

# *The Silver Lining*



*And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel  
came from the way of the east:  
and his voice was like a noise of many waters:  
and the earth shined with his glory.*

*Ezekial 43:2*

*April  
2007*



*Sermon by Bro. Ted Luginbuhl, Smithville, OH*  
**Ecclesiastes 1 & St. John 19:1-37**

In this chapter, loved ones, we have a small part of the wisdom that God gave to Solomon as he...as it was his prayer that he would be given wisdom to rule and to reign the people of Israel (I Kings 3:9). And then he was given wisdom to write these things down so that we today can think about them. And he brings it to our heart here, how that all of the things of the earth, all the things of the world round about us that we see, he sums it up as, "...vanity of vanities; all is vanity," Ecclesiastes 1:2. But dear ones there is one thing that is not vanity... and that is God. That is of His Spirit. Things that are of the Word. Things that are of Jesus Christ are not vanity. And that is why we, in our lives, have to humble ourselves and we have to get rid of that vanity. We have to get rid of that vexation of Spirit so that we can be filled with the Holy Ghost. We can be filled with God's wisdom, and His knowledge and His understanding.

As Solomon here was given to recognize the evils around about him, so let it be a prayer on our heart that we likewise would be able to recognize when evil comes knocking at our door. That we would look out, before we open the door, we would look out through the peep hole and we would recognize it, and we'd leave the door locked. But when Jesus Christ knocks, let us swing the door wide open and let Him come in and let Him fill us and guide us and direct us in this evil time.

For as we have read, how that we really are...nothing. It tells us here about the sun rising and the sun going down. (Ecclesiastes 1:5) That's nothing that man has anything to do with. How it says, "All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full..." and the water goes back again. Ecclesiastes 1:7. We watch that, and we watch it in amazement and wonder of the creation. Let us keep our eyes focused on those things that are not vanity and vexation, but those things that are of wisdom and understanding and knowledge of God, the Father. Of His Creation. Of His love in sending his Son Jesus Christ on our behalf.

As we have sung, as that hart for water panteth (As Pants The Hart, Zion's

Harp #157), let us be thirsty for the Word. Let us be thirsty for His Spirit. Every day let us pray that His Spirit would fill us and guide us and direct us in that day. Let us pray for grace one day at a time. Let's not worry about tomorrow's troubles. Tomorrow may not come. We have today.

The friends that are with us tonight, those who have heard the Word, or those who have been touched by that call...Answer today. Because we have no promise of tomorrow. Get rid of the vanity and vexation in your life, and come. Come and taste and see of what God has to give us in this night...so that you too have the opportunity to see Christ face to face and to spend all eternity with Him. It tells us in the Word, dear loved ones, that all of us, every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess (Romans 14:11). We shall all see Jesus face to face...whether saved or unsaved. But many, it tells us, will come short and will be turned away (St. Luke 13:24-25). What a fearful thought that is.

Hold fast the faith! Hold fast that which the Word says. Hold fast to those things that we know. That when evil surrounds us and we grow weary, if we can hold fast to that faith we know, that we shall obtain the victory.

Such a wonderful, and blessed part of the scripture (St. John 19). Not that there isn't scripture that's all good. It's all given to us for our learning and for our understanding. But this portion of scripture we should each hold so dear to our hearts. Because it is of the time when our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ was brought to the mockery of the trial that He was put through and He was scourged and He was mistreated for you and for me. Knowing that He had the power to escape these things, He continued on because of the love He had in his heart. Not because of anything that we had done, but because He loved us. And He wanted to give Himself for us because He knew there had to be a price paid for sin. That all the blood that was shed of the animals of old time was just a covering. It was just a temporary thing.

We know how that even those of his closest associates, the twelve disciples

that he had chosen by His own might, by His own wisdom - He had picked them out of the crowd to be His closest friends - we know that how they forsook Him (St. Mark 14:50). One of them, Judas, had sold Him. And sold Him there, and had betrayed Him, and yet we know that how right before that, before Judas went out, Christ showed the perfect example of humility as He

*Sermon continued on page 43*

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

# Light From The Word



Writings based  
on God's Word

April 2007

## Afflictions

"Afflictions, tho' they seem severe, In mercy oft are sent; They stopp'd the prodigal's career, And caused him to repent." (The Prodigal's Return, Hymns of Zion #22).

