a poor man who only wanted crumbs was denied. The rich man apparently knew of God, of heaven and hell but chose to ignore what he knew until it was too late. In hell, all of his requests were denied.

One lesson we must heed carefully is the seriousness and certainty of the results that will follow when the Lord has spoken. From the first chapter in Genesis through the last chapter in Revelation, we can see the power of God's Word. "And God said, Let there be light: and there was light" (Gen. 1:3). "He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly..." (Rev. 22:20).

Throughout the scripture, through His prophets, His Son and His followers, the Lord emphasized the importance of following His Word. "Thus saith the Lord" and "for the Lord God of Israel hath spoken it" occur many times in His Holy Word. In a short article, it is not possible to cite more than a small percentage of the times the Lord spoke, but a few examples should help us understand the seriousness of God's Word.

In warning of calamities to come to those who disobey God's teachings, He often told of the consequences that would follow. "...the mighty men of the children of Kedar, shall be diminished: for the Lord God of Israel hath spoken it"

(Is. 21:17). "Thus shall mine anger be accomplished, and I will cause my fury to rest upon them, and I will be comforted: and they shall know that I the Lord have spoken it in my zeal..." (Ez. 5:13). Daniel warned Belshazzar of his impending doom because of his sin. "In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain" (Dan. 5:30).

Of course, not all of God's words are negative. "...Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel" (Is. 7:14). "...the angel of the Lord appeared unto (Joseph) in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost ...then Joseph ...did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him..." (Mt. 1:20-24).

What does all of this have to do with us in the twenty-first century? There are many messages from God that have a direct bearing on our life. Just as the Lord spoke to His people in the past, He speaks to us today. "For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword ...and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Heb. 4:12). The power, and certainty of the Word of the Lord has not diminished since the beginning of time.

Through His Word, He has told us that the time will come when we will be judged according to the way we have lived. He has told us that we will either spend eternity with Him or be eternally separated from Him. The Bible outlines the plan of salvation that explains how we are to live.

Among the first words that Jesus spoke after He was baptized, had fasted in the wilderness, and had resisted the temptations that Satan brought upon Him were "...Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Mt. 4:17). Throughout the gospels, Jesus explained the plan whereby mankind can escape eternal damnation.

In addition to allowing us to read His Word, God also speaks to us through His servants. Most of us have the opportunity to sit under the sound of the Word of God every Sunday and at midweek services. We have the opportunity to be reminded that the Word of God is just as applicable to our everyday experiences today as it was

when it was written.

Not only does the Lord speak to us through His written Word and through the spoken words of His children, but there are times when He speaks to us directly. When we pray for direction, we must be willing to listen. To make it possible to hear Him, we may need to remove ourselves from the confusion and the noise of the world. When Elijah was trying to discern the Lord's message to him, he went to the mount before the Lord. The Lord passed by Elijah but it was not in the strong wind, nor the earthquake, nor the fire, "...and after the fire a still small voice" (I Ki. 19:12). When Elijah heard the still small voice, he went and stood in the entrance of the cave "...And, behold, there came a voice unto him,..." (I Ki. 19:13). It was only after Elijah was willing to listen to the voice of the Lord that He could be reassured that he was not alone. God reassured him there were seven thousand men that had neither bowed to Baal nor kissed him. Elijah then left the cave and found Elisha, who was to carry on the work of the Lord after Elijah was gone.

Perhaps we do not want to hear God's message. We may be quite content with our life as we serve self. God is not content to let us serve self. Fortunately, He is often patient with us and may speak to us many times before we answer Him. We must be careful that we do not ignore the voice of the Lord too long. "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith..." (Rev. 3:22).

God will help us through the trials of life. He will help us overcome our weaknesses as we battle daily against Satan. His power has not diminished. When we are tried on every hand and fear that Satan may overcome us, we can take courage. "Be still, and know that I am God..." (Ps. 48:10). For many years God spoke to us by the prophets, but "Hath in these last days spoken to us by his Son..." (Heb. 1:2). When the Lord speaks, we would do well to listen as Samuel did when he said "Speak; for thy servant heareth" (I Sam. 3:10).





## 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

### Being Sent to Mexico

The call for us to go on the mission field came at a time unexpected in our lives. We were looking forward to 'empty nesting,' but God had a better plan. He interrupted our happy existence to move us out of our comfort zone and into a world of expanding horizons spilling over in untold wealth of new friendships and experiences. The call brought a critical look at our lives. As we examined ourselves, we wondered if we were doing everything God wanted us to do, or if He were asking for more.

We spent a year reevaluating, praying and earnestly seeking His will. God showed us His plan in many ways. He showed us through the conviction that He placed in our hearts about serving Him in Mexico, through his Word, and by speaking to us from the pulpit, "Would you go if it meant one more name in the Lamb's Book of Life?" God was faithful to provide many signposts to encourage us on.

### Preparation

As the weeks passed, we saw God moving in a mighty way. Every hindrance about leaving, we took to God. He answered every one. Some simply vanished as though they had never been. Some, appeared to be a hindrance, but He showed us a clear way around. Others, He said would be hard and cause us to cry. He said that tears were OK and promised to walk every step of the way with us.

We could see Him at work, giving us experiences that we knew would be beneficial to our future, getting things in order in our lives, changing and molding us to better fit His purpose. It was a great relief to finally go public and tell our Elder

all of the things God was doing in our lives and how we were feeling. It was so reassuring to have his support, help and encouragement.

### Opportunities

It took a few months to move out of our house, disperse our belongings, end our jobs, and close our life, as we knew it in Indiana. The journey of our lifetime began. We served in Rio Bravo for a year and a half, then felt God's mighty hand move us on. What we thought was the destination of our journey, was only a steppingstone. We knew God was moving us, and told Him we were ready to go. Our greatest desire being to follow where He leads no matter where or when.



We received a call from Casa Vida y Esperanza, the House of Life and Hope. They needed help and after much prayer, we felt that this is where God was leading us. We were interviewed by Mission Committee brothers and received the approval of the Committee to be officially sent by the church to serve in Magdalena, Mexico.

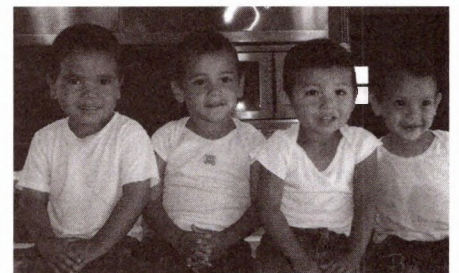
Casa Vida y Esperanza is an orphanage located two hours south of Tucson, Arizona. Currently there are twenty-two children, ages one to fourteen. The children come from a variety of backgrounds. Most have seen more in their few years than we would care to see in a lifetime. The children are intelligent and hungry

for love and to learn about the truth found in God's Word. They are eager to memorize new Scriptures and to share their budding faith with family, friends and work team members. They talk about their desire to follow God and to lead Christian lives. God has called us to love these children and what a blessing it has been.

### An ongoing journey

God has not called us because we are perfect Christians. We are not. We are not called because we have great gifts to offer. We are not called because of great faith. We falter daily. We are simply called to be obedient. It is with great humility that we continue this journey. He allows us to witness on a daily basis His great love for humankind.

We are humbled by the faithful prayer warriors who spend time on their knees to intervene for us, and the many who give selflessly so that we can do this work. We want to thank each of you and ask for your continued support and prayers. We give all praise to God for bringing us to this place, for wanting more for us than we could ever imagine, and for loving us through it all.



We have grown closer to our Heavenly Father in a way that would have never been possible had we stayed in the comfort of our old life. We are excited about what He may bring our way, and the new paths He will lead us through as we journey on.

~ Joe and Denise Maller





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

## Opportunities in Our Homeland

The USA Committee & Disaster Committee have reorganized to be one entity under the name of USA Committee. This committee will help the brotherhood reach those that have needs through hardship in their lives. The committee will also provide assistance after natural disasters like fire, wind and storm.

As many of us are aware, storms like Hurricane Katrina cause the brotherhood to ask "How can we help?" The God of heaven and earth has blessed our brotherhood with everything we need, which allows us to become quite secure in this life.

Visiting with those who have lost everything makes us aware that everything we have, even our own lives, are very fragile. God knows the state of our heart above how we see ourselves. It is our prayer that each of us will continue to ask for His direction to open our hearts to help those with extensive needs and in despair.

Previously a Disaster Committee worked alongside the USA Committee responding to disaster projects such as storms and tornados, and work projects for individuals burdened with difficult circumstances. Over the years the work projects have included building handicap ramps for the elderly and repairing and remodeling living quarters for individuals having the bare necessities of living and unable to help themselves. In a few situations, complete homes have been built by volunteer construction teams.

After much prayer and sought-after direction from the Lord, the National Board supported the deci-

sion to combine these two committees in 2006. The committee began praying for a brother with the heart to be an administrator of this new entity. This administrator would be paid a stipend so that he would be available for helping on projects such as the reconstruction in Biloxi and other local projects.



Looking at the world around us through Christ's eyes, one can always see the needs of others by simply observing his neighborhood and regional community. Work projects allow the brotherhood to work together toward a common goal of helping others. It is a great blessing to work side-by-side and glorify and honor our Father's name. God's Word tells us we will always have the needy with us to assist and that he who gives a drink of water in His name shall not lose his reward.

"For whosoever shall give a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you he shall not lose his reward." Mark 9:41

Brothers who have given of themselves for such projects share that they have received the greater blessing by giving versus receiving. The faith of those who have lost so much can shine bright; meanwhile, those of us who have nearly everything can allow the love of Christ to become clouded by personal ambitions.

The USA Committee gives direction to several projects needing financial assistance from the funds available through the generous donations of the Apostolic Christian Church brotherhood. In addition to national disasters, supported projects include: Galilean Home, Southside Mission, His Ranch, Midwest Food Bank, Peoria Rescue Mission, Berean Prison Ministry, Harbor House, Navajo Indian Nation, Bethany Home, Echo Project, and Empty Tomb. All of these projects have been or currently are supported with physical labor as well as monetary funds by the outpouring of the brotherhood's heart to help where they can.

Jesus Christ showers his blessings on us in addition to His great sacrificial love and desires that we give in return to others; though not just of our plenty. As with the Biblical story of the widow who gave all she had, giving of our time when we feel that we have none to spare brings great honor and glory to our Lord.

"And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury. For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living." Mark 12:43&44

Let us make our ambition match that of Christ's when he said in the Gospel of John 17:4, shortly before his arrest, betrayal and crucifixion, "I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do."

For more information please contact Bro. Paul Kaeb, USA Committee Chairman at pkaeb@bbwi.net or (785) 284-3261.



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

“Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

*Philippians 3:13,14*

As we “reach forth” into 2007, this verse reminds us to have our main goal be to win the prize for which God has called us heavenward! The other day I had the privilege to listen to one of our residents talking about heaven with her aged grandmother with whom she lived for many years. Grandma said to her, “I’m so thankful you’ll be OK when I’m gone; there will be tears, but you will be OK.” She agreed and replied, “Grandma, you’ll be with God and Jesus” and “You’ll see Grandpa!” Her grandma smiled peacefully and said with so much love, “I’ll be up there waiting for you.” This made my friend both laugh and cry and we left her room at the nursing home that day with peace in our hearts. Before we said goodbye, I shared my thought with Grandma that the reason her granddaughter will be “OK” is because of what she has taught her about trusting God.

This time of year many at our various homes are keeping busy with indoor aerobics exercises, playing computer and table games, doing puzzles, and enjoying new Christmas gifts. Some residents from Oakwood and Linden enjoyed attending a play where all of the main roles were played by performers with developmental challenges; this was a great experience for all involved, including “peer mentors” from the area schools who acted as coaches to the actors and actresses. To celebrate Valen-

tines Day, residents at Timber Ridge have invited their friends from the group homes to a party to celebrate love and friendship. Also that week, people from Oakwood are planning to get dressed up and go out to eat together and the Linden group and residents in the CILA homes will also enjoy special meals together.

In our memories as we look back on 2006 are the special times in December when many churches remembered us by coming to carol. One of the residents at Oakwood introduced the annual Christmas talent show by reading the Christmas story from the Bible – she declared loudly before reading it, “Now everybody listen, because this is an important story!” A special ladies’ Holiday Tea Party was held at Timber Ridge with one of the resident’s mother playing piano for the enjoyment of all there. There were gifts of love exchanged and special Christmas meals in all the homes and many people stayed up late for New Year’s Eve parties.

Still looking ahead, on January 27 residents from Timber Ridge, Oakwood and Linden are looking forward to hosting some Sunday School students for a tour and video about our homes followed by interviews with residents and then games together. This has been an annual event with the goal of increasing understanding and forming friendships.

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## **GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN’S HOME Jason Kilgus**

God through the Holy Spirit started leading me to Gateway back in 2000. After wrestling with this for 3 ½ years, finally I completely surrendered and found peace through faith believing God is in control and

He knew better than me.

In August 2004, Joy, Courtney, Tyler, Landon, and I started on a journey that would remind me often that complete surrender and self sacrifice for a Christian would not be a once in a lifetime experience. Rather God would begin to teach me that this happens often if not daily.

One of my favorite verses in the Bible is Romans 12:1-2. “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

First, God tells us here it is only “by His mercy”.

Secondly, our lives will be a “living sacrifice”. This means often, if not daily, not just once in a lifetime. This tells us that we won’t be dead but rather “alive”. People will see the effects of our self-sacrifice.

“Holy and acceptable” tells us that our sacrifice will reflect the character of Jesus Christ.

“Which is your reasonable service”. Wow! That means no pats on the back! People often say to me, “That sure is a wonderful work you are doing out at Gateway Woods, it takes special people to do that kind of work.” This statement should never be said. Forgive me if my response to that statement is anything but “it is only my reasonable service”. God never calls us to a work that will cause fellow believers to marvel at OUR gift, rather He calls each one of us to a work that will build up the body of Christ, and spread the message of salvation. Men should only give glory to GOD for the good works that are done by His body here on earth. (“Let your light so shine be-



fore men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." St. Matthew 5:16)

"Transformed by the renewing of our minds". I suppose that most of us would agree that unless we are daily renewed in the scriptures, our minds will quickly be "conformed to the world" around us. It would also be appropriate to say the world around us is the culture we live in. Strangers in a foreign land wouldn't be interested in settling into the culture of the land they are quickly passing through, correct?

"That ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God." This tells us that only with a transformed mind will we know the will of God. So don't think it strange if someone conformed to this world doesn't understand the will of God in your life.

I leave with this one thought. Life as a house parent has given me opportunities to grow in Jesus; undoubtedly you have experienced growth in your life, too. Don't ever question your "reasonable service" for the Lord, with the reasoning of man. Remember the words in Isaiah "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord." According to human logic, Elijah would have never gone to live by a brook to survive; in the same land he had just declared a drought upon in the name of Almighty God. Neither would any person have told him to do that: it didn't make sense. It wouldn't take much common sense to know that the brook was going to dry up soon! But God said GO, and it was Elijah's "reasonable service" to go. That doesn't make sense to me, but it was reasonable for God, and it was sacrifice for Elijah.

Are you called to be reasonable, or are you called to sacrifice?

## NEWS

*\*Residential:* The current population is 22 (17 residents (all public), 2 toddlers, 1 infant, 2 day students). All of our houses are full now:

1. The Maple House is full with 7 residents. Bro. Jason and Sis. Joy welcomed Carolyn.

2. The Hickory House has 6 residents. Josh has graduated the program and returned home. Bro. Marc and Sis. Diann welcomed Philestine and Cody.

3. The Oak House continues to be full with 4 residents and 3 babies.

*\*Education:* Gateway Woods School is especially thankful to be hosting the 2007 Apostolic Church School Teacher's Conference, which will be held on February 16-17. We will be providing or arranging for seminar speakers, meeting rooms and meals.

*\*Staffing:* We want to extend a heartfelt thanks to Sis. Natalie Lehman for her almost 2 years of service at Gateway Woods as an Assistant Houseparent. We were blessed to have her and wish her God's blessings on her engagement and upcoming wedding.

We are also pleased to announce the hiring of Sis. Rachel Huber (West Lafayette) and Sis. Ann Jacobs (Bay City). Sis. Rachel will become the new Assistant Houseparent at the Maple House and Sis. Ann will become the new Assistant Houseparent at the Cypress House.

*\*Cypress House:* Construction on this new group home is going well so far. Due to some inspection delays we have revised our schedule for skilled volunteers. Please prayerfully consider sharing your talents at Gateway Woods. Please contact one of the Brothers below. Housing and food are provided.

Trim carpentry and cabinet installation start on January 22.

Flooring installation starts in

early February.

Bro. Bruce Schafer

Bro. Tim Sauder

C# (260) 437-9468

W# (260) 627-2159

tim.sauder@gatewaywoods.org

We want to extend our thanks again to all of you who have come out to volunteer so far. Your efforts are greatly appreciated and may God's richest blessings be upon you.

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## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL Athens, Alabama Melissa Slagel

School started back up the beginning of January after our two week Christmas break. December had been a very busy month, so everyone was ready for that break. All month we had been practicing and getting ready for our Christmas play. Leading up to the big night was quite an adventure. When you have 25 children each in a costume, memorized parts, songs, and places to stand, it seemed it would take a miracle to have it go even close to what we had planned. The day of the play, our cow, horse and even our Mary became sick and were unable to come. We weren't sure of our innkeeper either but then he pulled through for us. Then one of our wise men got a stomachache right before we walked in. As a result we were scrambling to clean up his costume. The angel's wings hung a little crooked, and our star had a little trouble shining through her tears. The sheep thought it would be better to not follow the shepherds, and the wise men were convinced their gifts for Jesus were for themselves, not for giving away. God provided and did perform a miracle for us. It turned out perfect and so adorable. Even if our stable held only a donkey and a dove, and a few things happened that



I don't remember rehearsing, the most important thing was Jesus was there in the manger, as well as filling that room.

January was a bit calmer of a month for all of us. Our themes for the month were families and manners. We learned about how important our families are and what family means to each of us. Manners were a bit more of a challenge. It seems to me that to a child covering his mouth when he sneezes, saying please and thank you, and refrain from burping as loudly as he can at the lunch table, just doesn't come as easily as we would like. The other day Brady burped while he was coloring. I said to him "Brady, what do you say?" He looked at me kind of perplexed and said "please?" Yes, children are a work in progress just like the rest of us. So we will continue to kindly remind and praise them big when they do remember to mind their manners.

Pajama day was an exciting day we had here at the preschool. The children got to wear their pajamas and slippers to school. The teachers were thinking that maybe we could get a quiet, sleepy-like day. We thought that maybe since the children were wearing bedtime clothes that they would be calm and relaxed. What were we thinking? The energy among them was pretty intense because they were so excited to be in their pajamas. It did make for a fun day and they were so sweet in their fuzzy pajamas. Even without the sleep-like part we all enjoyed the day.

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### ALABAMA, ATHENS Louise Hall

Once more we are thankful to the visiting ministers who have come this past month. Bro. Andy Witzig (Sis. Cindy, Morton, IL), Bro. Victor Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville, OH), Bro. Daron Price (Sis. Monica,

Milford, IN), and Bro. Ron Kipfer (Sis. Linda, Bluffton, IN). We appreciate all of your efforts. It is always an encouragement to have visitors with us.

Bro. Sam and Sis. Linda Schlatter from Junction, OH, spent a few weeks here in Athens recently. We love having them come each winter. Thank you to Bro. Sam for his efforts in the ministry and to both of them for all of their volunteer work as well as their encouraging presence.

We enjoyed spending an evening with a group from Fairbury and Forrest, IL. They were on their way to Biloxi, MS, to work on the World Relief project. Thank you for taking the route this way to visit us. We enjoyed having you all.

We were saddened to say goodbye to Sis. Ruby Ross. She had been in the nursing home and in and out of the hospital. The Lord called her home and we are thankful she will struggle no more. Our prayers go to her husband, Bro. Don Ross, and the rest of her family.

Our prayers also go to Sis. Doris Moore and her family in the passing of her brother, Junior Barnett. A few weeks later her sister-in-law, Dean Barnett, passed on as well. Saying goodbye is never easy so we pray that the Lord will provide them comfort.

Bro. Milton and Sis. Joyce Ray have a great-grandchild, Logan Durham, who is having some health complications. We pray for the Lord's healing hand upon him.

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### ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron and Ev Hoerr

"The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way."

*Psalm 37:23*

Oh! What a joyful fellowship day

December 24. Friends, members and families all sharing God's love, rejoicing to celebrate the happy day coming, when we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. We wish you all a blessed New Year, each day in Christ's love.

Our hospital patients were Bro. Jerry Tooley, Sis. Kathie Labudde, and Sis. Leona (Toni) Bentley.

Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich read the Conference letter with Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit) and Deacon Bro. Herb Knochel Jr. We were blessed also by the service of Bro. Kenneth Eisenmann (Cissna Park). May the Lord continue to feed His flock through our ministering brothers.

Psalm 100 quartet was in Phoenix on January 20 to bring us their lovely singing at a noon luncheon and after the evening meal. Oh, so inspiring and encouraging. We were also blessed with a little rain and some snow in the mountains.

Isn't it a joy that we have so much to thank our Lord for each day!

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### ARIZONA, PRESCOTT Jane Hodges

The wedding of Bro. Tyler Scott and Sis. Alexis Koehl (Bro. Randy and Sis. Shirley) took place in Morris, MN, on January 14. A reception is being held for them in Prescott on February 4. We welcome Sis. Alexis to our congregation.

We also welcome two families that have moved to the Prescott area. Bro. Tom and Sis. Kim Wackerle and daughter, Britney, arrived from Bay City, MI. Bro. Rodney and Sis. Denise came from Fairbury, IL, with their two daughters, Trinity and Kiley. We thank the Lord for their safe arrival and pray they will feel love and unity with us.

Our visiting ministers included: Bros. Allen Stoller (Sis. Susan,



Bluffton, IN), Darren Fehr (West Bend, IA), Jerry Isch (Sis. Linda, Philadelphia, PA) and Curt Kaufman (Sis. Caroline, Tucson, AZ). May the Lord bless them richly for their love and support.

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## ARIZONA, TUCSON

### Lisa Knapp

Our "snowbirds" have started arriving and it is always a blessing to see them start filling up our benches. I'm afraid our weather hasn't been up to their standards. We are having unusually cold weather with morning lows dipping to the 20's this past week, record setting temperatures for us. Our highs have been in the upper 40's and are now creeping into the 50's and are headed for the 60's. The sun is out but the breezy, cold conditions have been testing even the cheeriest Tucsonans. We hope to be basking in the mid 70's soon for our winter visitors' pleasure.

Bro. Curt and Sis. Caroline Kaufman are pleased to announce that their son, Carl, is engaged to marry Sara Robbins. A June wedding is being planned. We want to wish Carl and Sara God's richest blessings as they begin planning their lives together.

We want to welcome Bro. Drew Fehr (Washington, IL) to our little church. He will be here for several months working at the Caterpillar proving grounds. We are glad to have you assembling with us, Bro. Drew. One person makes a big impact on a small church.

