

The Silver Lining



*The Lord reigneth, he is clothed with majesty;
the Lord is clothed with strength, wherewith he hath girded himself:
the world also is stablished, that it cannot be moved.*

Psalms 93:1

*March
2007*

Sermon by Bro. Jim Koehl, San Diego, CA

II Samuel 14:1-33, St. Matthew 22

We extend greetings to each of you, and we're thankful to God that we can all be here today. That we can gather around this Word. Isn't it precious to come to gather together as brethren in the Lord and friends of the truth, expecting that God will bless us. For many of you, no doubt, it's been a very busy week, a lot of things have taken place. But isn't this the highlight of the week? Isn't this what we look forward to? That we can once again gather around God's Word. We can be fed from His Word, we can be strengthened, encouraged, we can meet our brethren and friends.

On a percentage basis of the time of the week, we aren't going to be here very long. So let's be prayerful, let's be attentive and have open hearts and minds and may His Spirit speak to us as we part His Word and meditate thereon, and let His Spirit talk to us today. The book of II Samuel is opened before me. Let's read from chapter 14 in the book of II Samuel. This pertains to Absalom and King David in the 13th chapter. Absalom had to flee because he had slain Amnon. (II Samuel 13:37) Absalom was separated from David, and I believe in this chapter that Absalom will return.

It speaks of a king. It speaks about his son. Our first reading, we read about David, and one of his sons. It seems as we can read about Absalom and David, we can consider their relationship. Many questions can come into our minds. We can get the feeling as we read that, the anguish in David's heart over the behavior of his son. As we read through Absalom about the different things, and how Joab conspired, really trying to deceive David. We wonder, did David really not know what was

going on? Did David really not realize how sly, how cunning Absalom was? How then when he came back he sat in the gate and the heart of the people went after Absalom. But we, in the chapter we've read, can see how that God had revealed certain things unto David.

Just a thought, it just seems that David was maybe more aware of what Absalom was doing than anyone realized. But as we read through that, it just seems that Absalom became as a son that David really didn't know how to handle. It just wasn't a good solution. He didn't know what to do. And we know that without a doubt, David loved Absalom. How he mourned for him here, and how he mourned for him after his death. He had no greater desire than that he would have been obedient to God's words and to have followed in His ways.

I don't think it's only for sons with children. We are all children, aren't we. As often as we read these different accounts of relationships between father and son, daughter, children, whatever it is, do we stop and consider, Are we doing the desire of our parents? Or grandparents? But we can take it a step further, can't we. The one who wants to be our Heavenly Father. Are we doing what pleases Him?

Absalom wasn't ignorant. He knew what his father wanted. Much the same as we, as we grew up. We knew what our parents wanted. We knew what they wanted for us. We didn't always do it. Did it make us feel good?

But there was one who was in control of our life. I don't know if we really realized it. How subjected, how dominating, how much power Satan had over us. The grief we would cause our par-

ents, the sorrow and anguish.

It wasn't just David and Absalom. It comes to mind, Esau, Jacob and Esau, Isaac and Rebekah. They wanted nothing but the best for their children. But Esau, so much (I can't quote it exactly) he knew what his parents wanted, and because they wanted him to

Sermon continued on page 43

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

April

1. Morris, MN
2. Bloomington/Normal, IL
3. Indianapolis, IN
4. Sabetha, KS
5. South Bend, IN
6. Wolcott, IN
7. Detroit, MI

Suggested Donation: \$14/subscription

Next correspondence due:

For April Issue

(16 Feb. News - 15 Mar. News)

Due: 20 March 2007

The Silver Lining (Vol. 62, #3)

1389 County Road 1600 N
Roanoke, IL 61561

USPS 496780

Published Monthly By The Apostolic
Christian Church of America

Counselors:

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(e-mail is preferred)

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Roanoke, IL, 61561

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309-923-7359 (fax #2)

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

The Silver Lining

1389 County Road 1600 N

Roanoke, IL 61561

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

Light From The Word



Writings based on God's Word

March 2007

The Hand of the Lord Is Stretched Out Still

"Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded;" (Pr. 1:24). We read in the scripture many times that the children of Israel forsook the Lord and found themselves in difficult circumstances because of their sins. Even though they strayed from the truth, God never left them without a solution to their problem.

Because of God's anger with the children of Israel when they had fallen into sin, He often pronounced a sentence against them. When they "...call(ed) evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" (Is. 5:20) However, "...For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still" (Is. 5:25). Is. 9:12 and 10:4 have nearly identical passages. His anger against the children of Israel was designed to get them to turn away from their wickedness and again serve the Lord: "...As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live..." (Ex. 33:11).

In Psalm 107 we read of a number of situations where the children of Israel rebelled against God, they found themselves in distress and "Then they cry unto the Lord in their trouble, and he bringeth them out of their distresses ...Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men" (Ps. 107:28-31).

Surely we know God is not unreasonable. He wants what is best for His people. He often pleads with us to do what is best for us. "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool" (Is. 1:18).

The Lord has many promises to those who serve Him, but there are consequences for those who refuse. "If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it" (Is. 1:19-20).

The outstretched arm of the Lord has

continued even to our day. He has so much mercy for lost mankind that He was willing to take extreme measures on our behalf. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). Jesus Christ gave his life so mankind would have the opportunity to repent, be converted and be redeemed by His shed blood.

There are those who abuse the love of God and live as though His mercy will save them from all of their distress regardless of how they live. In the message to the Church in Thyatira, Jesus warned those who sin and do not repent, that He "...will give unto every one of you according to your works" (Rev. 2:23). This rejection by Jesus Christ will also include those who simply drift away from God. "So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew thee out of my mouth" (Rev. 3:16). But thankfully, Jesus also told of the reward for those who are faithful unto death: "I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, ...be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life" (Rev. 2:9-10). God's outstretched arm is especially visible in the lives of those who come to Him in repentance. This applies to those who have strayed deeply into sin and to those who have tried to live a good life but were not repentant. When the realization of the need for the redeeming power of the blood of Jesus Christ is finally allowed to work in our lives, the compassion of God's mercy and grace is apparent.

We come to recognize that only by the mercy and grace of God is it possible for anyone to have faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ and to be redeemed of their sins. We also recognize that we must follow the teachings of Jesus Christ by applying His instructions to our lives. The love of God reaches out to us, but we must be receptive to His call.

As we listen to the testimonies of converts, we hear over and over that they want to escape the wrath of God that awaits the unrepentant. Many times we also hear they tried for some time to do it their way. Fortunately, by the grace of God, the convert realized their way would not work. When

they were finally willing to surrender to the call of God, they were able to recognize that God was waiting, and calling for them with His outstretched arms.

It is vital that we remember it is not enough for God to be willing to reach out to us. We must be willing to be submissive to the call of God. There are numerous examples in the scripture where souls wanted to serve God on their own terms. The rich, young ruler came to Christ to see what he needed to do to have eternal life. Christ reminded him that he must keep the commandments. It appears that he had been quite successful in keeping most of the commandments. Jesus did not dispute his claim to have kept them from his youth. However, Jesus recognized that the young man had an idol which had to be removed from his life. He needed to give up his material goods, give them to the poor and follow Jesus. He was unwilling to give up his wealth and follow Jesus (Mt.19:16-26). We must not allow anything to be more important than serving our Master.

At another time, as Jesus was instructing His disciples, He told them they must eat His flesh and drink His blood (Jn. 6:56-57). To some, this was such a hard thing to do that they left Him and did not walk with Him anymore. Jesus then asked His twelve closest disciples if they would go away also. Peter recognized there was no other way to eternal life. He said, "...Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life" (Jn. 6:68).

We do not know if any of those disciples ever came back to Jesus. We do know Christ's love for them did not change. He continued to preach the coming of God's kingdom and the need to become children of God. This did not stop until His death. Even as His life slowly drained away while He was hanging on the cross, He prayed for those who rejected Him. "...Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do..." (Lk. 23:34). With His arms stretched toward heaven, He died for all who would come and be saved.



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

Go Ye Therefore...

A summary of several items considered at recent Mission Committee meetings is presented in this article.

Missionary support

The number of brethren sent by the church to serve in various mission programs has increased in recent years. The Mission Committee intends to take appropriate steps to provide ongoing spiritual support for these individuals as they seek to carry out their challenging assignments. This will include visits by Mission Committee members to the various mission sites. Time will be spent with each brother and sister and there will also be group meetings with the staff at each site. Additional plans are being developed to provide a forum for sharing and learning from the experiences of our missionaries.

Servant Fund

The Servant Fund has been established to provide support for brethren sent by the Mission or World Relief Committees on long term missionary or humanitarian assignments. It provides opportunity for individuals and local churches to make contributions for this worthy cause. This arrangement allows our serving brethren to devote their time and attention to their calling, rather than being required to raise their own funds. Each church is receiving information regarding the fund. Donations may be sent to: Servant Fund, 805 W. Jackson St, Suite 305, Morton, IL 61550.

Web Site Communication

There is increasing utilization of our National Church website, which allows anyone interested to

obtain basic information about our beliefs, location of churches and other important information. The Mission Committee gave approval to the request of Apostolic Christian Publications to have a linkage to the Church website. This provides ready access to Apostolic Christian Publications offerings. In addition, the Mission Committee is working with World Relief to develop a website which will post information regarding the policies and the many service opportunities related to these outreach programs.

Small church study

It was reported that there has been encouraging follow up by individuals and some churches since the Small Church Study Committee report was presented at Goodfield last August. Local brethren who attended the meeting have reported back to their respective congregations on various suggestions and opportunities. Some churches have begun local outreach efforts in their communities and some have instituted increased fellowship activities. It was also encouraging to learn that several of the small churches have recently been blessed by the addition of some new families.

Long range planning

The Committee plans to move forward in the coming months to establish a subcommittee to develop increased trust, clarity and sponsorship among the Brotherhood for mission outreach activities. It is expected that there will be increased efforts to provide opportunities for brethren to utilize their gifts and to be sent by the church to spread the Gospel message to the lost. This is one of the four pillars of the mission of our church, and it is essential that

we have a balanced approach in fulfilling all four pillars of this mission. These outreach activities will all be developed and implemented within the Guiding Principles for Presenting the Gospel, which have been published in previous Silver Lining issues, and will be posted on the Mission Committee website when it is available.

Reports

Encouraging reports were given on the growing programs in Mexico. There continue to be converts in Ixtlan. Construction of the new school building is underway as well as plans for development of the educational program to be implemented when the structure is completed. The single brothers sent to serve in Ixtlan have proven to be a great help to Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan Heinold in their labors.

Construction of a new church building as well as the first residential home will soon be underway in Magdalena. Individuals from the community have been joining the orphanage staff and residents for worship services.

Reports were shared regarding the Lord's work in Europe, India and Japan. The Building Advisory Committee has supported the recent purchase of a building to provide a church home for the congregation in Washington D.C., which is proving to be a great blessing.

Thanks and prayers

We are grateful for your prayer and financial support, the faithfulness of God and for the leading of the Holy Spirit in this important calling and opportunity to share the Gospel. As the needs and opportunities increase, we entreat your ongoing prayers.



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

Southeast Asia Tsunami Aid

The Silver Lining article "Tsunami Aid for Southeast Asia", published in the March 2005, detailed the initial World Relief response to this disaster. The generous outpouring of donations for Tsunami assistance continued through the first six months of 2005. These donations permitted World Relief to provide additional assistance to the affected populations of Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Southeast India.

To assist with the distribution of these funds, World Relief solicited grant requests for relief projects from four international Christian relief organizations; International Aid, Map International, Northwest Medical Teams, and Global Operations and Development. World Relief has partnered with these organizations on many relief projects and is confident in their capability to use our financial assistance in a responsible manner.

World Relief selected projects that focused on three areas; medical assistance, housing, and development of work opportunities. Working in Sri Lanka with Northwest Medical teams, World Relief sponsored the construction of ten homes. These homes were completed and ready for occupancy early in 2006.

In Indonesia, World Relief supported the medical outreach of MAP International, International Aid and Global Operations and Development. This assistance provided for the construction of many medical clinics and the establishment of a training center for medical equipment repair technicians. This facility provides a much needed location for the repair of medical equipment and creates many new job opportu-

nities for the graduates.

Indonesia is a country of islands. Tello, one of the smallest group of islands with a population of around 35,000 had only limited medical capabilities. World Relief sponsored the construction and equipping of a new 43 bed hospital on that island. MAP International supervised the construction and staffing of the hospital and will be providing medical supervision for at least the first year of operation.



Tello Island Hospital

Dedication of the hospital is scheduled for mid-February 2007. Three brothers representing World Relief will be attending the dedication. These brothers will also be visiting the other islands to evaluate many of the additional relief projects funded by the Tsunami Disaster donations.

World Relief also provided funds to build two fishing boats and two bakeries on the Indonesian island of Nias. These projects provide income for many families.

The tsunami caused damage along the shoreline of the Southeast corner of India. World Relief, with the assistance of the staff of the Rural Gospel Medical Mission, was able to make a connection with the staff of a medical school in the affected area. Funds were provided to support medical teams which worked in the disaster area and who also went to the nearby country of Sri Lanka. One of the India coastline villages lost many adults, leaving

25 orphaned children. World Relief disaster funds are assisting with the education of these orphans.

These projects, which have provided homes, medical care and work opportunities, will have a positive effect on the lives of thousands of persons for years to come. The outpouring of love gifts from the brothers, sisters and friends of the Apostolic Christian Churches has made this work possible.

Working with international Christian relief organizations enables World Relief to reach out to many areas of the world not touched by the activities of the Eastern Europe, Caribbean, and Mexico Committees. The International Grants Committee reviews project proposals from these organizations and makes recommendations to the National World Relief Board for funding.



Outdoor medical clinic

Over the last eight years, World Relief has supported disaster relief and humanitarian aid projects in over thirty countries in Africa, Eastern Europe, The Middle East, Asia, and Central and South America.

For additional information about these projects contact Bro. Virgil Graf, Chairman of the World Relief International Grants Committee. (626) 287-1611.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

The following article is an excerpt from the Ohio Coalition for the Education of Handicapped Children. These words could apply to many of the residents at Timber Ridge.

I am the child who cannot talk. You often pity me; I see it in your eyes. You wonder how much I am aware of...I see that as well. I am aware of much whether you are happy or sad or fearful, patient or impatient, full of love and desire, or if you are just doing your duty by me. I marvel at your frustration, knowing mine to be far greater, for I cannot express myself nor my needs as you do. You cannot conceive my isolation so complete it is at times. I do not gift you with clever conversation, cute remarks to be laughed over and repeated. I do not give you answers to your everyday questions, responses over my well-being, sharing my needs, or comments about the world around me. I do not give you rewards as defined by the world's standards...great strides in development that you can credit yourself; I do not give you understanding as you know it.

What I give you is so much more valuable...I give you instead opportunities. Opportunities to discover the depth of your character, not mine; the depth of your love, your commitment, your patience, your abilities; the opportunity to explore your spirit more deeply than you imagined possible. I drive you further than you would ever go on your own, working harder, seeking answers to your many questions, creating question with no answers. I am the child who cannot talk.

Look for another excerpt in the September issue.

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Tim Sauder

I have been reflecting on how the Lord provides for us in so many ways AND that He so often uses others to do that. None of us stands alone. That's why He gave us families, spouses, neighbors and coworkers. We need each other. Individually, we do not have all that it takes to live a balanced and fulfilled life. We are naturally drawn together in community, marriage, and church.

He has placed us with our brothers and sisters in the body of Christ. Each has unique gifts and talents to be fitted together into a strong whole. (Romans 12:4-5)

That has been borne out in our recent building project as some have the talent of running successful businesses that earn money to fund the construction, while others are skilled tradesmen willing to share time and talent to build a solid house and still others of us have the passion, calling and expertise to serve troubled children in the building.

Sometimes we see afar off the resources coming on schedule. And at other times we are challenged to simply ask and watch the Lord provide over time or just in time — His time. Joseph was given the vision and wisdom to store up during the years of plenty for the famine to come. Moses and the children of Israel repeatedly saw the Lord supply water, food and deliverance just in time and against all odds. In any and every case, we are called to trust His father-hand provision and walk on in faith.

It seems like a natural human inclination to be self-reliant even to the point of thinking we can earn our

own salvation by being good enough to deserve heaven. We are so good at keeping score. So many humanly conceived religions of the world have a works-based salvation measuring how many good deeds verses bad a person does in life. But God in His mercy saw our fallen state and sent a Savior to pay a price we couldn't pay to secure a salvation we could earn. Again and ultimately the Lord provides all we need through the Son.

NEWS:

- We recently held meetings for our representatives in Goodfield and Leo. Our Indiana meeting began with a dedication service for the new Cypress House group home.

- There has been a flurry of activity by contractors, volunteers, staff and residents to get the house ready for occupancy. We are so thankful for all who donated funds, time and materials to complete this home that will serve troubled teens for decades to come.

- New staff members have been going through orientation and training and are now on the job. In the Cypress House Bro. Clint and Sis. Bethany Plattner (Princeville) have returned to serve as Houseparents, our former teacher, Bro. Ryan and his wife, Sis. Bethany, Donaghy will be the Alternates, and Sis. Ann Jacobs (Bay City) will serve as the Assistant. Also, Sis. Rachel Huber (W. Lafayette) has begun as the Assistant in the Maple House.

- We are excited that our resident Alan will go on a service outreach trip to Brazil with houseparent, Bro. Jason Kilgus. Please pray for them as they travel and serve.

- Our staff members, Bro. Andrew Gerber and Sis. Natalie Lehman, were recently united in marriage in Bloomington. We rejoice that the

Lord used our program to bring them together.

- Sis. Laurretta Schafer has announced that she will retire from her counseling position in June. We welcome inquiries and resumes from qualified members.

- Our Adoption Program is expanding into Illinois. Currently we are licensed to serve only Indiana residents. That will change as we receive our license and hire qualified staff. We are looking to hire an Adoption Manager in Illinois. Please see the notice in this issue or call our office at 888-443-4283.

- Recent adoptions have included Jesse, a medical special needs child near Ft. Wayne and Thomas from Ethiopia. We are also working with 2 pregnant teens who are considering giving their babies up for adoption.

- Gateway Woods School hosted the annual para-church school teachers' meeting with over 35 in attendance.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Ron and Ev Hoerr

"And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son."

St. John 14:13

On January 28 our Sisters Group hosted an over 50 years wedding anniversary dinner. Guests were present from Illinois, Indiana, Oregon and Arizona. It was quite lovely to hear how God brought each couple together. His loving presence was felt by all.

We are thankful that God has touched Amanda Knochel's heart and she has made a beginning in repentance. Amanda's parents are Bro. Nathan and Sis. Kathy Knochel.

It was a beautiful day on February 2 when heavy machinery began to excavate for our new fellowship hall. Our loving thanks to our winter visitors and home brothers for their labors of love.

Our church family enjoyed our annual Pancake Breakfast on February 3, hosted by our Bible Class. What a joy seeing our youth working together serving God and our church.

Congratulations and God's blessings to Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Janelle Ebert on the birth of their son, Bryce. little Bryce has a big brother, Ashton.

Visiting ministers this month were: Bro. Ron Joos (Bloomfield-Pulaski, IA), Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha), Bro. Ralph Garber (Morton), Bro. Curt Kaufman (Tucson), Bro. Doug Wagenbach (San Diego), Bro. Lucas Frank (Detroit), Bro. Neil Ramseyer (Bay City), and Bro. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis). Many thanks for their willingness to be used in the Lord's work.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Dick and Sis. Marie Beery in the death of her brother, Richard Tanner, of Sterling, OH.

We give thanks to God for His loving care for many who needed medical attention. They are Sis. Toni Bentley, Sis. Kathie Labudde, Bro. Jerry Tooley, Sis. Wilma Pulfer, Sis. Evelyn Hoerr, Briana Maurer (Bro. Shawn and Sis. Shelly), Josie Labudde (Bro. Brandon and Sis. Jodi) and Sis. Verene Sutton.

Vacation Bible school is scheduled for June 14-20 this year.

"Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content."

Philippians 4:11

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

We were privileged to host the ACYF Fellowship activities for the California and Arizona churches. We had a wonderful weekend full of fun activities and memory making fellowship. We always enjoy hosting this special event and this one was no exception. We feel especially blessed to be able to spend time with and get to know all the wonderful students and teachers from these churches. God truly provides us with blessed fellowship.

Bro. Curt and Sis. Caroline Kaufman are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Carrie, to Travis Brown. They are planning an August wedding. We want to wish Carrie and Travis God's richest blessings as they begin planning a life together. May they include God in their plans as they take each step towards marriage.

We have had two visiting ministers this month, Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) and Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL). We wish to thank each of these brothers for their efforts on the pulpit and for making Tucson a part of their travel plans. We appreciate both very much.

Our annual pancake supper was held February 11. We enjoyed the fellowship of some of our Phoenix brethren as the Phoenix Choir also visited us on the same day. After dinner we were treated to beautiful music by the choir. They may have been small in number, but their music was abundant in blessings. Thanks to everyone who made the trip on our behalf.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA Tina Jackson

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

II Corinthians 5:21

We are rejoicing that Joseph Klotzle (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jody) has professed peace with God and a desire to be baptized. This is being planned for the weekend of March 10-11 and we look forward to him sharing his testimony of faith in Christ with the church congregation.

We welcome Sis. Marie Luthi (Lamont/Gridley, KS) and Trevor Kaufman (Morton, IL), who are both living in Southern California for a short time with work and/or school. We are enjoying worshipping together with them, even for a short time!