It is apparent from the Word of God that His people will suffer affliction. Sometimes it will be light and sometimes it will be heavy. David often suffered affliction and sought help from the Lord. "Look upon mine affliction and my pain; and forgive all my sins" (Ps. 25:18). Sometimes people are nearly overcome by affliction: Elijah was so distressed that "...he ...went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers" (I Ki. 19:4). Some choose affliction over a life of ease that would lead to wickedness. "By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season," (Heb. 11:24-25).

What is affliction? Why do we suffer affliction? How can affliction help or hurt us? How do we respond when we "suffer affliction"?

Affliction is a state of suffering pain or distress of the body or mind.

There are, of course, a variety of reasons why we suffer afflictions. We can bring affliction on ourselves because of inappropriate behavior. The children of Israel often suffered affliction because of their lifestyle. Many of their kings led them into idolatry and many other sins. Psalm 107 is a powerful description of what happened to the children of Israel when they followed their selfish will rather than following God's will. "They wandered in the wilderness in a solitary way..." (v. 4); "...they rebelled against the words of God..." (v. 11); they were "Fools, because of their transgression..." (v. 17); "They reel to and fro ...like a drunken man, and are at their wit's end" (v. 27). In each case they cried unto the Lord and He brought them out of their distresses. The Psalmist recognized that it would not have had to be that way. "Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for

his wonderful works to the children of men" (v. 8,15,21,31)! Bad choices caused them to suffer. The prodigal son (Luke 15:11-32) clearly brought his affliction on himself because of inappropriate choices.

Not all afflictions are brought on by bad choices. Some are tests from God. Job suffered incredible heartbreak, but "In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly" (Job 1:22). The New Testament gives us many examples of individuals who suffered for their service to the Lord. Peter and others, when called to appear before the Sanhedrin refused to yield to their demands. Instead, "...they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name" (Acts 5:41). Paul, Steven and others willingly gave their lives for the cross of Christ.

The scripture describes many benefits of affliction. Job recognized that affliction can purify us. "But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold" (Job 23:10). When we suffer hardships, it can keep us from going astray. "Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word" (Ps. 119:67). Paul reminded us that we can come to a peace as a result of our troubles. "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless, afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby" (Heb. 12:11).

Not only do we have difficulties that God allows to come upon us as tests, Satan can also bring difficulties as a way of tempting us to sin. Temptations are afflictions from Satan designed to make us fail. Ever since man has been on the earth, Satan has tried to make him fail. In the Garden of Eden, Satan, in the form of a serpent caused Adam and Eve to fall into sin. Numerous times Satan has caused God's people to fail. "And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel" (I Ch. 21:1). After this sin, David was required to make a very difficult choice. Gad, David's seer was instructed to tell David to choose one of three tribulations: three years famine, three months to be destroyed before his foes, or three days of the sword of the Lord. David was in a great affliction and chose to fall into the hand of

the Lord.

Jesus was tempted also. After forty days of fasting and prayer, Satan was allowed to question Jesus whether He was the Son of God and to bring various other temptations. In each case, Jesus resisted Satan by using the Word of God (Mt. 4:1-10). Satan was then required to leave him "...and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him" (Mt. 4:11).

Paul recognized that the followers of Christ would be tempted so he urged us to be careful and to forgive "Least Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices" (II Cor. 2:11).

Our reactions to affliction no doubt vary from time to time and from situation to situation. We can be despondent, we can become angry or we can recognize that it is an opportunity to grow. Whatever our reaction, we are assured that there are promises from God to the afflicted.

We know the afflictions will not last forever. "For his anger endureth but a moment; ...but joy cometh in the morning" (Ps. 30:5). We are also promised that the Lord will deliver us from our afflictions: "Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all" (Ps. 34:19).

We know that sometimes God allows us to remain in troubling situations for some time, but during those times He will be with us: "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overthrow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee" (Is. 43:2).

The greatest promise of all, of course, is the promise of ultimate victory. Jesus said "Let not your heart be troubled:... I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" (Jn. 14:1-3).

Just as the father forgave the prodigal son and welcomed him home, we also have a Father who loves us, cares for us and will welcome His children home.