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## CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

### Tina Jackson

The word "frosty" is often associated with the winter months in the Mid-west. However, it is not usually linked to the climate in Southern California. And yet, some of us living

in this typically warm and balmy area of the United States found ourselves experiencing snow flurries and icy road conditions this past week! In the last seven months, Southern California has experienced some of the warmest temperatures on record ... and some of the coldest! We can rejoice that God is ever present and never changing in a world of almost certain... uncertainties!

We were thankful for visiting ministers this month having traveled safely across the States to visit family members over the holidays. Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) shared in the ministering of God's Word. We are thankful for their willingness and joy in sharing the Gospel message with us.

Bro. Greg led a topical Bible study on Wednesday night from Hebrews. We were encouraged in the practice of the Apostle Paul's directive to "Let us... therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." (Hebrews 4:16)

How thankful we can be when we have obtained mercy in this life that sustains us unto the next. We extend our sympathy to the family of Bro. Doug and Sis. Sandy Aberle, in the passing of Doug's mother, Sis. Mary, from Sabetha, KS. Having served the Lord for many years and attaining the age of 97, her legacy lives on through the lives of her five children.

A memorial service was held for Walter Graf on January 15 in Ventura, CA. Walter has many friends and family who reside in the greater Los Angeles area and we extend our sympathy to each one.

We praise God that we have "a merciful and faithful high Priest" (Hebrews 2:17) that is "able also to save them to the uttermost that come

unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them". (Hebrews 7:25)

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## CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

### Yasmin Koehl

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Joanne Varga (Bro. Steve) as she was hospitalized this month. We are thankful that all went well and that she is once again assembling with us.

Spring always brings the warmth of visitors to our congregation! We were thankful for visiting ministering Bro. Jim Vierling (Sis. Linda, Eureka, IL) as he brought the Word of God across our pulpit and into our hearts. May the Lord richly bless him, his wife and the many other visitors who spent time with our small church.

"The Lord Jesus Christ be with thy spirit. Grace be with you."

*II Timothy 4:22*

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## KITCHENER, ONTARIO

### CANADA

### Kim Leman

We were reminded not to take our earthly blessings for granted, as we had opportunity to sing Christmas hymns at a homeless shelter in December. We have all been blessed with more than we need in so many ways, and it helps to put things in perspective when we see those who are struggling for daily living.

We thank ministering Bros. Lynn Fiechter (Sis. Ronda, Bluffton, IN) and Lucas Frank (Sis. Crystal, Detroit, MI) for their willing service to us.

Bro. Walter and Sis. Margaret Fortenbacher are rejoicing over the birth of a new grandchild. Cheyenne was born to Bro. Clint and Sis. Magdalena Schmidt. Paternal



grandparents are Bro. Dick and Sis. Mary Lou Schmidt (Winthrop, MN).

“Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.”

*Romans 12:15*

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Bro. Mike and Sis. Barb Ursu and their family as his mother, Sofia Ursu, passed from this life on January 6. We were always humbled and blessed to be near her in life, and now in her death, we can rejoice in the testimony of her faith in Jesus, and in the longing she had to be with the Lord.

Also in our prayers are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Alison Saddler, as his brother-in-law, Michael Storer, passed away suddenly on January 12.

Sis. Melanie Tomic's grandfather, Bro. Noah Blough (Sis. Marguerite, Alto, MI), went to his eternal reward on January 14. May God's Holy Spirit, our Comforter, be very near to these families as they grieve the loss of their loved ones.

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### **COLORADO, DENVER** **Ann Gonglach**

We've appreciated having many visitors who've been here enjoying our snow (which has come in abundance) and others who come every year at this time on business. Bro. Edward Sauder (Sis. Bonnie, Roanoke, IL) ministered to us and we were blessed by his efforts.

Welcome to Bro. Jeff Reinhard, who has moved to the Denver area from Minnesota. We are glad to have him fellowshiping with us.

Our prayers are with Sis. Lorraine Hohulin (Bro. Joe) as she recovers from surgery.

Tread in solitude your pathway,  
Quiet heart and undismayed.  
You will know things strange,

mysterious,  
Which to you no voice has said.  
While the crowd of petty hustlers  
Grasps at vain and meager things,  
You will see a great world rising  
Where soft sacred music rings.  
Leave the dusty road to others,  
Spotless keep your soul and bright,  
As the radiant ocean's surface  
When the sun is taking flight.

—*from the German of V.*

*Schoffel*

*as written in Streams in the  
Desert, by L. B. Cowman*

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### **CONNECTICUT** **ROCKVILLE** **Laura Virkler** **Amber Rocke**

“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.” With a new year before us, we hope that all are thankful for the blessings of this past year and full of courage to take on another, that the times and seasons of all our lives would prosper in a way that pleases our Lord.

Several families have been blessed this past month with the arrival of children. Bro. Nathan and Sis. Sarah Zahner had a baby boy, Wyatt Emmanuel, who joins a big brother, Aidan. Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Deb Crary and Bro. Curt and Sis. Sally Zahner. Bro. Matt and Sis. Cathryn Couzens had the joy of bringing home their baby girl from Russia, little Elisabeth Anne. We are thankful that all proceeded well and that they were able to travel safely back and forth so great a distance. She is a delightful little girl that in a few short weeks has endeared herself to our congregation. She joins her big brother Brendan, and grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Dorothy Virkler and Matt Sr. and Donna Couzens. Bro. Ben and Sis. Amber Rocke welcome a dear little boy, Tristan Caleb, as their first child. Grandparents are

Bro. Duane and Sis. Kay Reutter and Bro. Robyn and Sis. Jan Rocke (Eureka, IL). For all of these parents, we pray that God will protect and direct them in their efforts to raise their little ones.

Many prayers have been offered for our Bro. Paul Hany and his wife, Sis. Betsy, and their family as he underwent surgery again in the past days. We pray he recovers well and that he and his family will continue to feel the love and prayers of the congregation. Bro. Loren Gerber (Sis. Anne) also underwent surgery after an injury and is doing well. We hope a good recovery continues.

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### **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA** **WASHINGTON** **Henrietta Meyer**

“...and weep with them that weep.”

*Romans 12:15*

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Joe and Sis. Holly Bohart on the death of Bro. Joe's father, Jerry Bohart, of Dunlap, IL.

“I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord.”

*Psalms 122:1*

On January 7 we held our first services in our new church. We have been busy transforming areas into an assembly room, lunch room, baby room and two Sunday School rooms, while leaving much of the house to be a home.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Jerry Isch (Sis. Linda, Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Loren Schrenk (Sis. Betsy, St. Louis, MO), Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA) and Bro. Jedd Rocke (Sis. Marsha, Goodfield,



IL). Other visitors this month were from Altadena, CA; LaCrosse, IN; Nashville, TN; Forrest, IL; Philadelphia, PA; Sardis, OH; and Rockville, CT.

Directions to our new location depend on which way you are coming. The best suggestion is to contact the members listed below or in the minister's book for detailed directions, as they would have the directions near our phones. Due to the limited parking in the residential area, we need to know ahead of time how many visitors we will have. We may need to arrange for off-site parking.

With the new location there will be change in the times of our services. Morning service will begin at 10 am and the afternoon services will start at 12 noon. We trust that you will be patient with us as we go through these changes.

If you are planning to visit Washington, D.C. area for vacation or business, please call Bro. Adam and Sis. Liz Hermann (703) 212-7339 or Sis. Henrietta Meyer (703) 904-8301 for assistance and to let us know how many to expect for Sunday services. If you would like to get together on Saturday evening, please let us know that as well. We would be happy to have an evening of fellowship and/or singing.

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**FLORIDA  
FORT LAUDERDALE  
Renee Mangold**

We were blessed to have visiting ministers, Bro. Mike Baumann (Sis. Lilly, Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Joe Braker (Sis. Shirley, Morton, IL), share God's Word with us this past month.

Bro. Joe Braker also helped deliver our Communion exhortation. It's an important time to make sure that our lives are on track with the Lord and a reminder to be vigilant in

our Christian lives. We pray that God would give us clear sight into our hearts and the grace to change if needed.

Sis. Lisa Tortoriello had surgery this month. We were amazed and delighted when she was able to attend Sunday worship services with us only a few days after her surgery.

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**FLORIDA  
NORTH FORT MYERS  
Naomi Vogel**

As predicted, the snowbirds are arriving. Our head count last Sunday was 152 and more are on their way. It is so heartwarming to see who has arrived each week! We have such a blessed heritage!

Like we have done in the past, Wednesday night services will be held in Naples at the Best Western Motel at Exit 107 off Interstate 75 beginning January 17. This is in addition to our regular mid-week services at N. Ft. Myers.

We have been praying for some time for direction in selecting another minister to help Bros. Vic Beer and Marvin Steffen. Our Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz was with us on January 12 to seek a vote of support for Bro. Bill Masters. Our prayers have been answered!

Our pulpit was full on January 14. In addition to our own ministers, Bro. Ed Schwartz was still with us as well as Bros. Gary Bucher (Valparaiso, IN) and Jon Zeller (Morton, IL). Our new minister, Bro. Bill Masters had the afternoon service. It was evident that the Holy Spirit was speaking through him! We appreciate your willingness to serve us and our great God, Bro. Bill!

We rejoice with Curt and Sis. Jane Huette on the birth of a new grandson, Naveen Christopher. Naveen's parents are Chris Huette and his wife, Deepa, who live in Bloomington,

Illinois. Sis. Velda Huette of Forrest is his great-grandmother.

Another one of our snowbirds has been called to his heavenly home. We will miss Bro. Earl Steffen and extend our sincere sympathy to his wife, Sis. Kay, and their family, as well as his sister and brother-in-law, Bro. Don and Sis. Gladys Kaufmann, who winter with us.

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**FLORIDA, SARASOTA  
Robin Wiegand**

We enjoyed the blessing of a number of visiting ministers: Bros. Glen Braker and Erik Givens (Princeville, IL), Bro. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL) and our own Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL). Thanks to each one for making the effort to come and have the willingness to serve.

Our friend, Bernie Kittl, was hospitalized and is recuperating in a nursing facility. We offer our prayers on his behalf.

We had our annual business meeting and a number of changes in duties were approved. Sis. Kim Ott will be serving as a Sunday School teacher and Sis. DiAnne Brown as a substitute. Bro. Timm Kaeb was supported to serve as Trustee and Bro. Mark Koehl for another term as Treasurer. Sis. Colleen Reardon received support to serve another term on the Kitchen Committee and Sis. DiAnne Brown will be assisting with Silver Lining reporting. We thank all those who have completed their terms of service for their many efforts in the Lord's work.

The Sunday School recently enjoyed a memorable field trip.

May this find you all well and thankfully blessed.

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**GEORGIA, ATLANTA****Melinda Gramm**

We started the New Year joyfully with the engagement of Sis. Erika Stoller (Bro. Linn and Sis. Brenda) to Bro. Kevin Kipfer (Bro. Ron and Sis. Linda of Bluffton). We pray that God will guide you as you plan and prepare for your wedding.

We appreciate all our visitors who assemble with us in Atlanta and are especially thankful for the visiting ministers who make the effort to come. Thank you to Bro. Nate Wieland (Sis. Suzanne, Goodfield, IL) who ministered to us in January.

**ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE****Sheila McCoy****Doreen Moser**

When upon life's billows you are  
tempest tossed,  
When you are discouraged think-  
ing all is lost,  
Count your many blessings, name  
them one by one,  
And it will surprise you what the  
Lord hath done.  
*Hymns of Zion*

One of the unmistakable blessings I count is our congregation in Belvidere. We have been blessed to have Bro. Rod and Sis. Anne Anliker and their son, Lane, assemble with us. They have moved from Chicago to the Madison, WI, area.

We are sorry one of our blessings, Keith Kellenberger, will be relocating. He will be moving to Kansas City for a different job.

Bro. Brian and Sis. Peggy Anliker have been blessed with a baby boy. Clint's siblings are Derek, Jill, Krista, Grant, Todd, and Leah. Grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Edie Anliker (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Arlene Banwart (Congerville, IL).

Sis. Jan (Chad) Wettstein will be teaching the first, second and third grades of Sunday School. We pray she may find this position a blessing. We thank Sis. Peggy Anliker for her time as a Sunday School teacher.

Taking a walk in the beginning of December, I noticed several dandelions blooming. Since we live in Wisconsin this was an unusual sighting. Then we received 12 inches of snow. When it all melted, again, I sighted these little, yellow wildflowers. Now we are well into January 2007 and the dandelions are still brightening the landscape and my heart. But they are much more allusive now that there are only a few blossoms visible. When I walk, I must make a point to look for the dandelions or they can be easily missed. Let's remember to count our blessings and not take for granted the blessings God has surrounded us with.

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

Visiting ministers included Bros. Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN), John Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and Ken Wuethrich and Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN). We thank all of you for your service for our benefit.

Our dear Sis. Lenora Sorg reached her eternal reward on December 22. Our prayers and sympathies go to her family, including daughter, Vonnice (Carl) Marcum, and stepchildren, Suzanne (Richard) Crawford and Roger (Mirian) Sorg. We also are praying for Sis. Glady (Bro. Don) Kaufmann at the passing of her brother.

Our congregation was blessed to witness the marriage of our Sis. Marla Schieler and Bro. Jaron Huber on January 7. Their parents are Bro. Darl and Sis. Cindy Schieler of India-

napolis and Bro. Dave and Sis. Debbie Huber. May God bless you as you establish your new home.

**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD****Steve Endress**

Our church held our annual business meeting in which we selected brothers to assume responsibilities in the church. Bro. Bill Ringger (Sis. Karen) was selected to replace Bro. David Klumpp (Sis. Barb) as a trustee. Bro. Steve Endress was selected to replace Bro. Tyler Joos (Sis. Tonya) as an usher. We appreciate the efforts of the out-going brothers and wish the incoming brothers the grace of God to carry out their responsibilities with joy and willingness.

Our prayers have been with Bro. Clarence Bruell (Sis. Sharon) during his recent knee surgery and recovery. He would like to thank all for your prayers, cards, visits, and telephone calls during this time. They were greatly appreciated.

January 6 was the wedding date of Aaron Ehnle (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Jane) and Katie Loesch (John and Lynda, Princeville, IL). We wish them God blessings as they establish their home in Congerville. We are thankful that recently they have each turned to the Lord in repentance and are seeking their souls' salvation.

**ILLINOIS, CHICAGO****Rachel Meyer**

Greetings from Chicago. Although it has been a quiet month, "news-wise," we were privileged to commemorate Christ's birth as well as welcome the New Year with worship services.

It is a pleasure to welcome Anna Keeley from Bloomington, IL, as she has moved to the Chicago area for



employment. We look forward to having Anna with us and getting to know her.

We greatly appreciated the visit of Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH). We encourage parents who have children in our area to visit often. It was a special blessing to have Bro. Don minister the pure Word to us.

We had our annual business meeting recently. It is a blessing that so many brothers and sisters are willing to take up the various duties to help the church function smoothly, to the honor and glory of God.

We are praying for our friend, Gary Halfer, who has been diagnosed with cancer. He will be undergoing surgery soon, and we pray for recovery of health and God's grace for every need.

Just a thought...the past few weeks have been challenging for me at work. One of the children is desperately struggling and turns to anger in order to communicate. Just this morning God reminded me: "A soft answer turneth away wrath..." Proverbs 15:1.

May God be with you all.

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**ILLINOIS  
CHAMPAIGN-URBANA  
Jackie Eisenmann**

Greetings from Champaign-Urbana! Sunday, December 17, was a busy day for our congregation. The Sunday school presented their Christmas program in the afternoon. They reminded us that "God's construction plan for salvation" did not begin in Bethlehem, but "In the beginning". They took us back to creation and brought us through the ages until the birth of Christ. We are thankful for the wonderful reminder of God's plan for mankind, including each of us. After the program, the Sunday school and others went Christmas caroling to several nurs-

ing homes. It was a blessing to sing songs of joy to the elderly and less fortunate. After caroling we reassembled at church for the annual chili supper. The meal and fellowship was enjoyed by everyone.

We had the opportunity to listen to the recordings of the Conference on Wednesday evenings this month. We are thankful for the wisdom and commitment of our Elder body.

The visiting minister this month was Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle) from Philadelphia.

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**ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK  
Pam Walder  
Janie Waldbeser**

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord..."

*Psalm 127:3*

Thankful for the safe arrival of baby Julia Marie are grandparents, Urban and Sis. Judy Edelman. Julia's parents are Jason and Madonna Edelman.

Visiting us on the pulpit this month were Bros. Dan Moser (Elgin, IL), Tom Waldbeser (Atlanta, GA), Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL) and Ken Schneider (Remington, IN). May God reward them for their untiring efforts for the Lord.

In the hospital this month were Bro. Les (Sis. Arlene) Stock, Bro. Ed (Sis. Marge) Alt, Bro. Alvin (Sis. Dorothy) Rudin, and Bro. Marvin (Sis. Carolyn) Hari. We pray for their continued healing and strength.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Arlene (George) Moser who passed away this month. Her sisters-in-law from our congregation are Sis. Caroline Gudeman and Sis. Mary Hofbauer.

We were blessed to hear our Sunday School children bring us the Christmas story through song and

verse at our Christmas program. May God bless each child for their efforts.

Our annual church business meeting was held January 10. We thank each brother and sister who is fulfilling their term for their labors for our church.

Finishing their terms are: Bro. Melvin (Sis. Marilyn) Young, trustee; Bro. Alvin (Sis. Dorothy) Rudin, fellowship hall committee; Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Denise Kaeb, and Sis. Beth (Bro. Rod) Steffen for Sunday School terms. We lend our support to the brothers and sisters chosen to fulfill their duties: Bro. Wes (Sis. Lisa) Kaufmann, trustee; Bro. Steve (Sis. Cheryl) Eisenmann, fellowship hall committee; Bro. Mark and Sis. Janie Waldbeser and Sis. Vickie (Bro. David) Maul, Sunday School.

We extend a special thanks to Sis. Andrea Walder for her three years of writing the Silver Lining.

*Note of Thanks:*

I wish to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, gifts and food that was brought in, and the good help with the housework before and since my hospitalization. May God bless each and every one of you.

*Sis. Judy Edelman*

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**ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE  
Rachel Schrock**

Recently we were privileged to have the Memorandum letter read and expounded upon to our congregation. There were so many good thoughts brought forth, but one that really stood out was that we are called to be steadfast but not implacable. To be steadfast is to be firmly rooted without compromise in the Word of God. To be implacable is to be stubborn, unpeaceable, surly and unmerciful. So often, the difference



between the two is simply a spirit of meekness.

Thankfulness is extended to those who bring forth God's Word, helping us to become more firmly rooted and grounded. Our visiting ministers this past month include Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl, Rockville, CT) and Bros. Tim Zimmerman (Sis. Barbara, Lamont-Gridley, KS), Brent Kellenberger (Sis. Beth, Kansas City, MO), Jedd Rocke (Sis. Marsha, Goodfield, IL), Dan Goric (Sis. MaryLou, Rockville, CT), and Greg Stoller (Sis. Jill, Forrest, IL).

It is strengthening to hear how the Lord has been working in the hearts of dear souls. The weekend of January 7, we welcomed Sam Virkler (Bro. John and Sis. Maureen) and Erin Zimmerman (Bro. Ben and Sis. Kathy) into the family of God. May they continue to nurture their spiritual lives as they walk this earthly life.

Even as these trees are bursting forth with new fruit, another tree is beginning to bud! We rejoice with Jennifer Luthi (Bro. Troy and Sis. Vanessa) as she turns to the Lord in repentance.

We are always filled with wonder when a new tree sprouts with life, either through a new babe in Christ or through the birth of a new baby on this earth. We extend our congratulations to Bro. Jim and Sis. Sarah Schrock on the birth of their first child, Moriah Ann. She was born on December 27, 2006.

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### ILLINOIS, ELGIN

**Amy Gasser  
Miriam Gasser**

"He giveth snow like wool: he scattereth the hoarfrost like ashes. He casteth forth his ice like morsels: who can stand before his cold? He sendeth out his word, and melteth

them: he causeth his wind to blow, and the waters flow."

*Psalms 147:16-18*

After some warm and dry winter months, we are now experiencing snow, ice, and cold, as the psalm writer mentioned. However, the handiwork of our great Creator is evident in the beauty of a snow-covered landscape and icy branches glistening in the sun.

We were blessed by the exhortations and encouragement of our visiting ministers and thank Bros. Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL), Dan Koch (Tremont, IL), and Alan Schambach (Remington, IN) for their services.

The passing of Bro. Earl Steffen (Sis. Kathryn, Morton, IL) on December 21 brought many relatives and friends together for his funeral on December 27. It was held in Elgin, where he lived for most of his 75 years. The services were conducted by retired ministering Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Jon Zeller (Morton, IL). May loving memories of Bro. Earl and the peace of God comfort the surviving family members: his wife, Sis. Kathryn; his daughters, Sis. Susan Zimmerman (Bro. Mike) and Sis. Linda Fehr (Dave) of Morton, IL; his sons, ministering Bro. Dean (Sis. Carol) of Belvidere, IL, and Bro. Larry (Sis. Sue) of Denver, CO; his grandchildren, great-grandchildren, brothers, and sisters—two of whom attend our Elgin church. They are Sis. Louise and Sis. Lenora Steffen.

Our sympathy also goes to the family of Rick Schmidgall (Sis. Cindy), whose mother passed away in Morton, IL, in late December.

The annual business meeting was held January 17. Along with the presentation of reports on church funds and facilities, our meeting involved the selection of some new trustees.

Bro. Greg Anliker was chosen to replace Bro. Bryan Kellenberger as church trustee, and Bro. Mark Gasser will replace Bro. Gary Steffen as trustee of our Fellowship Center.

Sis. Hilde Schumacher (Bro. Georg) has been hospitalized with a heart condition but is improving and may be discharged in the near future. It is fortunate that the Schumachers' previous caregiver has returned from Poland and plans to stay with them for a few months.

Our thoughts and prayers are also with Sis. Jeannette Kilgus (Bro. Dick), whose declining health prevents her from assembling with us anymore. We will miss her inspiring presence and know that she will be with us in spirit. May God continue to supply this couple with daily grace and help to meet their special needs.

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### ILLINOIS, EUREKA

**Cindy Stoller  
Heather Beutel**

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

On January 7, Bro. Daniel Knecht (Elder Bro. Ervin and Sis. Sandy) and Sis. Kelly Blunier (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Livy) were united in holy matrimony. On the same day we heard of the engagement announcement of Bro. Brett Gutwein (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Wendy, Forrest, IL) to Sis. Jennifer Martin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Marilyn). We rejoice with these couples and wish them God's blessings as they embark on this new path of life.

On the wedding day we had several visiting ministers to share in the occasion, including Elder Bro. Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL), and Bros. Jeff Grimm and Jaye Rinkenberger, (Goodfield, IL), Tony Manz (Junc-



tion, OH), and Brian Huber (Francesville, IN). We thank them for their willingness to spend and be spent on our behalf and in the vineyard of the Lord.