We were thankful to have Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jacki, Francesville, IN) to minister the truth's of God's Word to us on Sunday, January 28. He encouraged us to “walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit” (Rom. 8:1) and in persistence in prayer.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO Yasmin Koehl

Warmer weather and sun-filled days have brought many visiting brethren from colder climates our way. What a blessing and an encouragement for our small congregation as our brothers and sisters across the land take the time to come worship with us! To all who visited, thank you for choosing San Diego as one of your travel destinations. We warmly invite you to come back again!

Amongst our visitors were ministering brothers and their families: Bro. Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL) Bro. Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL), Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle (Shioda, Japan) and Bro. Ron Joos (Bloomfield, IA). Thank you for lending yourselves on our behalf. May our Lord richly bless you in your service to Him.

As our little congregation experienced the joys of many visitors, our hearts were also saddened to say farewell to Bro. Phillip and Sis. Tasha Petrovic along with their children, Ashlyn (2 yrs.) and Brandon (3 mo.), as they relocated to Silverton, OR. We thank God for the 25 years we were able to be a part of Bro. Phillip's life and then for the short time we've had with Sis. Tasha and the children God has blessed them with. There will be an empty spot in our church and hearts that they once filled but our love and prayers will always be with them.

Note of Thanks:

God bless each and every one of you dear ones here in San Diego and across the miles for your cards, visits and flowers during my stay in the hospital and my recuperation at home. It was very much appreciated.

Again thank you and God bless you,

Mary Thiem

KITCHENER, ONTARIO CANADA Kim Leman

“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.”

II Timothy 4:2

We appreciated our visiting min-

isters who came to serve us recently. They were Bros. Fred Domka (Sis. Connie, Mansfield, OH), Warren Zahner (Sis. Bonnie, Rockville, CT), and Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI). May God richly bless them.

For the information of anyone who may be travelling in our area this spring, we are not intending to hold services in Kitchener on Sunday, May 20. Lord willing, we plan to take a bus trip as a whole congregation to Fairbury, IL, on that weekend. Any other time, however, we certainly welcome any visitors, and appreciate the fellowship of our brethren who are willing to travel to be with us!

COLORADO, DENVER Ann Gonglach

One Sunday after services, my husband and I were talking with a visiting brother about how life is not meant to be easy. Sometimes it seems the goal is to have everything in our lives running smoothly and effortlessly; this is the measure of success for many. The brother was reminded of something an older brother once told him, “Life is a battleground, not a playground”. Heaven is our goal and our rest, where all shall be made perfect. Let us strive, by the grace of God, to win the battles here on earth so that we can attain our true goal.

Once again, our Elder brethren from across the country attended the winter Conference. We are thankful for the unity that they strive to maintain. Afterwards, Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) continued west and ministered to us, encouraging us to trust in God. Later in the month, Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH) was here and preached God's Word. We are thank-

ful for visitors and visiting ministers.

Our sympathies are with Bro. Tom and Sis. Theresa Katanic in the loss of her grandfather, Michael Demrovsky, who was a member of the Nazarene Christian Congregation in Copley, Ohio.

We are glad to have Sis. Beth Blunier from Goodfield, IL, as well as Bro. Aaron Blough and his family from Sardis, OH, assemble with us for several weeks while their work has them temporarily living in Colorado.

Bro. Nate and Sis. Yvonne Lehman's daughter, Sis. Natalie, was married on February 18, in Bloomington-Normal, IL, to Bro. Andrew Gerber, who is currently working at Gateway Woods Children's Home in Leo, IN. His parents are Bro. Neil and Sis. Leesa Gerber from Washington, IL. May the Lord bless this new couple as together they serve Him.

**CONNECTICUT
ROCKVILLE
Laura Virkler
Amber Rocke**

Our congregation can attest to the hymnwriter as he wrote, "Love of all gifts is the greatest." We have felt this love as we have together shared both joys and sorrows. Yet through each experience, the Lord has remained faithful to us each one.

We were privileged this past month to witness the baptisms of several souls over a few weekends. We welcome Sisters Sarah Lanz (Bro. Greg and Sis. Linda), Amber and AnnMarie Hoffman (Bro. Steve and Sis. Joan), Sara Virkler (Bro. Rudy and Sis. Susan), Bro. Mark and Sis. Audrey Lanz (Bro. Barry and Karen), Sis. Carole Hoffman (Bro. Arlo and Sis. Lynn) and Sis. Su-

zanne Schillinger (Jeffrey) into our congregation. We are humbled to count them as our Brother and Sisters in Christ. We wish them much grace as we journey together on our spiritual journey. Elder Bros. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia) and Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary Ann, Fairbury, IL) labored for us on these two weekends. May God richly bless them for the sacrifices they made on our behalf.

We were reminded of the frailties of life as several families laid to rest a loved one. Bro. Pete Skipper (Sis. Dolores) passed away earlier this month. His children include Peter Skipper (Mary), Teresa Lovette, Catherine Coleman, Nancy Flint (Don), Laurie Walker (Tom), Jennifer Brisson (Marc), and Jonathan Skipper (Jody). A friend of our congregation, Julius Kupferschmid (Geraldine, dec.), also passed away this month. His children include David Kupferschmid (Jane), Bonnie Kloter (Dean), and Juliet Kupferschmid. Also passing away rather unexpectantly was Sis. Gladys Schneider (Bro. Al, dec.). Her children are Bro. Don (Sis. Sandy, Fairbury, IL), Bro. Ralph (Sis. Tina), and Bro. Jim (Sis. Sandra, Forrest, IL). We pray for all of these families, grandchildren, and extended family as they mourn the loss of a loved one. May these sobering times remind us "That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:15).

Our Sis. Lora Zahner (Bro. Ed) has been recently hospitalized. We pray for her that the Lord will grant her health and strength.

We are grateful for Bro. Adam and Sis. Jami Luginbuhl at the birth of their second child, Reigan Naomi. Her older brother is Simon. May God richly bless this growing family.

Our convert, Holly Virkler, has relocated to this area several months ago. We pray that she may feel the love and support of the brethren here in Rockville. May God be mightily by her side as she seeks guidance and direction from our Lord. We are praying for you!

It was such a blessing to hear that the mid-winter Conference went peacefully. Never can we be grateful enough for the many sacrifices that our Elders make on our behalf. May God richly bless you each one, and in times to come!

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

"Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ."

Gal. 6:2

It wasn't a burden but it was definitely a challenge for our congregation to get our new church/home ready for services and for our caretakers. We are thankful for all the help of the Philadelphia congregation and others. From Sisters removing wall paper, to Brothers painting, to children helping and running errands, and the gifts of furnishing for the home, all were deeply appreciated.

Our first resident caretakers arrived this week. We welcome retired Elder Bro. Dave and Sis. Ethel Wiegand. If you are interested in supporting our small church by being a part of our congregation for a month and caring for the physical aspects of the church, please see the related article elsewhere in this issue.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Ted Luginbuhl (Sis. Stephanie, Smithville, OH),

Bro. Shawn Metzger (Sis. Sandy, Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Allen Stoller (Sis. Susan, Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Jerry Isch (Sis. Linda, Philadelphia, PA). Other visitors this month were from Smithville, OH and Philadelphia, PA,

Directions to our new location depend on which way you are coming. The best suggestion is to contact the folks listed below or in the minister's book for detailed directions; we 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 and afternoon at 12 noon. Please be patient 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.

**FLORIDA
FORT LAUDERDALE
Renee Mangold**

We were blessed to have many visiting ministers this past month. Visiting were Elder Bros. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL), Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL), Joe Braker (Sis. Shirley, Morton, IL) and Bros. Stephen Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley, IL), Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton

North, IN), Ron Jones (Sis. Liz, Portland, OR), Clint Schmidt (Winthrop, MN) and Bob Pfloderer (Sis. Ellie, Morton, IL). Although the visiting ministering brethren are from many different churches around the country, God's Word remains constant and true. We pray that He would bless these brethren for their works on His behalf.

This month we had Communion and the Memorandum was brought to us. Both events were renewing and a confirmation of faithfulness to God's Word.

We were saddened by the passing of our dear Sis. Gladys Schneider. Sis. Gladys was one of our "winter family" and we will miss her. We pray that God's comfort and peace would be with her family.

**FLORIDA
NORTH FORT MYERS
Naomi Vogel**

It has been an unusually cold month for us here in Florida, but we feel blessed to have escaped the harsh winter weather that has been plaguing our northern "home bases".

It is supposed to get back to the mid 80's very soon, so there is still time for you to come for a visit and experience an early Spring!

We have had as many as 225 in attendance at our little Ft. Myers church, which includes several ministers. We have been served spiritual manna by Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL), Bro. Bob Meyer (Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Trent Schrock (Leo, IN), Bro. Bob Pfloderer (Morton, IL), and Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN). We have indeed been richly nourished and sincerely appreciate the willingness of these brothers and their wives to serve us so willingly!

On Valentine's Day, we had a chili supper before our Wednesday evening service and sang songs about our love for our dear Savior, His love for us and our love for each other. It was a very "heart warming" time of worship and fellowship.

Now that we have a few more permanent residents, we women have started doing some World Relief projects. Not only does it fill a need for the recipients, it also gives us some warm fellowship and a feeling of satisfaction.

We were saddened by the news that Bro. Carroll Gerber suffered a stroke early this month. He is making good progress in his recovery at a Naples Rehab center. We hope to have him back in church very soon. Sis. Sarah Hunyady has been ill and has not been able to come to church for a few weeks. You are both in our thoughts and prayers!

**FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Robin Wiegand
DiAnne Brown**

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

Eccles. 3:1

Greetings from sunny, but chilly, Sarasota. We have enjoyed a cooler season the last few days that reminds many of us of our northern roots, and of the fact that God is in control. It has been refreshing to don sweaters and jackets, and to be reminded of the beauty of God's ever-changing world and never-changing love.

Our congregation hosted a Spaghetti Dinner this month to raise funds to sponsor three Sunday School students attending the World Relief Mission trip to a deaf

school in Kingston, Jamaica, this March. We were amazed at God's bounty and blessing as enough was raised to send the three students this year, and set aside funds for future trips. The students provided excellent wait-staff service to our diners and it was wonderful to see their enthusiasm for the project.

We are enjoying the fellowship of many northern brethren, a blessing and encouragement to those of us who worship here year round. To see a familiar face or hear news of a friend from another congregation reminds us of how great this fellowship of believers is, anywhere we visit.

We ask God to bless the many ministers who visited us including: Elder Bros. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI), Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN) and Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL), Bros. Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL), Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), Ron Steiner (Rittman, OH), Eugene Metzger (Lester, IA), Richard Gramm (South Bend, IN), Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), and Vic Bauman (Smithville, OH).

We rejoice at the good news of Deacon Bro. Jeff Streitmatter's approval during the recent Elder Conference in Bern, KS, to become our Ordained Deacon. Our prayers are with Bro. Jeff, Sis. Lynne and their family, as they begin this blessed service.

We are busy preparing for our annual Sunday School Auction this weekend. The saying "many hands makes light work" applies here as Brothers, Sisters and Friends donate items of love to bless the Sunday School over the coming year. May God continue to bless you all.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

Melinda Gramm

Lydia Lindberg (Bro. Rich and Sis. Julie) and Elise Waldbeser (Bro. Tom and Sis. Sue) have shared their desire to begin a new life in Christ. We encourage them to spend time in the Word, to pray, and to solidify in their own mind what has happened to them. The greatest thing that will happen in your life is your salvation. Charles Wesley wrote

"O for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise
The glories of my God and King
The triumphs of His grace."

We don't have a thousand tongues, but we do have one. When is the last time you've told a friend or neighbor about your salvation?

Thank you to our visiting ministers: Bro. Rich Gramm (Sis. Samantha, South Bend, IN); Bro. Dan Beer (Sis. Debbie, Milford, IN); and Bro. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend IA).

The engagement of Bro. Matthew Lindberg (Bro. Rich and Sis. Julie) to Sis. Renae Bahler (Chris and Sis. Teresa) of Wolcott, IN, was announced. We pray that their relationship with each other and with Christ will deepen as they proceed on their journey toward marriage.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

Sheila McCoy Doreen Moser

"He only is my rock and my salvation."

Psalm 62:2

Bro. Art Mueller led our Bible study this month in Madison, WI. We continued our study of Romans. Bro. Chad Wettstein presented a Bi-

ble study on the "Life of Paul" for our Belvidere church. Our congregation went to Elgin to listen to the reading of the Memorandum. We thank our brothers, ministers and Elders for their efforts on our behalf.

Several from our congregation have been to Biloxi, Mississippi, to help with the work projects. Several others plan to go to Haiti on another World Relief work team. We pray they will have a safe trip and they will be a blessing to those they help.

Bro. Bill Schifferer (Sis. Lana) suffered a hand injury. Lane (Bro. Rod and Sis. Anne) Anliker sustained a back injury due to a skiing accident. We are thankful they are on the road to recovery.

I had the opportunity to join my husband on a business trip to AZ and to visit my brother who lives there. We also took this opportunity to go sightseeing in Sedona, an area of scenic, red rock formations. On the troubling side, it is home to many spiritualists and those who specialize in new age medicine. Sedona is purportedly the site to several strong vortexes, specific fields emitting energy from the earth. We can be grateful we have been enlightened that Jesus is the rock of our salvation.

ILLINOIS

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Ann Nussbaum Jen Heiniger

Our church family rejoiced as four young souls gave their testimonies and were baptized as believers on January 21. Our new brothers and sisters in faith are Brad Horner (Al and Sis. Janice), Eric Greiner (Bro. Doug and Sis. Jean), Jennifer Brosman (Debbie), and Casey Nussbaum (Bro. Jay and Sis. Ann). We thank Elder Bro. Ted Witzig, Sr.,

and Bro. Fred Funk, both of Morton, and Bro. Ed Sauder of Roanoke for sharing the pulpit that day.

We are thankful that God continues to move in young hearts as we welcome three converts: Taylor Nazarczuk (Michael and Kay), Lisette Brosman (Debbie), and Quinton Rabe (Bro. Derek and Sis. Julie). We pray that they will be blessed in this time of repentance.

Bro. Andy and Sis. Marie Kaufmann were blessed with the February 15 arrival of Drew Philip. He joins siblings, Joseph, Maggie, and Chet. Grandparents are Bro. Denny and Sis. Bonnie Kaufmann and Bro. Phil and Sis. Carol Gutwein of Francesville, IN.

We extend our sympathies to Sis. Loretta Funk, whose sister, Dorothy Hoffman, passed away January 15.

We ask for God's healing touch and comfort for those in our congregation facing illnesses and recovering from surgeries.

Sis. Alexis Hany and Bro. Will Nussbaum have been announced for marriage. Their parents are Bro. Rick and Sis. Carol Hany and Bro. Jay and Sis. Ann Nussbaum. We pray for God's blessings on this young couple as they prepare for a June 24 wedding.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD **Steve Endress**

We were thankful to have visiting ministers with us this month including Bros. Glen Braker (Princeville, IL), Matt Steffen (Princeville, IL), and Bruce Frank (Cissna Park, IL). Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS) assisted with our Memorandum in which we felt admonished and thankful for the words of exhortation. We appreciated his efforts on Saturday evening and again on Sunday.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with our brethren who have spent time in the hospital. We are glad that Bro. Kenny Dietz (Sis. Mardell) has recovered and Sis. Lois Endress is on her way to recovery.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO **Rachel Meyer**

Greetings from Chicago. This past month we rejoiced with LaVirra Lehman (the late Eugene Lehman), as she became our sister in Christ following her testimony and baptism. We love Sis. LaVirra and recall the many acts of service she and Eugene did for the Chicago congregation. We welcome her as our dear sister. Three ministering nephews came to Chicago to share in Aunt LaVirra's baptism day. We thank Bros. Nate Lehman (Denver, CO), Greg Lehman and John Lehman, (Wolcott, IN), for being with us along with our dear Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL). May God bless all.

Other visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO). Bro. Mark assisted Bro. Dale in presenting the Conference report to the congregation. Thank you for being faithful, brothers.

Our prayers for recovery of health and healing are with Sis. Ella Mae Stoller and Gary Halfer. May they feel our love and support through these difficult times. Tread softly...God is near.

We were sorry to have to bid farewell to Bro. Jeff Strunk, who is moving back to his original home church of Morton, IL. We enjoyed his kind presence and loving service to our church for many years. May God provide for all his needs.

Recently I had the opportunity to

visit with a lady who was born and raised in Communist Russia. Now a grandmother and living in America, she told about her religious upbringing. God and religion were banned. Any mention of the subject generated terrifying fear. Her family and school taught there is no God and to never enter a temple or church unless she wanted to be arrested and imprisoned. With deep emotion she told of many "ruined lives" (her words).

As a result of this experience, she feels she cannot believe. God was associated with imprisonment, loss of family and terror. I pray for her and her family. I have never personally encountered someone whose upbringing was so diametrically opposed to mine. But these dear souls are among us. They are on the bus, in the shopping malls, buying groceries, waiting behind you in the check-out line.....pray God He will inspire believers to willingly share about Jesus and salvation in order to fill the God-shaped void in hurting people's hearts.

ILLINOIS **CHAMPAIGN-URBANA** **Jackie Eisenmann**

Greetings from Champaign-Urbana! Our congregation is thrilled to be welcoming another new family into our church family. Bro. Greg and Sis. Shelle Schumacher have moved to our area from Germany. Their children are Andrew, Joshua, Isaac, Abram, and Livia. While they are adjusting to their big move, we hope they will feel a warm welcome from us. We are glad they are worshipping with us!

Some of our congregation have gone through the experience of losing a loved family member this past month. Our Sis. Margie Heintz is

mourning the loss of her sister Jeane's husband, Larry Vansickle, of Champaign. Also experiencing sorrow this month are Bro. Darren and Sis. Sue Plattner and family in the loss of Sue's nephew. Our prayers have been with all of these loved ones. May they feel the truth of God's promise: "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." I Peter 5:7

Our visiting ministers this month included Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL), Bro. Justin Koch (Washington, IL), Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), and Bro. Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL). We are always so thankful for their efforts in speaking God's Word to us.

Moving to the Indianapolis area this month are Bro. Ben and Sis. Karla Aberle. Karla has completed her graduate work at the university and received her Master's degree in biology. Congratulations, Karla! We will miss them and wish them many of God's blessings.

Our prayers were with our Elder brothers as they assembled for the mid-winter Conference. We are thankful to them for their time and willingness to guide the church. May God bless you.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK
Pam Walder
Janie Waldbeser

Should I restrain the Spirit's
 course
 For fear of man so feeble?
 Though Satan's hosts are raging
 here,
 Should I not be more faithful?
 Awed by a mortal's frown, shall
 I
 Conceal the Word of God most
 high?
Zion's Harp #113

We pray for our Elder Brethren as they assemble in Bern, KS, for the annual mid-winter Conference. Let us uphold and encourage our brothers to keep this precious faith as we've found it.

Our hospital patients this month include Sis. Grace Bauer and Bill Drayer. May they feel our prayers as they look to the Great Physician for their every need.

We hold those up in prayer who have lost loved ones this month. Sis. Judy Edelman has said farewell to her mother, Louise Gudeman, and Sis. Caroline Gudeman's brother-in-law, Emmanuel Gudeman, has passed away.

We were fed richly from God's precious Word on February 11 as Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Sis. Pat, Congerville, IL) spent the day with us. Thanks for the encouragement to walk faithfully here below, and to be ready to meet our Lord and Saviour when our time on earth is done.

In this life we learn to accept change. Bro. Dave and Sis. Barb Young have informed us that they have chosen to assemble with the Bloomington congregation. May God's blessings be with them.

A group from our congregation spent a week in Boloxi, Mississippi, to help with the ongoing cleanup there. There were a number of our Sunday school students who went along with parents to help. We pray they can receive a blessing from helping those who are less fortunate, and be thankful for what we have here at home that we take for granted from day to day.

"Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen."
Romans 15:33

Notes of Thanks:

Thank you for your kind words, prayers, and deeds during my hospitalization, and since my returning home. May God bless you all.

Bro. Ed Alt

I wish to thank everyone for all their cards, phone calls, prayers, food, and gifts that I received since the passing on of my mother, Louise Gudeman, into her eternal rest. Everything was greatly appreciated. May God bless you all richly.

Sis. Judy Edelman

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE
Rachel Schrock

As the articles for this issue of the Silver Lining are being written, the ground is covered by a good foot of snow here in Central Illinois. Hopefully, by the time you receive your copy and read through it, the first evidences of spring will be poking through the moist soil. As the seasons of life continue on, so does the unending love and wonderful care of our beloved Lord and Saviour.

It is easy to behold His great love in the smallest detail of each new baby. Bro. Brent and Sis. Sheila Ifft welcomed Sharla Dawn into their family on January 17. She is loved by her big brothers, Joseph, Darren, Stephen, Nathan, and Jacob, and her sister, Marcy.

We pray that our brothers whom have had hospitalizations this past month and their families can feel the wonderful care of their Lord as well as the prayers of their friends. Bro. Duane Steffen (Sis. Lois) recovers in the hospital from a serious fall. Bro. Bill Dietrich (Sis. Sherri) is receiving therapy for a hip replacement. Bro. Vernon Wettstein (Sis. Judy) had surgery and is in recovery.

Our prayers were also with the

Elder Brethren as they held their winter Conference recently. We appreciate all the sacrifices they make for the welfare of our beloved faith, the Apostolic Christian Church of America. We also appreciate the sacrifices of all those whom have been called into the ministry. Our visiting ministering brethren this past month have included Bros. Roy Koehl (Sis. Jenell, Morris, MN), Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa, Bradford, IL), Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, LaCrosse, IN) and Wayne Wiegand (Sis. Rosemary, Goodfield, IL).