## 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

### Casa Vida y Esperanza (CVE)

*A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation: I the Lord will hasten it in his time. (Isaiah 60:22)*

Praise be to the Lord our God for the work that He is doing here at CVE (House of Life and Hope) in Magdalena, Mexico and the generous, loving support that makes our orphanage truly a casa hogar [house home] for the children under our care. CVE is located in the town of Magdalena, a community of close to 50,000 people.

Every day as we see the darkness that Satan uses to obscure God's promises, we also see that God shows His love to as many as possible. Through faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ, we are prayerful that they too can come to a saving knowledge of life eternal.

### Our children

*Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. (Proverbs 22:6)*

It is only through the prayers offered for this endeavor that much can be accomplished, and we give thanks that the Lord has blessed these past few years for us. The orphanage is now home to twenty-three children who range in age from fourteen months to thirteen years. Many of these children have lived at CVE for over 2 years now, and our desire is that they will grow to know Christ and become strong Christian men and women.

Daily we give thanks that these children are here with us, and that

we can see them learning, searching, and finding the love that their Father in heaven has for them. Although there are difficult moments, we trust that the Lord is faithful and will lead us to give our utmost in loving and raising these children to know Him. We also are thankful for the opportunity to be a part of the lives of children and young adults outside of CVE. At the present we have an independent living program for young ladies that do not have families to help them through some of the early years of adulthood. We also consider many of the children that attend church every week as our extended family.

### Our church

*Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain. (Psalms 127:1)*

As the children continue to grow, so does the attendance at our church services. Over a hundred men, women, and children fill our dining hall to overflowing every Sunday, and we give thanks that a new church building has been approved.

The foundations have already been laid.

Also, we give thanks for the Mexican men and women who have begun a new life in Christ, and challenge us daily to keep searching out the truth in His word. One day we pray they will

be the spiritual examples of our congregation. We ask for your continued prayers as our church makes this transition to a new building, and that the Mexican families will feel that this is truly their house of worship.



### Work projects

We have been blessed to have the support of many work teams, and are thankful for the work that has been accomplished with the help of willing hands. Work continues on the first perimeter house at CVE. We pray that soon we will be able to have houseparents here, and that the opportunities for family living will materialize. Already God's hand is moving, and we look forward to the Christian couples that could soon be part of our family. Both the perimeter house and the church, as well as our refurbished buildings, are a direct result of the help of work teams, and we thank those that have given their precious gift of time.

### Prayers & needs

*Show me thy ways, O Lord; teach me thy paths... for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day. (Psalms 25:4-5)*

As our children get older, we are giving prayerful consideration to their schooling environment. We are waiting on the Lord's direction in moving forward with plans for a fully accredited Christian school, and ask that you would keep these opportunities and plans in your prayers.

God is also moving our staff in many directions, and we ask that those individuals interested in serving in various roles, including houseparents, would prayerfully consider this calling.

It is truly a blessing to wait on the Lord, and to watch His perfect timing. We thank you again for your loving prayers and support, and believe that His harvest will truly be plentiful after the seeds are sown and watered with His life-giving Spirit. Dios les bendiga! [God bless you all!]





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

## Haitian Trade Schools

The Haitian trade schools project is under the supervision of the Apostolic Christian Water Aid project (AWA). AWA was formed in 1986, and while the original focus was providing fresh water for Haitians throughout the southern peninsula of Haiti, the organization now consists of three committees involving brethren from five congregations who oversee well drilling, trade schools, and a small orphanage. AWA is under the auspices of the Apostolic Christian World Relief Caribbean Committee.

### Vision

The MEBSH organization is divided into 14 regions throughout the southern peninsula of Haiti. Currently there are trade schools in four of the regions. As the Lord continues to open doors our vision is to assist the MEBSH organization in their effort to establish a trade school in each of the 14 regions.

### Port A Piement Trade school #1

In 1986 a committee was formed to assist a German missionary, Detlift Guinner, by providing WR funds to start up a trade school in the village of Port A Piement. The German missionary presence in Haiti is staffed by men who seek to avoid bearing arms in the German military because of their religious convictions. The German government allows them to come to Haiti and serve as trade school teachers and administrators instead.

The current role of the Bluffton AWA committee is to assist with tool maintenance, determine World Relief funding levels, and provide accountability to the Caribbean

committee regarding the use of those funds. The school offers classes in metal, wood, masonry, and sewing. The Germans do an excellent job teaching life skills and discipline to the approximately 60 students.