We bid a final farewell to our Sis. Esther Lienemann, after she spent a few months assembling with us in Eureka. She moved here from Minneapolis, MN. We will miss her sweet smile among us. We also express condolences to our Sis. Ruby Grusy, in the loss of her sister, Louise Gudeman (Cissna Park, IL). It is truly a reminder that this earthly life is temporal and we will all be called to give an account some day.

A few months ago, we unintentionally omitted the birth of Walker Alan, born to Brent and Jessica Martin. His grandparents are Bro. Alan and Sis. Sharon Martin and Dennis and Joy Crouch. We rejoice with them in the happiness of their first born.

*Note of Thanks:*

We wish to express our sincere appreciation for the many prayers, gifts of love, cards, calls and visits rendered from our church family and friends while Bro. Lewis was in the hospital and nursing home. We give all praise and honor to our loving God for the great miracles and healing power He has shown, as now Bro. Lewis is home recuperating. We continue to lean on His much needed grace and promises.

In His Love,

*Bro. Lewis and Sis. Arletta Martin*

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**ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY**

**Anna Schmidgall**

**Lila Fehr**

We were blessed to welcome quite a few visitors "home" for the holidays and for us here in Fairbury, that usually means visiting ministers. We are thankful for the following ministers

who were with us this month: Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA), and Bros. Darren Fehr (West Bend, IA), Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL), Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA), Al Schambach (Remington, IN), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN), Harvey Kuenzi (Silverton, OR) and Nate Wieland (Goodfield, IL).

Our hospital patients were Bro. Duane Kilgus, Levi Steidinger (Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish), Sis. Mary Ifft and Bro. Dale Mowery. All are home and recovering with the exception of Bro. Duane who is recovering at Fairview Haven for a short time.

The Lord has given our Bro. Kevin and Sis. Katie Meiss a little boy to "train up in the way that he should go". Eli Ray has two siblings, Darla and Twyla, and his grandparents are Bro. Carlos and Sis. Jane Meiss and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Donna Kaisner.

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**ILLINOIS, FORREST**

**Jill Wenger**

**Lori Leman**

The Forrest congregation has three new babies to report this month. Brooke Marie was born to Bro. Ben and Sis. Melissa Zimmerman and siblings, Rebekah, Leah and Caleb. Brooke's thankful grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Sally Rinkenberger and Bro. Paul and Sis. Loretta Zimmerman. Enjoying a third son is Bro. Tory and Sis. Wendy Zimmerman with the birth of Simon Wade. Big brothers waiting to play with him are Tyrel and Kenton. Grandparents are Sis. Kathy Dotterer and the late Bro. Wendell Dotterer and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Nancy Zimmerman. Excited over the arrival of a first son is Bro. Mike and Sis. Marsha Lanz. Micah Lee Lanz is especially loved by his big sisters, Marissa and Mikayla, and

grandparents, Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary Bachtold and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Lavonne Lanz.

The engagement of Sis. Jennifer Martin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Marilyn) of Eureka, IL, to Bro. Brett Gutwein (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Wendy) was recently announced. We pray the Lord will be with them throughout this special time in their lives.

We are rejoicing in the goodness of God still calling souls to repentance and a changed life. Calvin Teubel (Bro. John and Sis. Lavonne) and Wes Ifft (Bro. Larry and Sis. Shirley) have made a beginning in repentance. May the Lord grant them grace sufficient for each day to overcome and live a life for Him.

Those spending time in the hospital were Bro. Paul (Sis. Edna) Wiegand and Sis. Aldine Wackerle, Blake Hall (Bro. Don and Barb) and Lorene Boner. May these dear ones feel His presence and comfort in their time of need.

We are so thankful for our servants in the Lord who preach the Word in season and out of season all year long. Those visiting us were Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL), Bro. Harvey Kuenzi (Silverton, OR), Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Bro. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL), Bro. Darren Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL).

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**ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD**

**Amber Grimm**

**Rita Bauman**

We thank those who have visited and provided His word to us this past month. They are Bros. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS), Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL), Ed Sauder (Sis. Bonnie, Roanoke, IL), and Matt Kaufmann (Sis. Rebekah, Bloomington, IL). May God bless each one for their labors.

Our church has been blessed with



two little baby boys. Bro. Dan and Sis. Kayla Wiegand welcome home their first child, Peyton Daniel, born January 5. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Lori Wiegand, and Bro. Harvey and Sis. Debra Joos (Morris, MN). Andrew Dean was born on January 26 to Jason and Kim Zimmerman. Keegan is happy to have a little brother to play with. His thankful grandparents are Sis. Inge (late Bro. Dean) Zimmerman, and Jim and Sarah Aeschleman (Eureka, IL).

“Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved: for thou art my praise.”

*Jeremiah 17:14*

Bro. Wes Hohulin (Sis. Joyce) spent some time in the hospital this month as well as Bro. Art Wiegand (Sis. Pam). We wish them God’s healing.

*Note of Thanks:*

We wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for the many cards we received on our 60th Wedding Anniversary. We are again reminded of how truly blessed we are with our church family and our own family of children, relatives and friends. You helped to make our day a very special one. May God richly bless you for your love and kindness extended to us. God is so good.

Our Love,

*Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Mildred  
Heinold*

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### **ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry A. Klopfenstein**

We were saddened by the passing of our dear friend of the truth, Orville Rinkenberger, 82. He died on December 8, 2006, at the Meadows Home. His wife of 60 years, Elaine

Lampe Rinkenberger, survives him. He is survived also by two daughters, Kathy Taylor, Gridley, and Ruth Dunn, Yuma, AZ; and a son, Mike Rinkenberger, Gridley; two brothers, Bro. Raymond Rinkenberger, Mackinaw, and Bro. David Rinkenberger, Elgin; five sisters, Sisters Esther Kaupp, Gridley, Ruth Lowery and Dorothy Harsh, Bloomington, Verna Lukehart, Ocala, FL, and Eleanor King, Pewaukee, WI. He is further survived by 10 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by two brothers, two sisters and a son, Joe.

At worship in late January, a Zion’s Harp song spoke to our hearts, especially as we noted the nation’s strong affection for worldly things and competitive pleasures. A brother from the audience gave off a most appropriate hymn from page 65:

One thing’s needful Then, Lord  
Jesus,  
Keep this one thing in my mind:  
All besides, though first it please  
us,  
Soon a grievous yoke we find.  
Beneath which the heart  
is fretting and stewing,  
no true lasting happiness ever de-  
riving.  
The gain of this one thing  
all loss can requite,  
And teach me in all things  
To find true delight.

Bro. Elmer Witzig had a second surgery and is now recovering at home. He is improving. Bro. Steve Stortz is recovering from pneumonia.

As mentioned previously, Bro. Roy and Sis. Bertha Funk have moved to the Eureka Home, and we are now listing their address at that locale: 610 W. Cruger, Eureka, Illinois.

Our sympathies are with Bro. Jerome and Sis. Mary Witzig and Bro. Art and Sis. Twyla Schlipf over the passing of their nephew, Christopher Chadwick, of Morton.

Our church has been mindful to pray for the Elder brothers during their meeting at Bern, KS, during February 7-9.

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### **ILLINOIS, MACOMB Norm and Janis Rechkemmer Kevin Frank**

“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them.”

*Matthew 18:20*

We have certainly felt God’s wonderful presence in our Wednesday evening services in Macomb. After moving to Macomb, we wanted to provide a place for fellow believers in the area to gather and worship together. Services are being held in the home of Bro. Norm and Sis. Janis Rechkemmer. We are especially trying to contact all those attending Western Illinois University and invite them to come and fellowship with us. Elder Bros. Kent Heimer and Jon Schmidgall have provided guidance and encouragement in organizing these services. We began services in October and the following brothers have so willingly come to lead us in God’s Word: Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO), Bro. Dale Frank (Sis. Tina, Oakville, IA), Bro. Steve Sauder (Sis. Mary, Tremont, IL), Bro. Tim Hohulin (Sis. Cathy, Roanoke, IL), Bro. Matthew Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville, IL) and Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Sis. Peg, Goodfield, IL).

Our thoughts and prayers are with Diana Wagenbach as she leaves for Spain to continue her college



studies this semester. We wish her God's blessings and look forward to her returning to WIU this fall.

The Lord willing, we will have Wednesday evening services two times a month while scheduling around Western IL University calendar. Following are the dates planned for this semester: January 31, February 14 and 28, March 21, April 4 and 18 and May 2. We continue to search for more students to gather with us and would appreciate everyone's help in spreading the word. If you are planning to worship with us, please call ahead to confirm our schedule and get directions. Song services begin at 7:15 p.m. Contacts are Bro. Norm and Sis. Janis Rechkemmer (309) 231-0098 and Bro. Kevin Frank (319) 759-1884.

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### ILLINOIS, MORTON

**Annette Tanner  
Julie Bahr**

The New Year began with Family Worship Night led by Bro. Ted Witzig Jr. teaching us on "Dealing with Stress, Worry and Anxiety". He challenged us to at least remind ourselves often of the scripture St. John 14:27. It is so good to be reminded!

Patience is waiting on God's timing! In God's timing came the news of the engagement of Sis. Erica Stoller, now of Morton, to Bro. Kevin Kipfer of Atlanta. Sis. Erica is the daughter of Bro. Linn and Sis. Brenda Stoller of Atlanta and Bro. Kevin is the son of Bro. Ron and Sis. Linda Kipfer from Bluffton, IN. What a privilege for Morton to share in this step of their lives.

Sis. Melissa Heinold (Bro. Mike and Sis. Pam), Sis. Penny Zaugg (Bro. Norm and Sis. Polly, West Bend) and Bro. Fred Sollberger (Sis. Elaine) were privileged to share their Christian testimonies with us on January 13 and were baptized the fol-

lowing day. What an awesome time to listen in on the spiritual experiences God imparts on each soul who yields to His tender call.

With grateful hearts we want to thank the Washington church choir for taking part in our monthly hymn singing evening. We also want to thank our visiting ministers, Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla) and Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridgett), both of Chicago, IL; Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sara, Bloomington, IL), Bro. Tim Roecker (Sis. Diane, Peoria, IL) and Bro. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL). "Thanks" never seems to show enough gratitude to those who give of themselves in God's service.

Again this month we report of several loved ones who have passed on. Bro. Earl Steffen went to his Heavenly home on December 21. Bro. Earl is survived by his wife, Sis. Kay; and also by children, Sis. Sue Zimmerman (Bro. Mike), Sis. Linda Fehr (Bro. Dave), Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol) and Bro. Larry Steffen (Sis. Susan). On December 31, Ben Kaufman passed away. Angels rejoiced that Ben came to know His Savior in recent days before passing. Ben is survived by four sons and one sister: Bro. Mike (Sis. Jill) Kaufman, John (Janice) Kaufman, Neal (Barbara) Kaufman, Dennis (Sharmon) Kaufman, and Sis. Ann Kaiser. Our hearts ached for Bro. Herman and Sis. Oleda Menold in the loss of their beloved grandson, Christopher Chadwick, son of David and Susan Chadwick. We ask for God's healing touch and His comforting presence for each one.

#### *Note of Thanks:*

We would like to thank everyone for the visits, phone calls, and many beautiful cards we received following our car accident. Also thanks to the

staff, nurses and the therapists at the Roanoke Nursing Home for the love they showed during Howard's recuperation. Lastly, thank you for the many prayers that were said in our behalf. We are so blessed to have such a wonderful church family. God bless you all.

*Bro. Howard and Sis. Helen Zobrist*

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### ILLINOIS, PEORIA Kristin Menold Carissa Klopfenstein

January 7 was a special day for our congregation as we witnessed the baptisms of three converts, Bro. David Sauder III (Bro. David II and Sis. Rachel Sauder), Sis. Emily Kieser (Bro. Mark and Sis. Cathy Kieser) and Sis. Tarla Gibbs. Sis. Tarla is married to Steve Gibbs and they have two daughters, Taylor and Tara. Tarla's parents are Bro. Lewis and Sis. Arletta Martin from Eureka. We were happy to have Elder Bro. Jim Plattner from Princeville with us for this weekend along with Elder Bro. Tim Funk, and our Deacon, Bro. Ken Hoerr. We wish you God's blessings and continued grace as you begin this new stage of life.

Joshua Eli Rumbold was born on December 22. His parents are Bro. Russ II and Sis. Peg Rumbold of Peoria. He is welcomed by his older brothers, Jonah and Josiah, and sister, Jaden. Grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Frances Knobloch from Princeville, and Ralph I and Sis. Roma Rumbold from Princeville. Congratulations! We are so happy for you.

We thank Bro. Ed Sauder (Roanoke) for his message at our Family Night on January 3. We appreciate his insights and applications to living Spiritually on the Mountain Top.

December 30 - January 6 a group



from the Peoria area traveled to Jamaica for a mission trip. Bro. Ken Hoerr led the mission trip, which consisted of about 50 people, mostly college students from Central Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan. The group worked on a construction project with CCCD in Granville, a suburb of Montigo Bay. In addition to working on a roof and wall in the school campus, the group visited the infirmary and the orphanage. Some of the blessings of this trip included learning to work together on the construction project, learning from discussions, and being able to do something to help the students at CCCD. The group wishes to thank Bro. Greg and Sis. Beth Herman and Bro. Ken and Sis. Darlene Hoerr for organizing the trip.

Our annual business meeting was held on Sunday, January 14. At this meeting, two new Brothers, Bro. Neil Banwart and Bro. Craig Stickling, and two new Sisters, Sis. Kathy Huthmann and Sis. Janelle Brewer, were put in as Sunday School teachers. The new trustee that was voted in was Bro. Tim Feucht, who is taking the place of Bro. Robert Hoerr.

Your prayers are requested for Tyler Hoerr that he would have a successful surgery and quick recovery.

We wish you God's blessing as you begin the New Year.

"Grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, to Him be glory both now and forevermore."

*II Peter 3:18*

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**ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE**  
**Vera Baer**  
**Connie Christ**

We thank our visiting ministers for being willing servants in bringing God's message to us this past month. May God bless Bros. Brad

Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), John Grimm (Columbus, OH), Fred Witzig (Indianapolis, IN) and Ned Stoller (Alto, MI) for their labors.

Our prayers are with Kenny Riley as he has been in the hospital. Also we remember our Sis. Janet Joos and Bro. Nick (Sis. Gladys) Knobloch as they have been struggling with illnesses, and we miss their presence when they are unable to assemble with us. May God be very near all our loved ones and their families as they go through these trials.

Aaron Ehnle (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Jane, Bradford, IL) and Katie Loesch (John and Lynda) were married on January 6. We rejoice with them to hear they are repenting and seeking to submit to God's will for their lives as they begin their married life together. May God's blessings and grace be with them.

We also extend our sympathy and prayers to our Sis. Dianne (Bro. Marvin) Knobloch in the loss of her sister, Sis. Elaine Kellenberger (Lester, IA).

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**ILLINOIS, ROANOKE**  
**Dee Fehr**  
**Judy Sauder**

Psalm 116:15: "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." Bro. Gerald (Jerry) Hodel went to be with the Lord on December 27. His survivors include his wife, Betty; a son, Kyle (Margi); a daughter, Lori Washer, and her fiancé, Jeff Sparks; seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Also surviving are three brothers, Bro. Roy (Sis. Helen) Hodel (Gridley), and Bro. Jim (Sis. Doris) Hodel and Bro. Bill (Sis. Betty) Hodel (Roanoke), two sisters, Sis. Dorothy (Bro. Marvin) Schmidgall (Eureka) and Sis. Malinda (Bro. Lloyd) Gerber (Roanoke). He was preceded in death by one brother and four sisters.

Donald Conner passed away December 19. His survivors include several brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law in our congregation. They are Sis. Mabel (Bro. Dick) Getz, Sis. Luella Sauder, Sis. Dorothy Sauder, and Bro. John (Sis. Esther) Sauder.

Graveside services were held for Jan Blunier of Austin, Texas, who passed away January 3. She was the daughter of the late Bro. Edward and Sis. Annabelle Blunier of Roanoke. Her survivors include her husband, Julian Rodriguez, five children: Ashley, Leelah, Douglas, Tony, and Christina, all of Austin, and a brother, Edward (Deborah), of Roanoke. We extend our love and deepest sympathy to these dear families who are bereft of loved ones. May the Lord comfort them and help to fill the vacancies that are left in their family circles.

Psalm 127:4-5: "As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed..." Greg and Rachel Braman became parents of Holly Reneé on December 12. Her older sister and brother are Brooke and Luke. Happy grandparents are Bro. Harland and Sis. Martha Braker of Roanoke and Roger and Alice Braman of Goodfield.

Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Sis. Deb, Peoria, IL) assisted Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman in the reading of the Memorandum on January 10. Some of the topics discussed were "Shared Stewardship", "The Joy of Walking in Truth", "End of Life Decisions", and "God's Enduring Love". We appreciate the loving and timely teachings and exhortations that were shared.

Luke 15:7: "...likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth..." Brock and Jodi Gerber have turned to the Lord in repen-



tance. Their parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Ann Knepp (Roanoke) and Bro. Roger and Sis. Trish Gerber (Goodfield). We rejoice with them and wish them God's blessings as they begin their walk of faith.

*Notes of Thanks:*

We want to thank everyone for their expressions of love, cards, prayers, food and memorials to the Eureka Home, during the short illness and loss of our father and grandfather, Bro. Slim Hodel. Also, we appreciate the wonderful care he received at the Home.

*The Slim Hodel family*

Thank you to my friends and family who remembered me on my 88th birthday and Christmas with beautiful cards, gifts and flowers. A special thanks to everyone at the Roanoke Home. God bless each of you for your thoughtfulness.

*Sis. Doris Bowald*

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**ILLINOIS, TREMONT**

**Teresa Rowell  
Sheri Allen**

As we gathered together for our Christmas Day service, we were thankful to have Bro. Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN) visiting our congregation. It was nice to have Bro. Dewayne and his family here.

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

*Genesis 2:24*

Also visiting this month were Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA). They came for the January 7 wedding of Sis. Sharon Koch and Bro. Rustin Schmidgall (Morris, MN). Sis. Sharon's parents are Bro.

Roger and Sis. Sally Koch. We were blessed with many visitors that weekend and were able to have a church singing on Saturday night. We wish Bro. Rustin and Sis. Sharon God's richest blessings as they begin their lives together as a married couple.

"Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart."

*Psalm 37:4*

We are excited to announce the engagement of our Sis. Cherie Schweigert to Bro. Drake Moser (Bluffton, IN). Sis. Cherie's parents are Willard and Della Schweigert. It is so wonderful to see God working in their lives.

"Thy hands have made me and fashioned me; give me understanding, that I may learn Thy commandments."

*Psalm 119:73*

Rejoicing over the birth of their precious baby boy are Bro. Landon and Sis. Teresa Rowell.

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**ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON**

**Nancy Knepp  
Elizabeth Heinold**

We were thankful to have Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL) this month. He encouraged us to "press toward the mark" in this new year.

Our Sis. Ida Pfaffmann went home to be with the Lord this month. Our sympathy to Bro. Max and Sis. Mary and Bro. Robert and Sis. Lily Pfaffmann as they said goodbye to their mother. Shortly before Christmas, Sis. Linda and Dave Fehr said goodbye to their father, Bro. Earl Steffen (Sis. Kay), of Morton, IL. It's a beautiful verse that reminds us of

God's perspective on the death of a believer, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." (Psalm 116:15)

Our prayers are with Sis. Esther Banwart and Sis. Vickie Hodel as they were both surgical patients. We pray that the Lord's healing hand would be on them.

We rejoice with Nate and Lynette Schick and big sister, Laura, with the birth of their little boy, John Carl. Grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Sally Fritz and Bro. Tom and Sis. Carol Schick.

Our prayers go with Bro. Drew Fehr as he spends a few months in Tucson, AZ, with his job.

One evening, just after we had gotten the children settled in bed, the power went out and our house went pitch black. Right away there were cries from the bedrooms, "Mom! ... Dad!" I was amazed how hard it was for me to navigate through my own familiar house to their rooms. Once we got a flashlight on, we were all drawn to the light it made. Thankfully, Jesus came to this dark world and shines brightly today. Let's never stop being drawn to this beautiful, life changing light.

"For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

*II Cor. 4:6*

*Note of Thanks:*

Words cannot express how very much we appreciate and are sustained by the outpouring of love of so many during my recent surgery and in the time since then. Our merciful Heavenly Father will surely bless your kind hearts for your love and prayers. Isaiah 41:10

*Sis. Esther Banwart*



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## INDIANA, BLUFFTON

**Amber Steffen**

**Amy Gerber**

**Jan Schwartz**

As we've passed through another holiday season and into the next year, it's exciting to think about where God will take us in the next year. Scripture reminds us to "... Set your heart and soul to seek the Lord your God..." (I Chronicles 22:19)

Again, we were reminded of how our minds should be focused on God as two brothers spoke on January 14 as part of our "Defending the Faith" topical presentations on present day issues. This talk served to inspire each present about the sinful world full of lost souls who don't know where to turn. We are thankful for their willingness to be used in this area and for the time and effort they put into this inspiring evening.

The Bluffton congregation was also thankful for the presence of Bro. Vernon Wettstein and his wife, Sis. Judith (Congerville, IL), this last month. It is always greatly appreciated to hear from God's Word through His servants!

We would also like to welcome into the Bluffton church Andrew Joseph who was born to Joe and Andria Detweiler on December 18. Little Andrew is the grandson of Al and Becky Pfister.

Bro. Matt Freed has moved to Bluffton from the Indy Church and we extend a warm welcome greeting to him as he makes his new home here. Bro. Matt is the son of Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy Freed and the grandson of Bro. Chuck and Sis. Doris Neuenschwander. Our prayers will go with Bro. Matt as he begins a new chapter of his life here in Bluffton.

With the joys of new life, there are also many mourning this month at the loss of a dear loved one. Sis. Helen

Heyerly went home to be with the Lord on December 23. Sis. Helen will be greatly missed by her children, Jane (Curt) Mann, Bob (Mary), Ken (Deb), Bro. Von (Sis. Diane), and Lois Brown; and her remaining siblings, Bro. Melvin Maller and Sis. Vera Laukhuf (Latty, OH). Our prayers go with them and their extended family in this time of sorrow.

Many others within the Bluffton congregation are in need of prayers this month, too. Continuing prayers are lifted up on behalf of Bro. Rick Stucky and Sis. Cathy as they struggle through Rick's ongoing cancer. Also, Bro. Cameron and Sis. Jenni Fry lost their little baby, Cassidy Rose, and are greatly in need of prayers. As they mourn this precious child's death, we can pray for their comfort.

Sis. Lou Ann Rager has asked for wisdom and healing as she faces chemotherapy soon. She has been diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma. All prayers are greatly appreciated.

Our Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz and Bro. Greg Isch (Sis. Katie) are heading to Ethiopia to bring home Bro. Greg and Sis. Katie's new adopted little 18-month old, Thomas. Our prayers go with their travels as well as the new addition to the Isch home.

Finally, the Bluffton congregation is excited to announce that we have "adopted" the Prescott, Arizona, church. In light of the new ways to encourage growth in smaller churches, Bluffton's members are simply provided with ways to assist this small congregation. Our prayers are certainly with this church and we will be looking for ways to encourage, support, and assist the Prescott church in the future. We look forward to this New Year and the many opportunities to serve and grow closer to our Lord and Savior!