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

**Amy Gasser
Miriam Gasser**

There was a special evening blessing on January 27, when we listened to the Memorandum being read and expounded upon by Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumburg, NY) and our Elder Bro. Ron Schambach. We thank Bro. Duane for traveling many miles to assist Bro. Ron on Saturday and for ministering to us again on Sunday. Our other visitors during the month were Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Bloomfield-Pulaski, IA) and Bros. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN), Alan Schambach (Remington, IN), and Todd Stoller (Latty, OH). May God reward each one for his labors on our behalf.

Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy Schifferer are delighted to have two new granddaughters. Hannah Kathleen joined Mike and April Swanson's family on December 28, and Kaia Lyn was born January 18 to Rob and Jodi Hammer. Bro. Todd and Sis. Pauli Schambach welcomed their first little son, Christian Todd, on January 24. His grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Jeanne Schambach.

May God continue to lead and bless Bro. Eric Weiss and Sis. Amanda Martin, whose engagement was recently announced. Their parents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Jean Martin and Bro. Roger and Sis. Karen Weiss.

We pray that God will comfort others who are in sorrow. Bro. Earl Ramseyer, the father of Sis. Linda Steffen (Bro. Dave), passed away in Bay City, MI. On February 6, Sis. Hilde Schumacher bid farewell to her dear helpmate, Bro. Georg. There is an interesting account of the Schumachers in Volume II of "Stories of Faith and Courage."

Bro. Jerry Cargill (Sis. Kay) had surgery within the past month, and we are thankful that he had a good recovery.

Relocations have affected the lives of several Elgin families. Bro. John Schrenk (Sis. Pauline), the father of Sis. Nancy Schambach (Elder Bro. Ron), has moved to Resthaven from the apartment he and his wife had shared. At the beginning of February, Sis. Jenean Schambach (Bro. Tom and Sis. Connie) left for an extended stay in Magdalena, MX, where she is working on a gardening project for the orphanage. Most recently, Bro. Darren, Sis. Krystin, and little Tobin Schambach moved to Belgium, where Darren has a three-year commitment to Caterpillar. Their parents are Bro. Tim and Sis. Marcia Kellenberger and Bro. Stan and Sis. Norma Schambach. Our thoughts and prayers will be with all of these brothers and sisters, as we entrust them to our Shepherd's tender care and keeping.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

**Cindy Stoller
Heather Beutel**

With thankfulness, we rejoice

with Bro. Dean and Sis. Becki Martin in the birth of their fifth child, Benjamin Lee. He is welcomed home by siblings, Hannah, Charity, Amos, and Roy. Grandparents of the family are Bro. Roland and Sis. Deloris Martin and Bro. Les and Sis. Ruth Martin.

We offer our thanks and pray for the Lord to bless Bros. Gene Metzger (Lester, IA), Don Manz and Tony Manz (Junction, OH) for their service to us as ministers of the Word of Life.

As the Lord guides His children through life, we rejoice in the engagements of Sis. Lanae Zimmerman (Bro. Mark and Sis. Cheryl) to Bro. Kent Wiegand (Bro. Rick and Sis. Sue, Congerville, IL); and of Bro. Trent Leman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Marilyn) to Sis. Jenae Sutter (Bro. Dan and Sis. Tina, Taylor, MO). May each new couple feel the Lord's nearness in their lives.

With prayer and concern, we commit our medical and hospital patients to the tender care of our Lord and Savior. These include Bro. Bob Schumacher (Sis. Charlene), Bro. Tom Stoller (Sis. Edie), Sis. Melba Mangold, Bro. Harry Rocke, and Bro. Earl Zimmerman (Sis. Elsie). May the Lord bless and keep each of them in His will.

Note of Thanks:

It is with deep appreciation that I take this opportunity to thank family, friends, and many loved ones who remembered me with gifts and cards on my 90th birthday. May God bless all of you for your acts of kindness.

Bro. Sid Leman (Sis. Ann)

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

Our congregation is rejoicing along with the angels in heaven over five new converts. They are: Reid Zehr (Bro. Quinn and Sis. Joan), Susan Herr (Sis. Cindy), Wes and Erinn Steidinger (Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish Steidinger, and Will and Juanita Kaeb, Arrowsmith, IL), and Troy Steffen (Bro. Henry and Sis. Lola). We pray for God's nearness, grace, and guidance as they begin this most blessed walk.

Elder Bros. Curt Frank (La-Crosse, IN) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL), along with our Elder Bro. Rick Plattner, shared the Memorandum with us. Many good teachings were given and encouragement to a shared stewardship as we strive for heaven.

The Fairbury Church was privileged to host ACYF on two Sunday evenings. What a joy to hear the hymns sung by our future church.

We thank Bro. Dan Moser (Elgin, IL) for preaching the Word. May God reward him for his labors.

Bro. Dale Mowery, Bro. Tom Steidinger, and twins Owen and Connor Pankey (foster sons of Bro. Doug and Sis. Dixie Steidinger) spent time in the hospital. Our prayers ascend to God on their behalf for His healing touch and comfort.

We bid farewell to Bro. Rodney and Sis. Denise Steidinger and their family as they have relocated to Prescott, AZ. We will miss them and wish them God's richest blessings.

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

We were richly blessed and encouraged to a closer walk with our

Lord as we assembled with our Fairbury brethren to listen to the reading of the Memorandum. May we take these teachings and use them to better prepare ourselves for the kingdom of heaven. We thank Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Lacrosse, IN), as well as Bro. Rick and Bro. Wayne for bringing forth these teachings to us.

We also thank our other visiting ministers this month, Bro. Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL) and Bro. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN), for their labors in the Lord's vineyard.

We want to extend our thanks and appreciation to Bro. John Teubel (Sis. Lavonne) and Bro. Joe Koehl (Sis. Marie) as their terms in Sunday School have ended. We give our prayerful support to Bro. Erik Schaffer (Sis. Michelle), Bro. Arlen Leman (Sis. Denise), and Bro. Jason Dotterer (Sis. Lynn) who have been chosen to replace them. May these brothers feel the wisdom from the Lord as they strive to instruct our children in the heavenly way.

Our prayers are with several in our congregation who have spent some time in the hospital. They are Bro. Larry Bachman (Sis. Donna), Mila Zimmerman (Bro. Josh and Sis. Molly), Carson Leman (Bro. Arlen and Sis. Denise), Bro. Homer Blunier (Sis. Virginia), Bro. Glen Zimmerman (Sis. Mildred), and Micah Lanz (Bro. Mike and Sis. Marsha). May God continue to grant His healing powers to each of them.

Our prayers have also been with those who have lost a loved one this month. Bro. Larry and Sis. Donna Bachman lost their brother-in-law, Duane Reynolds (Pam), and Bro. Jim and Sis. Sandra Schneider and family said farewell to his mother, Sis. Gladys Schneider, of Rockville, CT, as she finished her earthly race. May God comfort these families as

only He can.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to thank each one for all the prayers, support, and gifts of love shown to us during the time of Sis. Alisa's surgery and recovery. May God richly bless each and every one of you!

In Christian Love,

Bro. Allen, Sis. Alisa Ricketts and family

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

"For I am the Lord, I change not..."

Malachi 3:6

We can find such comfort in these words. No matter what our lives hold for us and what changes come, the Lord is there as a steady pillar for us to rely on.

Alexander Roy Wiegand was born to Bro. Nathan and Sis. Laura Wiegand on February 2. Welcoming him home are his sisters, MaryBeth and Anna, and grandparents, Bro. Roy and Sis. Jan Wiegand and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Beth Mott (Morton, IL).

We rejoice in the change that has come about in Emily Hinrichsen's life. She was announced for peace this past month and is looking forward to baptism. Emily's parents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Gerri Hinrichsen.

Looking forward to a life together are Kristen Davis (Bro. Noel and Sis. Molly) and Adam Leman (Bro. Terry and Sis. Shirley, Eureka, IL).

We are thankful that Sis. Barb Wiegand could peacefully go to her reward after a fight with cancer. Our sympathies are with her husband,

Bro. Ron; her children, Sis. Julie (Bro. Brandon) Descarpentrie), Bro. Erik (Sis. Carrie, Leo, IN), Bro. Jeff (Sis. Janel Blunier, fiancé), Craig, Sis. Christi (Leo, IN), and her grandchildren. May God continue to grant comfort and peace to all of Barb's family and friends.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY
Perry A. Klopfenstein

December 31 was the wedding day of Sis. Tracy Gramm, Gridley, and Bro. David Massner of the LaCrosse, IN, congregation. She is the daughter of Bro. Roger and Sis. Darleta Gramm. He is the son of Bro. Randy and Sis. Mary Ann Massner, LaCrosse. Grandparents are Sis. Mary Ann Feller, LaCrosse; and Ann and Ron Daughtery, and Sis. Delores Marti, Gridley. Great-grandparents are Sis. Pauline Witzig and Sis. Ruth Gramm, both of our Gridley congregation. We offer our sincere best wishes, and God's richest blessings on this new young married couple.

Sierra Ashlynn Hodel was born on January 19 to Bro. Doug and Sis. Erin Hodel. She has a brother, Caden, 1. Grandparents are Bro. Curt and Sis. Norma Witzig and Bro. Daryl and Sis. Deb Hodel. Great-grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Marjorie Witzig, Bro. Roy and Sis. Helen Zimmerman and Bro. Roy and Sis. Helen Hodel, all of Gridley, and Bro. Richard and Sis. Rachel Leman, Roanoke.

Also, on January 19 a son was born to Bro. Phillip and Sis. Becky Romersberger. He was named Pierson Jeffrey. He has a brother, Payton, 1. Grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Donna Ringger and Bro. Larry and Sis. Ardean Stoller (and also the late Bro. Rob Romersberger). Great-grandpar-

ents are Howard and Loretta Zehr, Bro. Fred and Sis. Mary Ringger, and Bro. Bill and Sis. Lucille Romersberger, all of Gridley; and Bro. Bob and Sis. Eileen Greiner, Cissna Park.

We were thankful for the messages from visiting brothers. On February 7, Bro. Duane Reutter (Rockville, CT) and Bro. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN) were here. May God bless them for their labors, both now and in the life to come. Bro. Justin Koch (Washington, IL) was here on Wednesday evening, February 21, for a topical Bible presentation. We are thankful for his efforts and may God richly bless him.

Bro. Elmer Witzig continues to recover from his surgeries, and we are thankful.

A brief, general report was given to us regarding the Elder meeting at Bern, KS, and it was heartening to be informed that a beneficial get-together was the result. God heard the many prayers offered by a multitude of souls. Let us pray for our Elder brothers, and obey them (Hebrews 3:13, 17). "Thus united and in concord, let us walk the path of life." (Zion's Harp Hymnal)

We live in a time that seems unstable, with much unrest on a worldwide basis. Anxiety and uncertainty seem to abound in many hearts. Yet, the believer, if He trusts fully in the Lord, can find a haven of comfort in these times. The Scriptures teach us that "the testimony of the Lord is sure" (Psalms 19:7). And we are also taught that "the counsel of the Lord standeth forever." (Psalms 33:11). We have an anchor and a foundation that can give us stability and peace.

ILLINOIS, MACOMB
Kevin Frank

We were very fortunate to have

Bro. Fred Funk and his wife, Sis. Diane (Morton, IL), for our Wednesday evening service on January 31. Bro. Steve Martin (Eureka, IL) was scheduled to come on February 14, but was unable due to the weather. We thank these brothers and those that come with them for their support and fellowship.

We look forward to being with Peoria, IL, on February 28 and Bloomfield, IA, on April 4. We appreciate the support shown to our small gathering. We extend our thanks also to Bro. Norm and Sis. Janice Rechkemmer for the use of their home while they are in Tucson, AZ.

ILLINOIS, MORTON
Annette Tanner
Julie Bahr

As I begin to share Morton's information with the rest of our Silver Lining readers, I have to reflect on the winter we've been having in our area. Conditions of snowfall with wintry mix have been unusually high for what we have seen in the past several years. One day last week I was told that all of Central IL phone service was down. I had tried numerous times to use our cell and land service only to be told those numbers were "no longer in service". It is a sobering thought that our daily lives have the possibility to be forever changed so quickly and with no guarantees. The Word reminds us that we are as foolish men to hold on so tightly to the "securities" that we think we possess.

Our grateful thanks for God's protection over Bro. Matthew Kaufmann (Sis. Rebekah, Bloomington) as he braved the wintry conditions to come to Morton and share with us on Family Worship night. Bro. Matt's topic was "Light".

We are rejoicing in the announce-

ment of a joyful occasion. The engagement of Sis. Kelly Kaiser was made known to Bro. Daniel Knobloch. God is faithful in blessing the parents of this couple. Sis. Jennifer Knobloch (late Bro. Don) is the parent of Bro. Daniel. Bro. Greg and Sis. Christine Kaiser are the parents of Sis. Kelly. All are from Morton, doubling our blessing!

Our prayers and sympathy is with the family of Bro. Benjamin Rassi who passed away on January 17. Bro. Ben is survived by his wife, Sis. Betty, and children, Sis. Janis (Bro. John) Zimmerman, Joyce (John) Kamp, and James (Sharon) Rassi.

According to statistics, one person in every 100,000 reaches the age of 100. On January 21, Sis. Marie Pflederer, age 100, was called home to meet her Savior after many faithful years of service. Sis. Marie is survived by many nieces and nephews.

On January 19, a fourth baby boy, Cole Barton, blessed the home of Bro. Bart and Sis. Janell Rinkenberger. Siblings, Carson, Quinn, and Kade, along with grandparents, Bro. Jaye and Sis. Peg Rinkenberger (Goodfield) and Bro. Wendall and Sis. Karel Anliker (Francesville, IN) welcome him.

Grandparents, Bro. John and Sis. Jan Zimmerman and Dr. Richard and Kathy Shaw, are blessed with a sweet baby granddaughter, Scarlett Lynnae. Little Scarlett entered the home of Jody, Jeremy and Fiona Shaw.

On February 9, Bro. Bob and Sis. Barb Moser and Bro. Alvin and Sis. Carole Beutel became grateful grandparents to baby boy, Neal Alan, born to Bro. Mark and Sis. Colleen Moser (Tremont). Siblings are Anna, Aden, Noah, Kasi and Cali.

One more precious newborn we

get to announce snuck in under the reporting deadline. A healthy little boy, Rylen Marshall, made his debut on February 16 to Bro. Brian and Sis. Dawn Tanner. Siblings are Brianna, Brody, and Kayley. Grandparents are Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Annette Tanner and Bro. Bob and Sis. Charlene Schumacher (Eureka).

Notes of Thanks:

The family of Ben Rassi wishes to thank our church family, friends and relatives for your support during our time of sorrow. Whatever your part in sharing through prayers, cards, calls, visits, food and serving was sincerely appreciated. We love you, each one.

Betty, Joy, Jim and Jan

We want to thank everyone for the memorial donations, cards, food and all the love shown to our family following the loss of our beloved Aunt Marie. May you be richly blessed for your care and concern.

Family of Marie Pflederer

ILLINOIS, PEORIA
Kristin Menold
Carissa Klopfenstein

February 10 was a special day for Bro. Steve and Sis. Lois Leuthold as they announced the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Alyssa Leuthold, to Bro. Ryan Funk, son of Elder Bro. Tim and Sis. Debi Funk.

Three new converts have made a decision to begin repenting: Tyler Hohulin (Bro. Mark and Sis. Jan), Tonya Henderson, who has been worshipping with us for the last year or so, and Caleb Sauder (Bro. David Jr. and Sis. Rachel). We rejoice with you and pray for God's Spirit to be with you during this time of growth.

We are happy to welcome four new, baby girls to our congregation.

Congratulations to Jared and Amy Plattner, Bro. Trent and Sis. Kary Scholl, and Bro. John and Sis. Serena Hoerr on the birth of their little girls!

Tessalei Elizabeth Plattner (Jared and Amy) was born on January 13 and is welcomed by her sister, Ariya. Grandparents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Beth Herman, and Barb and Tony Plattner from Peoria.

Kenzi Ann Scholl (Bro. Trent and Sis. Kary) was born on January 24 and is welcomed by her older sister, Teça. Grandparents are Bro. Carl II and Sis. Debby Hoerr, and William and Linda Robinson from Princeville.

Alecia Nicole and Isabel Aliese – yes, twins (Bro. John and Sis. Serena) were born on February 1. Their grandparents are Bro. David Sr. and Sis. Rita Sauder, and Bro. John Sr. and Sis. Dot Hoerr.

On February 3-4, we witnessed the testimony and baptism of four souls: Katie and Willie Hofstetter (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Karen), Janelle Grassi (Bro. John and Sis. Cheryl) and Ali Ginzel (Bro. Geoffrey and Sis. Angela). Ministers assisting in this event were Elder Bro. Tim Funk, Ordained Deacon Bro. Ken Hoerr, and retired Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer. We were also blessed as Bro. Erik Givens and Bro. Matt Steffen from Princeville ministered to the church throughout the day. We rejoice with you and pray the Lord will bless you as you continue your journey with Christ.

The Pancake and Sausage Supper was held January 20 at the Peoria Fellowship Hall. Hundreds of people from the Peoria area and surrounding churches came to enjoy the delicious pancakes and sausages, bid on the Baskets, and purchase baked goods from the Country Store. The

Bible Class wishes to thank all who attended and contributed to making this event a success.

The Bible Study on James continues with Bro. Tim Roecker speaking on Chapter 1, Bro. Ken Hoerr speaking on Chapter 2, and Bro. Dennis Kaufmann from Bloomington speaking on Chapter 3. Thank you, Brothers, for your efforts to bring us the Word and it's message.

Our monthly Hymn Sing was held on February 4. In addition to congregational singing, we enjoyed songs from our 1st and 2nd Grades and the group, Kindred Spirit. Thank you for your encouragement and for sharing your music with us.

We pray for the recovered health and strength of Jerry Hoerr, Sis. Amy Ginzle, Sis. Barb Thomas, Bro. Herman Schaefer, Sis. Bernetta Binkele and Bro. Wayne Wieland.

Our prayers are with Bro. Mark and Sis. Judy Sceggel in the passing of Bro. Mark's father, Elton Sceggel, and Sis. Carol Scholl and her family in the passing of their husband and father, Bro. Rolland Scholl. May the God of peace bring you comfort during this time.

So much snow has hit Central Illinois lately that we have been forced to stay indoors or off the roads and for many, this has been a harrowing experience. However, let us be thankful for the extra moments/days with family. We never know how many days we are promised so let us take advantage of every situation and live our lives to the fullest.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Connie Christ
Vera Baer

"Haste and seek your soul's salvation; heed the word of God today!"
 Zion's Harp #52. We are so thankful

that two dear souls have started to "seek the straight and narrow way". They are Lisa Martin (Bro. Sam and Sis. Mary) and Katie Schick (Bro. Stan and Sis. Margie).

Kenneth Riley, father of Sis. Elizabeth (Bro. John) Wieland and Ken Riley II, of Princeville passed away. Also in our congregation losing a brother, Bro. Rolland Scholl, was Bro. Bob (Sis. Arlene) Scholl and Sis. Mary Lou Scholl. May God be with each family member and friend. He can fill the void left with their passing.

Bro. Gary Sinn (Latty, OH) was here and preached God's Word to us.

Bro. David and Sis. Beulah Ehnle are thankful to have 60 years of being married in the Lord. Bro. Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL) was a spokesman for God February 18 in connection to the anniversary. We wish Bro. Dave and Sis. Beulah more blessed years together.

Hospital patients were Sis. Janice Martin (Bro. Alan) and Sis. Rose Herrmann (Bro. Allan). May God be with them in their recovery.

Dustin Blunier and Julie Duis plan to be united in marriage toward the end of this year. His parents are (late Bro. Dale) and Sis. Joyce Blunier from our congregation. Her parents are Bob and Paula Duis, Champaign, IL. May God be with them as they start their lives together.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE
Judy Sauder
Dee Fehr

Over the river, faces I see,
 Fair as the morning, looking for me;
 Free from their sorrow, grief and despair,
 Waiting and watching patiently

there.

Tabernacle Hymns, # 44

It was with joy we heard the news that Russ Leman has answered the loving call of our Saviour and come in humble repentance. Surely we believe that dear Sis. Joan must also be rejoicing with the angels in heaven!

Our thanks to Bro. Frank Sauder for making the effort on a Wednesday evening to convey to us the unique needs of our small churches, and also to retired Elder Bro. Don Sauder for his moving account of how small churches ministered to him as a young convert serving in the military in 1943. We were encouraged that, as a large church, we have the opportunity to reach out to those congregations much smaller in size.

We appreciate the efforts of our ministering brothers who visited us recently, including Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford) and Bro. Byron Stoller (Gridley) on February 4, and Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger on February 18.

On January 21, we heard of the engagement of Bro. Matt Lindberg (Atlanta, GA), and Sis. Renae Bahler (Wolcott, IN). Their parents are Bro. Rich and Sis. Julie Lindberg (formerly of Roanoke), and Chris and Sis. Teresa Bahler.

O what is hundred? This age to
 few is e'er allotted;
 O man do strive for virtues pure,
 And lay thy treasures up in
 heaven
 And make your own election sure!
Hymns of Zion, #131

Sis. Ann Hangartner enjoyed the blessing of a remarkably clear mind even at the age of 104. She was called out of this world on February 18, and is survived by a daughter, Doris

Irving, a son, Marvin (Gwen) Hangartner, and a sister, Sis. Margaret Beer. On January 22, Bro. Emery "Dick" Getz slipped from this life into eternity. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Mabel, and four children, Sis. Ann (Bro. Bob) Knepp, Sis. Shirley (Bro. Steve) Leman, Sis. Joyce (Bro. Steve) Hodel, and Bro. John (Sis. Lynn) Getz. Sis. Ruth Scherer passed away on February 11. Her survivors include three children, David (Mary Faupel) Scherer, Jeanne (Ron) Hinrichsen, and Mark (Tami) Scherer, and one sister, Sis. Esther (Bro. John) Sauder.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Marilyn Ott became grandparents again on February 1 when Samuel Conratt was born to David and Joelle Ott of Phoenix, AZ. Samuel's big sister is Annika, and his other grandparents are Doug and Karen Conratt from Wisconsin. On February 8, Bro. Dustin and Sis. Mandy Hodel welcomed the arrival of Caden Joseph. He also has a big sister, Liberty. Grandparents are Bro. Brad and Sis. Patty Hodel and Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol Koehl (Sarasota, FL).