### IRD Les Cayes Trade school #2

This school was constructed in the early 90's near the MEBSH compound in Les Cayes. There are no full time missionaries at the school; it is indigenous as all of the administration and teachers are Haitian. The school offers the same courses as those at Port A Piement. There are approximately 100 students. Since the school is located in Les Cayes, electricity is supplied by the town, avoiding the expense and maintenance involved when a generator is required. The Bluffton brethren have worked very hard to overcome the language and culture barriers, while assisting the school with tool maintenance, funding, accountability, and general oversight.

### Petit Trou Trade school #3

This village is very remote and the people of the area are extremely poor. The pastor of the local church pleaded with an exploratory committee from Wolcott, Remington, and Francesville to start a trade school in the village in order to keep their young believers from moving to the cities to find work. Access to the school has been difficult; the 75 mile trip sometimes takes 6 or more hours due to flooding and road conditions. In 1995 the school opened for the first time, and offers carpentry, sewing, masonry, and welding classes. The current enrollment is

approximately 50 students. Teacher salaries are subsidized with World Relief funds, and the committee visits the school three times per year to provide tool and generator maintenance, funding accountability, and administrative assistance.

### Chantal Trade school #4

The Pastor of the Chantal church had been praying for a trade school for ten years. In October of 2005, his prayers were answered and the trade school at Chantal opened for the first time. The standard of living in the town of Chantal is much better than Petit Trou, but still very poor. Chantal offers three-year courses in sewing and masonry, and a two-year computer course. The pastor at Chantal is an excellent leader, and his son Dony is the school administrator. Dony has a college degree and is very computer proficient. There is also email access at Chantal that facilitates communication and accountability for the school which has approximately 100 students.

### Appreciation

We would like to thank our brethren for contributions on behalf of the Haitian trade schools. They simply would not exist without your assistance via prayer, work teams, tithing, and child sponsorship. We covet your continued support and ask that you pray for the safety and wisdom of the committees as they travel and confront the many issues and differences that come as a result of our culture, language and economic disparities. We invite anyone who has an interest in the trade schools to travel with us when we visit them. Email: [information@acwr.org](mailto:information@acwr.org).



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

As Spring begins, we are excited to once again feel warmer weather and enjoy the variety of activities that warm weather allows. Central Illinois Riding Therapy has started their program for the year. Many residents appreciate the thrill of horseback riding during those sessions. Training has also resumed for those that participate in Special Olympics. The anticipation of gold medals is worth the practice!

Some of the outings this past month have included a pancake and sausage breakfast, an art exhibit, a ballet, and several different trips to Lakeview Museum which includes a planetarium. Almost every evening, activity staff take small groups on outings, helping them to take advantage of fun things to do in the community. Of course, the activity department also makes sure to provide many fun things to do right at home, too. On March 16, they were able to schedule an Irish band to come play for our residents to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. That was entertaining!

At the 16 bed homes we have two residents that are looking forward to celebrating "big" birthdays. A card shower is in the works to honor our almost 70 year old, and an open house is being planned for our soon-to-be 50 year old. Even the other residents are looking forward to that!

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## **GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME**

**Tim Wiegand**

Spring is in the air! We have had some sunshine and warm days re-

cently at Gateway Woods, which seems to put everyone in a more cheerful mood. The large piles of snow have finally given way to puddles and soggy ground. Despite the wetness bicycles, rollerblades and all manner of outdoor equipment has been spotted being used by the residents here on campus over the last week. I cannot help but think of the goodness of our God who gives us the reminder of renewed life every spring. Even though the trees and grass may look dead, we have confidence that life is still in them just waiting for the right conditions to show forth that life. One difference between changing seasons and changing people is that we generally know when the spring will arrive bringing visible life with it. With God we often cannot predict when He will work to bring about change in someone. I need to learn patience in waiting for God to work and not be demanding that He work when I expect Him to or how I expect Him to. Sometimes when I watch and pray for change in someone or something, I soon realize that I am the one being changed. Praise God for his mysterious ways and may we never doubt His timing.

### **NEWS:**

Our 4th House is now complete and occupied by Bro. Clint and Sis. Bethany Plattner and their family. Please remember to pray for them as they readjust to houseparenting.