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## INDIANA BLUFFTON NORTH Darren Drayer Tiffani Schladenhauffen

"Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice."

*Philippians 4:4*

We are rejoicing with Bro. Drake Moser, son of Bro. Gene and Sis. Edna, as he announced his engagement to Sis. Cherie Schweigert, daughter of Willard and Della, of our Tremont, IL, congregation. We are prayerful for them as they grow in their love for Christ and for each other, and we look forward to having Sis. Cherie worship with us.

We are thankful to welcome a couple of new babies into our congregation. Sis. Becky and Josh Maggart welcomed their new little boy, Ty Adam, into this world on January 4. Ty Adam joins his big brother, Wyatt, and his grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Becky Maggart and Bro. Joe and Sis. Denise Maller (Magdalena, MX). Big brother Brock Drayer welcomed his new baby sister, Marly Ellison, on January 2. Bro. Tim and Sis. Gwen Drayer are the joyful parents, along with grandparents, Bro. Jerry and Sis. Lois Drayer and Kent and Janel Kloter. We love seeing the new little ones, and it is just a reminder of how much we have been blessed.

We also have several new grandparents. Sis. Kathy Meyer had her first granddaughter, Hadessah Mae Yergler, born on December 13 to Andy and Sarah Yergler. Bro. Joe and Sis. Jan Schwartz received another healthy grandson, Kaeden Andrew Louis Benedict, born on December 19 to Tucker and Alicia Benedict. Finally, Sis. Diane Mason is happy to welcome a new granddaughter. Joselyn Louise was born to



Aaron and Anna Mason on December 28. We wish each of these grandparents many joys with their grandchildren.

We hold Bro. Cameron and Sis. Jenni Fry up in prayer at the early birth and subsequent death of their infant daughter, Cassidy Rose. Cassidy Rose is leaving behind her big brothers, Corbyn and Simon, as well as her grandparents, Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene Frauhiger and Bro. Denis and Sis. Deb Fry (Bluffton, IN). Even though she was only here on Earth very briefly, she still touched so many lives. We pray her family will all find comfort knowing that Cassidy Rose is home in Heaven waiting for them.

Bro. Art Kipfer spent some time in the hospital this month. We are prayerful for him as he makes his recovery.

We were reminded at our New Year's Eve service that we do not know what is in store for 2007, but we do know that perfect peace is found at the foot of the cross.

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."

*Jeremiah 29:11*

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**INDIANA  
FRANCESVILLE**

**Barb Huber  
Jessica Murray**

Greetings to one and all as we are beginning another year of grace! May 2007 be full of His peace, joy and guidance for everyone!

We began 2007 in the house of the Lord as we gathered for our annual New Year's Eve Program. We were truly blessed first with ministry from the Word followed by an enjoyable and inspirational program in which many of our congregation partici-

pated in.

The holidays brought visiting ministers to our fellowship. Blessing us with messages from His Holy Word were Bro. James Emch (Sis. Gina, Phoenix, AZ), Bro. Rustin Meister (Sis. Amanda, West Lafayette, IN) and Bro. Nelson Beer (Sis. Shelby, Milford, IN). We first thank God for His provision and these dear brothers for their gifts of service. May we as believers always hold our ministers up to the Holy Spirit for His infilling.

"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel."

*Ephesians 6:18-19*

We are rejoicing that our friend, Luke Gudeman, has been announced to have peace with God and man and is looking forward to baptism. Luke is the son of our ministering Bro. Randy and Sis. Becky Gudeman. We praise God for His great gift of salvation.

"And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him."

*Hebrews 5:9*

Our Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein blessed us with a topical Bible Study on Luke 12:15 and lead us through the biblical teachings on covetousness. He told us that this sin is much underrated in our current society and that it is the root cause of many manifestations of visible and damaging sin. We must keep a constant spiritual checklist in order to live our life without the influence of covet-

ousness entering into our relationship with God, our family and fellow believers.

*FEBRUARY*

When February days appear,  
The shortest month of all is here;  
And if the ground hog sees the  
sun,  
Six wintry weeks their course  
must run;  
And when the days begin to  
lengthen,  
The cold, they say, will surely  
strengthen.  
The stormy winds and tempests  
blow  
And drift the fields and lanes with  
snow;  
From ponds and lakes, quite  
frozen o'er,  
The iceman gathers in his store.  
The catalogues of seeds appear,  
Announcing that the spring is  
near.

*Henry Beer,*

*"My Garden of Verse"*

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**INDIANA  
INDIANAPOLIS  
Gail Bradford  
Sandy Lichtle**

We sincerely welcome Bro. Eric Franz (Remington, IN) and Bro. Jon Eide (Francesville, IN) to our congregation. It is a blessing to have them as part of our church family. Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Matthew Freed (Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy) as he has recently moved to Bluffton, IN. We wish him God's blessings in his new home.

January 3 was a special day for Darius and Stephanie Guzulaitis as their first child, Isaac Juozas, was born. Welcoming Isaac home are his grandmother, Sis. Becky Pearson, and his great-grandmother, Sis. Edye Mayer. First-time parents, Bro. Scott and Sis. Kate Levy, have been



blessed with a son, Cohen David, born on January 11. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue Levy and Bro. Steve and Sis. Donna Ringger (Gridley, IL) and thankful great-grandmother is Sis. Edey Mayer.

We rejoice with Bro. Darl and Sis. Cindy Schieler on the marriage of their daughter, Sis. Marla (Bloomington, IL), to Bro. Jaron Huber (Bro. Dave and Sis. Debbie, Bloomington, IL) on January 7 in Bloomington, IL. We pray for God's blessings to be upon their union.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Lon, Sis. Sarah, and Aesha Vogt (son-in-law, daughter, and granddaughter of Bro. Ron and Sis. Edie Bollier). They left for India on December 30 to serve in the mission field. Also, our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Mark Zeller (Sis. Ginny) as he left for India on January 13. Bro. Mark will be in India for six months helping his sister and brother-in-law, Sis. Andrea and Bro. Stan Gutwein, and their family.

"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*

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**INDIANA, LACROSSE**  
**Bethany Johnson**  
**Julie Rocke**

When upon life's billows you are  
 tempest-tossed,  
 When you are discouraged, think-  
 ing all is lost,  
 Count your many blessings; name  
 them one by one,  
 And it will surprise you what the  
 Lord hath done.

Are you ever burdened with a load

of care?

Does the cross seem heavy you are  
 called to bear?

Count your many blessings, every  
 doubt will fly,

And you will be singing as the  
 days go by.

*Hymns of Zion #116, Vs 1&2*

"Counting the blessings helps brighten the day." It seems a rather insignificant thought, but it often gets overlooked in the daily routines of life. However, if one really stops to consciously count his blessings, it is amazing how the spirits lift and the heart seeks to praise instead of complain. Many of us fall into the same pattern that the Israelites of old did as God was delivering them out of Egypt – protesting the load instead of praising the Lord. We show the light of God's love through us more clearly if we choose to "Count our blessings" instead of "Complain about our burdens".

We have been blessed with several visiting ministers over the past month. We always enjoy those that "come home" over the Christmas season and we truly appreciate their labors on our behalf. Many thanks to Bros. Ted Steffen (Alto, MI), Jim Butikofer (Iowa City, IA), Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Lucas Frank (Detroit, MI) and Ned Stoller (Alto, MI) and their families that came and shared with us the Word of God.

We extend God's blessings to Bro. David Massner (Bro. Randy and Sis. Marylynn) and Sis. Traci Gramm (Bro. Roger and Sis. Darleta, Gridley, IL) as they joined hand and heart on December 31. We welcome Sis. Traci to our congregation. May they ever seek God's direction for their lives.

Our prayers continue with those of our loved ones who have heavy burdens to carry, whether in health

or circumstances. May God continue to provide for each of them according to His perfect will.

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**INDIANA, LEO**  
**Elizabeth Schren**  
**Abigail Schrenk**

Greetings to all in the Name of Jesus! We extend our sincere sympathy to the Stieglitz families at the passing of their sister and aunt, Sis. Lanora Sorg (Bloomington, IL). Our prayers are with them at this time of loss.

Sis. Sandra Bertsch and Bro. David Bertsch (Sis. Marie) were in the hospital this month. We pray that both of them would feel God's nearness in this time of illness and recovery.

On New Year's Eve, Bro. Trent Schrock spoke on the use of our time. Every moment of our life belongs to God and we need to use our time wisely. May we ask for grace and wisdom to do just that in this New Year.

We were thankful to have Bro. Jim Ramseyer (Sis. Marlene, Bay City, MI) with us on January 14. His willingness to serve and share with us from the heart touched many of our own hearts in a personal way.

Our General Meeting was also held on January 14. We thank each one who has served our brethren this past year. We also want to thank those who are willing to be considered for service in our congregation for the up coming years.

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**INDIANA, MILFORD**  
**Carol Hurd**  
**Carol Haab**

"... Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

*Matthew 25:40*



Students from our high school Bible class along with several couples traveled to Juarez, Mexico, to help build houses. They left December 26 and returned January 2, joining others from Illinois and Iowa. Giving of time, energy, and the hard work to help those in need is truly a wonderful way to spend the Christmas holiday. May God bless them.

Our annual business meeting was held on January 4. Those elected were: Bro. Bob Beer, trustee; Bro. Brent Beer, Bible class teacher; Bro. Regg Beer, Bro. Rob Schlipf, Bro. Marc Beer, Sis. Katy Schlipf, and Sis. Kim Schlipf, Sunday school teachers; Bro. Troy Wuthrich, treasurer; Bro. Abe Habegger, speaker system; Bro. Ray Haab, World Relief representative; Sis. Carol Hurd, Silver Lining reporter; Sis. Linda Wuthrich, food committee; and Sis. Jodi Beer, World Relief sewing committee. Others graciously volunteering for duties were Bro. Dick and Sis. Gwen Steffen along with Bro. Regg Beer and Bro. Abe Habegger, monthly hymn singings, and Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat Beer and Bro. Lee and Sis. Sandy Beer, sunrise services. Often we don't realize the time and effort it takes to keep the house of God running smoothly and orderly and looking nice. Thank you to all who have served in various positions and fulfilled your terms. May God grant grace and guidance to everyone taking on a new responsibility in the church.

"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

*1 John 4:10*

February is referred to as the love month. We will never be able to attain the depth of love for one another

as God has given us. Yet knowing this, we should not be discouraged, but strive even harder to love one another more completely and without reservation as He has commanded.

"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another."

*John 13:34*

Many people make resolutions at the beginning of a new year and by this time they are often already broken. These resolutions are usually based on things of this world, so perhaps if we would look to God and resolve to do His bidding, we would not break them. Therefore, let us resolve to show our love for all God's creation this year by reaching out to others in whatever way He directs us. It may be within our own or a neighboring community, the local school district, mentoring a person in need, or a mission work team on foreign soil. Wherever or however God may lead us, may we all be willing to open our hearts and minds to His calling in 2007.

We pray that God will add His blessing on the meeting of our Elders this month in Bern, KS. May they be renewed by the Spirit to face the challenges brought forth this year.

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**INDIANA, REMINGTON**  
**Beth Virkler**  
**Tammy Waibel**

Greetings one and all in His name! We have a lot to be thankful for at this time of the year. Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville, IN) shared the Word of God with us this month. We thank him for coming and preaching His Word that we might understand it better. Thank you, Bro. Steve.

We had our annual meeting at the

beginning of this month. We thank all of those who have served faithfully, and pray for those who have new responsibilities. Going into Sunday school to teach our children about God's Word are: Sis. Heidi (Bro. Greg) Schneider - 1st & 2nd grades; Sis. Jenny (Bro. Loren) Honegger - Kindergarten; Bro. Jason (Sis. Sara) Getz - 6th, 7th & 8th grade; Bro. Stan (Sis. Beth) Virkler - Bible Class. We have confidence that the Lord's will will be done as you begin your new roles. Thank you all.

We had reason to rejoice on the weekend of January 13-14. Two dear souls turned their hearts and lives over to the Lord. We welcome Bro. Chuck (Pat) Lehman into the fold and pray that you will always feel God's guiding hand as we try to serve Him better each day. It is certainly a wonderful testimony to us when a soul, late in life, turns their life over to the almighty God. Also, Sis. Marcella (Dale) Tyler gave her testimony and was baptized the same weekend. Remember that the Lord will provide. He is always with us in all that we do. The Bible tells us that the angels in Heaven rejoice over one sinner that repenteth. We in Remington certainly do as well and thank the Lord for that cleansing, that only His shed blood can provide.

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**INDIANA**  
**SOUTH BEND**  
**Becky Langhofer**  
**Natalie Virkler**

Greetings to each one! We have been blessed with a rather slow month as far as news goes. We would like to remind those planning a visit to the area that our 2nd and 4th Wednesday evening services of the month are held in homes this time of year. Please call ahead and get directions.

We welcome Serghei Maloruc



from Moldova into our small congregation. He will be staying with Bro. Marty and Sis. Lavilla Langhofer for a while as he attends a local high school.

With Valentine's Day fast approaching, let's take a look at verses that speak of love. Mark 12:30-31 "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these." It's interesting to notice the order of these two commandments. It seems as though we should have no problems keeping this straight and yet I struggle to love my God first and foremost. Why is that? Could it be that I forget the love that He has shown me? Romans 5:8 says "God commendeth His love towards us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." John 15:13. What can I do but lay my life down in return, perhaps not as a martyr, but as a living sacrifice. The sacrifice of my will, my desires, my time is what God desires. Let us all strive to more fully love God, the One completely worthy of all our adoration.

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**INDIANA  
VALPARAISO  
Marguerite Hoerr**

We continue to have the benefits of ministering brothers who generously give us their time and their love. Some of them come from much larger churches. We hope they feel the warmth and love from our small group.

Bro. Chris Wuethrich (LaCrosse, IN) and his wife, Sis. Carla, spent Christmas Eve Sunday with us in

this past month, conducting our Christmas Eve services, which were held during that afternoon.

The following Sunday, Bro. Greg Rassi and his wife, Sis. Carla, drove from Chicago to worship with us and to share his ministry on the last Sunday of 2006.

Bro. Brady Moser had a struggle with Hodgkins Lymphoma during 2006. We all did our best to surround him with prayers; noticing his stalwart faith in God during all this time. The day came when he was able to go back to work and to worship with us again. How we rejoiced over his good news. We recently had the news that many areas within his body looked as if the cancer has returned, so we were lifting him up in prayers again. It meant returning to Indianapolis for more testing. There tests revealed that the lumps are not lymphoma. He is undergoing more testing but he is much more hopeful and so are all of us.

Bro. Scott Schafer and Sis. Gigi were with us on the first Sunday of 2007. They stayed over for the church potluck on that evening. Once again we felt the benefit of the love that prompts these visits.

Now that the winter months are here we will say goodbye, temporarily, to Bro. Lyle and Sis. Marilyn Zeltwanger who will spend the rest of their winter in Phoenix, AZ. Bro. Ken and Sis. Carol Bucher have gone to Florida. We can only imagine the blessing these folks bring to their winter churches, knowing what richness they bring to us at Valpo.

Sis. Claudia Thomas and her family hosted an 80th birthday party for her mother, Peggy White. Peggy, we all wish you a happy belated birthday and a wonderful year ahead.

I feel moved to report again on our son-in-law, Dick Pelath, and his journey with Multiple Myeloma. Dick has

had his stem cell harvest, and is preparing for the stem cell transplant. He's had a bit of a roadblock in that he had an infection of unknown origin. He was hospitalized for five days and received antibiotics. Today he learned that blood tests reveal he has pneumonia so he's scheduled for more days of antibiotics. We're aware that many others have gone through similar experiences. But we weren't aware of what a blessing it is being on the receiving end of prayer. Thank you to everyone who has remembered him during this time.

Bro. Lenard Meyer (Chicago, IL) blessed our congregation with his ministry on January 14. His wife, Sis. Charlotte, accompanied him. The Chicago church has been most generous in providing ministering brothers to help Bro. Garry, and we're grateful.

New Year's Day will be long past by the time you read this news, but it's not too late to wish all of you many blessings throughout the coming year. Our January church calendar states, "I delight to do thy will, O my God; yea thy law is within my heart." Psalm 40:8. As we receive His blessings, may we follow the words in this verse, keeping His law within the hearts of all of us.

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**INDIANA  
WEST LAFAYETTE  
Hollie Meister  
Darlene Walder**

On December 10, we were blessed to hear the Christmas story from our Sunday School children. They all did a great job telling us the wonderful story of the birth of our Savior.

Recent visiting ministers were: Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Bro. Randy Gudeman (Francesville, IN), and Bro. Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN). We wish to thank them for sharing God's Word with us.



A group from our congregation, including several of our college students, had the opportunity to travel to Magdalena, Mexico, last month. We are thankful for their safe return.

One of our converts, Bob Meister, recently underwent surgery. We pray for God's continued care as he recovers.

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## INDIANA, WOLCOTT

**Lowell Bahler**  
**Erica Blume**

"To everything there is a season..."

*Eccles. 3:1*

The winter season has arrived once again, bringing with it the start of another new year. Let us count our many blessings of the year gone by and strive for a closer, more obedient walk with our Lord in the year to come.

Monday evening, January 8, was our annual meeting. May each job and responsibility be carried out in a way and manner that would bring honor to our Heavenly Father, glorifying His holy name.

Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla Bahler are grandparents of a baby girl, Erica Mae, born on January 6 to Bro. Mike and Sis. Sherice Reinhard of Detroit. Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores Reinhard of Remington are paternal grandparents. We have reason to be thankful when little ones arrive safely! May we each help them to also arrive safely in Heaven at the end of time.

Sis. Renae Bahler has agreed, by faith in God's direction, to accept a marriage proposal from Bro. Matthew Lindberg. She will be a welcome addition to the Atlanta church, and to Bro. Richard and Sis. Julie Lindberg's family. Sis. Renae's parents are Chris and Sis. Teresa Bahler.

Sis. Irene Radcliffe recently moved from her home in Monon to Parkview Haven (Francesville). Our prayers go with her and we wish her well, realizing this is always a big adjustment.

Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus joined our Wolcott assembly on January 21 for the afternoon service and a brief meeting afterward. We appreciate his loving care of our congregational needs.

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## IOWA, BLOOMFIELD

**Barbara Schock**

The great Physician now is near,  
The sympathizing Jesus;  
He speaks the drooping heart to cheer,

Oh, hear the voice of Jesus.

*Tabernacle Hymns #145*

Our thoughts and prayers are with Georgia Wells (Joe Dean) as she had surgery this past month. May she feel the nearness of the Great Physician while she recovers.

The Great Physician not only heals the physical body, but also the spiritual. When we are burdened down with cares and burdens, and are sore in spirit, who do we turn to? Hopefully it is the Great Physician who can heal our spirit and continue to provide for us each day as we strive to serve in this life below.

Our Bible Class was able to go down to Juarez, Mexico, and build some earthly homes. Compared to our standards here, these homes are the size of our living rooms, yet those who received them were thankful for what they had. Our homes are much bigger and grander than what they could ever hope for, yet it is the spiritual home, the eternal home that is the most important and the one goal in our life should be to reach that heavenly mansion.

Many others also had the opportunity to go down to Mississippi to help rebuild homes that suffered damage from Hurricane Katrina. Many returned saying that they received many blessings from work done there. While there was a mighty show of the power of God when the hurricane struck, we also need to remember that He speaks in a still small voice and not the mighty thunder, and it is our duty to listen. We can drown out His voice with many excuses, but we can also listen to His voice, and receive many blessings.

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## IOWA, ELGIN

**Gloria Frieden**  
**Heidi Butikofer**

Now that the ground is finally covered with a layer of snow, it seems more like winter has arrived. Just as the soil needs moisture to be fruitful, so do we likewise need spiritual nourishment so we can be fruitful.

"Serve the Lord with gladness..."

May God provide for those who were assigned new duties at our annual business meeting. Bro. Aaron Frank (Sis. Sharla) is our new secretary/treasurer. Our thanks to Bro. Dale Moore (Sis. Cheryl) who faithfully held this office for many years.

Bro. Dean Rocke was elected as trustee to replace Bro. Paul Butikofer (Sis. Millie) who rotates out this year.

We were blessed with two visiting ministers this past month. Bro. Virgil Metzger (Sis. Mary, Chicago, IL) shared God's Word with us on December 24 and Bro. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA) served us from God's Word on New Year's Eve. May God continue to be with all who faithfully labor in the Lord's vineyard.



*Notice:* Silver Lining dues are due for Elgin, IA, during the month of February.

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

Thousands of robins were spotted near Garden Grove recently, feeding on whatever they could find during severe cold after a snowstorm. To see a robin in our area on a wintry day is not terribly unusual, but these flocks of birds just kept coming until the fields were covered, and returned day after day for several days. People wondered if they had failed to migrate because our weather stayed unseasonable warm for several months, or if they thought it was spring and had started to return when the cold caught them.

God made a warmer climate for the animals that need to migrate, and He put an inner clock and global positioning system in them that usually gets them where they should be. Whatever the reason for all these robins to be here in the off season, it was a reminder to me that God has a place for each of us every day, and He expects us to follow the voice inside that gently urges us to follow His will, so we will not be caught, confused and cold, but will be in Heaven where our Almighty God has prepared a home and a feast for us.

We are thankful for those who have visited us, and especially those who shared the Word. Ministering brothers recently have been Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield) and Bro. Glen Funk (Sis. Sally, Wichita).

We thank God for new bundle of joy in our congregation, as Sara and Duane Lester have a daughter, Reagan Rae, born January 7. Siblings, Anna, Matthew and Willa Corinne, welcomed her home. Sis. Willa Clark

is her grandmother. We pray for God's blessings on the family as they strive to raise their children in the sunshine of His love.

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

We appreciate Bro. Dale Frank (Sis. Tina, Oakville, IA) and Bro. Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonita, Cissna Park, IL) visiting recently and sharing the Word of Life. Bro. Bruce was also here on Christmas Day and shared the message of the birth of our Lord.

Our prayers are with Bro. Ben and Sis. Wendy Weyrick following the death of Bro. Ben's grandfather, Bro. Clem (Sis. Kate) Heiniger, of Oakville, IA.

Bro. Larry (Sis. Emily) Peterson had shoulder surgery this month. We pray the Lord will heal Bro. Larry and grant him grace in his recovery.

Jeremiah told us in Lamentation 3:22-24 the Lord's mercies/compassions are new every morning. Certainly they are with us again this year as we rejoice in Joe Bryan's (Cinda) decision to repent and place his hope in our Savior. We pray Joe will continually seek Him and rely on His guidance in this very important step in his life.

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

We appreciate our visiting ministers who were willing to share God's Word with us in the past month. They were: Elder Bro. Gerry Hertz (Sabetha, KS), Bro. Randy Mogler (Washington, IL), Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Bro. James Knapp (Congerville, IL), Bro. Larry Bahr (Ft. Scott, KS) and Bro. Bruce Frank (Cissna Park, IL).

May God bless them and their

families.

"Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts."