Note of Thanks:

I want to thank everyone who remembered me on my 87th birthday with prayers, cards, calls, visits and donations. Also, for get well and Christmas cards. I appreciate it all so much.

May God bless you,

Carol Schwab

ILLINOIS, TREMONT
Teresa Rowell
Sheri Allen

As I write this Silver Lining, it is snowy and blowing outside. It has been snowing off and on for the last week, with the biggest snow on Monday night. I sat in my warm house

with my family and thought about how there are many people in this world that do not have anything. I ask myself, how thankful and grateful am I for what God has blessed me with? Do we take for granted everything He has given to us and done for us? It is something to think about.

We were thankful to hear the testimonies of four dear converts this past month. We welcome Sis. Lori Koch and Sis. Heidi Koch (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Kathy), Sis. Emily Frank (Bro. Doug and Sis. Cheri) and Bro. Trent Stuber (Bro. Todd and Sis. Beth) into the fold. We pray for God's guidance and grace as they continue on in their walk with Him.

We were also privileged to have Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville, IL) and Bro. Brian Waibel (Sis. Wendy, Champaign, IL) with us for the weekend, and we thank them for their efforts and pray that God will be their rich rewarder.

The blessings of children have been felt in two families. Keith and Ashleigh Brown are the parents of Kyleigh Rose. Her grandparents are Darryl and Sis. Peggy Stoecker and great-grandpa is Bro. Gene Koch. Bro. Mark and Sis. Colleen Moser are thankful for the safe arrival of Neil Alan. Little Neil had to spend a few extra days in the hospital, but now is home and healthy. His excited siblings are Kali, Casi, Anna, Aden and Noah. Grandparents are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Carol Beutel and Bro. Bob and Sis. Barb Moser (Morton, IL).

For those who are hospitalized or ill, our thoughts and prayers are with you. Bro. Alvin Beutel (Sis. Carol) and Sis. Eunice Rowell have been in the hospital and are recovering. Sis. Kathy Wagenbach (Bro. Gary) is in the hospital awaiting the

birth of their second child. May God grant healing to each one according to His will.

Notes of Thanks:

We wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and thankfulness at the overwhelming outpouring of love and prayers and generous gifts given to our grandson, Joshua Aberle. It has been humbling to see God work in so many hearts during his time of illness. The last PET scan showed that Josh's cancer is in total remission, and there is no sign of any cancer in his body at this time. He is now regaining strength from his previous chemotherapy.

With praise and thanks to God,
Bro. Walt and Sis. Vera Aberle and family

"I waited patiently for the Lord ... and he heard my cry ... he brought me up also out of an horrible pit ... put a new song in my mouth ... Many, O Lord my God, are thy wonderful works..."

Psalms 40:1-5

We are overwhelmed and frankly speechless with the amount of gifts, cards, and encouraging words given to us during this time. God has been so gracious to me and my family. This experience has left me in awe of the true grace of God and how much He really loves me and the people around me. For me to be the subject of God's refining fire (and fire it has been) is, to say the least, very humbling. Knowing, without question, that God is in control, and there is nothing that we can do to thwart His plan except surrender and trust Him, is hard to wrap my mind around. To watch God work in people around you is beautiful and amazing. Each of you has become

very precious to us in the way you have held us up in prayer, heard God's voice in what our needs were and responded, speaking words of encouragement that have truly blessed us, and writing cards and letters with tailor-made words that brought tears and love for you all. We are blessed to have you walk through this with us and my words don't do justice for how much it means to us. We trust God blesses each of you for all you've done. Thank you!

I did start back to work on January 2. I am amazed at what the Lord has done in me. I am currently working every other day and am feeling good – praise God! It is God who has given me the strength to work again. It couldn't be possible on my own. Again, Sarah and I want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your love and support. We thank God for you and pray you are truly blessed for lifting us up as your fellow brother and sister in Christ. We love you.

Joshua and Sarah Aberle

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON
Elizabeth Heinold
Nancy Knepp

As the Midwest digs out from "mountains of snow," it reminds us of the seasons of our lives, and how quickly they pass by. When the winter storms whirl upon us and instantly change our schedules, time stops the same as when a loved one dies. But hope springs anew, even as new buds shoot forth under the snow, and new lives wait to be born in warmer days.

Our hearts were saddened by the tragic death of Nathan Mitchell, son of Evie Heinold-Davis, and grandson of Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan Heinold. Friends and family came

from near and far to grieve his untimely death.

Our congregation was blessed to share in early Sunday morning worship services with our brethren at the Eureka Apostolic Home for the month of January. So many memories and so much of what we have are because of them and what they have done for us.

In turn, our hearts are warmed by the youth of our church and the young couples beginning lives together. The engagement of Sis. Heidi Pfaffmann (Bro. Max and Sis. Mary) was announced to Bro. Luke Knapp (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Linda, Congerville). Bro. Andrew Gerber (Bro. Neil and Sis. Leesa) married Sis. Natalie Lehman (Bro. Nate and Sis. Yvonne, Denver). Bro. Kenton Snyder (Bro. Greg and Sis. Kara, Kansas City) married Sis. Heidi Heimer (Bro. Rod and Sis. Barb, Taylor). We ask the Lord's blessing on these dear couples.

Sharing the pulpit this month were Bro. Bruce Endress (Sis. Elizabeth, Bradford) and Bro. James Knapp (Sis. Lisa, Congerville). We thank them for their efforts and rejoice that the Holy Spirit is so evident among us.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Amber Steffen
Jan Schwartz

"Verily, verily I say unto you, he that believeth on me hath everlasting life."

John 6:47

We are very thankful for our four converts this month. Jenna Runion (Rich Runion and Wendy Runion), Scott Moore (George Moore and Scott and Michelle Sodervick), Janet Holloway (Jody Holloway and

Brenda Jackson), and Danielle Geisel (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marcia) have all surrendered their hearts to Jesus in repentance. We wish these converts an abundance of grace as they begin their new walk in Christ.

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me, thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."

Psalms 23:4

With heavy hearts our Bluffton congregation said goodbye to our Bro. Rick Stucky who went to join our Lord on February 5. He was a great inspiration to us all during his final months here on earth. Our prayers are with his wife, Sis. Cathy; his son, Bro. Stacey (Sis. Gwen); his daughter, Sis. Julie (Bro. Matt) Lehman; his parents, Bro. Earl and Sis. Marge; his brother, Bro. Steve (Sis. Carol); and his eight grandchildren.

Our dear Bro. Leonard Grandlienard also went to his eternal rest on February 6. Our prayers are with his dear wife, Sis. Lucille; his daughters, Karen D. Kipfer and Elane Lawson (James); his step-children, Ron Kaehr (Fern), Jim Kaehr (Marcia), Bro. Keith Kaehr (Sis. Lou Ann), and Sis. Rita Everett (Bro. Dick); his brothers, Glen Grandlienard, William Grandlienard Jr., and Don Grandlienard; his sisters, Sis. Joyce Gehring (Bro. Claren), Barbara Hayden, and Betty Meshberger.

Our prayers have been with our convert, Jesse Terhune, who has spent time in the hospital this month and will be soon facing surgery. Likewise, our prayers were with Walt Snodgrass (Sis. Sherry) as he too spent time in the hospital and also had surgery.

We rejoice with Bro. Greg and Sis. Katie Isch as they have adopted Thomas Aklilu from Ethiopia, born June 27, 2005. Welcoming Thomas into their family is his brother, Calvin, and sisters, Kayla, Lauren, Jocelyn and Jada. Grandparents are Bro. Hubert and Sis. Judy Isch and Bro. Steve and Sis. Renee Reinhard.

First-time parents are Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Sarah Ringger as they were blessed with a baby girl, McKayla Rose, born on January 17. Grandparents are Bro. Kendall and Sis. Sandy Ringger and Bro. Rich and Sis. LaNae Aberle (Atlanta, GA).

Likewise, first-time parents, Bro. Blare and Sis. Janel Gerber, were blessed with a little girl, Madison Leigh, born on February 1. Her grandparents are Bro. Rex and the late Sis. Lavon Gerber, and Bro. Doug and Sis. Jill Fiechter.

We also rejoice with Bro. Krent and Sis. Elizabeth Frauhiger as they welcomed their son, little Zander Arlin, into the world on February 3. Excited with his arrival is his sister, Riley, and grandparents, Bro. Dean and Sis. Holly Frauhiger and Bro. Derryl and Sis. Peggy Aschliman.

The engagement of Bro. Kevin Kipfer (Atlanta, GA) to Sis. Erica Stoller (Morton, IL) was announced to our congregation. Their parents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Linda Kipfer and Bro. Lyn and Sis. Brenda Stoller (Atlanta, GA). They are planning a July 15 wedding. We rejoice with this couple as they look forward to a wonderful blessed life together in the Lord.

Our congratulations go out to Bro. Oscar and Sis. Sylvia Bertsch as they celebrated 65 years of marriage this month. Their Christian union has been a wonderful example to us all.

Our prayers were with our Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz as he attended the mid-winter Conference in Bern, Kansas. We are thankful for all our beloved Elders as so much of their time is spent in the welfare and concern of all our congregations. May God richly bless them for their efforts in our behalf.

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Tiffani Schladenhauffen
Darren Drayer**

Love and greetings from your spiritual siblings at the north end of Bluffton.

On February 3-4, Elder Bro. Lynn Steiglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN) visited us for the baptisms and testimonies of Bro. Mike and Sis. Karen Todd, and Bro. Jerod Kieser (Bro. Dan and Sis. Lora).

Bro. Larry and Sis. Sarah Gerber welcomed their daughter, Kylie Mae, into the world on February 3. Kylie's grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Marge Gerber (Latty, OH) and Bro. Virgil and Sis. Shirley Funk (Congerville, IL).

We grieve with Bro. Jay and Sis. Dorothy Kipfer on the loss of their son-in-law, Mike Mayne (Sheryl), on January 28. Mike leaves his wife, Sheryl, and two children, Heather and Christopher.

Bro. Howard Baumgartner has been ill this past month. Our retired ministering Bro. Carroll Gerber has been hospitalized in Florida. We pray that both of these brothers will recover from their illnesses.

Sis. Michelle Baumgartner (Bro. Brad) and Bro. Len Francesi (Sis. Mary) each spent time in the hospital this week. We are thankful the Lord has allowed a work of healing.

On February 17-18 we had the privilege of hosting High School

Weekend. The high school brothers and sisters sang to our congregation after the Sunday PM service. It was a blessing to hear them blend in beautiful harmony. We want to thank Bro. Ked Moser (Sis. Adrienne) for leading them.

**INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Jessica Murray
Barb Huber**

"Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth."

Luke 12:15

How we have been blessed this past month with two topical Bible studies. How covetousness is the underrated sin, and that we should use our talents to glorify God and avoid greed, envy, lust, and idolatry. Things are not of importance but people and their spiritual well being should be. Then we learned about the Truth in Love and referred to Ephesians, chapter 4. Truth is the strength and love is the beauty. We looked at our relationship with ourselves, with God, and with others.

We were thankful to hear that the Elder Conference was an excellent time of sharing. May God bless all of our Elders and all they do for each of us.

Several have been traveling this past month. A group went to Haiti and to Mexico where we currently have missionary families living and serving others. There was also a group of men who went to Mississippi to help with the rebuilding. May all your works of love be greatly appreciated.

Our prayers are with those who have spent time in the hospital this past month. Our Sis. Lois Yaggie will

be having surgery this coming week and Sis. Nola Wuethrich had foot surgery this past month. May the Lord continue to be with you as you heal and face the changes in health.

We would like to thank Bro. Rustin Meister (Sis. Amanda, West Lafayette, IN) and Bro. Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, LaCrosse, IN) for their services as they shared the Word with us this past month. May all your efforts and love be richly rewarded.

**INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS
Penny Schroder
Gail Bradford**

We received good news that Bro. Stan and Sis. Andrea Gutwein welcomed their fourth child, Malachi, born in New Delhi, India, on February 7. Grateful grandmother, Sis. Ginny Zeller, is thankful that all is well.

Our sympathy and prayers go to Michael and Heather (Bro. Ken and Sis. Lyn) and son Holden on the passing of Michael's father, Gene.

We are relieved that Stephanie Guzulaitis, who needed additional medical attention after the birth of little Isaac, is back home again.

We bid Sis. Julie Neukomm farewell as she moved to Morton, IL, to start a new job.

Bro. Luke and Sis. Jenny were thrilled to be able to adopt Luca Mikail only 48 hours after his birth. Luca's middle name is the same as their beloved foster child, who lived with Luke and Jenny for a time. Happy grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Annette Bahler, and Eric and Sis. Donna Gutwein.

Many of us gathered for a silent auction and Mexican dinner served by the Sunday school to help support their upcoming June mission trip to

Juarez, Mexico. We appreciate their enthusiasm and commitment for this project and recognize that such an endeavor requires much prayer and planning by all involved.

Couples gathered for a Valentine's Day dinner to celebrate their marriages and to give thanks for the "glue" of Christian love that binds them together through the inevitable issues that affect every relationship.

We convened at our annual meeting to elect officers and attend to various tasks needing the congregation's attention. We appreciate the work of each trustee and other office holders who perform their duties diligently. They are the unsung behind-the-scene workers who get the jobs done.

**INDIANA, LACROSSE
Bethany Johnson
Julie Rocke**

Our congregation was enlightened, encouraged and blessed by the Depression Seminar and Marriage Seminar put on by Bro. Ted Witzig (Sis. Donna, Morton, IL) from the Apostolic Christian Counseling Service on January 19-20. The seminars were appreciated by all who attended and we would like to thank Bro. Ted and Sis. Donna and all those who came from other congregations for coming.

We held our annual business meeting on the evening of January 29. It was a blessed evening and we would like to express our appreciation for those going out of the various offices as well as those who are taking their places. Thank you for all of your efforts.

For several Sundays (and maybe a few more to come) we have been out of our church building due to some remodeling projects. We sin-

cerely appreciate and would like to thank the Valparaiso, IN, congregation for opening their church to us and welcoming us so warmly to worship with them. May God richly bless you for your kindness.

Our thoughts and prayers as well as our sympathy go out to the family of our dear friend John Ailes. He passed away on January 27, and leaves behind his wife, Carol; daughters Sis. Dawn Ailes of LaCrosse, IN; Diane (Drew) McClanahan of Wanatah, IN; and Donald (James) Garrett of Garnet Valley, PA; and a son, Doug Ailes of Walkerton, IN. John also leaves behind 9 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. He will be greatly missed by our congregation and his family and friends.

Sis. Ruth Elcock also has our thoughts and prayers with the passing of her father, Michael Demrovsky, of Akron, OH.

Our friend, Shaya Elcock (Sis. Ruth), has been in the hospital this month, but is now recovering at home. We pray that everything will go well for her.

There are several from our congregation who were not able to assemble with us this month due to illnesses and we would like to remember them in prayer and hope that they will be able to return to church soon.

Bro. Garry Bucher (Valparaiso, IN) was with us for John Ailes' funeral and we would like to thank him for his services.

**INDIANA, LEO
Elizabeth Schrenk
Abigail Schrenk**

As the winter weather continues to bring a lot of snow to our area, we are reminded of the song we recently sang at church.

Tho' your sins be as scarlet,
They shall be as white as snow.
Tho' they be red like crimson,
They shall be as wool.
Tho' your sins be as scarlet,
They shall be as white as snow.

Gospel Hymns #549

We are thankful for the example of the fullness of love that God showed to us by providing a way for our lives to be made right with Him and to cleanse our sins making them white like the snow.

On January 22, Truitt James was born to Bro. Kirk and Sis. Keri Plattner. Truitt is welcomed home by his big brother, Drew. Excited grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Patsy Kaeb (Roanoke, IL) and Elder Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene Plattner (Princeville, IL). Kaitlyn Rose was welcomed into the home of Bro. Dave and Sis. Jodi Kieser on January 24. Kaitlyn's siblings are Zachery, Hayli, and Luke. The grateful grandparents are Bro. Al and Sis. Vicki Hartzler (Princeville, IL) and Sis. Shirley Kieser (Princeville, IL). We trust these two families will know God's nearness as they raise their children and nurture them in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus.

We welcome Sis. Rachel Huber into our congregation. Sis. Rachel has come to work at Gateway Woods as an Assistant. We hope she will feel at home with us.

As February brings the focus of love to our minds, may each one of us experience the true meaning of love by serving our fellow neighbors with godly love and servanthood.

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

John 15:13

INDIANA, MILFORD

Carol Haab

Carol Hurd

Milford was blessed with the ministering of Bro. Gary Sinn on Sunday, January 14. The congregation thanks Bro. Gary and his family for their visit.

The January monthly singing was held at the Lakeland Rehab Nursing home where the residents enjoyed their visit and the singing of the hymns.

Bro. Ray Haab and Sis. Kate Price have been able to return to church after time in the hospital. Thank Thee, God, for Thy healing hand.

The February monthly singing was a farewell gathering for Vince and Tessa Schlatter and sons, Parker, Reese and Jace. The Milford congregation will greatly miss this special family, their music talents, Vince as Gateway Woods representative and Tessa's work on the World Relief committee. May God bless them.

Henry Beer wrote in his poem, "The March Woods":

Come out into the woods,
And leave your cares behind.
The trees and flowers there,
Will cheer the heart and mind.

There's beauty in the woods,
Though strong the March winds
blow,
The sap from maple trees,
Into the buckets flow.

The trees as sentinels
All leafless there they stand,
The budding trees foretell
That spring is nigh at hand.

Come out into the woods,
This anxious life forsake.
And here in God's great realm,

New friendships you shall make.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Tammy Waibel

Beth Virkler

Being thankful remains one of the greatest attributes of our faith in Jesus Christ. Something easy to be thankful for this month of March is the melting snow and the promise of spring.

During the worst week of winter weather, Bro. Eldon Getz (Sis. Charlene) and Bro. Gene Waibel (Sis. Diane) both experienced medical surgery.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Phil Isabell (Sis. Diane) regarding the passing of his mother, Geneva Isabell from Science Hill, Kentucky.

Visiting ministers were Bro. Ken Weerts (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Ed Fritz (Washington, IL). We miss our home minister, Bro. Ken Schneider, who is spending three months in Biloxi, MS, offering his electrician skills in the hurricane rebuilding efforts.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Becky Langhofer

Natalie Virkler

As we look forward to spring and the new life that it brings, I am amazed at the new life God gives each one who turns to Him in repentance. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new." (2 Corinthians 5:17). How thankful we should be that we have a Father in heaven that can forgive our sins and make us useful vessels for His glory!

We were blessed to have Bro. Joe Gerst and his wife, Sis. Connie, here from Iowa City for our Wednesday night service on January 24.

We are thankful to have Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue safely home from a mission trip to Haiti. All glory goes to God for traveling mercies!

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Marguerite Hoerr

I e-mailed our January news just last night, which was Saturday, and felt glad that I'd met the deadline and reported a month's happenings for our Silver Lining. This morning I realized, it's the beginning of another month and I had to pray that I could be diligent in reporting the happenings in our beloved church again.

Bro. Chris Huber and his wife, Sis. Sharon, from Francesville, were with us on this snowy Sunday. The roads were not easy to drive on, as they were snow covered and somewhat slippery, so we were especially glad to see them. We can thank Sis. Marie Heinold for encouraging them to come to Valpo. She told them she'd like to come to Valpo today and would they bring her. She's living in the Francesville home and has told me she's a warrior in prayer for our Valpo church. Bro. Chris mentioned at the close of services today that Marie is the reason they were with us. What a blessing.

Also visiting was Bro. Chris's father, Bro. Eugene Huber, and his daughter, Sis. Peggy. Their visit sparked our day with love and good fellowship. We also enjoyed Bro. Troy and Sis. Briana Wuthrich of the Milford congregation. Sis. Tricia and Bro. Ed Lester often have Milford family visit them. We love it, and it's like home week for us because we lived in Milford for 44 years.

Two Sunday's recently, the weather prevented us from driving the 40 miles to Valparaiso to church.

We missed the visit of Bro. Matthew Rassi and his wife, Sis. Bridget, from the Chicago church. Reports told us their visit was a blessing to everyone.

The following Sunday, the first one in February, we missed the visit of most of the LaCrosse church worshipping at Valpo. All of their ministering brothers and their wives: Elder Bro. Curt Frank and Sis. Lila, Bro. Don Gudeman and Sis. Mary, Bro. Tom Troxel and Sis. LuAnn, plus Bro. Chris Wuethrich and Sis. Carla were there, along with many of the LaCrosse members. Reports called in to me said that the singing was absolutely beautiful and inspiring with so many voices filling our auditorium. Their church home was having repairs done and they chose to bless us with their presence. What a boon for Valparaiso church they were!

Bro. David Massner and his wife, Sis. Tracy, were married on New Year's Eve. Since their graduation from Purdue and their marriage, they have decided to make Valparaiso their home church. We couldn't be happier to have this young and vibrant couple worship with us every Sunday. May God bless their marriage and the gift they are giving to our small congregation by their decision.