*Hebrews 3:7-8*

We are rejoicing with Drew Metzger (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Joleen) and Kent Moser (Bro. Donn and Sis. Joyce) as they have heard that voice and have answered the call of repentance. May God grant Drew and Kent the needed humility and grace to establish a firm foundation built on Jesus Christ, the solid Rock.

I long for home in yon blest land.  
Drawn onward by love's holy  
band.

At Home! O what a pleasant place.  
T'ward home I now have set my  
face.

*Hymns of Zion #264*

Our congregation bid a final farewell to Sis. Elaine Kellenberger who passed into Eternity on January 5 at the age of 86. In her last weeks on this earth, Sis. Elaine had such a longing and desire for her heavenly Home and to be with her loved ones that had gone on before. Sis. Elaine is survived by nine sons: Bro. Ron, Bro. Dennis (Sis. Shirley), Bro. Orlan (Sis. Mary), Leroy (Lou), Bro. Verlyn (Sis. Linda), Calvin (Edna), Bro. Brad (Sis. Teresa), Bro. Curt (Sis. Martha) and Ladell (Shelley) Kellenberger; and three daughters: Sis. Rosella (Bro. Bob) Metzger, Sis. Connie (Bro. Doug) Bergstrom and Sis. Suzette (Bro. Doug) Messner. May God provide a comfort for this dear family. Bro. Gene Metzger and Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend) conducted the funeral service.

We also want to extend our sympathy to Ray, Jr. and Karen Glammeier as they grieve the death of their father, Ray Glammeier. Our



thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Roy and Sis. Melisa Feucht over the death of Sis. Melisa's brother, Paul Moser.

May God grant them comfort in their time of sorrow and loss.

Hospital patients have been Sis. Emma Gerber, Sis. Emma Knobloch and Char Leuthold (Bro. Doug). Trusting God to provide His hand of healing to all who have had physical afflictions.

Recently we heard the engagements of Evan Metzger and Kristi Lonneman, as well as Brett Metzger and Melissa Seggerman. Both Evan and Brett are the sons of Bro. Marvin and Sis. Joleen Metzger. We pray that God will bless them as they plan for their weddings and more importantly for their marriages.

At our New Year's Eve church service, we heard the statistics for 2006. In our Lester congregation we had 27 births, 3 deaths and 9 baptisms. We were reminded that in this life none of us have a choice about our birth or our death, but we do have the important choice of a rebirth due to Jesus' death on the cross; thus giving us a hope of dying in Jesus and an eternity in Heaven. May we take advantage of this most important choice we can make in our earthly life.

*Note of Thanks:*

I would like to thank everyone who remembered our family with prayers and cards at the time of my mother's passing. May God Bless you.

*Ray, Sis. Carol Cordrey and families*

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

We were blessed to have many visiting ministers this month. On December 24, these brothers proclaim-

ed the Word of God to us: Bro. Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT), Bro. Gary Endress and Bro. Bruce Endress (Bradford, IL), Bro. Scott Wegman (Taylor, MO), and Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Wolcott, IN). On Christmas Day, we appreciated the labors of Bro. Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT), Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Phil Schulz (Burlington, IA). December 31 brought Bro. Beirne Messner (Morris, MN) who labored on our behalf.

We rejoice as wedding vows were exchanged between Bro. Jeremy Steiner (Bro. John and Sis. Carol) and Sis. Brittny Wagenbach (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Monti) on January 14. Those who came to help on this special occasion were Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA), Bro. Vern Wettstein (Congerville, IL), Bro. Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA) and Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Wolcott, IN).

On January 5, the Lord called one of His children home as Bro. Clem Heiniger left this earthly life behind. Our prayers go out to his beloved wife, Sis. Kate, and his children, Nancy Heiniger of Oakville, Joyce Weyrick of Wapello, Becky Wrage of Gladbrook, Paul Heiniger of Oakville, and their grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

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**IOWA, WEST BEND**  
**Sue Schneider**  
**Janet Fehr**

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord..." (Psalm 127:3). Claire Ann was born to Bro. Carl and Sis. Sara Gerber on December 18. Noah is happy to be the big brother. Claire's grandparents are Bro. David and Sis. Diane Gerber and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gail Massner.

Arriving a day later was Austin Lee Schmidt. He is the son of Bro. Wendell and Sis. Karen Schmidt.

Dana, Brooke, Trissa and Jared welcomed their new little brother with helping hands. Grandparents include Bro. Ivan and Sis. Evelyn Schmidt and Sis. Velma Rinkenberger (Cissna Park, IL).

We failed to report the birth of Shaylee Denise Wise, born to Daniel and Missy on August 22, 2006. Her loving grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Lezlee Leman and Mike and Bernie Wise (Emmetsburg, IA).

In December, Kristin Wirtz (Fred Jr.) was a surgical patient, and Duane Mogler was hospitalized for medical reasons. We are thankful that both seem to be making a good recovery.

Several in our congregation are grieving the loss of loved ones. Sis. Diane (Bro. David) Gerber lost her mother, Laura Montag, shortly before Christmas; Bro. Mark (Sis. Lori) Skoglund also lost his mother, Josephine Miller. Bro. Clifford (Sis. Rosene), Arlo (Marilyn) and Eli Jr. (Margaret) Grimm, Sis. Edith (Ernest) Kellenberger and Sis. Carole (Bro. Larry) Fehr lost their sister with the death of Sis. Elaine Kellenberger (Lester, IA). We sympathize with each of these families.

We pray for God's continued grace as we have completed the year of 2006 and look forward to pleasing Him in 2007.

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**JAPAN, SHIODA**  
**Ayako Inoue**

Greetings in our Savior's name. We ask our Lord for His blessings and spiritual strength at the beginning of this new year.

Our dear Sis. Misawa went to be with the Lord on December 31, at age 93. Her physical health had declined these few years and she had lost her sight, but was very faithful to attend church if possible. She had just at-



tended the Sunday before, which was our Christmas service, in her wheelchair. Sis. Reiko Furuya, who always drove her home, recalls that in the car that day she sang out loud along with a Christmas hymnal tape. Though Sis. Misawa had unfortunate life situations, she had joy in coming to church. We had a memorial service for her on January 7, and many relatives attended. We hope they could understand what Sis. Misawa's faith meant to her.

We had visiting brothers, Bro. Tom and Bro. Dale Koch from Tremont during the new year holidays. We were blessed having them for a Bible study where we talked about the armor of God. We learned that the shield of faith is the only movable defense armor. We can use it anytime and anywhere. We would like to keep that in our minds and fight against temptation.

We pray for each one of you for God's rich blessings in this new year!

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

Bro. Adrian and Sis. Harriet Strahm are thankful for the arrival of little Alison Rose. Excited siblings are Laif, Alyssa and Alaina. Happy for another granddaughter are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Claudia Strahm and Bro. John and Sis. Esther Orcsik (Detroit, MI).

Scott Edelman (Bro. Rod and Sis. Joleen) is engaged to marry Valerie Steinbock on February 3. Valerie is the daughter of Mark and Marcia Steinbock.

Mark Hartter (Bro. Steve and Sis. Lois) has announced his engagement to Emily Koehler, daughter of David and Cathy Koehler, of Olathe, KS. We pray that God will guide them as they plan their March wedding.

Rick Stoller (Bro. Arden and Sis.

Dar) and Alesha Aue (Weldon and Joni Aue, Sabetha) are planning a September wedding. We send our best wishes to each of these young couples as they make plans to establish a life together!

We were once again blessed to have visiting ministers occupy our pulpit! Bros. Jeff Bahler (Sis. Heidi, Wolcott, IN), David Hartter (Sis. Beth, Sabetha) and Jerry Meeks (Sis. Christy, Sabetha) were with us on Christmas weekend. Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL) spent the weekend of January 7-8 with us. On Saturday evening Bro. Clark did a topical Bible study for the Bern and Sabetha congregations on "Obedience and Integrity".

Bro. Eugene Fetter (Sis. Marilyn) has spent time in the hospital. We wish Bro. Eugene God's nearness as he recovers in our Apostolic Christian Nursing Home.

It's so hard to believe that we are well into 2007 already! We wish each of you a blessed year with much happiness and good health!

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

Greetings in the name of our Lord. We were very privileged to have God's Word read and expounded on by visiting ministers, Bro. Justin Moser (Sis. Robin, Altadena, CA) and Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie, Elgin, IL). May God richly bless them for assisting our minister, Bro. Larry Bahr, on the pulpit.

As our annual business meeting and elections draw near, a portion of an Elder Brother's sermon comes to mind. We were kindly reminded to carry out the various duties in the church as willing servants, honoring God's high and holy name in all that we say and do. Our service should be truly dedicated to God. He also added

much encouragement with this verse:

"And David said to Solomon his son, Be strong and of good courage, and do it: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the Lord God, even my God, will be with thee: He will not fail thee nor forsake thee, until thou hast finished all the work for the service of the house of the Lord."

*I Chronicles 28:20*

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**KANSAS, KIOWA**  
**Jenny Stewart**  
**Janice Bahr**

What a celebration! Young voices raised in song praising God to bring in a new year. The Sunday School had their annual New Year's Eve party with games and snacks after assembling for New Year's Eve services. They finished out the year by singing praises to our Lord. What a great way to end an old year and start a new one with praises on our lips to God. May He bless each and every one this year as we seek His guidance for our lives.

Our hospital patient this month was Sis. Tillie Diel. She had a case of the flu bug, but is well and doing fine!

We want to thank Bro. Doug Wagenbach (San Diego, CA) and his wife, Sis. Lillian, and family for sharing with us. We appreciated the time they spent with us and the encouraging words we heard.

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

Coming home for Christmas holidays brought us ministering Bros. Brandon Emch (Kansas City, MO) and Jeff Bahr (Kiowa, KS). On New Year's Bro. Cory Metzger (Wichita, KS) read from Romans 13 and asked "How many of us will obey the law as we travel home? ... it is hard to do."



Immediately I thought of Rudy on the subject of speeding. One Sunday morning at breakfast I told him I had a dream about a family. He remarked, "I had a nightmare. I wish I hadn't heard that Farm Bureau program on speeding. I was in Korea when the oncoming vehicle was going too fast on the upcoming curve and the passenger's head was ballooned through the windshield."

Nathan Knobloch (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jeri) acted on his close call with a car in hazardous conditions while driving and gave his testimony January 13 with Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) presiding. We are happy for Bro. Nathan and welcome him in our congregation.

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**KANSAS, SABETHA**  
**Dawn Strahm**  
**Rebekah Beyer**

Visiting ministering Bro. Greg Braker (Lamar, MO) was with us for services on New Year's Eve Day and New Year's Eve. We were thankful to be able to gather for Christmas Eve services to remember the birth of our dear Saviour and again for New Year's Eve services as we begin another year in service to God.

On Saturday, January 6, the Sabetha congregation was invited to Bern to hear a topical study on obedience by Bro. Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL). We heard many examples of how important obedience is in our walk with Christ.

Several from our congregation have been in poor health recently or have been hospitalized. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Sis. Charlotte Aberle, Sis. Leota Grimm, and Bro. Virgil Hartter.

We extend our love and sympathy to the families who have lost loved ones this past month. Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa Kellenberger and their families have laid to rest Bro. Brad's

mother, Sis. Elaine Kellenberger (Lester, IA).

Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene Hartter and their families mourn the loss of Kori Dawn Miller, infant daughter of Kenny and Kalynn (Hartter) Miller. May both of these families feel the comfort that God does send as we say good-bye to those we love.

Bro. Elmer and Sis. Phyllis Strahm have welcomed a new member into their family. Their daughter, Sonia Cole, and Dennis Irwin were married on December 16. They will live in Emporia, KS, while Dennis finishes his further education at Emporia State and works for JC Penny's.

*Notes of Thanks:*

A special thank you for all the birthday cards and other expressions of love extended to me for my 50th on New Year's Eve.

May God bless each of you for your kindness.

*Sis. Mary Kay Wenger*

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**KANSAS, WICHITA**  
**Emma Miller**

While our aging congregation gives us many opportunities to be in prayer for each other, it also gives us opportunities to be thankful for answered prayer. We are so thankful that Bro. Max Reimschisel is able to be active within reason since his heart problem surfaced in December. We continue to have concern for Sis. Lillian Bowers who fell in her home earlier this month. Again, her loving family rallies to help her stay in her home. I am reminded of Psalm 127 where children are compared to arrows and "happy is the man whose quiver is full of them." Sis. Lillian faithfully mothered her large family and they in turn are rewarding her with their care.

Wednesday night services have resumed after the holiday break. The Wichita area was fortunate to escape the harshness of the snow storms that wrought havoc in Western Kansas over the holidays. But church services for this weekend were canceled by the present smaller storm. Icy road conditions brought many activities to a standstill.

On the first day of the ice, I needed to get some groceries so I left the house as soon as possible to be ahead of the ice. When I pulled into the parking lot, a man in his pickup took the parking space I was headed for. As he stepped from his vehicle, he encountered black ice and came close to falling. As I was getting out of my car, he came to help me over the ice. When I was ready to leave, he was waiting by the door and escorted me to my car. I was humbled to think how I resented him taking "my" parking space. Instead he must have been an angel sent to protect me.

I have been going through my file cabinet, discarding items of no importance. I found a paper one of the children in my last Sunday School class made for me. That had to be ten years ago. She drew a picture of a Bible and wrote as follows: "Always trust this book. The Lord is with you. Even when you are asleep. Where ever you are He will be there. A Bible is a wonderful thing. It teaches you strength and courage!" Needless to say, that paper did not get shredded.

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**KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON**  
**Barb Huber**

"For thou wilt light my candle; the Lord, my God, will lighten my darkness."

*Psalm 18:28*

Bro. Walt Steffen (Milford, IN)



made a spiritual comparison of winter darkness that grips a small town in Austria where sunlight is blocked by a mountain. But, today, engineers, with reflector technology are using dozens of rotating mirrors mounted on a hillside to reflect sunlight from a neighboring village to light up that town during the winter-time. How amazing! But how much more in our lives as we walk with our dear Lord and God each day. He is our Light (I John 1:5). May we always be reflectors of Him and walk as children of Light in this world of darkness (Ephesians 5:8). We do appreciate Bro. Walt, and, also, Bro. Ed Fritz (Sis. Sally, Washington, IL) and Bro. Larry Wenninger (Sis. Joyce, Latty, OH) for coming and ministering God's precious Word. May the Lord bless you and all those who traveled with you. Other visitors who blest our fellowship were from Eureka, Fairbury, IL; Francesville, IN; and Toledo, OH. The Christian fellowship we share is "but a foretaste of heaven", and a real inspiration to our small assembly.

Again, we extend a warm welcome to all who may be in our area or travelling through to worship with us. You may contact Bro. Doug Germann (859) 224-8710 or Bro. Lester Huber (859) 745-2541.

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**MEXICO, MAGDALENA**  
**Gloria Gonzalez**  
**Carissa Schlipf**

Greetings of love in the name of our Saviour, Jesus Christ!

"¡Al mundo paz, nació Jesús!..." (Joy to the World). The Saturday before Christmas the children and staff of Casa Vida y Esperanza went caroling in the community and for families that attend church here in Magdalena. It was a joy to share the Christmas story in song.

"Que os ha nacido hoy, en la ciudad de David, un Salvador, que es CRISTO el SeZor."

*Luke 2:11*

Christmas Eve Sunday we had our first Christmas program. Each Sunday school class shared the birth of Jesus through songs and verses. After the program we had a special, traditional Mexican meal of tamales.

The first week of January, a work team from many different churches poured concrete for the new house, painted, and worked on various other projects around campus. We appreciate their hard work and the added fellowship was a blessing! May God bless you all for giving of your time to make a difference in the lives of the children here.

As we continue work on the new house, we pray that God will work in the hearts of a couple(s) who would be willing to be future houseparents. If you are interested in this position, please contact us [cvemx@yahoo.com](mailto:cvemx@yahoo.com).

Over the Christmas holidays we had many visitors. We are thankful for each one and the encouragement you give.

"...pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

*James 5:16*

Our prayers are with CVE Board member, Bro. Jerry Tooley (Phoenix, AZ), who recently spent time in the hospital. We are so thankful for God's healing hand and praise God for a quick recovery.

January 12 we hosted our monthly Jovenes gathering. Once again, we were overwhelmed by the response from the youth in the community and praise God for bringing

over 30 young people! As we drove the route to pick up those from Magdalena who didn't have transportation, in a 15-passenger van packed beyond capacity with 25 young people and 3 adults, we marveled at God's work in the heart of this community! We pray that each soul that attends can come to know the Truth and find the peace and joy that comes only from a relationship with Jesus Christ.

We extend our sympathy and prayers to Sis. Carissa Schlipf in the recent death of her cousin, Christopher Chadwick (Morton, IL). We are thankful for the Spirit's ability to comfort and give peace in the midst of difficult circumstances.

On January 13, a work team from Forrest, IL, arrived to spend a week with us at CVE. We are thankful for their willing and kindhearted service. We are grateful to ministering Bros. John Hartman (Sis. Rosemary, Fairbury, IL) and Mark Zimmerman (Sis. Cheryl, Eureka, IL) for sharing the Word with us on Sunday and Wednesday night.

As we start the New Year, we are reminded of the Spirit's amazing work in the lives of men and women, drawing them to seek Truth and working in ways beyond our expectations, despite us. We praise God for His blessings and the evidence of His Hand in 2006 and trust Him to continue to guide and provide in the coming year. Thank you to each of you who have taken the time in the last year to lift this work up to the Father in prayer. We pray that many more will be added to those willing to give of themselves in prayer support for God's work here, to the glory and honor of His name.

"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the



power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.”

*Eph. 3:20-21*

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## MICHIGAN, ALTO

**Terri Huber  
Rose Watson**

As we celebrated the birth of our Jesus Christ, we would like to thank our visitors over the blessed season. We are thankful for Bro. Matt Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville, IL) for serving us with God's Word over the holidays.

As the hustle and bustle of the holidays have come and gone, we now sit back to see and enjoy God's wonderful beauty of winter. The thousands of millions of flakes that are all different – what an awesome God we have.

Ryan Sanders (Bro. Ed and Sis. Julie) recently was welcomed back home after schooling and living in Ohio for some time. Welcome back, Ryan.

We are thankful for Sally Meyers (Don) and Sis. Cathie Schrenk (Bro. Duane) who had successful surgeries this past month and are home. Praise to God for His healing hand. Also, our thoughts and prayers go to Austin Koehl (Bro. Rob and Sis. Kim) who is healing from another episode of illness.

Bro. Noah Blough passed away January 14. Bro. Noah was born in Alto, MI, married for 57 years, was a Christian for over 50 years, served in WWII, and a bull dozer operator for 45 years. Surviving Bro. Noah is his wife, Sis. Marguerite; brother, Bro. Lloyd (Sis. Ella Louise); sister, Eleanor Noon; and children, Sis. Luanne (Bro. Curt ) Kaeb, Gary (Laurie) Blough, Sis. Joyleen (Edward) Zaagman, Carlton (Brenda) Blough, and Bro. Martin (Sis. Michelle) Blough; 18 grandchildren along with

8 great-grandchildren. Bro. Noah will be sadly missed here on earth. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family.

Also, our thoughts and prayers go out to Sis. Liz (Bro. Marvin) Blough and family whose father, Lester C. Dawson, passed away this month as well. May God be with all as you remember your loved ones.

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## MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

**Sarah Knochel  
Janelle Ramseyer**

We were blessed to have a full pulpit of visiting ministers on Christmas Eve. We are thankful Bro. Jesse Bedolla (Sis. Bonnie, Detroit, MI), Bro. Dave Steffen (Sis. Linda, Elgin, IL), Bro. Steve Stieglitz (Sis. Jane, Leo, IN) and Bro. Nate Wieland (Sis. Suzanne, Goodfield, IL) were able to spend time with our congregation.

Our congregation continues to be thankful for our Heavenly Father's grace and help in time of need.

At our Christmas Eve services, our hearts were saddened as we sang "Blest Be the Tie" and bid farewell to Bro. Tom and Sis. Kim and Britney Wackerle. The Wackerle family has moved out to Prescott, AZ, and will be worshipping with the brethren there. Our loss is Prescott's gain and they will surely be missed.

We want to remember Bro. Clinton Wackerle's family as he passed away on December 30. We pray the Lord's comforting hand will continue to be with his wife, Sis. Illean, and their children, Melody (Marvin) Wood, Tye (Crystal) Wackerle, Kip (Patricia) Wackerle, and Holly (Robert) Krzywosinski. Any sudden loss is always hard and we trust the Lord's guiding hand in the coming days.

Bro. Wally Wackerle (Sis. Vinnie) spent a few days in the hospital and is back at Sheffield Bay Assisted Liv-

ing.

The annual Business Meeting was held on January 10. Bro. Jack Knochel (Sis. Debbie) and Bro. Ken Schlatter (Sis. Pam) were selected for Trustee and Sis. Evelyn Wieland (Bro. Rod) was chosen for Cooking Committee. Sis. Sue Steffen (Bro. Derrell) was nominated for the World Relief Committee. We thank each brother and sister who has served us in the past and we trust that they will be rewarded for their service.

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## MICHIGAN, DETROIT

**Kay Rauhe**

As we celebrate and usher in the new year, we were encouraged to pray "for genuine humility to remove pretense, allowing us to be honest and allowing us to be willing to follow the Lord and ask for His help as Jesus does beautiful things in our lives." "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth..." I Peter 1:22.

Joshua David Rauhe was born on December 22 to thankful parents, Bro. Jason and Sis. Carrie Rauhe. Joshua was welcomed home with kisses and hugs from Tyler, Stephanie and Trevor. His excited grandparents are Bro. Cloyce and Sis. Carol Gress from our West Bend, IA, congregation and Bro. Warren and Sis. Kay Rauhe. On January 6, Erica Mae Reinhard was born to joyful first-time parents, Bro. Mike and Sis. Sherice Reinhard. Her happy grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores Reinhard from our Remington, IN, congregation and Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla Bahler from our Wolcott, IN, congregation.

Our congregation was excited to have two babies born from former Detroiters and made some happy grandparents. Bro. Ernie and Sis. Mary Weigele are grandparents to



precious granddaughter, Emily Grace, born on January 13 to Brad and Gretchen Fields from Roswell, GA. Big sister Reagan will be anxiously awaiting her at home. Emily's paternal grandparents are Sammy and Deborah Fields from around the Atlanta, GA, area. First-time grandparents, Bro. Tom and Sis. Cindy Hitz, happily welcomed their new granddaughter, Emma Anne, born on January 13 to parents, Bro. Quinton and Sis. Heather Snyder, from our Kansas City, MO, congregation. Emma's paternal grandparents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Kara Snyder and are also from our Kansas City, MO, congregation. Children are such a joy and a blessing from God, and we rejoice with these happy families as they add new little bundles of joy to their lives.

A hearty thank you to visiting ministering Bro. Neal Ramseyer (Sis. Sharon; Bay City, MI) for conducting church services at The Woodhaven Retirement Community. We so appreciated Elder Bro. Andy Stoller's (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH) assistance with the reading of the Conference Letter where the intent was to instruct and inspire us in the way of Truth and Love. We sincerely appreciate your willingness to "serve the Lord with gladness." Psalms 100:2.