We express our deepest sympathy to Sis. Dawn Ailes, whose beloved father, John Ailes, Jr., passed away unexpectedly on January 27. John and his wife, Carol, worshipped with the LaCrosse church but would often visit Valpo. We learned to know and to love them. Our sympathy goes out to his entire family. May memories and God's love sustain them as they adjust to his loss. Before he retired, John worked at Bethlehem Steel as did several of our Valpo

brothers and a very strong friendship was formed among these men. Our sympathy is expressed to them also.

A problem often turns into a blessing. The remodeling project at the LaCrosse church wasn't completed so it resulted in our two churches worshipping together for a second Sunday on February 11. This time two of their ministers were with them, Elder Bro. Curt (Sis. Lila) Frank and Bro. Tom (Sis. LuAnn) Troxel. Knowing it would be more convenient for them to worship in their own church home, it nevertheless was another good time for the Valpo church to have them with us.

At our yearly business meeting the following persons were elected to serve terms in the service of our church: Bro. Dale Schneider was elected to a Sunday School term as was Sis. Marsha Weiss. Bro. Mike Thomas was elected as a trustee. In our small congregation many willing workers are filling two or more needs, and we appreciate their dedication to do so.

We've had another Sunday of blessing on February 18, as the LaCrosse church project was not finished and our benches were filled with their company, along with all of their ministers, for a third time. Ministering Bro. Don Steidl, of the Akron, OH, congregation accompanied them and ministered to us on that day. We know everyone traveled farther in cold winter weather, but we hope they felt the warm welcome in our hearts as they assembled with us.

Our son-in-law, Dick Pelath, has had his stem cell harvest and also his stem cell transfusion. We're thankful as can be as we expect him to be released from the hospital before the

end of February. Dick is aware, and so are all of us, that his journey back to health is a road ahead of him, but with prayers and encouragement we anticipate helping him along that journey. Again, we want to express our gratefulness to those who remembered him in prayer.

**INDIANA
WEST LAFAYETTE**

**Darlene Walder
Hollie Meister**

Greetings in Jesus' name. What a winter wonderland most all of Indiana folk find themselves. Our January was really quite mild but February finds snow, snow and more snow, an old fashioned winter blizzard. We know in Gen. 8:22 it reminds us that, "While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease." That was God's promise to Noah and still remains a promise for us to know He will provide for us each season to enjoy as long as the earth stands.

January is the month for new election of church offices for us at W. Lafayette. Bros. Nick Gutwein, Matt Ginzler, Jeff Moser, and Brad Widmer were voted to be trustee and ushers respectfully. Also, Sis. Suzanne Gutwein went on the hospitality committee and Sis. Annette Bahler was voted as our new church hostess for 2007. We appreciate those that served for the 2006 term and thank you for your labors of love.

We were blessed to hear the engagement announcement on January 21 of our Purdue student, Sis. Renae Bahler, to Bro. Matt Lindberg, Atlanta, GA. We wish them God's blessings as they plan their upcoming wedding.

Our Sis. Rachel Huber has felt

God's call to serve those at Gateway Woods and so we had a farewell song for her and wished her Godspeed as she moves there and takes on her responsibilities.

Our recent visiting ministers were: Bro. Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis, IN), Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Francesville, IN) and our Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN). We thank these brothers and their wives for coming and serving our congregation so willingly.

We rejoice at the news when a soul has found the grace to repent of their sins. Our Purdue student, Brett Schwab (Wolcott, IN), has acknowledged his need for a personal Saviour. That makes our hearts very thankful that God is still lovingly calling.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

**Lowell Bahler
Erica Blume**

"One generation passeth and another generation cometh, but the earth abideth forever."

Eccles. 1:4

As time continues to move on, we have witnessed the "laying down of the mantle" of our retired Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Sis. Frances). He has also now retired from the ministry after 46 years in the service of our Lord.

We want to thank our Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington), and Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta, Alto, MI) for being with us on Sunday evening, January 28, as Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Ruth) was given the responsibility of deacon and lead minister for our Wolcott congregation. We want to assure him of our love and prayerful sup-

port.

Our special Bible topic for January was brought to us by Bro. David Zehr (Sis. Vicki, Gridley, IL). We have been reminded of the toll that stress can take on our spiritual lives. He encouraged us to be more prayerful, more trusting and to truly place our affections on those things which have lasting and eternal values. Thank you, Bro. David.

Ministering Bro. Gene Lehman (Sis. Verna) has undergone his second hip replacement and is home recuperating. It is our prayer that God will grant His healing powers.

Sis. Irene Radcliffe, who had been living at Parkview Haven Retirement Home, fell and broke two bones in her leg. She has been transferred to Monticello Healthcare for therapy. We wish her a speedy recovery and that she will be able to return to Parkview.

Judy Heinzelman (Frank) has recently had surgery, along with numerous tests and examinations. Our prayers are with her that she may find comfort and relief for her pain.

IOWA, BLOOMFIELD

Barbara Schock

Thank ye the Lord! Give thanks to the Lord,
For He is gracious, His mercy It endureth evermore.
Endureth evermore, Endureth evermore.

Hymns of Zion # 245

We give thanks to our Heavenly Father this month for the many blessings that He has given us. Among the blessings were the weekends where we were blessed with visiting ministers. On January 20-21, Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta, Alto) was here for the week-

end to assist our Elder Brother in the reading of the Memorandum. As the believers in the time of the Apostles "rejoiced for the consolation" we also find much to rejoice in every time we assemble ourselves together, that we might draw from the waters of life. Also here was Bro. Matthew Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville). We thank Bro. Aaron and Bro. Matthew for their labors of love in coming the distance to share God's Word with us. Then on January 28, we were blessed to have Bro. Bill Dotterer (Sis. Sharon, Lamar) for coming and spending time with us to share God's Word. May the Lord richly bless each of these brothers, as we were able to be blest in being inspired by the Word, and getting to know them and their families better.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Shirley Wuthrich (Bro. Joel), Georgia Wells (Joe Dean), both had knee surgeries, and Robert Wuthrich (Helen) this past month and in the months to come as they recover from afflictions of the flesh. May they feel the Great Physician's healing hand near them during this time.

IOWA, BURLINGTON
Krystal Knapp
Laurie Schulz

In January, we held our annual business meeting. Bro. Leroy Wulf (Sis. Carolyn) and Bro. Kyle Knapp (Sis. Kelli) are our new trustees taking over Bro. John Buster (Sis. Ingrid) and Bro. Philip Schulz's (Sis. Kelli) duties. Also, Sis. Marilyn Anderson is relieving Sis. Ingrid Buster on the Kitchen Committee. We thank these brothers and sister for their years of service and wish them God's richest blessing.

We are thankful for the safe ar-

rival of Bro. Kyle and Sis. Kelli Knapp's first child, Drake Brandon. Drake's grandparents are Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorna Knapp and Bro. Keith and Sis. Tonya Lanz (Oakville, IA).

We rejoice with Bro. John and Sis. Nelda Rowell at the arrival of a new grandson. Timothy Robert Rowell was born to Bro. Landon and Sis. Teresa of Tremont, IL, and has an older brother Benjamin. May God grant these parents wisdom as they raise their children.

We are thankful to have Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall and Bro. Dale Frank from Oakville come and share God's Word with us. May God ever richly bless them.

IOWA, ELGIN
Gloria Frieden
Heidi Butikofer

"Where no counsel is, the people fall; but in a multitude of counselors there is safety."

Proverbs 11:14

May God provide much wisdom and direction to the Elder body (our "multitude of counselors") as they seek to counsel the churches according to the guidelines found in God's Word.

A blessed evening was shared together as Elder Bros. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) and Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA) brought before us the Memorandum from the last Brotherhood Conference. May we now be submissive to these directives.

My apologies for overlooking some very happy news. Caleb Knobloch (Bro. Jim and Sis. Marcy) was announced for obtaining peace with God and man and we are looking forward to hearing his testimony

of faith on March 10.

As this March issue of the Silver Lining reaches our homes, we will be upon that sacred time of year when we remember the suffering, death and resurrection of our Saviour. Praise God! What a precious hope can now be ours.

Wounded for me, wounded for me,
 There on the cross He was
 wounded for me.
 Gone my transgressions, and now
 I am free,
 All because Jesus was wounded for
 me.

Dying for me, dying for me,
 There on the cross He was dying
 for me;
 Now in His death my redemption I
 see,
 All because Jesus was dying for
 me.

Risen for me, risen for me,
 Up from the grave He has risen for
 me;
 Now evermore from death's sting I
 am free,
 All because Jesus has risen for me.

Addresses for our servicemen:

EDO 1 Jack Hanson
 EOD Det 53 HD
 Unit #42372
 FPO AP 96426-2372

SGT Butikofer, Aaron
 HHC Company 1-133 IN
 Unit #60000
 APO AE 09333-0000

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Diana Butikofer

We are thankful for the service of our visiting ministers this past month. Bro. Gary Endress (Sis. Evelyn, Bradford, IL) and Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen,

Champaign, IL) shared the Word on different Sundays during visits to their mutual father-in-law in the University of Iowa hospital. We would like to also thank Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield, IA) for presenting a Wednesday evening Bible Study about spiritual maturity. We enjoyed these visitors and pray they will sense God's grace and blessing in their lives.

IOWA, LESTER
Gloria Moser
Polly Metzger

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

Eccles. 3:1

A new daughter, Kyra Catherine, was born January 30, to Bro. Marti and Sis. Martha Knoblock. She is welcomed home by her brothers and sisters, Riley, Kary Ann, Kendon, and Kortlin. May God continue to bless them as they raise their family. Kyra's grandparents are Bro. Glen and Sis. Joyce Metzger and Bro. Nick and Sis. Mary Kuenzi (Silverton, OR).

On January 6, Joel TeSlaa (Jim and Ronda Thielen) and Kristi Klarenbeek were united in marriage. We wish them God's blessings as they begin their life together.

Sis. Kristi (Bro. Lance) Knobloch, Sis. Donna (Bro. John) Gerber, Sis. Zelma Knoblock, and Bro. Marvin (Sis. Joleen) Metzger have spent time in the hospital this past month. We continue to pray for all those who suffer afflictions, and that these dear souls will feel the healing hand of God.

We appreciated Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker's (Forrest, IL) efforts the weekend of February 10. He assisted

Elder Bro. Dennis in the reading of the Memorandum. We had many good teachings and warnings for our walk of faith.

We want to welcome Charlie Knoblock (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Coralee) home from his service in Iraq and other places he has served.

We have a new address for Austin Knobloch (Bro. Denis and Sis. Jackie):

PFC Knobloch Austin
 2-325 AIR, B TRP
 Camp Taji
 APO AE 09378

Austin is serving in Northern Baghdad. We want to express our thanks to these young men for serving our country and helping to preserve our freedom. May God continue to watch over them as our prayers go with them all.

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to the family of Sis. Amelia Roemen, in the loss of her dear daughter-in-law, Kathy Roemen (Glenn). She passed away on January 19. Also to Sis. Sheila Moser (Sabetha) in the loss of her brother, Scott Moser. He passed away on January 29. Both of these dear souls had many ties to the Lester congregation and fought long battles with cancer. May God comfort their families and loved ones.

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Sharla Wiegand

A new life began when Emily Rose Kuntz was born to Bro. Trent and Sis. Laura Kuntz on January 30. Rejoicing are grandparents, Bob and Edra Kuntz, Bro. Tom and Sis. JoAnn Steiner, and great-grandparents, Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Marian Schmidgall.

A long life was ended in the Lord on February 10 when Sis. Emma Gerst passed away into eternity at

the age of 104. We extend sympathy to her brother, Bro. Richard and Sis. Liberty Gerst, and to her many nieces and nephews.

We are thankful when visiting ministers come to share the Word with us. On February 18, Bro. Roy Koehl (Morris, MN) ministered to our congregation.

At the annual business meeting, the following positions were filled: World Relief Committee - Sis. Autumn Lanz; Cemetery Committee - Bro. Steve Lindeen and Bro. Mitch Schulz; Trustee - Bro. Curt Frank; Fellowship Center Trustee - Bro. Dave Lanz; Kitchen Committee - Sis. Kelly Lanz and Sis. Kathy Frank; and Usher - Bro. Kent Schmidgall. May the Lord bless them as they fulfill their duties.

IOWA, WEST BEND
Sue Schneider
Janet Fehr

"Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end."

Psalms 119:33

The Memorandum was read to the West Bend brotherhood on the evening of January 27. Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Sis. Judy, Forrest, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm. We were given kindly reminders on how to strengthen our individual spiritual lives, and encouraged to be faithful to life's end. Remembering our commitment to God first, then to our brethren was also brought to light. Bro. Gary Brown (Sis. Jane, also from Forrest) accompanied Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Judy. We appreciated and enjoyed both ministering brothers' visit.

Bro. Kent Getz (Sis. Betty, Elgin,

IA) and his family also paid a visit to West Bend during this month's writing. May God richly bless all of our ministers as they faithfully bring forth God's Word.

Our congregation was saddened by the sudden death of Duane A. Mogler on January 27. Duane is survived by a daughter, Dawn (Joe) Tarbox, Otho, IA; a son, David (Lois) of Brighton, CO; six grandchildren; and 11 siblings: Sis. Arlene, Bern, KS; Ester, Easterville, IA; Robert of AZ; Kenneth, Dakota City, NE; Millie, Garner, IA; Calvin, Dayton, IA; Bro. Art (Sis. Eula), Whittemore, IA; and Ruth, Fenton, IA. Our sympathy and prayers go out to this family.

Don and Deb Schulz also have our sympathy, as his father, Leroy Schulz, from Wesley, IA, passed away in January.

Hospital patients this past month were Sis. Jami Banwart (Bro. Marc), Sis. Doris Banwart, Julia Fehr (Bro. Cory and Sis. Jennifer), and Sis. Doris Zaugg (Bro. Martin). We pray for God's healing touch in the lives of these, as well as His comfort to those "shut ins" from our congregation during this very cold spell.

Easter is fast approaching, and we look forward to being reminded of Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection. How thankful we can be for those of us that have felt His redemptive powers.

The grave of Christ, the risen Lord is vacant where He lay;
The Son is victor over death;
whoe'er believes is saved.

The way of truth which God revealed
was hidden from their sight.
For after death the living soul
shall rise to life and light.

Hallelujah! The Lord arose.

Our ransom now is paid.
The Son is victor over death;
whoe'er believes is saved.

Hymns of Zion #257

JAPAN, TOKYO **Jana Klaus**

We are experiencing a very mild winter this year, so it appears that plants and trees are going to bloom earlier than usual. There are already plum trees in beautiful white bloom along rivers and in parks. It really gives a person a yearning for springtime. That makes me think of when Jesus said to look around and notice the signs of His return. May we be found both discerning and yearning. Takaaki Miyagawa has gone back to his hometown in Kyushu (the southernmost of the four main islands of Japan) for a couple more months to continue helping his mother who is still recuperating from cancer surgery. We miss his presence in church, but we pray he can be a light and help to her.

And, one other dear soul who we have not been able to see this year is Sis. Shizuko Urushino as her condition has become unstable and her husband has asked that she not go out to church. Not too many of our congregation can just hop in their cars and drive to church like many of you do in America. Most come by train, bus, walking, or a combination of all three, so it takes quite the effort. So, we are trying to do what we can for our Sis. Shizuko to encourage her in her home. We pray she can be strengthened in her faith especially, but also physically, so she can worship with us again.

Our Elder Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie Inoue were gone the first two weeks of February to America for the Mission Committee meeting in Chicago, baptism in Philadelphia,

and winter Elder Conference in Kansas. We are thankful for a blessed trip and safe return for them.

The weekend of February 17 and 18, three travelers on their way back from a World Relief trip to Indonesia, blessed us with a visit. They were Bros. Tom Klotzle (Altadena, CA), Chuck Kellenberger (Elgin, IL) and Stan Virkler (Remington, IN). Bros. Tom and Chuck are ministers, so they willingly gave of themselves to preach the Word, Chuck in Tokyo and Joe in Shioda, with Bro. Stan leading afternoon Bible study. We all ended up together for a supper and singing in Tokyo. God richly blessed us through them!

We missed Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois Ehnle as they were still gone to a clinic in Mexico for treatment for Bro. Willis' facial skin cancer. Our prayers have been with them and we are eagerly awaiting their return in late February.

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

It was truly a privilege and a blessing to host the mid-winter Elder Conference in Bern in February. We hope our Elder brothers felt God's direction at their meetings and that everyone felt welcome! We were glad to have had each and every one who came!

We thank Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Elizabeth, Silverton, OR), Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL) and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS) for preaching God's Holy Word to us this month from the pulpit. When we humbly come to listen, there is a blessing for all!

Our sympathy goes to Bro. Waymer Esslinger and his family af-

ter the death of his granddaughter who was killed in a car accident. Bro. Steve Aberle has also been in our prayers as his mother, Sis. Mary Aberle (Sabetha, KS), passed from this life into eternity. May God lift these families up and provide for them.

Bro. Earl and Sis. Donna Edelman have a new grandson to love! Boston Trey was born to Bro. Kaleb and Sis. Angela Beyer (Sabetha, KS) on February 12. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Martin and Sis. Karen Beyer (Sabetha, KS). May God bless and direct this growing family.

The Bern and Sabetha singles invited other churches for a weekend. We enjoyed the additional brothers and sisters in faith as we sang and worshipped God!

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT **Karen Kellenberger**

We were very blessed with visiting ministers. They were Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Sis.

Patricia, Congerville, IL), Bro. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend, IA), Bro. Jeff Streitmatter (Sis. Lynne, Sarasota, FL), and Bro. Gary Brown (Sis. Jane, Forrest, IL). May God bless each one for their messages and fellowship.

Bro. Wayne Sinn (Sis. Juanita) had an extended hospital stay but is now recuperating at home. Many prayers were sent to the Great Physician on his behalf.

Our congregation is so grateful for continued growth. We extend a joyful welcome to Sherry Ford, along with Bro. Martin and Sis. Edith Hohulin. May they feel the love of God each time they gather with us.

I spotted this food for thought and want to share it:

Happiness keeps you sweet,
Trials keep you strong,
Sorrows keep you human,
Failures keep you humble,
Success keeps you glowing,
But only God keeps you going!

—author unknown

“In all thy ways acknowledge
Him and He shall direct thy paths.”

Proverbs 3:6

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

Lord Jesus, I long to be perfectly
whole,

I want Thee forever to live in my
soul.

Break down every idol, cast out ev-
ery foe;

Now wash me, and I shall be
whiter than snow.

Whiter than snow, yes, whiter
than snow,

Now wash me, and I shall be
whiter than snow.

Hymns of Zion #210, vs. 1

The Kiowa area seldom gets much snow, and if we do, it's usually gone by the next day. But for the past three to four weeks, we have had six to eight inches of the most gorgeous, pure white, unbroken snow covering the fields and landscape! I've truly enjoyed my drive to work just to enjoy the beauty of this God-given blessing! And, as I gazed across this expanse of white, I couldn't help but think of the beautiful words to the above hymn and realize that when God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to shed His precious blood on that cruel cross, He washed away my sins, your sins and the sins of the whole world from the beginning of time until now. And by the simple act of a repentant spirit and a converted heart,

ALL can be washed “whiter than snow”.

We have had a lot of respiratory congestion, flu, colds, etc. in our area, and though not hospitalized, many of our loved ones have not been able to worship with us. We truly miss each and every one, and hope they will be in our midst again soon.

Our dear Sis. Marie Tucker had a surgical procedure done this past month, and faces another in the near future. May we hold Sis. Marie in our prayers as well as Bethany Hamilton, who faces a constant battle with health problems that only our Lord can stay. At this present time, she is in the hospital of Oklahoma City, and needs our love and support.

As we look forward to Easter, may we remember the One who through His sacrifice gave us the greatest gift of love we will ever know!

KANSAS **LAMONT-GRIDLEY** **Ester Knobloch**

The weekend of February 3-4 we were blessed to have Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) here to assist Elder Bro. Jay Luthi with the reading of the Memorandum. We are thankful for his willingness to labor on our behalf and appreciate the exhortation we received.

Also sharing our pulpit this past month was Bro. Jeff Bahr (Kiowa, KS) who was with us February 11.

Haley and Gavin Isch lovingly welcomed home their new baby brother, Colton Austin, born January 26. Thankful for his safe arrival are parents, Justin and Liz Isch, and grandparents, Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane Isch.

Sis. Dora Hines (Tony) had surgery and was hospitalized this past month. We pray that she might feel

God's hand of healing.

KANSAS, SABETHA

**Rebekah Beyer
Dawn Strahm**

With snow on the ground and cold temperatures lingering, it certainly feels like winter in Kansas. What a blessing it is to know that we can stay warm not only from the heat of our homes, but also by the warmth of having God in our hearts!

We continue to pray for our dear Sis. Leota Grimm since her car accident. May she feel the support of the church and our love as she continues to recover. We do look forward to seeing her smiling face in church as soon as she is able to return.

Our annual church business meeting was held on January 16. We can be thankful that God always guides us in the business of our church. We are also thankful for the Brothers and Sisters who give of their time and talents to fill the various positions.

Sis. Mary Aberle (the late Bro. Joe) passed from this earthly life on January 17. Our thoughts and prayers are with her children: Esther Crider (Palestine, TX), Bro. Rich and Sis. LaNae (Peachtree, GA), Bro. Doug and Sis. Sandy (Moore Park, CA), Sis. Judy (Detroit, MI), and Bro. Steve (Bern, KS).

Landon Eugene was born to Bro. Dominic and Sis. Jenny Meyer (Bern, KS). His big sister, Kenzie, and grandparents, Bro. Don and Sis. Ada Plattner and Earl and Sis. Darlene Meyer (Bern, KS), were excited for his arrival.

Tyler Nate and Tucker Edward were born to Bro. Kurt and Sis. Hannah Grimm on January 25. Addison and Marissa were delighted to get two new baby brothers at one time. Grandparents are Bro. Doug

and Sis. Jeryl Grimm and Bro. Guy and Sis. Lynette Koehl (Morris, MN).

Boston Trey was born February 12 to Bro. Kaleb and Sis. Angela Beyer. He joins his sister, Taygen, and grandparents, Bro. Martin and Sis. Karen Beyer and Bro. Earl and Sis. Donna Edelman (Bern, KS).

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Sheila Moser since the passing of her brother, Scott Moser (Dawn), of Baltic, South Dakota.

Visiting ministers for the month included Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI), Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris, MN), Elder Bro. David Graf (Sis. Barbara, Akron, OH), Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS), Bro. Galen Rokey (Sis. Nancy, Bern, KS), Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA), Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian, San Diego, CA), Elder Bro. Akito Inoue (Sis. Marie, Tokyo, Japan) and retired Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Sis. Jane, Bradford, IL).

On Saturday, January 27, we heard the Memorandum letter. Elder Bro. Dave Graf was present to assist our Elder Bro. Gerry Hertz, Elder Bro. John Lehman, and Bro. Galen Rokey. We heard wonderful instruction on Practicing the Word of God With Integrity, Elder Commitment, Shared Stewardship, the Joy of Walking in Truth, End of Life Decisions, and God's Enduring Love.

Our congregation was thankful that the Bern congregation hosted the mid-winter Elder Conference February 6-9. Church was held at Bern on February 6 and again at Sabetha on February 9. What a blessing it was to hear the Word proclaimed and know that many caring and faithful Brothers are strength-

ening our church's foundation as they meet and have bi-yearly discussions.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

After a series of warm winters, we have been enduring excruciating cold temperatures and dangerous traveling conditions this year. As did most of the churches in our area, we canceled Sunday services for two weeks. We were blessed in that many in our congregation were spared hardships during this time, however both Bro. Al and Sis. Judy Langhofer were fall victims. Their bodies were not broken and their bruises were evidence that the Lord protected them in His mercy.

Elder Bro. Jay and Sis. Jane Luthi worshipped with us on the first Sunday in February. The following weekend we were privileged to have Elder Bro. Akito Inoue and Sis. Marie (Tokyo, Japan) and Bro. Galen Rokey and Sis. Nancy (Bern, KS) with us. While these brothers preach the same gospel as do our local ministers, we appreciate our visitors' willingness to be used by the Lord to bring forth the Word. We had a carry in dinner on Saturday evening and Bro. Akito shared some of the history of our Japanese churches and how he came to answer the call to repent in a country where only three hundredth of one percent of the nation embraces Christianity.

On January 15, Ryan Patrick Funk was born to Derek and Emily. He is the ninth grandson to be added to Bro. Glen and Sis. Sally Funk's family.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON**Barb Huber**

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

Philippians 4:4

Truly we've been encouraged through the ministry of God's Word this past month. Visiting ministers, Bro. Earl Beery (Sis. Suzanne, Rittman, OH), Bro. Glenn Dill (Sis. Marilyn, Tremont, IL), and Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI), came to share. Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to these dear Brothers and pray for God's special blessing on them and their families. We were reminded of the importance to be faithful even in small things. Each of us have our place in God's plan, just as those in Bible times. Methuselah raised families, his grandson, Noah, saved a whole civilization, and Esther was born for a time to save her people. May we be found faithful to do our part to further the cause of the Gospel and win souls for Christ.

Other brethren and friends who assembled with us were from Francesville, IN; Morton, IL; Lamar, MO; and Smithville, OH. Your Christian fellowship is always a blessing. May the Lord bless you all.

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) 223-0294 or Bro. Lester Huber (859) 745-2541.

MEXICO, IXTLAN**Claudia Gonzalez**

We send our greetings from Ixtlan once again!

“...whatsoever ye do, do all to the

glory of God”

I Corinthians 10:31

We have been encouraged to do everything for God's work and for His glory. We pray that we can be good witnesses of Christ for all those around us. We appreciate all the prayers that you let rise to Heaven for us here in Mexico. Thanks to all of you that have gone to Acapulco, (Barra Vieja), to share the Word of God there.

We want to extend our sympathy to Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan Heinold who recently lost a dear grandchild, Nathan Mitchell. May the Lord give them grace to trust even more in Him through this trial.

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

Zion's Harp #46

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

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

Phil. 4:4

Saludos de amor en el nombre de Cristo, nuestro Salvador!

We hosted our gathering of Jovenes February 2. The group was smaller this month but older in age. We enjoyed fellowship, games, and learned about the Bible as our road map for life.

“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;”

Col. 3:23

Sis. Jenean Schambach arrived

at CVE, February 3, to begin a garden project and maintenance on our new fruit trees. We are thankful for her willingness to share her talents and green thumb with us! We pray she is blessed for her enthusiastic service to the Lord.

“I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.”

Luke 15:7

We rejoice as Ibeth Murrieta has seen clearly her need to repent! We praise God for her thirst for the Lord and His Word and for her desire to share it with her family, friends, and neighbors.

On February 10, a group of skilled workers from many different churches arrived to work on various construction projects including the church and new house. We appreciate their desire to work and to use the talents they have been given. In addition to all the physical work accomplished, we appreciate Bro. Dennis Rassi's (Sis. Diane, Fairbury, IL) willingness to share in the spiritual work, bringing God's Word to our congregation on Sunday and Wednesday night.

We appreciate our Bro. Jeff Beer's service here at Casa Vida y Esperanza over the past year and a half, as a mentor for the boys. Although we are saddened that he is leaving, we know that he is following God's plan for his life and look forward to when he will return to visit. We pray that God will bless him richly for giving of himself to the work here and open doors for him to use his experiences and Spanish to reach out to others as he returns to Milford, IN.

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

II Cor. 9:8

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Terri Huber

Rose Watson

This month Alto hosted a Young Group weekend, which they worked on a World Relief project on Saturday. There were about 65 visiting from several different churches. It was a blessed weekend for all involved.

Also, we had our annual business meeting and would like to thank those whose time is done and welcome the new brothers and sisters voted in.

Congratulations go to Bro. Marvin and Sis. Liz Blough who are the proud grandparents of “Mason James Blough”. What a blessing he is.

Our prayers are with Sis. Ella Louise (Bro. Lloyd) Blough who had a hospital stay this month and Sis. Margaret Jackson for healing and recovery. Sis. Melva (Bro. Joe) Oesch and Sis. Cathie (Bro. Duane) Schrenk are home and recovering from their surgeries from last month. We praise the Lord for His healing.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Sarah Knochel

Janelle Ramseyer

“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.”

Colossians 3:15

Our congregation is truly thankful and rejoices along with our dear friend, Patti Wackerle (Kip), as she professes peace with God and man. We pray that the Lord will continue to stand by her and support her as she looks forward to baptism.

We are especially thankful for the services of Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta) and Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandy), both of Alto, MI, and their willingness to come and share the Memorandum with our congregation. May the Lord bless these dear brothers for their willingness to be used in His service.

We rejoice with Bro. Chad and Sis. Rebekah Wieland as little Tess Elaine could come home from the hospital. Tess has been hospitalized since her birth in December and many prayers have been answered. We continue to uphold this family in prayer that Tess will continue to grow stronger each day.

Our prayers are with those who either had surgery or spent time in the hospital this past month. They include Bro. Jim Knochel (Sis. Kay), Sis. Lynette Munsel (Bro. Greg), Sis. Esther Meister, Allan Wackerle, Sis. Illeean Wackerle, Sis. Lorraine Wackerle (Bro. Sam), and Sis. Carol Waibel (Bro. Bill). We pray that each of these loved ones would feel God's nearness and strength as they recover.

Bro. Earl Ramseyer went to be with the Lord on January 27. Even though this was Bro. Earl's desire, we want to remember his family who will endure his loss while here on earth. Surviving are his children, Dale and Mary, Larry and Nara, Daryl, Bro. Neil and Sis. Sharon, Vern and Roxane, and Sis. Linda and Bro. Dave Steffen. We also want to remember his sister, Sis. Helen Ramseyer, his grandchildren and

great -grandchildren.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Manuela Denes

Kay Rauhe

What a joy and blessing it was to hear the testimony of Bro. Dan Coughlin (Mike and Sally) and Sis. Angie Gasser (Bro. Randy and Sis. Sue) and then to witness their baptisms the following day. We rejoice with them as we welcome them as a Brother and Sister in Christ into the Family of God and want to remember to encourage them as they begin their new life walking with Him. We were privileged to have and want to thank the ministering Brothers who were with us for this wonderful weekend: Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda; Francesville, IN), Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia; Washington, IL) and Bro. Greg Stieglitz (Sis. Lisa; Indianapolis, IN).

A hearty thank you to visiting ministering Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Sis. Bonnie; Bloomington-Normal, IL) for sharing the Word with us. We sincerely appreciate your willingness to “serve the Lord with gladness.” Psalms 100:2.

“Pray without ceasing.”

I Thessalonians 5:17.

Sis. Vi Barton (Bro. Jim) was recently hospitalized and greatly appreciated our prayers. We are happy she is worshipping with us once again. Sis. Martha Szilagyi, Sis. Ethel Rambeau, and Sis. Ann Tachar would also appreciate our prayers as they continue to recover from recent physical afflictions. Sis. Darlene Kujawa (Bro. Bill) recently had foot surgery and was hospitalized for a few days. We're also encouraged to keep her in our thoughts and prayers. Bro. Jesse Bedolla's fa-

ther, Jesse Bedolla, Sr., was also recently hospitalized and is home; and we are so thankful for answered prayers and will continue to pray for him. Sis. Eloise Bahr (Bro. Willard) recently had eye surgery and Cecily Meyer (Sis. Kristie) also had surgery, and we want to remember to pray for them as well. Bro. Dan Coughlin and his family need our faithful prayer support as he was diagnosed with "Hodgkin's Lymphoma". Our hearts ache for him, but we are thankful that he has found the Lord and has made Him his personal Saviour... who better to put our faith and trust in... the only One who can really give comfort and healing. "And He spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;" Luke 18:1.

Our deepest sympathy, continued prayers and love to Bro. John and Sis. Esther Rauhe on the death of their brother-in-law, Bro. Earl Ramseyer (late Sis. Mary) from Bay City, Michigan. Bro. Warren Rauhe (Sis. Kay) will miss his uncle, and may they all feel the Lord's peace and know the gentle comfort of His healing touch.

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

I John 4:12

Just a gentle reminder that our Silver Lining subscriptions are due in the month of April.

**MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS
Mary Mogler**

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report. Through

faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear."

Hebrews 11:1-3

A life of faith was remembered as Bro. Don Miller conducted the funeral of our Sis. Esther Lienemann, age 95. While a 40 year resident of St. Paul, and a member of the Minneapolis church since 1961, Sis. Esther most recently lived in Eureka, IL, and it is there that she passed away on January 20. Sis. Esther has always been a source of inspiration for our congregation with her quick wit, energy, encouraging words, and strong and abiding faith in God. We miss Sis. Esther but often reflect upon the lessons of her life. Our church family expresses special love and sympathy to Linda Leary (Esther's granddaughter who resided with her prior to moving to Oakwood Estates in Morton, IL), as well as Esther's children, David (Glenda) Lienemann of Bella Vista, AR, and Phyliss Soder of St. Paul, MN; her six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Sis. Kathryn Blunier was hospitalized for a time. Sis. Arletta Bragg is certainly missed as she is recovering from surgery. We do miss the fellowship of these sisters.

Heartfelt congratulations to Christa Deragisch (Dan and Lola). Christa is a recent graduate of St. Cloud State with a degree in education.

**MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Heidi Nohl
Sheila Reuter**

We are thankful for the ministering of the Word of God by Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN)

and Bro. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN). God richly bless them for their efforts.

Our congregation has been blessed with two new converts. Anna Schmidgall (Bro. Paul and Sis. Shawn) and Tristan Feuchtenberger (Bro. Dwayne and Sis. Kay) have turned to the Lord in repentance. We trust God will grant them the grace to build a firm foundation.

Twin boys, Tucker Edwards and Tyler Nate, were born to Bro. Kurt and Sis. Hannah Grimm (Sabetha, KS). Thankful grandparents are Bro. Guy and Sis. Lynette Koehl and Bro. Doug and Sis. Jeral Grimm. Gracie Jo was born to Bro. Gary and Sis. Heidi Nohl. Excited to welcome her home was big brother, Weston, and grandparents, Bro. Dewayne and Sis. Janice Nohl and Bro. Todd and Sis. Pamela Stoller. May God bless them as they raise their children.

**MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Rachel Steiner
Julie Schmidt**

"...holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers."

Titus 1:9

As our Elder brethren gathered together for the mid-winter Elder Conference in Bern, KS, may we be encouraged to know that in this day and time we still have shepherds watching for the spiritual welfare of their flocks. We continue to lift each one up in thought and prayer. We appreciate the labors of our Elders as well as our local ministering brethren.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY Becky Weiss

Our annual business meeting was held on January 21. Bro. Scott Aberle and Sis. Michelle Meyer received support for Sunday School teachers. Bro. Ron Strahm was elected for Trustee, Sis. Kim Kellenberger and Sis. Joan Fehr for the food committees.

The weekend of February 3-4, many from our congregation traveled to Taylor, MO, for the wedding of Bro. Kenton Snyder (Bro. Greg and Sis. Kara, Kansas City) to Sis. Heidi Heimer (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Barb). We wish them God's blessings as they begin their walk together in Him.

Memorandum was held on Saturday evening, February 10. Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman) was here to assist Elder Bro. Don Braker in giving us a timely word of exhortation. Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Sis. Nancy, Elgin, IL) was able to join us for Sunday services. Other visiting ministers this month include Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont) and Bro. Glen Funk (Sis. Sally, Wichita). We are thankful for these brothers' labors of love and willingness to serve.

MISSOURI, LAMAR Mindy Braker Becky Marti

We enjoyed many visitors this past month. We especially appreciated Bro. Ed Fritz (Washington, IL) and Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN) for their willingness to be used to bring forth the Holy Word.

Bro. Calvin and Sis. Jodi Luthi were blessed with the birth of Clint William on January 30. Audrey, Jared, Jessica, Ryan, Caleb, Nathan, Amber, Austin and Danielle also

welcomed him home. Grandparents are Bro. Raymond and Sis. Violet Luthi and Bro. Orlan and Sis. Mary Kellenberger.

Bro. Raymond and Sis. LuEtta Braker both spent a short time in the hospital. We are thankful they have been able to assemble with us again.

Reminder: March is the month for Silver Lining collection for the Lamar congregation.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS Betsy Schrenk

Our little church was blessed the last weekend of January. Matthew Schrenk gave his testimony on Saturday evening, and was baptized into the brotherhood of Christ on Sunday. When we witness the miracle of the rebirth of a dear soul, we remember our own miraculous conversions, and praise God mightily for His love and mercy.

Elder Bros. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign) and Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor); and ministering Bros. Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucy, Eureka), Erik Givens (Sis. Deb, Princeville), and Dave Marquart (Sis. Lori, Taylor) brought God's Word to us recently. Our attendance varies widely from week to week, depending on the number of visitors, and on the travel plans of the locals. Every visitor is appreciated!

When you run a race, you need to know the goal, and remain dedicated to reaching it. Our spiritual life is compared to a race in the Bible. If you don't know where you are headed in your life, it's time to take stock, and make the needed adjustments to get on the straight and narrow path that leads to Heaven, the only acceptable goal. At the end of life, people will not accidentally find themselves entering Heaven's gate.

Those who don't head for that goal will most assuredly find themselves at the other destination. Keep your eyes focused on Jesus!

MISSOURI, TAYLOR Sally Haerr

Prayer and patience ... oh, how we need to practice both. I am so guilty of inwardly fretting and running ahead of God, instead of laying it all at His feet in prayer, trusting the outcome to His perfect timing. In the Bible we are instructed to "Pray without ceasing..." (I Thess. 5:17) and patience/longsuffering is a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22).

The last week in January a group of us went to Biloxi, MS, to join in the ongoing effort to help rebuild the many homes that were devastated by Hurricane Katrina. The mission there is not only to rebuild homes but also to rebuild lives of renewed faith in God. Those who went felt the outpouring of love and gratitude for even the smallest deed of kindness. The project is so huge, the concept of one step at a time, or more realistically, one nail at a time, had to be the goal. The feeling of receiving more blessing than was given was mutual throughout the entire group.

On February 4, Sis. Heidi Heimer (Bro. Rod and Sis. Barb) and Bro. Kenton Snyder (Bro. Greg and Sis. Kara, Kansas City, MO) were united in marriage. Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Francesville, IN) took part in the wedding ceremony with our Elder Bro. Kent Heimer solemnizing their vows of commitment to each other. If all of us who are married would review the vows we made to each other and continually practice them, there would be no lack of "Love at Home". The song in the Hymns of Zion entitled "The Christian Home", page 64, speaks of this

special love that is the result of Christ's love dwelling within us as believing spouses. Bro. Ted Hirstein (Sis. Joyce, Morton, IL) came to celebrate this special occasion with us and served us from the pulpit as did Bro. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL) and Bro. Ed Strahm (Sis. Ramona, Bern, KS). We want to thank all of these ministering brothers as well as all who attended this memorable day. Bro. Kenton and Sis. Heidi are now making their home in Morton, IL.

Bro. Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL) was here to present a Bible study on Wednesday, February 7. His topic was "Has God ever trusted you with His silence?" What a thought-provoking question. We were blessed by the message. Thank you, Bro. Frank, for taking the time to be with us. An added blessing that evening was the closing prayer given by Bro. Frank's dear dad, retired Elder Bro. Don Sauder. He accompanied Bro. Frank since Sis. Kathy was unable to come.

Twice a year we have an "Invite-a-Guest" weekend. This took place on February 10-11. All those who took part in this activity enjoyed a special blessing whether we were "inviters" or "servants".

On Wednesday evening, February 14, Bro. Scott Wegman spoke to us on the topic of "Prayer". We can never be reminded too often of the importance and power of prayer, "...you receive not because you ask not..." (James 4:2). This same evening, Elder Bro. Kent gave us a brief overview of the conclusions of the mid-winter Elder Conference. Once again, the importance of prayer for those Brothers who "...watch for your souls..." (Hebrews 13:17). This verse instructs us, as believers, to be obedient to those who lovingly lead

us so that they may do it with joy.

Anyone who has ever been on a mission trip to Jamaica, or any mission trip, can relate to the joy of having a reunion with those who joined in the trip. This past weekend many came to reminisce and renew the bonds that were made last summer.

Those sick/hospitalized this past month were: Presley Sutter (Jimmy), Sis. Marge Sutter (Bro. Gerald), Sis. Julie Hoerr (Bro. Louis and Sis. Ruthie), Bro. Joe Knochel (Bro. Eric and Sis. Penny) and Bro. Gerald Sutter (Sis. Marge).

NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Hope Graves

After experiencing a mild winter and wondering when we were going to get snow, we are now thinking, when is it going to stop! We were unable to have church services February 4 due to the weather but we are thankful we could still worship in our individual homes and remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. It was that much more appreciated when we gathered the next Sunday together. How fortunate we are to have warm homes and be so well provided for. Many roofs have needed to be cleared off to prevent collapse.

Our prayers have been with our dear Elder brethren during their mid-winter Conference, that the Lord would direct them during their meeting and return them home safely to their congregations.

A nice time of fellowship was enjoyed February 7-8 tying quilts for fire victims in our local area. It seems when we do for others we receive the greater blessing.

Hospital patients this month were Sis. Louise Purvines, Sis. Rachel Snyder and Brad Herzig (Sis. Regina). Brad is now home after

having open heart surgery and we pray he can gain in strength each day and will soon be able to assemble with us. Bro. Lowell Virkler (Sis. Celia) is scheduled to have open heart surgery February 21. May each one feel the prayers offered on their behalf.

OHIO, AKRON Mara Henico Rachel Pamer

Lord Jesus, I long to be perfectly whole
I want Thee forever to live in my soul
Break down ev'ry idol Cast out ev'ry foe
Now wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

We rejoice with our converts, Octavia Demrovsky (Bro. Andy and Sis. Vera) and Adam Henico (Bro. Greg and Sis. Sarah), as they have found peace with the Lord and wait for the opportunity to bring a testimony before the church and be baptized into the Lord's death. We trust that God will also be with our dear friend, Mary Leidel (aunt of Sis. Kathy Bako), as she also plans to bring a testimony before the church. We trust that they feel our prayers.

Hanna Reljin and her parents, Bro. Dan and Sis. Amy, welcome Gabriella Rose into their family. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Eugene and Sis. Diana Bako and paternal grandparents are Zarko and Helen Reljin. May God be with each one in this dear family.

We are so thankful for each one in our church and trust that God will continue to grant grace that each could serve Him humbly in the time and way He asks. Recently we have filled various church positions, in-

cluding several new Sunday school teachers, as well as a new trustee and sister on the kitchen committee. We trust that God will bless those who have begun their terms, as well as those who have served so faithfully in years past.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Nancy Banks

The reading of the Memorandum was held on January 20 and we were so thankful for Elder Bros. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) and Dave Graf (Akron, OH) who had traveled to be with us. Other ministers visiting with our congregation this month were Bro. Don Steidl (Akron, OH), Bro. Mike Baumann Jr. (Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH). We appreciate their efforts so much.

A nice group of friends and family joined us for the Invite - A - Friend weekend and a supper with a singing afterwards was enjoyed by all.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Cindy Schlatter

January 22 was a joyful day for Henry and Christa Manz as they welcomed Kellen Allen into their family. Kayleigh is Kellen's excited big sister, and Bro. Roger and Lisa Manz are Kellen's thankful grandparents.

Lathan Schneider (Bro. Michael and Sis. Jodi) had surgery this month. It is comforting to know that our Heavenly Father knows the cares and concerns of each of us as we go about our daily lives. We will continue to remember Lathan in our prayers.