We joyfully welcome Bro. John and Sis. Esther Rauhe from North Providence, RI, to our congregation and pray that they feel the love and God's nearness as they worship and fellowship with us.

"Pray without ceasing."

*1 Thessalonians 5:17*

Sis. Martha Szilagyi, Sis. Bonnie Popp's brother, Richard, and Sis. Carrie Rauhe (Bro. Jason) are hospitalized and would greatly appreciate our prayers. Bro. Guy Wieland (Sis.

Rose) and Sis. Ethel Rambeau are in rehabilitation and would also appreciate our continued prayers. Sis. Linda Shaw recently fractured her foot, and we look forward to her being back to worship with us soon. We are so thankful for answered prayers and will continue to pray for a speedy recovery.

We were saddened when we heard about the death of Marine Lance Cpl. William "Billy" Craig Koprince, Jr. of Southgate. He was killed in Iraq on December 27, 2006, while on foot patrol in Al Anbar province by a roadside bomb. He was a great nephew to Sis. Martha Szilagyi and Sis. Vi Barton (Bro. Jim). Our love and prayers are with his family as they go through this very difficult time. Our deepest sympathy, continued prayers and love to Sis. Judy Aberle on the death of her mother, Sis. Mary Aberle, (late Bro. Joe), from Sabetha, KS. May she feel the Lord's peace and know the gentle comfort of His healing touch.

The weekend of January 20-21, our choir will travel to Latty, OH, to worship, to fellowship and to praise the Lord with song.

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

*1 John 4:12*

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### MINNESOTA MINNEAPOLIS LaRae Dill

"In every change, He faithful will remain..." These words from our Hymns of Zion hymn, "Be Still My Soul" come to mind and seem applicable to many situations in our congregation this month!

Sis. Sue Messner (Bro. Doug) and Sis. Connie Bergstrom (Bro. Doug) have spent many weeks caring for their mother, Sis. Elaine

Kellenberger (Lester, IA). Seeing her mind and body change and prepare for eternity was certainly a faith-building experience for them. We'll miss Elaine's visits to our area to visit her local family. We extend our love and sympathy to all, with special love to Bro. Doug and Sis. Sue, Bro. Doug and Sis. Connie, and local grandchildren, Aric and RaeLynn Leenderts and children, Alissa and

Chelsey Messner, and Cory and Tyler Bergstrom.

We are thrilled to welcome a new sister to our fellowship. Sis. Marti Schlatter (Columbus, OH) has relocated to the Twin Cities with a transfer from Cargill. We all enjoyed meeting Marti's parents, Bro. Tim and Sis. Becky Schlatter (Latty, OH), as they traveled to MN to help Marti move. We wish Sis. Marti God's peace and faithfulness in this change in her life.

New babies have brought change in a heaven-sent way to three families! Matt and Renee Konz welcomed Makenzie Jean. Grandparents of this new little girl are Bro. Aldean and Sis. Charlotte Luthi (Morris, MN) and Tony and Nancy Konz (Adrian, MN). The Rocke family, Bro. Duane, Sis. Bonnie and siblings, Adrian, Allison, Anthony, and Alayna were blessed with a new son and brother on January 6, Ashton Paul. Grandparents are Bro. Norman and Sis. Lollie Young (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Curt and Sis. Beth Rocke (Eureka, IL). Bud and Tera Runquist are first time parents! Their new daughter, Melina Jean, was born January 15. Local grandparents, aunts and uncles are thrilled with Melina's birth. Dan and Lola Deragisch, and Jim and Maureen Runquist are grandparents.

As a church family, we have opportunity to be aware and sensitive to changes in the lives of others.



Whether it be declining physical or mental health, loss of family members, adjustments to new living situations, or new moms and dads taking on the role of parent for the first time, we can "encourage one another, and build each other up".

"Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do."

*1 Thessalonians 5:11*

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### MINNESOTA, MORRIS

**Heidi Nohl  
Sheila Reuter**

We rejoiced to learn of three souls, Taylor Gramm (Bro. Tim and Sis. Gwen) and Anthony and Amy Ekren, that have started their repentance. We trust God will grant them grace to build a firm foundation.

We were blessed to have visiting ministers with us this month. They were Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Robert Meyer (Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Dan Dubach (Prescott, AZ) and Bro. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN). May the Lord reward these brothers for their labors.

We rejoice with several parents in the birth of their new babies this month. Jenna Ann was born to Bro. Matt and Sis. Katie Koehl. Excited for her arrival were big brother Micah and grandparents, Bro. Karl and Sis. Marilyn Koehl and Bro. Bernie and Sis. Joyce Messner. Madeline Marie was born to Mitch and Abby Fehr. Her older brother is Monte, and grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Sandy Fehr and Mark Ekren and Kim and Vance Gullickson. Sage Aubrey was born to Bro. Micah and Sis. Holly Zeltwanger. Her big sister is Sierra and grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Rachel Zeltwanger and Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat Beer (Milford,

IN). Also, Peyton Daniel was born to Bro. Dan and Sis. Kayla Wiegand (Goodfield, IL). Thankful grandparents are Bro. Harvey and Sis. Debra Joos.

On January 7, Bro. Rustin Schmidgall and Sis. Sharon Koch of Tremont, IL, were united in marriage. Their parents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Diane Schmidgall and Bro. Roger and Sis. Sally Koch (Tremont, IL).

January 14 was the wedding of Sis. Alexis Koehl and Bro. Tyler Scott of Prescott, AZ. Their parents are Bro. Randy and Sis. Shirley Koehl and Ted Scott and LuAnn Rehm. May God bless them as they walk down this pathway of life together.

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### MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

**Rachel Steiner  
Julie Schmidt**

This past month we had the opportunity to sing Christmas carols to many senior citizens and those in local nursing homes. We thank the Sunday School children and their teachers for their efforts put into the Christmas program. As we listened to the story of the birth of our Savior, we were reminded that "tis not the manger, but the cross that sets the spirit free".

We rejoice with Bro. Clint and Sis. Magdalena Schmidt on the birth of their daughter. Cheyenne Mary was born on January 1. Welcoming her home are siblings, Tristan and Sierra. Grandparents are Bro. Dick and Sis. Mary Lou Schmidt and Bro. Vladimir and Sis. Margaret Fortenbacher (Kitchener, ON). Great-grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Hazel Schmidt.

Our hospital patient this month was Max Bartels (Jay and Sis. Amy). We pray they can feel God's nearness and watch over him as he regains his strength.

Bro. Elmer and Sis. Hazel Schmidt celebrated their 65th anniversary in December. We are thankful for the many years God has blessed them together. They would like to thank everyone for the cards, gifts and love that was shown to them.

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### MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

About this time last year we learned of the news that our dear Bro. Jesse Delph was diagnosed with terminal cancer. All too soon we had to say goodbye when he was called home this fall. We extend our sympathy and prayers to his family. He is greatly missed by our congregation.

We recently welcomed two new souls into our church family, Sis. Allison and Sis. Lauren Meyer (Bro. DeVere and Sis. Michelle). May God's blessings be with them both. We appreciate the efforts of Elder Bros. John Leman (Sis. Connie) and Gary Hertzell (Sis. Ellen) in helping with the weekend.

We rejoice with Grant Meyer (Bro. DeVere and Sis. Michelle) as he decided to turn his life to the Lord in repentance.

Our church recently has had the blessing of seeking the Lord's will as we put in Bro. Brent Kellenberger to the ministry. May God be with him and his wife, Sis. Beth, and their family, Amor and Kambria, as he endeavors to bring forth the Word.

We've been blessed over the past months to have three new babies born. Bro. Brent and Sis. Beth Kellenberger were thankful for the safe arrival of their daughter, Kambria Ann, born on June 21, 2006. Grandparents are Bro. Randy and Sis. Karen Kellenberger and Bro. Clarence and Sis. LuAnn Zobrist (Congerville).



Bro. Ryan and Sis. Becky Weiss welcomed Ethan Ryan on November 24, 2006. His siblings are Kaitlyn and Kenton and grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Karen Weiss (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Bob and Sis. Sally Rinkenberger (Forrest).

Bro. Quinton and Sis. Heather Snyder were blessed with the birth of their firstborn, Emma Anne, born on January 13. Grandparents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Kara Snyder and Bro. Tom and Sis. Cindy Hitz (Detroit).

December 10 was our Christmas program, all church caroling, and chili supper. We were thankful to have ministering Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne) here.

We recently bid farewell to our friend, Clint Schambach (Bro. Bob and Sis. Jeannie, Elgin, IL). He assembled with us over the past few years as he attended college in our area. May God be with him as he moves back home.

On the weekend of January 13-14 we welcomed Bro. Ned Kellenberger (Bro. Randy and Sis. Karen) into the fold. We were blessed to be able to hear retired Elder Bro. Gene Marti again at the testimony. We were thankful for the turnout in spite of the winter weather.

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### **MISSOURI, LAMAR**

**Becky Marti**

**Mindy Braker**

We thank Elder Bro. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO) and Bro. Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL) for being willing to share God's Holy Word with us. May the Lord bless and provide for both.

Bro. Brian and Sis. Kristen Leman were blessed with the arrival of a baby girl, Abigail Rose. Her brothers, Brett, Andrew and Quinton, welcome her home. Abigail's grandparents are Bro. Terry and Sis. Shirley Leman (Eureka, IL)

and Bob and Sis. Janice Stoller. We wish Bro. Brian and Sis. Kristen God's blessings and grace as they raise their family.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Orlan and Sis. Mary Kellenberger and Bro. Curt and Sis. Martha Kellenberger in the loss of their mother, Sis. Elaine Kellenberger (Lester, IA). We also extend our sympathy to Bro. Leonard and Sis. Bonnie Braker and their family as their daughter-in-law, Rene Braker (Terry), from Austin, TX, has also passed from this life. May each one feel the Lord's nearness and comfort.

Wyatt Braker (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Carol) spent time in the hospital this past month. We are thankful he is back home and on the mend.

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### **MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS**

**Betsy Schrenk**

We extend sympathy to our Sis. Shayna Mangers (Bro. Scott) at the death of her grandmother, Sis. Mary Aberle, of Sabetha, KS. We pray that God comfort the family.

Bro. Dave Marquart (Sis. Lori, Taylor), and Bro. Bob Pfloderer (Sis. Ellie, Morton) were faithful in bringing God's Word to our church. We love and appreciate our visiting ministers and all those who accompany them.

In mid-January we again experienced severe winter weather, including an ice storm that brought down many branches and many whole trees. Power lines were broken, forcing many to leave their homes as they were without electricity for days. Our comfortable way of life can be quickly altered by the fury of a storm, and our homes, instead of being pleasant places of refuge, are dark and cold and inhospitable. Church services were cancelled one Sunday,

making us more keenly aware of how much we appreciate our weekly day of worship and fellowship. These extreme situations are reminders of how fragile things are here on this earth, and we know that we have no continuing city here.

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### **MISSOURI, TAYLOR**

**Sally Haerr**

PEACE... it starts with Jesus and then as He places it in our hearts, it becomes evident in our homes and in our churches, communities and then to the whole world. When I think of Heaven, even more than the beauty of the streets of gold, I think of a place of total PEACE. That thought and promise keeps us going with joy and anticipation (John 14:27).

Christmas Day service was a special blessing to all in attendance. Our New Year's Eve service is always a time of reflection – a time to count our blessings and look forward to a new year and whatever an all-knowing God has in store for us. All He asks of us is to trust Him and be willing to say, "Here I am, Lord. Use me."

On January 3 our annual church business meeting took place in the church basement. This is a time of sharing reports on finances and progress of future projects. What a blessing it is to work together for the good of the whole body. We need each one.

On January 10 at our Fellowship Center, Bro. Scott Wegman (Sis. Dawn), using the format compiled by the Elder Technology Committee, talked to us about Internet Usage. Like so many things in life, discernment and proper choices are so important. There are safe guards available and it is our duty to search them out and use them.

On the weekend of January 13-14 we were vividly reminded how vital it is to work together. (Icy weather con-



ditions kept the unfolding of plans moment to moment.) That Saturday morning there was a bridal shower for Sis. Heidi Heimer (Bro. Rod and Sis. Barb) and Bro. Kenton Snyder (Bro. Greg and Sis. Kara, Kansas City, MO). Then, Saturday evening, we were privileged to hear the testimonies of three precious souls: Adam Adrian (Bro. Rusty and Sis. Amy), and Jim and Sally (Riney) Gottman. Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) was here to assist our Elder Bro. Kent. Also rejoicing with us was Bro. Neil Widmer (Sis. Kris, West Lafayette, IN). On Sunday afternoon, in the waters of baptism these three souls erected a covenant with God to be true and faithful until life's end. What a blessing to greet them as our new brothers and sister in faith. Our special thanks to Bro. Tom and Bro. Neal for braving the storm to be here. Joy and peace was such an overall experience for all of us.

Sis. Marge Gerst (Bro. Arnie) lost her sister in death. Norma King passed away on December 29. We extend our love and sympathy to Sis. Marge.

Those sick/hospitalized this month were: Bro. Don Grimm (Sis. Tricia), Bro. Tim Lehman (Sis. Amber) and Lucas Wiegand (Mark and Lisa). When we are blessed with good health, it is easy to neglect praying for those who are sick and hurting. I want to do better.

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### NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Hope Graves

We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Andy Stoller and his wife, Sis. Roberta (Smithville, OH), with us for the weekend of January 21. We thank them for their efforts in coming here and were glad that the winter weather cooperated and the Lord

provided them with safe travels.

Our prayers extend to Sis. Elveria Martin and her family in the passing of her brother, Norbert Martin. We also extend our prayers to the family of Richard Farney who died on January 2.

Hospitalized this past month was Gayle Hirsche. We are thankful that she is feeling much better and able to travel with her husband to Biloxi for the restoration efforts. We keep all those working on these teams in our prayers as the Lord blesses their labors and work for His glory.

Our Elder Bro. Duane Farney also recently returned from a trip to Haiti where they worked on several roofing projects.

Ready to suffer grief or pain,  
ready to stand the test.  
Ready to stay at home and send  
others if He sees best.  
Ready to go, ready to bear,  
ready to watch and pray.  
Ready to stand aside and give,  
till He shall clear the way.  
Ready to go, ready to stay,  
ready my place to fill.  
Ready for service, lowly or great,  
ready to do His will.

### *Hymns of Zion #124*

We are so happy to hear that little Jason Daniel was able to return home after his two week stay in the NICU. Jason was born to Jay and Shannon Virkler on January 10. He was welcomed home by big brother, Derek.

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### OHIO, AKRON Mara Henico Rachel Pamer

"... 'Tis not the manger, but the cross,  
That sets the spirit free..."  
What a blessing it was to enjoy the time that has been set aside to remember Christ's lowly beginning, and ultimately God's gift of salva-

tion! We appreciated Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH) and Bro. Tim Ramsier (Rittman, OH) who served us in the ministry on Christmas Day, and trust that God will bless their labors. We also were thankful that Bro. Ted Luginbuhl (Smithville, OH) ministered to us and trust that God will richly reward him as well.

We are thankful that Sis. Bonnie Bako has been able to assemble with us again after a hospital stay. Also, following another cataract surgery, we were glad to see that Sis. Esther Boleratz has recovered and is also able to come to church again.

Bro. Ned and Sis. Gail Spangler welcomed their second grandchild, Gabriella Gail, born to Lisa and Joseph Pallini, and are thankful for the prayers and support given to their family during this time. Older brother, Isaac, is excited to welcome home his new sister.

We were thankful to witness the wedding of our Bro. Justin (Bro. Paul and Sis. Sharon, Junction, OH) and Sis. Lisa Gherian (Steve and Janee Rufener, Rittman, OH). We are thankful that they will be attending our congregation and trust they will feel our welcome.

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### OHIO, COLUMBUS Nancy Banks

On January 20, we were privileged to have Elder Bros. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeanine, Mansfield, OH) and Dave Graf (Sis. Barb, Akron, OH) with us for the reading of the Memorandum. Then on the following day, we held our annual business meeting. Bro. Corbin Schlatter has been voted into the office of trustee; Sis. Hope Schambach has been voted onto the kitchen committee; and Bro. Matt Saurer will be our usher and sound system coordinator. Our prayers are with these brothers and



sisters as they take on these responsibilities in our church.

Other visiting ministers with us this month were Bro. Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL), Bro. Jerry Bauman (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH). We appreciate those who travel the miles to share God's Word with us.

It was with heavy hearts that we bid farewell to our Sis. Marti Schlatter as she accepted a transfer to Minneapolis, MN. We will miss her and wish her God's blessings in her new home.

This reporter also apologizes for the omission of a very important event in our church when we welcomed Sarah Rufener as our new sister in faith. Her baptism was October 22. Sis. Sarah's parents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Susan Rufener (Smithville, OH). May she feel God's nearness in her new walk of life.

World Relief night was held and many helping hands assembled soup packets to be distributed to the food bank in Plain City.

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### **OHIO, JUNCTION** **Cindy Schlatter**

Come, ye weary and oppressed,  
Jesus now is calling you;  
Come to him, He'll give you rest –  
Still he bids you come.  
Jesus now is calling,...

*Gospel Hymns #539*

Our hearts are filled with rejoicing as another dear friend has heard Jesus calling and has answered His call. Beth Manz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen) has come in humble repentance and we will continue to remember her in our prayers as we plead with our Heavenly Father to continue calling the many others.

We are thankful there are willing Brothers and Sisters to carry out var-

ious duties in the church. We will support the following in prayer as they take on new responsibilities: Bro. Mark Manz (Sis. Cathy) - Trustee, Bro. Scott Manz (Sis. Sara) - Usher, Sis. Ruth Dotterer - World Relief Sewing, and Sis. Laurie Schlatter (Bro. Dennis) - Kitchen Committee. Our thanks go to those who have finished their terms for their many labors.

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### **OHIO, LATTY** **Amanda Steffen** **Carmen Eisenmann**

We were blessed with visiting ministers this past month in the forms of Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI), Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL), Bro. Greg Stieglitz (Sis. Lisa, Indianapolis, IN) and Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH).

Our Sunday School presented their Christmas program on the evening of Wednesday, December 20, to the entire church. Once again, we were all reminded of the true meaning of Christmas from the voices of the children.

Cris and Sis. Amy Hopkins welcomed another girl, Evi Eloise, on December 14. Carli, Josi, Darci and Silas are looking forward to playing with her at home. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Phil and Sis. Gloria Grant and paternal grandparents are Kirk and Laurel Hopkins of Antwerp, OH.

Our congregation was elated to hear of the engagement of Sis. Crystal Stoller (Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol) to Bro. Jason Pelfrey (Bro. Dale and Sis. Beth) of Rittman, OH. They are anticipating an April 15 wedding date.

It is with great joy that another soul is seeking salvation as Casey Wenninger (Seth) has begun her repentance. May God smile upon her and be with her in the coming days

and weeks.

We were saddened to hear of the sudden and untimely death of Jim Gehman (Bonnie). He was the son-in-law of Harlan and Sis. Dolores Riggenschach. In addition to his wife, Bonnie, he leaves behind three daughters, Bethany, Adrianna and Natalie. May God comfort them all in their loss.

Our church ballot results are as follows: Sunday School teachers: Bro. Duane Sinn, Sis. Karen Sinn and Sis. Joni Wenninger; church trustee: Bro. Eric Rager; Fellowship Hall trustee: Bro. Blane Stoller; Kitchen Committee: Sis. Tam Stoller, Sis. Kay Miller and Sis. JaNahn Sinn. God bless those who have served as well as those who will serve.

For the year 2006, the Latty congregation saw 17 births, 4 deaths, 6 weddings, 5 baptisms, and had 13 converts at the close of the year.

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### **OHIO, MANSFIELD** **Esther Baumann**

Depart vain world, with all your sin!

From bondage I am free.

A humble offering do I bring;

My heart I give to thee!

*Zion's Harp #163 v. 11*

On January 14, we witnessed the baptisms of Sis. Melinda Robertson (Steve), Sis. Becky Baumann (Bro. Mike and Sis. Lilly), and Bro. Justin Miller (Bro. Roger and Sis. Dorina). We were thankful to hear their testimonies of God freeing them from the bondage of sin. We continue to pray for them as they walk their lives of faith. Special thanks to Elder Bro. John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia, Latty, OH) and Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis, OH) who came to assist in this special weekend.



Esther Joy, firstborn of Bro. Mark and Sis. Julie Rufener, arrived safely on December 25. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Kay Rufener and Bro. Clarence and Sis. LuAnn Zobrist (Congerville, IL).

We rejoice with Ashley Gabor (Scott and Lori) and Andrea Baumann (Bro. Mike and Sis. Lilly) as they have both made a beginning in their repentance. Continue to pray for them as they seek their salvation.

Bro. John Pfeiffer Sr. (Sis. Zuzanna) continues to need our prayers as he recovers after being hospitalized.

May God reward Bro. Steve Pamer (Sis. Arliss, Akron, OH) for serving us in the ministry this past month.

Our sympathy to Bro. Joe Pamer (Sis. Betty) and Sis. Sophie Sabo on the loss of their brother, George Pamer (of our 'sister' church).

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## OHIO, RITTMAN

**Sarah Bauman  
Linda Zollinger**

"The grass withereth, the flower fadeth; but the word of our God shall stand forever."

*Isaiah 40:8*

Once again, we were thankful to have many visiting ministers bring forth the Word of God. Bros. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN), Todd Stoller (Latty, OH), Don Manz (Junction, OH), Randy Gasser and Lucas Frank (Detroit, MI), Bill Brake (Sardis, OH), Ted Luginbuhl (Smithville, OH), Ron Palitto and Paul Gasser (Akron, OH) and Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN) were among us this month.

Our hospital patients this month included Bro. Kenneth Rupp, Sis. Mary Ellen (Bro. Bill) Saylor, Bro.

Chester (Sis. Roma) Rufener, Sis. Violet (Bro. Mitch) Baltic, Bro. Ed (Sis. Anita) Riggerbach, Bro. Andrew Steiner, and Bro. David (Sis. Eileen) Emch. Many prayers have been offered on behalf of these hospital patients as well as many others who have had medical treatment.

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me."

*John 14:1*

It is always such a comfort to know we can go to God's Holy Word for all our needs in life, even in times of sorrow. Our thoughts and prayers have been with Bro. Matt and Sis. Darlene Csapo as his father, Frank, has passed away. We also extend our sympathy to Bro. Ken and Sis. Martha Steele at the passing of his brother-in-law, Kenneth Givens.

"Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord."

*Proverbs 18:22*

The engagement of Bro. Matt Baltic (Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty, Indianapolis, IN) and Sis. Lynn Rufener (Bro. Steve and Sis. Jenee) was made known this past month. The engagement of Bro. Jason Pelfrey (Bro. Dale and Sis. Beth) to Sis. Crystal Stoller (Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol) of Latty, OH, was also announced this month. May the Lord bless and guide both of these couples.