We were thankful to have ministering Bros. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH) and Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) visit us on recent weekends. May God

bless them for their labors.

"Baptized into Thy name most holy, O Father, Son and Holy Ghost..." (Zion's Harp #41). What an uplifting weekend to be able to listen to the testimony of two dear souls and to observe their baptisms the following day. We welcome Sis. Brenda Manz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen) and Sis. Lilly Manz (Bro. Russ and Sis. Vera) into the fold. Our prayers will continue to be with them as they strive daily to live for Him. We were thankful to have many visitors that weekend including Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH), Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL), Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH), Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA), and Bro. Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA). We appreciated them sharing the Word with us and we trust God to richly bless them.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Steve and Rose Foltz and Bro. Gus and Sis. Dorothy Dietrich in the passing of their dear little infant daughter and granddaughter, Maria Faith. She lived just a few short hours, but touched many lives. May we all continue to put our trust in our Father in Heaven and lean upon Him when tests and trials come our way and we grope to understand. He truly does know what is best for each and every one of us.

OHIO, LATTY

Amanda Steffen Carmen Eisenmann

The weekend of January 20-21, our congregation was privileged to host the Detroit Choir. It was such a blessing to listen to them sing hymns of praise to God! We thank each of them for coming and spending the weekend with us.

Our visiting ministers this

month included Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI), Bro. Lucas Frank (Sis. Crystal, Detroit, MI), Bro. Jesse Bedolla (Sis. Bonnie, Detroit, MI), and Bro. Lenard Meyer (Sis. Charlotte, Chicago, IL). We appreciate the willingness of these brothers to serve our church.

We rejoice with our convert, Thad Sinn (Bro. Todd and Sis. Janet), as he has professed peace with God and man. We look forward to the time when we can gather and hear his testimony and witness his baptism. May God remain near to him and fill him with joy and peace during this time.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Esther Baumann

Continue to remember in prayer those of our congregation who have recently been hospitalized: Sis. Theresa Keiper (Bro. Phil), Elmer 'Bud' Sauder, Sis. Millie Gerber (Bro. Wilbur), Grant Moser (Bro. Lonnie and Sis. Becky) and Bro. Mike Garunovic (Sis. Jelena).

May God richly bless Bro. Todd Graf (Sis. Lydia) for his willingness to come and minister to us this past month.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Sarah Bauman Linda Zollinger

"Judge me, O Lord; for I have walked in mine integrity; I have trusted also in the Lord; therefore I shall not slide."

Psalm 26:1

We were blessed to have Elder Bros. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) and Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) assist Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler in kindly sharing the Memorandum.

Our visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Oakville, IA) and Bro. Fred Domka (Sis. Connie, Mansfield, OH). We appreciate their willingness to share the Gospel message with our congregation.

Our prayers are with those who have recently been hospitalized: Sis. Marjorie Weber, Randy (Sis. Julie) Call, Bro. Chester (Sis. Roma) Rufener, Lisa (Bro. Ron and Sis. Joann Christian) Matie, Sis. Eileen (Bro. Dave) Emch, Carly (Bro. Matt and Sis. Darlene) Csapo, Bro. Ken Rupp, Sr., Bro. Roy (Sis. Mabel) Maibach, Bro. Aquilla Barna and Andy (Marne) Woyat. May God grant them healing and strength.

The miracle of life is so precious. First-time parents are Bro. Shane and Sis. Suzanne Hartzler in the birth of their daughter, Carla Joy, born January 29. Grandparents are Bro. Dean and Sis. Jan Hartzler and Bro. Carl and Sis. Carol Steiner. Jerika Martha Bauman was born February 1 to Bro. Matt and Sis. Laura Bauman. She is welcomed by big brother, Dirk, and big sisters, Kendra and Alena. Grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Martha Bauman and Bro. Ken and Sis. Becky Zollinger (Smithville, OH).

“Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.”

I Timothy 6:19

Chad Zollinger (Bro. Norman and Sis. Betty) has recently turned his heart to the Lord in true repentance. We rejoice for each dear soul who can find their salvation.

We extend our sympathy to the following who recently bid farewell to loved ones: Bro. Art (Sis. Janet)

Maibach, Dale (Dixie) Maibach, Sis. Margaret Calame, Sis. Mary Ellen (Bro. Bill) Saylor in the loss of their brother, Robert Maibach, who passed away January 16; Bro. Eugene and Sis. Kathryn Bachman in the death of their son-in-law, Duane Reynolds, who died January 21; Janet (Larry) Hanzie in the loss of her sister, Virginia Bise, who passed away January 24; and Richard Tanner who passed away February 4. May God be a comfort to the dear families and friends of each of these dear ones.

OHIO, SARDIS Eric and Jami Hartzler

“...And who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the Lord?”

I Chronicles 29:5

On January 21, we held our annual business meeting. We would like to express our appreciation to those who have been willing to serve the Lord in various offices in the church as new officers have been elected. Replacing Bro. Allen Indermuhle (Sis. Janet) as trustee is Bro. Eric Indermuhle (Sis. Lisa), and Bro. Andy Figel (Sis. Cyndi) is taking Bro. Eric Hartzler's (Sis. Jami) place as usher. The new Sunday school superintendent is Bro. Bob Dotterer (Sis. Laura) replacing Bro. Dana Indermuhle (Sis. Joy). After serving on the kitchen committee for three years, Sis. Joy Indermuhle (Bro. Dana) is being replaced by Sis. Renee Blough (Bro. Alan).

Our prayers go out to those in need of medical care: Sis. Terry Zollinger (Bro. Gary), Joe Zollinger (Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry), Sis. Janet Indermuhle (Bro. Allen), Sis. Kim

Lanz and John Brake (Sis. Almeda). We are glad to hear they are all home and on the mend. Some of us have also had to miss services due to cold weather and illness and we wish to remember each one in prayer.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE Edith Miller Ruth Gasser

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

II Timothy 4:2

We trust that God will bless the labors of those who have shared His Word with us, namely Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. (Morton, IL).

Sis. Margaret Marty has finished her earthly course and has been relieved of bodily cares and suffering. Her funeral was conducted on February 17. Bro. Tim Ramsier (Rittman, OH) assisted Bro. Andy with the services. Bro. Fred and Sis. Irma were her parents, and Bro. Fred ministered for many years in Sardis and Rittman, OH.

We were thankful to hear that Whitney Indermuhle (Jason) has repented and found peace of heart with God and man, and wishes to be part of our fellowship. We wish her continued growth and grace to battle against the adversary of our souls.

Milan Steiner (Bro. Mark and Sis. Sue) and Stephanie Hamilton were united in marriage on February 3. We pray the Lord will bless and be an integral part of this union.

Hospital stays were necessary for Sis. Luanna Dotterer (Bro. Dave), and Bro. John Dotterer (Sis. Betty). We are thankful to see them in church again.

Several homes were made rich recently with the addition of children.

Bro. Tim and Sis. Crystal Zollinger are first-time parents with the birth of Ashlie Rose on February 18. Her favored grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Becky Zollinger, and Bro. Bob and Sis. Lorie Riggenbach (Rittman, OH). Bro. Ken and Sis. Becky were doubly blessed as another grandchild, Jerika Martha, was born to Bro. Matt and Sis. Laura Bauman (Rittman, OH). Also, Bro. Ken and Sis. Jane Hartzler became grandparents again with the birth of Lily Faith to Bro. Aaron and Sis. Debra Gasser (Rittman, OH). May God add His blessings, giving wisdom for the responsibilities of nurturing these young lives.

“...suffer little children to come unto me, for of such is the kingdom of God.”

Luke 18:16

OHIO, TOLEDO
Teresa Rywalski
Rebecca Beard

We had a blessed weekend together when our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) brought the reading of the Memorandum. He then joined us on the pulpit Sunday. We thank Elder Bro. Bill for his continued support.

Sis. Freda Rehklau had surgery this past month and is doing well at home. Sis. Sharon Rager also had surgery and is once again assembling with us. May God continue to grant healing to each.

Ryan and Kristie Sancraint would like to thank everyone for all the cards, gifts, and most of all the love and prayers on behalf of their son Ethan. Ethan is home now after a hospital stay at Cleveland Clinic.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Brianna Strahm

Greetings in our Lord and Saviour's name to each one. Our congregation was deeply saddened at the sudden passing of our friend, Paul Moser (Bro. Ray and Sis. Barbara), on January 17. Our heartfelt sympathy and prayers are extended to his parents, siblings, nieces and nephews. May the Lord strengthen and comfort their hearts during this difficult and sorrowful time. We hope they can feel our love and support as we “weep with those that weep” as brethren in the Lord. Paul's funeral was held on January 23.

We also remembered our Bro. Robert Miller (Sis. Pearl) as he underwent a surgical procedure this month. We're thankful our prayers were answered and he is home and recovering well.

Our prayers were with our dear undershepherds as they met at the mid-winter Conference in Bern, KS, recently. We look forward to hearing the reading of the Memorandum in the near future.

We want to express our sincere appreciation to ministering Bros. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane) and Don Sinn (Sis. Linda), both of Silverton, who so willingly shared the Word with us this month. May we continue to remember our Elder and ministering brethren in fervent prayer as they strive to rightly divide the Word of truth.

Note of Thanks:

We want to take this special time to thank each and every one of our loved ones across the nation for the many, many heartfelt prayers, gifts of money, flowers, food that was so lovingly brought in to us after the death of our dear son, Paul, in Janu-

ary.

In Christian Love,
Bro. Ray and Sis. Barbara Moser

OREGON, SILVERTON

Melissa Kuenzi

Cindy Metzger

In our annual business meeting this year, Bro. Troy Kuenzi was selected to serve as a trustee, Bro. Marvin Kuenzi for the sound system, Bro. Zach Kuenzi as an usher, and Sis. Marianne Kraft and Sis. Heidi Sinn for the dinner committees. We sincerely thank those who have put in long hours on our behalf to keep order in our church building/events.

We are keeping Bro. Ray and Sis. Barb Moser (Portland) and family in our prayers for their recent loss of their son, Paul Moser

Our congregation has been blessed with two new arrivals this month. Jacob Lee was born to Bro. Adam and Sis. Lori Kuenzi on February 15. He was welcomed home by his two sisters, Julia and Kendra. Grandparents are Bro. Terry and Sis. Ann Kuenzi and Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan Dietrich. Nathan James was also born on February 15 to Bro. Kevin and Sis. Jill Dettwyler. Nathan's siblings are Heidi and Caleb and his grandparents are Bro. Loren and Sis. Marlene Dettwyler and Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan Dietrich.

Bro. Craig Schurter and Sis. Juanita Sinn announced their engagement. Their parents are and Leonard and Cheryl Schurter and Bro. Don and Sis. Linda Sinn. We rejoice with them as they begin preparations in joining their hearts and lives in marriage.

We warmly welcome Bro. Phillip and Sis. Tasha Petrovic and their family who recently joined our congregation from San Diego.

Bros. Garth Steffen (Sis. Connie) and Ron Jones (Sis. Liz), both of Portland, ministered to us in this past month for which we are thankful.

A reminder to Silverton Congregation: Silver Lining donations of \$14.00 can be put in the collection box at church this month. This is also a good time to talk to your correspondents if there are any address changes or additions.

PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

This month, our congregation was blessed to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of our dear friend, Rika Allen. Rika's lifelong search for peace led her first to the Cross and the shed blood of Christ, now becoming a sister of the Lord Jesus and our sister in faith. Elder Bro. Akito Inoue of Tokyo, Japan, assisted our Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand in these blessed events. Also with us for the weekend were Bro. Akito's wife, Sis. Marie, and ministering Bro. Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman, OH), as well as other visitors from our churches throughout the land.

Rika was born and raised in Japan. It was especially touching when Bro. Akito spoke some words of encouragement to Sis. Rika and her family in Japanese and to see the brilliant smiles on her children's faces. We wish God's richest blessing on Sis. Rika, her husband, Bro. Bob, and their beautiful family.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE Mike and Monica Fritz

We have been richly blessed this past month as our visiting ministering brothers have shared with us encouragement from God's Living

Word. We are so thankful for our visiting ministers: Bros. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia; Washington, IL), Dan Beer (Sis. Deb; Milford, IN), Steve Pamer (Sis. Arliss; Akron, OH), Jerry Wagenbach (Sis. Bonnie; Oakville, IA), Michael Wagenbach (Sis. Erica; Wolcott, IN), and Brent Kellenberger (Sis. Beth, Kansas City, MO). We have also been strengthened by the fellowship with brethren and friends visiting from Bradford, Eureka, Forrest, and Washington, IL; Milford and Wolcott, IN; Oakville, Lester, and West Bend, IA; Morris, MN; Kansas City, MO; and Akron, Junction, and Rittman, OH.

If you are traveling in or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. The following churches are scheduled for services in the near future: Gridley, IL (3/18); Bluffton North, IN and Kansas City, MO (3/25); Princeville, IL (4/1); Chicago, IL (4/15); Leo, IN (4/22); and Burlington, IA (4/29). We do not have a visiting minister scheduled for Easter Sunday (4/8), but Lord willing, there will be a group of brethren gathered here for services and we will either listen to a tape or call in to services at another church. 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 midweek visitors. Contacts are Bro. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder, (615) 373-8928; Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz, (615) 952-9933; and Sis. Gwen Leuthold, (615) 356-5755.

TEXAS, AUSTIN Amy Ringger Serenity Ringger

"For I delight in the law of God af-

ter the inward man."

Romans 7:22

God gives us many encouragements to do good and resist evil, such as the Memorandum our Elder Bro. Bob (Sis. Gloria) Walder and Bro. Leland (Sis. Mary) Plattner read to us on February 11.

Many thanks to our other ministers who were Bros. Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Fairbury), Ken Eisenmann (Sis. Sharon, Cissna Park), Ralph Garber (Sis. Lynn, Morton), Michael Baumann (Sis. Florina, Mansfield), and Troy Leyse (Sis. Kelly, Bluffton). We are also thankful for our visitors from Princeville, Bloomington, Sabetha, Eureka, Peoria, Bern, Leo, Bradford, and Congerville.

We look forward to these churches serving next: March 25 (Sardis), April 1 (Wichita), April 15 (Bloomington), April 22 (Rockville), April 29 (Minneapolis). We do not have a minister scheduled for Easter Sunday, April 8, but please call if you are in the area, since we may meet for a taped service.

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 eastbound 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.

TEXAS, McALLEN Sandy Kipfer

Greetings to all in the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ. We continually thank our God for the many blessings He bestows upon us.

We thank our visiting ministers and wives for taking their time and effort in serving us. May God continue to bless them richly. For this period they were Bros. Stephen Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley, IL), Steve Pamer (Sis. Arliss, Akron, OH), John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Burlington, IA) and Elder Bro. Robert Walder (Sis. Gloria, Congerville, IL).

We also thank all the visitors that worshipped with us from Gridley, Cissna Park and Eureka, IL; Akron,

Rittman, OH; Rockville, CT; Morris, MN; and Zapata, TX.

Our upcoming services will be held on March 11 and 25, on April 14 and 29, on May 13 and 27. Our address is: Holiday Inn Express (formerly the Country Suites Inn), 1921 South 10th Street. Turn South 1 ½ blocks off the Expressway (Highway) on 10th Street. Services will be held at 10:30 and 12:30. Please see ministers' directory for local contact information.

VERMONT, NORWICH Nathan and Miriam Reutter

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

Is. 1:18

The beautiful white snow in our yard reminds us of the cleansing power of the blood of Christ. Though our sins were scarlet red, we are thankful that they have been cleansed to be as white as snow. Once again we were thankful for our visiting minister this month, Bro. Warren Zahner, his wife, Sis. Bonnie, and the many visitors that came along to support the work. We do appreciate the efforts of the Rockville brethren that support the

continuity of our small fellowship. The morning service focused us on setting our affections on things above and to travel lightly through this world. The afternoon service taught us not to be distracted by God's purpose for others, but rather to be minded about God's purpose for us. It is so enriching to be fed from the Living Word of God. Our fellowship is a great blessing.

If you are interested in fellowshiping with us here in Vermont, please contact us: Nathan and Miriam (802-447-2426). We love to fellowship with believers whether it is during the week or on the weekend. If you are interested in service locations and dates, contact Bro. Kirby Reutter at 802-776-5293. Service times are as follows:

Morning Service - 10:15 AM
Afternoon Service - 12:30 PM
Sunday School is held during the morning service.

If anyone is interested in purchasing beautiful head-coverings hand-made made from our dear Sisters in Ixtlan, Michoacan, Mexico, please contact Sis. Areli Reutter at 802-776-5293. Inventory is available upon request. This is a wonderful opportunity to support those of the household of faith (Galatians 6:10).



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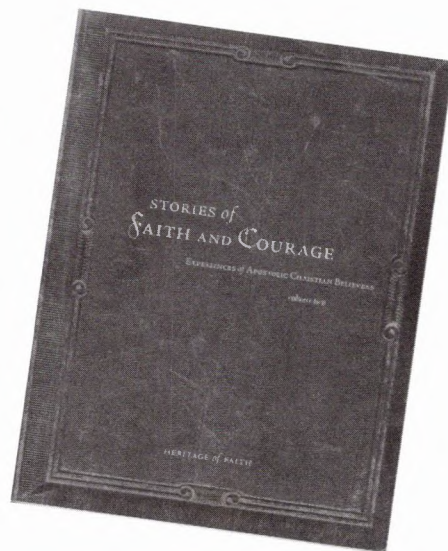
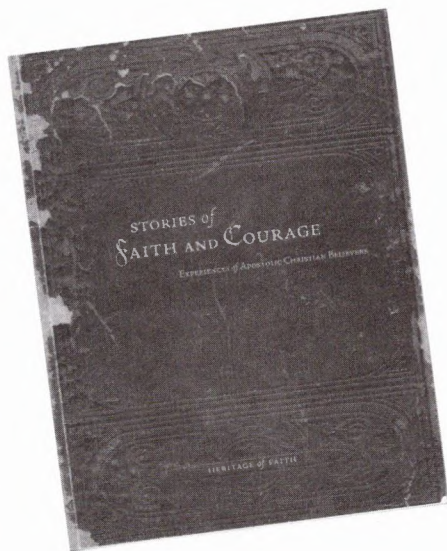
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A CD has been recorded containing one verse each of all 67 hymns in the Zion's Melodies hymnal, played on a digital piano. It is hoped this recording will be helpful in learning these hymns which are historical to our church, but may be new to many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

Phone: (309)448-2422 - ask for Chet
Mail: ZM on Piano, 319 First Street, Congerville, IL 61729
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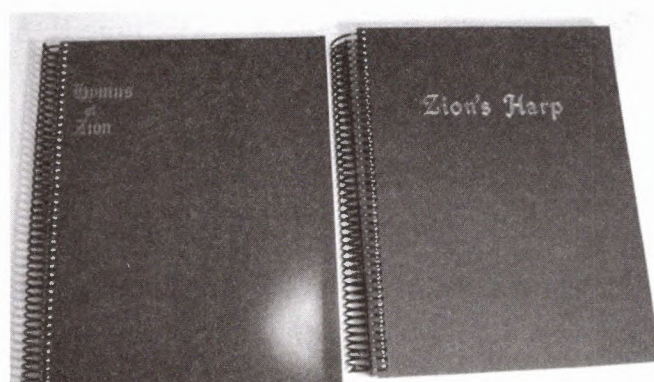
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marry of their people, he deliberately went off and grieved their heart and took a woman, I believe even from Hagar's lineage, and it was a grief of mind to them. (Genesis 26:34-35) Samson went down to the Philistines. His parents did not want him to do that. (Judges 14:3) We can go back to Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel. God even spoke to Cain, gave him warning, that he would bring the sacrifice that would please Him and he wouldn't do it. (Genesis 4:7)

I believe all of these different children, we might say, that we would look and say it just didn't go right with them, they were taught, they were warned. How many times, as we gather together, we sit around the Word, that as children do we hear the Word come forth in truth but we don't obey it.

I wonder if Absalom really wanted to cause that much grief to his father. I don't really think he did. But do you think he was in control of his life as much as he thought he was? Much the same it is for our friends who stand without. Same way it was with us before we repented. We thought we knew what we were doing, but Satan had us in his clutches, in his grip. We didn't want to grieve our parents. It really wasn't our desire. But through the one who had control over our lives at that time, we brought grief to him, and we brought grief to our Heavenly Father.

That's why He sent His Son. That's why He sent One who died and gave His life for our sins that we might have a more excellent way. That we could have our sins forgiven. That we could bring joy to our parents. That we could be a joy to our Heavenly Father.

It's not easy, though, is it? Or else there would be many more that repent. There's no limit on

who can repent and who can't. God's grace is sufficient. Young or old. We might think we're a small sinner or a great sinner; nothing is too great for God. The blood was shed, it says in Hebrews, once for all. (Hebrews 10:10) It doesn't say once for 80% of the people, or once for who have committed a certain sin, but once for all!

We are without excuse, we can read. We've read, people come, they had excuses (St. Matthew 22:5). Excuses have no place with God. Maybe that's something we've gotten used to in this life and on this earth or maybe it's something we grew up with. The society we live in has more effect on us than what we want to admit. The laws and the judicial system, that we can make excuses and we can work our way out of something. We can convince somebody. The only thing that's going to stand with God is a true and upright confession, admitting that we've done wrong, confessing our sins. Not making excuses saying it was somebody else's fault or I didn't know what I was doing.