Bro. Justin Gherian (Bro. Paul and Sis. Sharon, Junction) of our Akron congregation and Sis. Lisa Rufener (Bro. Steve and Sis. Jenee) were married on December 31. Sis. Lisa will be missed here in Rittman, but will be a nice addition to the Akron congregation.

January 14 was the wedding day for Sis. Beth Stoller (Bro. Ed and Sis.

Verla) from Smithville and Bro. Dan Kellenberger (Bro. Keith and Sis. Ida, Bradford, IL). May the Lord be the centerpiece of their new home.

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

*Matthew 18:5*

Little Haylin Marie was born on December 30 to first-time parents, Bro. Ethan and Sis. Trudie Schar. Grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Diane Hartzler and Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy Schar.

Cooper John Baltic joined the home of Bro. Milan, Sis. Amy, Molly, Megan, Adam, Madalyn and Eli on January 12. Grandparents are Bro. Arthur and Sis. Bonnie Ingold and Bro. Daniel and Sis. Betty Baltic (Indianapolis, IN).

"Now the peace of God be with you all. Amen."

*Romans 15:33*

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## OHIO, SARDIS Eric and Jami Hartzler

"The spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings to the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives..."

*Isaiah 61:1*

The Spirit of the Lord God brought forth the Word through these visiting ministers, Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago, IL) and Bro. Doug Harmon (Sis. Lanna, Toledo, OH). We are thankful for them and pray God will bless them and their families for their willing efforts.

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and



forget not all his benefits: who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;"

*Psalm 103:2-3*

Rachel Indermuhle (Trent and Christy) was in the hospital with a bad virus, but is now home recovering. Praise God for His mercy and healing power.

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## OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Ruth Gasser  
Edith Miller**

We appreciate the efforts of several visiting ministers who have shared the Word with us recently. May God richly bless Bros. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH), Kenneth Dietz (Bradford, IL), Don Manz (Junction, OH) and Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH).

On January 14, Bro. Dan Kellenberger (Rittman, OH) and Sis. Beth Stoller were united in holy matrimony. Parents of this couple are Bro. Keith and Sis. Ida Kellenberger (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Ed and Sis. Verla Stoller. We are thankful to have another Christian home established in our area, and we pray God's blessing upon them as they begin the pathway of life as one.

Bro. Glenn and Sis. Lou Riggerbach welcomed another grandchild into their lives, as McKenna Jean was born to Adam and Jessica Brewster on December 16.

Several have experienced hospital stays this past month. Whitney Indermuhle (Jason), Sis. Shelly Beery (Bro. Dwaine), Sis. Margaret Marty and Sis. Rhea Beery (Bro. Ted) have all needed medical assistance. We wish each of them God's comfort and healing, according to His will.

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## OHIO, TOLEDO

**Teresa Rywalski  
Rebecca Beard**

Greetings of love to each of you.

It was a blessing to hear that our converts, Brad and Holli Shields, have found peace with themselves, man, and most importantly, with God. We look forward to hearing their testimonies of faith and witnessing their baptism.

Ethan Sancraint (Ryan and Kristie) has been in the hospital several times this past month. Please remember this little one and his family in your prayers.

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## OREGON, PORTLAND

**Brianna Strahm**

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty), and Bros. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie), John Wiegand (Sis. Jane), and Todd Zollinger (Sis. Michele), all of Silverton. We thank these brothers for being with us.

We enjoyed an all-church potluck followed by New Year's Eve services on December 31.

We are thankful to report that our convert, Rebekah Jones (Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz), has found peace with God and man. We look forward to her proving and baptism on February 17 and 18, Lord willing. May we remember Rebekah in our prayers as this time approaches.

On January 14 our congregation held our annual business meeting. Bro. Lee Jones was selected as our new Bible Class Sunday School teacher. Bro. Ilijah Gavrilovic was chosen to replace Bro. Dennis Martin as trustee. We thank Bro. Dennis for his labors in the past, and wish to offer our prayerful support to Bro. Lee and Bro. Ilijah as they take up their new duties.

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## OREGON, SILVERTON

**Melissa Kuenzi  
Cindy Metzger**

We enjoyed the presentation of Christ's birth at the Sunday School Christmas Program held on December 17. Looking at the year 2006 in review, it is interesting to note that there were 13 new babies, 2 baptisms, 1 wedding, and 1 funeral held at our church.

We're thankful our Sis. Marlene Dettwyler (Bro. Loren) is recovering well from a recent hip surgery.

We rejoice with Jason and Jill Carr, whose announcement of peace was made at Eureka and at Silverton on December 31. The Carr family live in central California and worship with us at Silverton frequently.

Thanks again to our Portland ministering Bros. Ron Jones (Sis. Liz), Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy), and Garth Steffen (Sis. Connie) who have shared with us this month.

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## PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

Our dear friend, Christopher Lanz, continues his recovery from major surgery. We encourage Chris and his family, Bro. John and Sis. Kay and his siblings, and look forward to happy days ahead.

Once again, our dear Bro. Fred Witzig, his wife, Sis. Nancy, and children from Indianapolis, IN, visited our congregation, bringing us the Word in truth. We thank them for their visit and for serving in the vineyard of the Lord.

We rejoice with our precious convert, Rika Allen, who has been announced for proving and baptism. We are so thankful for this dear family; Rika, her husband, Bro. Bob, and their children. May the glory of God shine in their hearts and their home as Rika takes this important step in her spiritual journey.



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## TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

### Mike and Monica Fritz

We are thankful to have begun the new year feeling the presence and blessing of God. We have been greatly blessed by our recent visitors. Our visiting ministers have been Bros. Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonita; Cissna Park, IL) and Greg Stieglitz (Sis. Lisa; Indianapolis, IN). We have also enjoyed the fellowship with brethren and friends visiting from Champaign, Cissna Park, and Eureka, IL; Indianapolis, IN; and Lamar, MO.

If you are traveling in or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. The following churches are scheduled for services in the near future: Kansas City, MO (2/18); Forrest, IL (2/25); Sabetha, KS (3/4); Detroit, MI (3/11); Gridley, IL (3/18); and Bluffton North, IN (3/25). Often we meet together on Saturday evenings for fellowship. We also regularly meet on Wednesday evenings for a song service at 7:15 p.m. and would welcome any mid-week visitors. Contacts are Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz, (615) 952-9933; and Sis. Gwen Leuthold, (615) 356-5755.

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## TEXAS, AUSTIN

### Amy Ringger Serenity Ringger

Aren't we glad that God never asks us to do something unreasonable? "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous." I John 5:3. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Romans 12:1.

We had a family discussion recently where we talked about "Reasonable Requests" within the family.

In an attempt to encourage children to work together in an orderly way, we ask them to do what another sibling asks them to do, if it is a reasonable request. After the reminder, one child asked, "What if you don't agree on what a Reasonable Request is?"

Dad explained, "Well, let me put it this way, if you ever have bad discernment there will be a price to pay."

One of the other children added, "Is there ever strife without pride?" We all agreed that pride seems to come before strife.

Thanks to our ministers and visitors who encourage us in the love of God and His commandments.

Our ministers were Bros. Jerry Isch, Tom Bolliger, and Shawn Metzger. We were glad for the great blessing of many visitors from Oakville; Elgin, IA; McAllen; W. Lafayette; Valparaiso; Francesville; and groups of singles from IL, IA, MO, and OH.

We look forward to these churches serving in March: La-Crosse (4), Lamar (11), Lester (18).

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 on Hwy 71 about 1/2 mile and take the first exit (by the Ford

dealership), proceed on the east-bound frontage road about 4/10 mile. 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 and the church sign in the front.

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

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## TEXAS, McALLEN

### Sandy Kipfer

We thank God for the safe journey given to Mabel Farney and Virginia Ehman of Cissna Park, IL, for being with us in the month of January.

If you are thinking of a winter vacation, consider the valley in Texas. The weather has been wonderful. Starting again in 2007, our upcoming services will be every 2 weeks: January 28, February 4 and February 18, March 11 and March 25. 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 see ministers' directory for local contact information.

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## TEXAS, ZAPATA

### Mary Plattner

We certainly appreciate and welcome all of our winter visitors that have not only made Zapata their winter home but those who made the effort to come to Zapata for a short visit. We enjoyed the many visitors over the Christmas holiday and was wonderful to see so many children come to visit their grandparents.

Bro. Tom Schrenk (Sis. Joan,



Alto, MI) is here for the winter and serves on the pulpit while he is here. We appreciate he and his wife spending the winter months in Zapata. Ministering Bro. Wayne Fehr (Silverton, OR) was here for a weekend as he brought his parents to Zapata for the season. Also, ministering Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) and his wife, Sis. Frances, were here for a weekend. We certainly appreciate the efforts of these ministering brothers.

Anyone making a trip to South Texas is most welcome to worship with us in Zapata.

### VERMONT, NORWICH Areli and Kirby Reutter

What He says we will do / Where he sends we will go / Never fear, only trust and obey. (Hymns of Zion #186)

This month the Lord has blessed us immensely by providing another worship site to accommodate many of us who worship in the state of Vermont. The site was selected on a trial basis to provide additional winter services for a number of Apostolic families that live on the western side of the state. We are extremely grateful that the very first service held in Clarendon, Vermont, was well attended by local believers (some of whom drove up to 2.5 hours) and also

well supported by many beloved visitors from Rockville, CT. Likewise, we feel particularly grateful that two very dear Shepherding Brothers from the Northeast were present to direct the Lord's worship on our behalf: Elder Bros. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl, Rockville, CT) and Duane Farney (Sis. Karen, Croghan-Naumburg, NY).

Additionally this past month, ministering Bro. Duane Reutter (Sis. Kay, Rockville, CT) also fed us the Word in Clarendon. Likewise, Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Diane, Rockville, CT) ministered to our spiritual needs in Norwich. At our most recent Norwich gathering, both the noon fellowship hour and the afternoon service were abbreviated when heavy snow fall started to jeopardize our driving conditions. We are thankful that the Lord graciously provided for our transportation needs by placing a vigilant eye on our respective travels.

At the local level, we continue to remain prayerful for our dear Sis. Miriam Reutter (Bro. Nathan), as she continues to await permanent resident status following her family's relocation from Kitchener, Ontario, to Bennington, Vermont. We also welcome with open arms two dear friends: John and Heather Altmire. May the Lord bless their residence and worship in the Ver-

mont area.

If you are interested in visiting us this winter or spring, please consult the ministers' directory for directions to the Norwich location or call Bro. Kirby Reutter at (802) 776 5293 for directions to the Clarendon site. Either way, please contact us to help us plan for your attendance. For the present, 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!

Furthermore, if you or your congregation are interested in purchasing head coverings hand-made by Sisters from Ixtlan, Mexico, please contact Sis. Areli Reutter at the number listed above. Sis. Areli grew up in Ixtlan and has a collection of coverings ready for distribution. An inventory is available upon request.

Finally, we also recently held our annual business meeting. Many positions taken for granted in larger gatherings were either crystallized or re-assigned. We are thankful for all efforts, large and small, expended on behalf of the Vermont gatherings.

"But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him."

*I Corinthians 12:18*





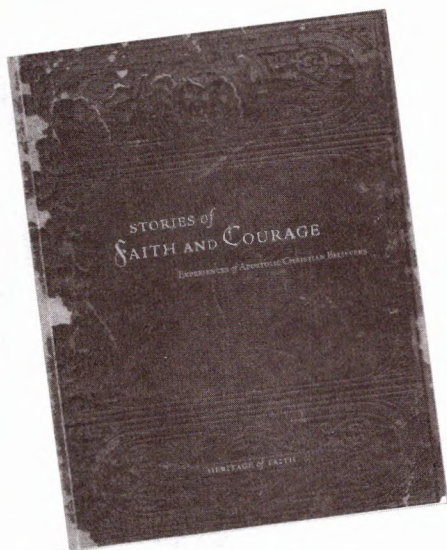
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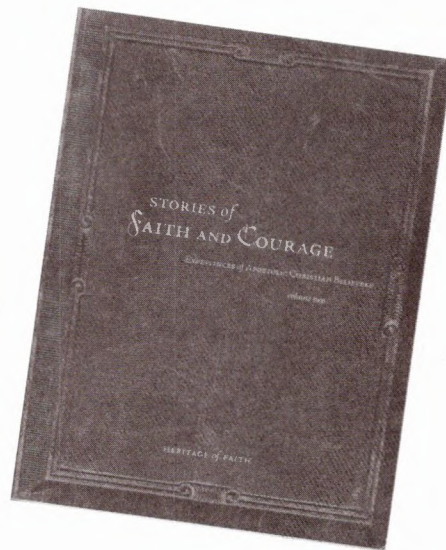
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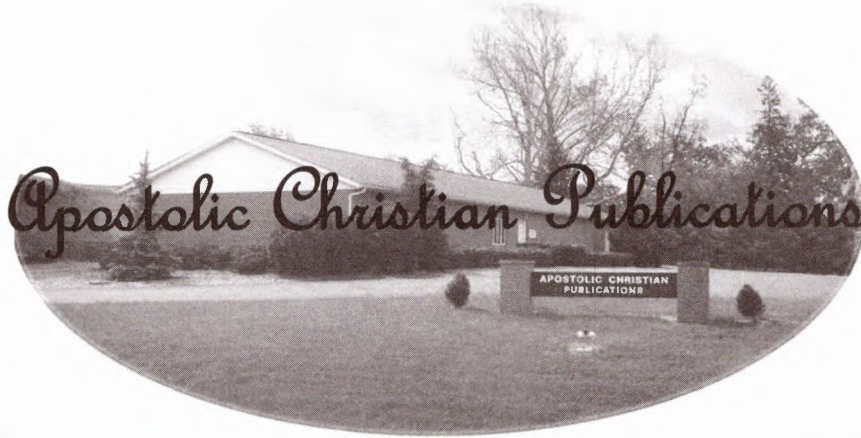
A CD has been recorded containing one verse each of all 67 hymns in the Zion's Melodies hymnal, played on a digital piano. It is hoped this recording will be helpful in learning these hymns which are historical to our church, but may be new to many of our brethren today. The cost is \$5.00 per CD plus 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:

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





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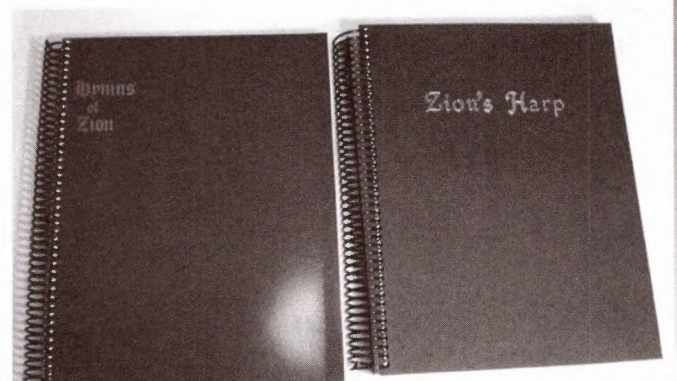
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*Sermon continued from page 2*

ber, Mordecai heard outside the gates that these two guys wanted to kill the king. And it was brought to light, and the king forgot about it until he couldn't sleep one night and he was reading through the books of what happened in the kingdom, and he remembered that account and he asked Haman, what would you do? And Haman thought he was talking about him. And so he said, well I would get the king's horses, and the king's chariot, and have everyone go out before him and say, this is what the king does to someone who he really likes. And then it was done unto Mordecai. (Esther 6:6-11)

So Haman, we can see, had it in his heart to rise himself up even if it took treading down other people. And Satan, perhaps, wanted to see God's chosen people wiped out in the foreign land. But God had promised long before that He would preserve that remnant, and that they would return again someday to Israel. And by the faithfulness of Mordecai and Esther, that was carried out.

So we're here on this earth for a purpose. Sometimes we don't know exactly what's going on. We don't see what Satan's doing, clearly. We don't see what God's doing, clearly. But we have His Word, we have His promises, and we do know this - that it's God's will that none should perish but that all should come to the knowledge of salvation. (I Timothy 2:4) And we know that Jesus said things like, See the fields. They're ripe for harvest but the laborers are few. (St. Luke 10:2) And so, I believe, we're called here to be a city upon a hill, to be the salt of the earth. To be faithful wherever God puts us. To let our light shine. And it will be in different places in our life. (Matthew 5:13-16) Sometimes it will be, maybe at home, still living under our parents' roof. Maybe being an encouragement or a light to our parents, or our brothers and sisters. And it may transfer to school, or to a workplace. It may transfer to the point where we're parents and we're supposed to be lights and examples to our children or our neighbors. But always there's opportunity to be used by God while we still bear this body here on this earth.

As we get to partake of this in this afternoon hour, you know the world would look at going to church, maybe, as kind of boring when there's other things that could be done or maybe there's work to do. And even though there's not a big crowd here, we still have this opportunity to partake in the fellowship of the saints, and the believers.

So we come here with our hearts united in love, to seek upon God's heart repose, and so that He could take our love and ignite the flames once again. Because as we go through life it seems like our wick becomes a little damaged or sooted up by the world and the things around about us, and it needs trimming. And our love maybe grows a little weak because of the cares, and concerns, and pleasures of the world. So that the flame could yet be ignited again and could flow upward to the Saviour. Because He's the head, and we're his members, and He's the light, and we want to show that light through His glow. He's the master, and we're His brethren. We're also His friends, He said in John, I think. He said, I tell you these things because you're my friends. If you were my servants, I wouldn't have to tell you anything, I would just tell you what to do. (St. John 15:14-15) But He says, you're my friends so I let you in on this information, that we might in true fellowship grow, both here when we assemble together, and then that we may grow in fellowship with Christ as we go through the week, sometimes seemingly alone.

I've opened to Roman's chapter 12 for our second reading. There's 3 subtitles in this chapter, in this Bible, that we could keep in mind as we read. First one says, Proper response to God's grace. And we know earlier in Chapter 6 it says, "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid." Romans 6:1. And then later on it says, Proper use of God's gifts, and we are all given gifts. Sometimes we may realize them. Sometimes it takes time before we can see what perhaps our gifts are. And then, in the last section it says, Overcome evil with good.

A beautiful chapter to those who are born again and renewed in faith

and transformed by the renewing of our mind and hearts. That we accepted the sacrifice of Christ Jesus for our sins and have found salvation through His shed blood. By grace, not doing anything really to deserve it, that we should then live for Him, and present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God because that's our reasonable service. (Romans 12:1)

God once called out to a lost people through his prophet Isaiah. He said, Come now, saith the Lord. He said, come now let us reason together. Though your sins be as scarlet, I shall make them white as snow. (Isaiah 1:18) He said, now, look - think about that deal. You can't really pass it up. And there's no other way to take your scarlet sins and make them white as snow but through Jesus. And with that said, it's our reasonable service that we should offer our bodies a living sacrifice.

I once read that the problem - and this is our problem, that's why we have to come to church and read God's Word through the week - because the problem with the living sacrifice is it tends to want to crawl off the altar and go somewhere a little bit more comfortable sometimes. Because sometimes the heat gets turned up on that altar. And so He has to remind us with chapters like this one, how we ought to live our life as a sacrifice unto Him, because it's different than the ways of the world.

The world teaches us that we should, I mean through advertisement and everything, that we need new clothes, that we need new perfume, that we need new cars, that we need to take out loans that we can get more stuff, that we need to stand up for ourselves. In the workplace we're taught by other people that we need to put our husband or wife in their place or our boyfriend or our girlfriend or whoever steps on our toes, that we need to put them in their place. And if they won't see things our way, we ought to divorce them or get rid of them, or do whatever. That we should stand up for ourselves.

So we have a job that we should cleave to the things which are good,

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*Sermon continued from page 43*

and stay away, that we would abhor evil. So that we can prove to the people around about us (and it ends up usually we prove it to ourselves, because it's hard for us to actually believe it, because we don't quite have the faith of Abraham, sometimes) that we can prove that which is good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God. (Romans 12:2) And sometimes that takes time. It doesn't happen right away. But we just, sometimes, we just have to follow one rule upon the other, upon the other, and build until we see the whole picture.

You know, if you remember back when you took geometry, there's those things call proofs or theorems, or whatever they're called, and you build on it. Why is it that such and such is true? And you start out, well this is given. And we're given that God created the heavens and earth in the beginning, and we have the foundation of God's Word (Genesis 1:1). And then we take each truth or each law of geometry and build upon it. And we build upon God's Word. We have the foundation of Christ Jesus and His shed blood and the forgiveness of sins laid, which is a stumbling block unto those who don't believe it or don't understand it. (I Corinthians 1:23) And then we build upon it. This is a building chapter here, where we build upon our salvation, that we can be made useful and that we can use the gifts that He has given us.

And so, he says, that we have gifts. This is how we can use, one way we can prove, the good and acceptable and perfect will of God. First, that we don't think of ourselves more highly than we ought to. But we would think soberly according as God has dealt every man the measure of faith. (Romans 12:3) So that we would seriously think about how God has dealt with us. About how Jesus was with God in the beginning, and the glories above. We can read it in Philippians 2, He was willing to humble Himself as a man and to take our sins upon Him. Even though He created the heavens and earth, and He created, you might say, Caesar, and He created Pilot, and Herod, and He created soldiers who nailed the spikes in His hands. He cre-

ated Judas, because we read in Colossians that without Him was not anything created. (Colossians 1:16) He was willing to be despised by them and crucified so that He could shed His blood for the sins of man. So when we think about that, and we think of how we needed Him as a Savior, that will help us to not think of ourselves more highly than we ought to.

Then he goes on to say, you're all members of the body of Christ, and you're all different (Romans 12:4-6). He goes on to talk about different gifts that we may get into. But here's two things that may happen if we start to think of ourselves more highly than we ought to. One, we might have a strength or a special zeal for a certain area in our life, whether it's evangelism or, I don't know, reaching out to the downtrodden and homeless or whatever, or something totally different. We might think, why in the world isn't everyone lining up behind me and supporting this one thing that's SO important? We have to remember, well, other people might have different gifts and different callings than us. If we all did the same thing, the body wouldn't be complete.

We might also go the other way. We might see someone's gift that they have, and we see that we don't have that gift, and we think, God, why am I so worthless? Why is this person so good at this, and I'm so lousy at it? But that might not be what God's calling us to do. He's maybe given us a different gift, maybe yet to be developed or realized within us. But we each have a gift, maybe some of us have several. Maybe as we go through life, and we're faithful in one gift or one talent, He'll give us others too as He sees fit. So we shouldn't get discouraged if we don't have the same gift as someone else. But we should diligently pay attention to the gifts that we have been given.

So He says, "Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us..." Romans 12:6. So, if we happen to have the gift of prophesy or teaching, let's do it according to the proportion of the faith. In the beginning of Romans, Paul said something like, he was going to go ahead and preach the gospel, as much as in me is. That's what he says in Chapter 1:15,

he says, "So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also." Maybe he didn't know how it was going to turn out, but he felt that he was called to do what he could, and he said, as much as is in me is, I'm going to do it. Maybe it would be a lot, maybe it would be a little bit, but he knew that God would use it, whatever it was.