"...Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said, The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come." St. Matthew 22:1-3. This king called his son, well, he made a marriage for his son, and he sent all these to come. We can compare this as to the Israelite nation; that they rejected, they refused. But, I don't know if that will really help if we stand up here and spend a lot of time talking about Israel. We have a desire for them that they would come. But let's apply it to each one of us gathered here today, that we're bidden to a feast. We're bidden to a wedding feast. How did

Jesus say it, there before He was crucified, with His disciples, it was the last time He was going to eat and drink with them (St. Luke 22:16). ...until we would drink and eat again anew, and we would sit down. You know, it says also, about we will sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (St. Matthew 8:11). What a feast! It speaks here of a wedding, and we're all familiar with that. We've all been to a wedding. We've different times been to weddings. It's nothing new. Something everyone can relate to.

"Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage." St. Matthew 22:9. This is a scripture that applies to all of us. "So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests." St. Matthew 22:10. We've all been invited, some have answered the reply and come, and some still wait. Some of us were bad, some were maybe better, and some were good. But all had to come in repentance. And all who stand without still need to.

"And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For many are called, but few are chosen." St. Matthew 22:11-14.

Fifth verse, those that were bidden, they made light of it, went their ways; one to his farm, another to his merchandise. We can read another place they were in-

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vited. One had a wife he had to take care of, another one had bought oxen and there was a list, and we can go on and on. We all had our list. And many still have their list. It doesn't us take very long, we read through here, to see how much it is going to do. What did that man have to say?

Twelfth verse, he came in to see the guests and he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment. For our dear friends that stand without, that haven't been given that robe of righteousness, haven't taken part of the plan of salvation and the shed blood of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, haven't repented and confessed their sins...you're going to be speechless. We can have a whole list of things. You can have a lot of things I do wrong. And I maybe don't do everything you think I should, or other brothers, other sisters; some things in their lives. That isn't going to get you anywhere. There may be some concerns in life, maybe things haven't been quite right. Maybe there's been grief and sorrow. But we all stand in the need of repentance. Jesus wants us all to come. He paid the price. Those sins can be taken away. The great love that God has for each one of us, that we can all have this wedding garment. And it can be!

He went on in the twenty-ninth and thirtieth verse talking about the resurrection because there were those that came; the Sadducees. They didn't believe in the resurrection, so they came at another angle to him because he had just talked to the Pharisees about the money, about who we should give to and who we should honor in the government, what we should do. (St. Matthew 22:15-21) So now it was the Sadducees' turn. Well, they didn't believe in the resurrec-

tion. So how can this be? They thought they really brought a good account unto him, a good example.

And "Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God." St. Matthew 22:29. Do we limit the power of God, what He can do in our life? He can make us clean. He can give, as David in the Psalms wrote about "Create in me a clean heart..." Psalms 51:10, a new heart. Solomon spoke of the understanding and getting wisdom. We can't get that on our own. We can go to all the schools and all the education and talk to all kinds of people. But we're never going to get the wisdom and understanding of the Word of God and the Spirit of God until we are His own and He opens our eyes and opens our understanding, that we can have that power of God. "For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven." St. Matthew 22: 30. We really don't understand how all this is either, do we? It's going to be so much better than what we have on this life.

You know, I sat here this morning. It's a little different when you don't live here for a while. When you come every Sunday, you just expect to see everyone. But it's always interesting to watch the church fill up in the morning. Sometimes we forget who repented, who's begun repenting. Oh yes, there's another one repenting. It just warms our heart. There's also sorrow, there's some missing. But, as we think about sitting there, and we read this, how that will be in heaven, or those that are there, one by one are we going to come in. Are we all going to be there? We step across that threshold, and we enter in. And we recognize one thing that's different as we, the only people we

know here are the ones that have lived during our lifetime. But in heaven, we will know from the ages gone by. Abraham, Isaac and Joseph, Solomon and whoever all is there. It just seems that we will know them, because the disciples were on the mountain during the transfiguration with Jesus Christ. Moses and Elijah appeared there also (St. Matthew 17:1-3). They didn't live during their time, but they knew them. They knew who they were.

What a blessing that will be! What do you think, how the ones that are there waiting for us, as one by one we come home, what a joy that is! What a great singing, what a rejoicing is there. We gather together on Sunday or Wednesday night, and we sing and we rejoice that we can be counted among God's chosen host.

What if we aren't? We're going to be speechless. No singing, no rejoicing. We won't have a word to say, just deep sorrow. What did he say? ...weeping and gnashing of teeth into outer darkness (St. Matthew 22: 13). Such a sharp contrast, no comparison. The decision doesn't take very long, does it?

We have a lot of decisions to make in life. How many decisions did each of you have to make in the past week? But how many decisions are easier to make than this one? It's clear cut. There's no question as to the outcome, the difference. You know, many times when we make a decision we just don't know how it is going to go. We decide to go this way. Is that the right decision?

But the decision to come in repentance; we just know that's the right thing. It's the easiest decision we can make in our life, but it can be the hardest because we let Satan be in control of our life. Those bands and those bonds, they have to be broken free and we

can't do it on our own. God will help us.

We remember Samson the great power and the great strength he had; they could bind him with whatever they wanted. When he had the power of God with him, there was nothing that could contain him. He could break loose. But the instant the power of God and the Spirit of God was gone from him, he was powerless. Not any different than any other man. Thanks be to God, that great power, as we read it here, the power of God, how he will give that to you and I.

We who are redeemed are so thankful that we could humble ourselves and by the grace of God we could break loose and be healed of that disease of sin. The most incurable disease among mankind today is sin, and it always has

been. Because God is the only one that can heal that, and He made the provision in the sending of His Son.

We can go on here a little further. The Pharisees, now they heard that He had put the Saducees to silence. They were gathered together, and isn't it they just over and over keep coming deceitfully, trying to trick Him, trying to portray that they really care about him or what He has to say? All they were trying to do was to destroy Him, that they would look good. They, so many times we can read, so much an illustration of the works of the flesh, and not the fruit of the Spirit.

Then there was this lawyer. It says he "asked him a question, tempting him, and saying, Master, which is the great commandment

in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." St. Matthew 22:35-40. Maybe that's just a good question to close with. Can we of a truth, and a total conviction within our heart today say that we are serving God, and loving God, with all our heart, all our soul, all our mind and all our strength?

Illinois Adoption Manager

Gateway Woods has an opening in our new Adoption program in Illinois. We have an immediate need for a full-time Adoption Manager. We would prefer a Master's degree in Social Work, but would accept a Master's degree in a related field such as Guidance, Sociology or Psychology. Please contact:

Bro. Jeff Schumacher
PO Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
1 888 443-4283
jeff.schumacher@gatewaywoods.org

Bro. Lynn Stieglitz
260 657-1033
lynnstieglitz@lightningnet.net



Counselor Needed

Gateway Woods, a Christian residential childcare facility, has an immediate opening for a male or female counselor. Qualified persons for this position must hold a minimum of a Bachelors degree in Social Work, Counseling or related field. A Masters degree is preferred. Responsibilities include individual and family counseling, case management, and consultation with the treatment team.

Jeff Waibel
Supervising Counselor
PO Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
(888) 443-4283

Lynn Stieglitz
Counseling Elder
15417 Doty Road
New Haven, IN 46774
(260) 657-1033



2007 Athens/Tennessee Memorial Day Weekend scheduled May 26-27

In the *Hymns of Zion* song, "Take Time to be Holy," the author expresses actions that foster holiness including "speak oft with thy Lord," "abide in him always," "feed on his word," "spend much time in secret with Jesus alone," "make friends of God's children," "help those who are weak," and "let him be thy guide."

At this year's 2007 Athens/Tennessee Memorial Day Weekend, scheduled for Saturday, May 26 and Sunday, May 27, *Holiness* will be the weekend theme with two ministering brothers speaking on this topic.

The schedule for the weekend will be similar to past years with a few time changes. On Saturday, registration and donation of auction items will begin at 12:00 noon at the Tennessee Fellowship Area with the auction commencing at 2:00 p.m. Supper is scheduled at 6:00 p.m. with singing beginning at 7:00 and the first minister speaking at 7:30 p.m.

On Sunday, regular church services will be held at 10:00 a.m. at the Athens, Ala. Apostolic Christian Church. Lunch will be on your own with fellowship resuming at the Tennessee Fellowship Area at 3:30 p.m. and singing starting at 4:00 p.m. The second ministering brother will speak on holiness beginning at 5:00 p.m. with supper at 5:30 and singing resuming afterward.

We invite everyone to attend this weekend of fellowship, singing and worship of the Lord. If you have questions or would like more information, contact Tennessee Fellowship Secretary Sis. Gwen Leuthold at (615)356-5755 or leutholdg@aol.com, Tennessee Fellowship Chariman Bro. Don Sauder (615)373-8928 or don.sauder@juno.com or Tennessee Fellowship Treasurer Bro. Mike Moore (256)729-0620 or alm38@aol.com.

- NOTICE -

Repair and Distribution of Worn Bibles & Bible Story Books

Hymns of Zion, Gospel Hymns, & Tabernacles

We again have places to send all of these books. Please get your books to us or the Goodfield World Relief Center. Books are mainly distributed to India, Philippines, and Africa.

Jerry and Arlene Banwart, 307 First St, Congerville, IL 61729
(309) 448-2416

Opportunity to Help the Washington DC Church

If you have a heart for small churches, the Washington, DC congregation would welcome your help. They recently purchased a residential property in Silver Spring, Maryland, and have begun holding services there every Sunday.

Due to the small number of members and friends, and because most live a distance from church, they are looking for volunteer caretakers to help. Caretakers should plan to stay 3-4 weeks and be able to perform light household and yard maintenance chores. There are openings beginning in May, 2007.

Caretakers could be retired or semi-retired couples, singles or families who would desire fellowship with the DC congregation and enjoy spending time near the Nation's Capitol and other points of interest on the East Coast.

For more information, please contact Bro. Barry and Sis. Doreen Steffen at 410/569-3635.

Child Placement Manager (IL) Opening

As Gateway Woods expands our Christian Adoption Services into Illinois, we are in need of an IL Child Placement Manager. Applicants for this job must:

1. Be a member in good standing of the Apostolic Christian Church with approval of his/her local elder.
2. Have at least a Master's Degree in Social Work from an accredited school and three years work experience in social work administration OR a Master's Degree in a human services field from an accredited school and five years of work experience in human services administration.
3. Have a dedicated interest, love and sensitivity for youth and families.
4. Possess good motivational, organizational, teaching and communications skills.
5. Have ability to establish positive working and interpersonal relationships and use a team approach.
6. Have treatment philosophy compatible with the mission of Gateway Woods - Apostolic Christian Children's Home.
7. Have commitment to ongoing personal and professional growth.

For further information and a job description, please contact:

Jeff Schumacher, Administrator, PO Box 151, Leo, IN 46765
 jeff.schumacher@gatewaywoods.org
 1-888-443-4283 (GATE)



Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services

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

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- Mentoring for students in mental health-related fields
- All calls are confidential

BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

Sharing The Word In Love

*"Where there is no vision, the people perish:
but he that keepeth the law, happy is he."
Proverbs 29:18*

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

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

To order, contact,

Apostolic Christian Church
Bible Distribution
 PO Box 30
 1254 S. Main Street
 Bluffton, IN 46714
 Phone and Fax 260/824-5587
 E-mail: bibledist@onlyinternet.net

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. For Jamaica, direct your inquiry to Bro. Mike Rassi, Ph. 1-309-359-3020 or E-mail michael_rassi@hotmail.com.

HAITI					
ORG.	DATE	AREA	COORDINATOR	PROJECT	CAPACITY
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 Stuber	Water Aid	5
AWA-B	June 1-8, 2007	Les Cayes	Bill Rager	Vocational School	2
JAMAICA					
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
CCCD	June 23-30, 2007	Deaf Village	Smithville/Rittman/Akron S.S.	Work Place	40/50

COORDINATOR	PHONE	FAX	E-MAIL
Tom Hitz	734-454-9229	734-454-9259	thitzhome@juno.com
Bill Rager	419-263-2989		
Jon Zeller	309-266-9009		jzeller@mtco.com
Rick Wuethrich	219-567-9488	219-567-2542	topnotch@home.ffni.com
Troy Struber	309-925-2603		tstuber@highstream.net
Ted (Joyce) Hirstein	309-266-8769		hirstein@mtco.com

CCCD = Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf
MEBSH = Missions of Evangelical Baptists of South Haiti
Palm Grove = Mission of Haiti
S.E.E.D. = An Agricultural School & Extension Service
TBA = To Be Announced
Palm Grove = Mission of Haiti

A.W.A. - B. = Apostolic Water Aid/Bluffton
A.W.A. - FRW = Apostolic Water Aid/Francesville, Remington, Wolcott
A.W.A. - T = Apostolic Water Aid/Tremont
(*) = Changes or additions since last issue
()** = Spring Break Timeframe

Mexico Work Teams 2007

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

Location	Date	Project	Coordinator	Phone	E-mail
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	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 16-23, 2007	Construction	Neal Kellenberger	913-782-8063	nealkim1921@yahoo.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

U.S.A. BOARD WORK PROJECTS

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

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

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

Illinois:

Indiana: Tom Neuenschwander
 Phone/Fax: 260-824-4773
 E-mail: 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.



The keeping of records and the writing of history helps to perpetuate existing institutions. A famed historian once said that if you want to destroy an institution, a church or a government, you can do so by cutting off its history. Likely this is true, or at least it hastens the demise of any institution if its history becomes distant and foggy in the minds of the current generation. The statesman, Cicero, wrote, "To know nothing of what happened before you were born is to remain ever a child."

To be cognizant of history, and to understand the past, is encouraged in the Bible. Isaiah said, "...look unto the rock from which ye are hewn, and to the hold of the pit from which ye are hewn." (Isaiah 51:1) Luke wrote unto Theolophilus "that thou might know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed." While in these two instances, the writers were making reference to spiritual beliefs, the principles could also refer to the knowing of history and what was believed and practiced in the past.

A Long Tenure

In our church history we can claim that a man served for 72 years in the ministry. This is cited in *Marching To Zion* on page 140: "A man who served for many years as an Assistant Elder was John W. Schmidt. He was born June 5, 1844, in Hessen Darmstadt, Germany.

He was a tailor who moved first to Peoria and later lived in Eureka. He was an early forefather in America, having preached occasionally at the Partridge Prairie church. From 1929 to 1934, when various Elders from other congregations had the oversight at Roanoke, Illinois, John W. Schmidt had the title of Assistant Elder. In the German language this translates into Miteldister, meaning "with the Elder." He died on October 7, 1939, at age ninety-five after having served in the ministry for seventy-two years."

While Bro. John W. Schmidt would want no accolades for his years of ministering, his tenure should serve as an inspiring trait of endurance to all ministers in today's church. How thankful we should be for each and every brother who preaches from our pulpits; and we should thank God that He dispenses His Spirit to guide the message(s) of these brethren.

Sorrow and Joy

On June 14, 1924, about 20 members gathered in a home at Wichita, Kansas, for a singing. After the singing ended, Bro. Alfred Lambert took the Bible and began reading from St. Matthew, Chapter 24. At verse 15 he suddenly slumped and began falling out of his chair. His son, George, recalled that "we brothers (Alfred's sons) caught him and gently laid him on a bed, and soon he went to sleep."

His death that night instigated

the repentance of his three sons. These young men were "taken up" at the church at Burlington, Oklahoma, in December, 1924. With the consent of the congregation, Elder Gottlieb Kurz proved all three brothers at the same time.

George Lambert, who served for many years as a minister at Wichita, remembers the example his father set for the family. He said his parents were strict and demanded discipline. His father prayed and read the Bible after every meal, and often explained the meaning of what he had read.

History Progress

Work has been ongoing to update the 1984 edition of *Marching To Zion*. Because the computer disks of that era are now obsolete, the entire book had to be re-typeset for the new edition. The updated version is mostly typeset and proofreading is being administered by various brothers and sisters. Since the new book will likely exceed 700 pages, proofreading takes considerable time. Several proofs will be made to insure correctness. The time of printing is not known, but this is to report that significant progress is being made.

Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next Issue: Misc. History

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

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“Two Important Rules”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

Two important rules that are vital for a good marriage are, “Never do anything selfish,” and “Always praise your spouse for his or her good points.”

In I Corinthians 13:4,5, we read, “Charity ...seeketh not her own.” This indicates to me that we must not do anything selfish. The Apostle Paul wrote in Galatians 2:20, “I am crucified with Christ.” If we, like Paul, are crucified with Christ, we can’t very well do anything selfish. Our own wants and desires are out of the picture. We concentrate on what we can do for others, and thereby bring glory to God, not to ourselves. Matthew 25:40 reads, “And the King shall answer and say unto them, 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.” If we are going to do nice things for others, we should start with those closest to us, in the case of married people, our spouses.

The rule, “Never do anything selfish,” should apply, not only

in marriage but in the church, in our schools, and in our places of work. To follow this rule is not a sacrifice or a loss, it is a gain. Jesus said, “And he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.” Matthew 10:39. This seems like a contradiction but it’s true. The more you deny yourself for the sake of others, the more God blesses you with “Joy unspeakable and full of glory.” I Peter 1:8. This is one of the astounding truths taught in the Bible.

Getting to the second rule, everyone has many good points so latch onto them. Make it a habit to praise your spouse or others, for their good points. Everybody has failures and that is why Christ died for us. In regard to failures, it is good to caution one another with love and respect, but never, I say never, criticize others with an attitude of being above them, or better than they are. In the case of marriage, such conduct or attitude hurts like a dagger. We can tolerate more of a hostile attitude from others

than we can from our spouses, or other close members of our family. People who live under the same roof have a special relationship that needs to be preserved. If you are going to be kind to guests, then please start with members of your own family.

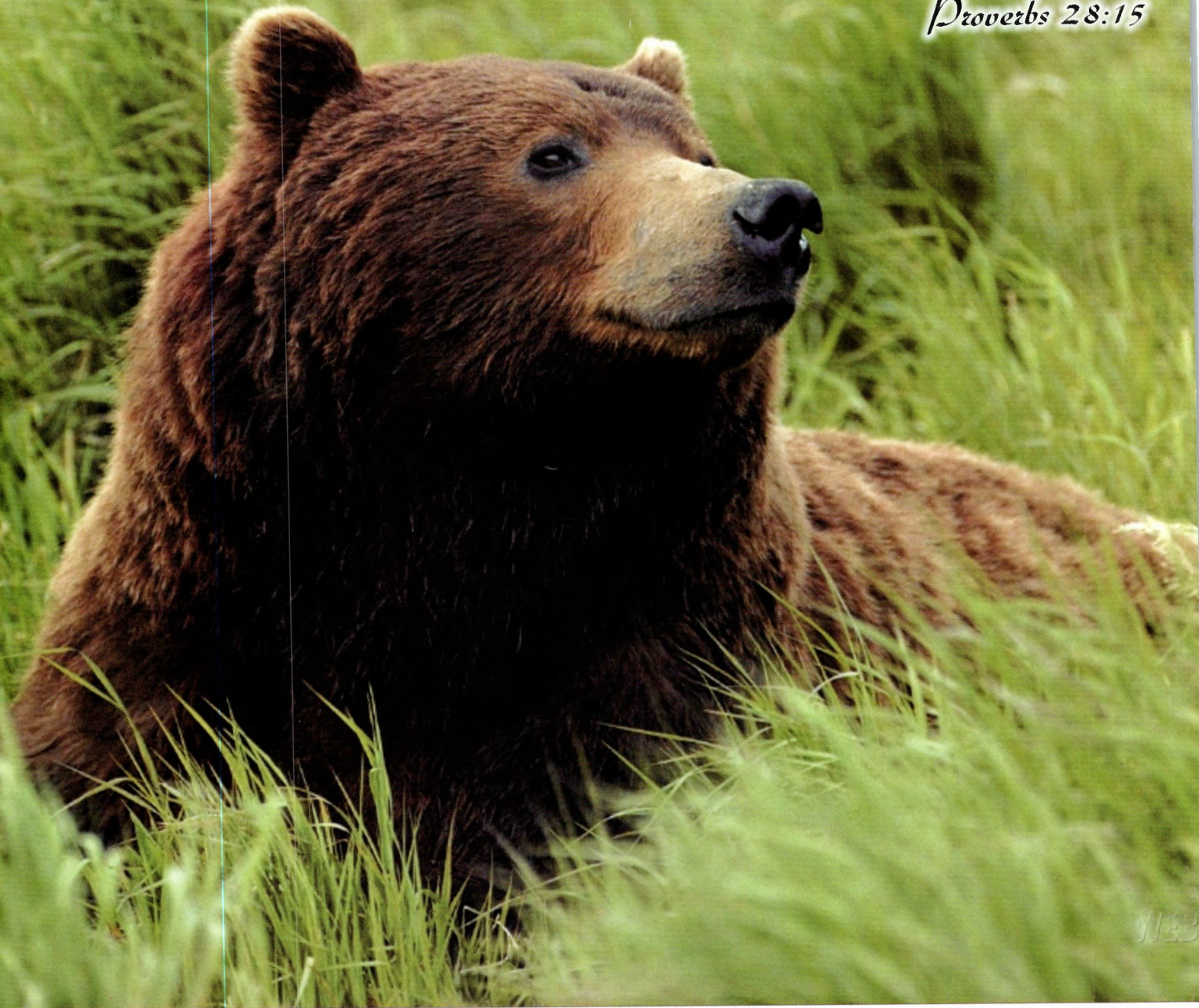
Proverbs 27:2 reads, “Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth.” This teaches us not to praise ourselves or boast about ourselves. Even Paul gave Christ, or God, the credit for everything He did. “But I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.” I Corinthians 15:10.

The Bible does not say that we should not criticize others, but it does say, “But in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.” Philippians 2:3. This is the exact opposite of human nature but it is what God asks of us. We may express concern about others, but we should not place ourselves above them.

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*As a roaring lion, and a ranging bear;
so is a wicked ruler over the poor people.*

Proverbs 28:15



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