Think of the widow lady, we heard about this morning, who just threw in her two mites into the treasury. That's as much as in her purse was, but she gave it. (St. Mark 12:41-44) Jesus saw and He said, I tell you that the widow lady has put in more than these men who put in maybe hundreds of dollars - I don't know how much - because He saw that she gave her all. And that's the great thing about God. He doesn't expect us to give more than we have; just our all.

"Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering..." Romans 12:7. That doesn't mean like to sit around and wait for something to happen. It's like, at least the way I understand it, it's like a waiter. Now, when you go down and sit down in a restaurant at a table, you don't expect the waiter to just sit there and wait for you to get up and go over to her and put your order in. The waiter sees you sit down and she gets up and she does her job. She waits on you. So if we're called to minister unto someone, let's get up and do it. Let's not wait around. If we see opportunity, we need to get up and be doing, as much as in us is.

And you know what, it may not turn out the way we think it should. It may look like it totally flopped. God may move in our heart that we should go talk to someone - maybe a complete stranger - and share the gospel with them. They may just kind of look at us and maybe their facial expressions might make it seem like they think we're crazy. We might think, Well, I don't know, maybe God didn't want me to go talk to them because nothing happened. But the seed may have been planted. Or maybe the seed was watered. Maybe they heard about God in Sunday School at one time, or from their grandma or grandpa or parents. They've gone out on their own. Maybe that seed's kind of been drying up in



their hearts and they've forgotten about it. They haven't thought about 'Jesus loves me this I know' for a long time. That Jesus left His throne on high and came into this world to die. Maybe they forgot that, and by mentioning that, we've maybe watered it. Not that a person doth sprout right away, but it watered it so that that seed can start soaking up some moisture. Maybe God will send another person later in the day or the next week as He sees fit. So let's be diligent. Let us be good waiters as we minister to those around about us.

"...he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity;..." Romans 12:8. Jesus talked to his disciples about how we shouldn't make a big deal of it when we, you know, donate money or whatever, or give to someone. He said we shouldn't let our right hand know what our left doeth, but with simplicity. (St. Matthew 6:3)

"...he that ruleth..." Romans 12:8. There may be those of us who are called to be rulers. Maybe not of countries, but maybe of a company. Maybe we don't rule the whole corporation, but maybe we're in charge of a small part of it. Or maybe we're in charge of our own house. Or maybe we're the dorm leader, or whatever it is. But let's, if we have a duty, he says, let's do it with diligence. Not with the diligence of just like so that we can be the best, like Haman wanted to be the best, or like Satan wanted to be better than God. But that we would do all things as unto God. Not as eye service to men that we would look good in the eyes of men, but that we would look good in the sight of God. (Ephesians 6:6)

Sometimes, that may make us look worse in the eyes of men, if we have to do something that we would not compromise our faith or eternal righteousness and truth which is laid out in God's word. That we would be diligent. If we have opportunity to show mercy, not that we would grudgingly, but that we can do it with cheerfulness. (Romans 12:8)

And so on it goes, and he says, "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;" Romans 12:10. In Co-

rinthians chapter 13, we can read about love that is the greatest gift. It never fails. It hopeth all things, endureth all things, charity never faileth. (I Corinthians 13:8-13)

Then it says, "Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;" Romans 12:11. Not slothful in business, we could take that to mean from our German heritage that we should work hard from sun up to sun down. That we should be frugal and that we should get ahead. And that's not bad. Or maybe it's to be not slothful in the busyness of life. But definitely we shouldn't be slothful in whatever we do as it pertains to God's Word, and His work for us here on this earth as ambassadors of Christ to those around about us. That we should be fervent in spirit. So sometimes, as we're not slothful in business, maybe there's not opportunity to do much, but our Spirit should still be fervent within us looking for opportunity to do something.

And prayer. So from "...fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;" Romans 12:11. Then, "Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;" Romans 12:12.

I think in Thessalonians, towards the end of I Thessalonians, it says something like, "Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." I Thessalonians 5:16-18. That we should rejoice in the hope that we have in Christ Jesus. We don't hope in ourselves, necessarily. We don't hope in the next president. We hope in Christ Jesus. Rejoicing in hope, the hope of eternal life. We don't rejoice in the hope of this world, although we don't like to see bad things happen and we like it when leaders seem to be God-fearing. We rejoice, perhaps, a little bit when there is pollution control and things, but that's not our real rejoicing, and not our real hope. Our real hope is in the world to come. And the second coming of Christ, and the hope of eternal life.

Patient in tribulation and, here again, continuing instant in prayer. In Thessalonians, it said pray without ceasing. To be always in communication with God. We know, sometimes,

we can't be doing that consciously. There are some people who feel like they ought to go away somewhere and just spend the whole time in prayer. That's what real nuns do. They are cloistered, and they live in convents and they spend all their time in prayer. There may be certain monks who live in monasteries and do nothing but pray all day for the most part.

But there was a man who lived a long time ago, and there's many books written about him - not to lift up any man. But, he, it was noted in his life that he always seemed to be in communion with God. One of the things he shared, not that he went around blabbing about himself, but people were asking questions, I suppose, just like we read in Peter, and he was ready to give an answer for the hope that lied within him. (I Peter 3:15) He didn't have a great position in life, but he would say things like, in the morning, you know, God & Father, now I have to go to work and my mind's going to be occupied for a while on the things that are right before me. I want to do them the best I can for You, even though I can't be consciously thinking about You with my mind. I think in his spirit he was still in touch with God and was ready to hear Him.

Then we're reminded that God's ways are not our ways. That we should not overcome evil with force or with strength, but that we should overcome evil with good (Romans 12:21). That we should bless them that persecute us, I suppose remembering that they have a soul too (Romans 12:14). That we don't strive against flesh and blood, but that we strive against principalities and powers in high places, and spiritual things. It's a spiritual battle. The other people that we come in contact with, if they are living, perhaps, evil or ungodly lives, they're almost like pawns in the whole scheme of things.

It says we should rejoice with them that do rejoice and weep with them that weep. (Romans 12:15) We should be sensitive to those we come in contact with. You know, if we have something bad going on in our life and maybe we're going to a happy thing, say a wedding or something, that we



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don't rain on someone else. That we don't drag everyone down by our problems. Not that there's not a time to share our problems with each other, but that when it's time to rejoice - and maybe their life is going better than ours at the moment - that we rejoice with them and we're happy for them. And that we weep with them that weep. That we're empathetic and that we're sympathetic to those that are less fortunate than us.

Then it says, "...Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits." Romans 12:16. Sometimes it's hard to be patient with people who don't catch on to things as quick as we do. Who don't do things exactly like we want them to. Maybe they don't clean exactly like we do. They don't catch on to instruction right away. It's easy for me to get impatient. But let's not be wise in our own conceits, but let's, if people seem to be less than us - (And really we know that God is no respecter of persons. He doesn't care if we're high and mighty or if we're low. We're just really the same to Him.) - let's not think we're too good to be patient with someone who seems to be lower than us.

Then we're instructed that we should recompense no man evil for evil. (Romans 12:17) That we should live peaceably with all men as much as lies within us. (Romans 12:18) To remember that vengeance is God's. He is a righteous judge. (Romans 12:19) You know, people in the end aren't going to get away with evil. On that final day of judgment God will judge, and those who have not yet been forgiven and

had their sins washed clean by the blood of the lamb, they'll receive their just reward. We should fear for them and pity them. "Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." Romans 12:20-21. That may take faith, but God is able to provide.

I think it was II Corinthians, he says something like, God doesn't like to tear down governments and knock down strongholds or walls or fortresses the way we think He would. (II Corinthians 10:4) I think he's pretty much talking about the walls and fortresses of our hearts when we don't want to let Him in. But He does it in a subtle way by His goodness and by His mercy, and by His peace, and by reasoning with us that we can say, Well, how can I refuse such an offer that though my sins are as scarlet, He would make them white as snow? When we see that, there are people who believe in God's Word, who do good instead of evil. We see that that can work on a person's heart.

One example I can think of, is one man that was in prison for his faith's sake. And every day - it may have been a woman actually - but the guard would come and get her every day. He'd ask her, OK, Are you going to give up your faith today? Of course, she'd say, No. Every day he'd beat her, hard. She'd go back to her cell and she'd think, Ohhh, I hate this guy. Every day he takes me out and beats me. But then, the spirit worked in her heart, and she started feeling sorry for him, that every day this guard would

come and get her and beat her. Maybe something in her countenance changed that when, instead of being rough and tough and not crying out in pain or whatever when she was beaten, she was praying for this man who was beating her. It wasn't long, this man couldn't do it anymore. He couldn't beat her anymore, because he was overcome with good. And the strong heart, and its toughness was weakened by her humility and love and submission to God's Word.

So may He bless the Word which we've heard today upon our hearts that it might bring forth fruit.



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Mark your calendar to attend this year's 2007 Athens/Tennessee Memorial Day Weekend that has been scheduled on Saturday, May 26 and Sunday, May 27. The theme for the weekend will be "holiness."

On Saturday afternoon, we plan to hold an auction at the Tennessee Fellowship Area and everyone is encouraged to bring at least one item to donate. Weekend speakers are currently being scheduled and church services on Sunday will be held at the Athens, Alabama Apostolic Christian Church.

More details will be forthcoming. We invite everyone to attend this weekend of fellowship, singing, and worship of the Lord.



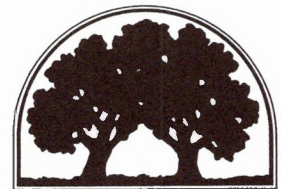
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*For further information and a job description, please contact:*

Jeff Schumacher, Administrator, PO Box 151, Leo, IN 46765  
 jeff.schumacher@gatewaywoods.org  
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## CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 2006/2007

All volunteers should contact the project coordinator. Should you not be able to contact the coordinator, for Haiti direct your inquiry to Bro. Rich Bertschi, Ph. 309-467-6110, E-mail [lemangm@mtco.com](mailto:lemangm@mtco.com). For Jamaica, direct your inquiry to Bro. Mike Rassi, Ph. 1-309-359-3020 or E-mail [michael\\_rassi@hotmail.com](mailto:michael_rassi@hotmail.com).

HAITI					
ORG.	DATE	AREA	COORDINATOR	PROJECT	CAPACITY
SEED	March 9-16, 2007	Les Cayes	Dale Frank	Agriculture Aid	11
AWA-T	March 16-23, 2007	Les Cayes	Troy Struber	Water Aid	5
AWA-FRM	March 16-23, 2007	Les Cayes	Rick Wuethrich	Vocational School	4
AWA-B	March 16-24, 2007	Les Cayes	Bill Rager	Vocational School	2
MEBSH	March 23-30, 2007	Les Cayes	Rich Bertschi	School Roof	9
Palm Grove	TBD	Puit Sales	Tom Hitz	School Roof	11
MEBSH	Apr. - May 4, 2007	Les Cayes	Jon Zeller	Construction/Maintenance	11
MEBSH	May 4-11, 2007	Haiti	Tom Hitz	Caribbean Evaluation	Invitation
AWA-FRW	June 1-8, 2007	Les Cayes	Rick Wuethrich	Vocational School	4
AWA-T	June 1-8, 2007	Les Cayes	Troy Struber	Water Aid	5
AWA-B	June 1-8, 2007	Les Cayes	Bill Rager	Vocational School	2
JAMAICA					
CCCD	March 23-31, 2007	Kingston	Terry Miller	Deaf School	<i>Filled</i>
CCCD	May 19-26, 2007	Deaf Village	Ted Hirstein	Work Place	40/50
CCCD	June 23-30, 2007	Knockpatrick	Bluffton S.S.	Deaf School	40/50

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Ted (Joyce) Hirstein	309-266-8769		hirstein@mtco.com
Terry Miller	309-923-7274 (north) 941-485-4302 (south) 309-696-7804 (cell)	same same	

**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 2007

If anyone is interested in leading a team to Mexico, contact Bro. Mike Fiechter at 260-597-7330 or [mfiechter@onlyinternet.net](mailto:mfiechter@onlyinternet.net)

Location	Date	Project	Coordinator	Phone	E-mail
Agua Prieta	March 3-10, 2007	Construction	Kevin Gerber	260-565-3313	kevgerber@yahoo.com
Agua Prieta	March 10-17, 2007	Construction	Bob Meyer	260-824-3236	rmeyer@nremc.net
Agua Prieta	March 17-24, 2007	Construction	Denis Fry	260-824-3055	fry.d@mchsi.com
Agua Prieta	March 24-31, 2007	Construction	Sam Kaehr	260-565-3200	sckaehr@adamswells.com
Copper Canyon	March 28 - April 5, 2007	Medical/Dental	Cheryl Herrmann	309-385-1082	cherrmann@verizon.net
Juarez	June 16-23, 2007	Construction	Jerry Leuthold	317-578-1170	leuthold.jerald@sbcglobal.net
Juarez	September 19-26, 2007	Medical/Dental	Cheryl Herrmann	309-385-1082	cherrmann@verizon.net
Magdalena	March 10-17, 2007	Construction	Seth Braker	309-678-4703	sdbrake@ilstu.edu
Magdalena	March 17-24, 2007	Construction	Jeremy Hodel	309-264-4307	jeremy.hodel@gmail.com
Magdalena	March 24-31, 2007	Construction	Roger Reinhard	260-565-3282	rmreinhard@adamswells.com
Magdalena	March 31 - April 7, 2007	Construction	Pete Aberle	309-925-5969	dpabfrms@hotmail.com
Magdalena	June 2-9, 2007	Construction	Scott Klopfenstein	602-721-7409	scottklop@yahoo.com
Magdalena	June 9-16, 2007	Construction	John Ricketts	309-444-9061	jonr@grimmauto.com
Magdalena	June 30 - July 7, 2007	Construction	Brent Knobloch	815-923-4736	BEKMRH@aol.com
Magdalena	July 21-28, 2007	Construction	Tyler Banwart	620-223-1362	tybanwart@hotmail.com
Magdalena	November 17-24, 2007	Construction	Rod Schmidt	303-774-7913	rschmidt@Acosta.com
Reynosa	March 10-17, 2007	Construction	Trent Barth	309-696-4157	iccvgcommittee@hotmail.com
Reynosa	March 24-31, 2007	Construction	Jeff Leman	260-565-3815	jvleman@adamswell.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](mailto:paulkaeb@ksiconveyors.com)

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

**Illinois:**

**Indiana:** Tom Neuenschwander  
 Phone/Fax: 260-824-4773  
 E-mail: [tsneuen@adamswells.com](mailto:tsneuen@adamswells.com)

**Ohio:** Ken Zollinger  
 Phone: 330-669-2415  
 Fax: 330-669-8520

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

**Printed Sermons**  
**102 Lake View Drive**  
**Fairbury, IL 61739**  
*or phone (815) 692-3616*

### NOTICE:

Wednesday night services are now being held in Macomb, IL. For further information, call Bro. Norm or Sis. Jan Rechkemmer at (309) 231-0098.





# REMEMBERING

## *Our Spiritual Heritage*

*This concludes the series of a booklet compiled by deceased Elder William A. Stettner, Elgin, Illinois entitled, "To The King's Administration of Justice." This was a letter to state officials in Germany outlining our brethren's Christian beliefs. The contents below continue with their views of military service.*

Although the few on earth who believe in Christ cannot take part in such combat but must look to Christ as their example, we do realize that we owe to our honorable Government such service as they request of us if we can serve in a noncombatant way.

Where it is asked of us to take up weapons to kill we cannot serve in such capacity, on account of our faith and conscience, even though we esteem our honorable Government. If we would kill others, we would sin against God and His word, and we do not believe that our honorable Government would force us to do such.

Rather than to commit sin we would choose to suffer and wait until it pleases God to turn the hearts of the Government to be favorable to us in such matters. We will gladly and faithfully perform any duties which the Government lays upon our brothers whose lot it becomes to serve in

the Army in a noncombatant way.

As our Government has had proof since the years 1847 and 1850, and in more recent years, that some of our brothers served their allotted time in the Army and were released with a very good record although on account of their faith they did not bear arms. It is not on account of malice or disobedience — therefore, God will look graciously upon us.

Since 1849, only five men in Wurttemberg have been called to serve in the Army, whereby our Government can clearly see that such few men can easily be replaced in such service whereby they need not bear arms. Should the Government grant us these favors we will accept them thankfully from our honorable Government which we esteem and honor very highly, and also thank God for His grace if He can lead the hearts of our Government according to His will.

However, should our honorable Government refuse and not be willing to grant us these favors, we will not sin against our God and His commandments, and there would be nothing else for us to do but take the consequences, suffering if need be.

This sums up the confession and foundation of our faith. We fully understand and apprehend

that which we confess, and believe it also. We would add that the Bible, the Holy Scripture of the Old and New Testament, is the only book from which we read and teach every Sunday and other days when we assemble for services.

We also have a song book, the Zion's Harp, which contains spiritual hymns that are in accord with the Holy Scripture. A change of books we do not practice. Whatever does not correspond with the Holy Scripture we do not acknowledge as truth. Printed matter and programs we do not distribute, nor do we publish any of our proceedings through the newspapers.

We three elders and ministers whose signatures appear at the close of this document take full responsibility for this confession of our faith:

JOHANN SCHLIPF —  
*Dauernberg o/a Beckening*  
 CHRISTIAN SCHLIPF —  
*Oehringen*  
 JOHANN AUPPERLE —  
*Rettersburg o/a Widbling*

*Written by Christian Schlipf*

### **Next Issue:**

A new historical topic



# The Light Of Hope

## From Across The Ocean

### 希望の光

#### “Following The Church”

*Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan*

The other night in a Bible Class in our home, I Thessalonians 2:14 was read. I was surprised. It reads “For ye brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they have of the Jews.”

I thought we were to be followers of the Lord Jesus Christ while being members of the church, but here the Apostle Paul writes about being followers of the churches. In I Corinthians 4:16 he writes, “Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.” I have been acquainted with the latter verse and always thought that Paul put himself pretty much on a pedestal but that he was worthy of such a position because he was completely surrendered to Christ. I have heard it said that Paul was arrogant and I’ve always defended him by saying that God used him anyway because he was completely surrendered

and those kind of people are hard to come by.

Now we have this matter of being followers of the churches, to deal with. I first thought that such a practice might be dangerous if you are in the wrong church, one that doesn’t follow the Word of God. I have also thought that the believers at that time did not yet have the whole New Testament as we have it now, so Paul couldn’t very well say, “Go by the New Testament.” There was no such book as we have it today, only letters and perhaps the Gospel of Matthew which is thought to have been written in A.D.37, the other Gospels, much later. After the Gospels were written, it must have been a big problem to make copies. Gutenberg of Germany invented the first printing press with movable type and there-with printed the first Bible in Latin, between 1450 and 1455, according to one historian. The Christians at the time the Bible was written really didn’t have

much access to the Word.

Today we can say, “Go by the Word,” but back then, in New Testament days, they probably did have to follow the churches and follow the church leaders. What else could they go by? We are so used to being in our own culture, our own environment, in our own time frame, that we cannot always relate to people in a completely different situation. There is an old American Indian saying, “Do not judge another Indian until you have walked a mile in his moccasins.” If we were living in New Testament times, we would understand better.

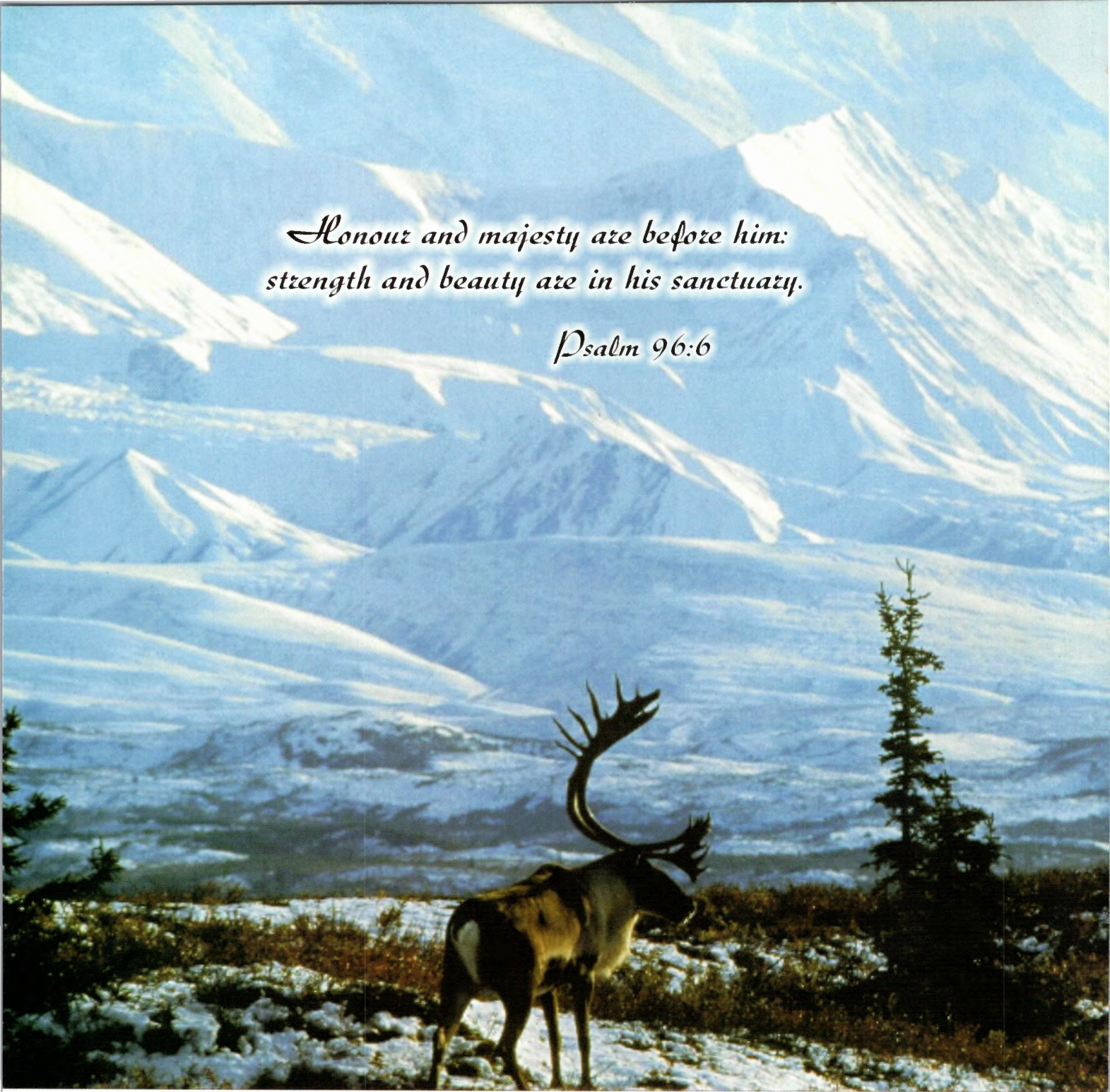
So we conclude that it is all right for us to be followers of the churches and followers of the Apostle Paul, but only to the extent that they are a good example of the Lord Jesus Christ. When we say that, we are inviting others to start imitating us, and we have our hands full. I didn’t realize we had that much responsibility.

### 希望の光



*Honour and majesty are before him:  
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.*

*Psalms 96:6*



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