- We want to extend a final thank you to all our donors, contractors, and volunteers who helped us complete our 4th House project. May God bless you for your efforts.

- On Friday, March 30, Gateway Woods held a Cypress Open House. Many caseworkers, local business

owners, contractors, and legislators were invited. We praise God for His continued provision!

- We are very thankful to Sis. Christy Wiegand for her almost 2 years of service here at Gateway Woods. Sis. Christy was a very hard worker and helped to bring our Pregnant Teen Program to the next level. May God bless her as she has moved back to Illinois to be with her family. Please continue to pray for her family as they cope with the loss of her mother, Sis. Barb Wiegand, who passed away from a battle with cancer.

- Open positions at Gateway Woods include: Counselor, Illinois Adoption Manager, Assistant Houseparent, and Foster Care Manager. Please see the notices in this issue or call our office 888 443-4283.

- A heartfelt thanks to Bro. Jeff Fritz for his eight years of service on the Gateway Woods Board. Bro. Jeff served as Board president for 4 years. We are very thankful that he was willing to serve for two terms, as his second term ended in March. His input has been very much appreciated and it has been a real pleasure to have him on our Board. May God continue to bless him and his family.

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

A few things we teachers have learned from our little students in the past few weeks.

-If you swing really high you can "touch the sky and talk to Jesus."

-It's hard putting your coat on sometimes because the sleeves can get "outside in".

-Elizabeth can also be pronounced "Wizabis".



-When a child comes running saying "I need a tennis shoe", it might in fact be a tissue they are needing.

-When babies are born they "come out of their mommie's heart."

We have tried to teach our students a few things this month as well. The four year old class is getting so good at writing their first and last names, as well as letter and number recognition. The three year old class can recognize their names and have started writing the first few letters of it, too. They think cutting is the best class activity. The two year old class is naming shapes and colors but enjoys painting the most. Eating a little is fun too but it's even funnier when you can make the one next to you have green hair!

Animals have been our theme for March. We've been learning how different animals can live in different places and like to eat different things. Also we talked about what animals are our favorites. It's been fun because the kids love animals and are so intrigued by the interesting ones. We continue to work our way through the alphabet as well. We worked on learning the letters T, U, V, and W and the sounds that they make.

We have an opening here at the preschool for a cook/teacher's aide. No educational degree is required for this position. A few duties will include cooking/preparing lunches and snacks, planning menus, grocery shopping, and assisting with the care of the children in the preschool. We rely on the Lord to bless us with someone to fill this position, so we ask that you pray for us as well. If you feel the Lord is calling you to work with children, as well as be a part of our small congregation, please contact Bro. Mike Moore by

phone (256) 729-0620 or by email ALM38@aol.com. A married couple is preferred but we will thankfully accept a single person as well.

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## ALABAMA, ATHENS

### Louise Hall

We want to extend our thanks to all of the visitors who traveled south to be with us in the month of March. Elder Bros. Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA), Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) and Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH), along with ministering Bros. Tim Gerber (Mansfield, OH) and Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH). These brothers were here for the semi annual preschool board meeting. God bless you for your efforts in the ministry as well as serving on the preschool board.

Bro. Ed Haggemaker and his daughter Amanda were in a car accident recently. They are okay but Amanda has a slow recovery. We pray that the Lord will heal her injuries. We continue to keep Don King in our prayers. He has undergone another surgery. Don is the son of Sis. Kat King. Others who have been hospitalized this month are Rebecca Dupree (sister of Sis. Corrine Thomas and Sis. Hazel Vibbert) and Dwight Day (nephew of Sis. Naomi Hall).

There is an opening for a caretaker at the Athens Fellowship Area located in Tennessee. This property is located about 30 miles north of the Athens church, just off of Interstate 65 at exit 14. There is an apartment located there as well. We are in need of someone, or a family to take care of this property and be a part of our small congregation here in Athens. This is your opportunity to support a small congregation and do the Lord's work. If you think the Lord has a mission for you, please give

this prayerful consideration. Complete details and arrangements are available by contacting Bro. Mike Moore by phone 256-729-0620 or by email ALM38@aol.com.

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## ARIZONA, PHOENIX

### Ron and Ev Hoerr

"And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

*Ephesians 4:32*

As March is drawing to a close, our beloved winter visitors are leaving to return home. We surely did enjoy all of you, and we await your return. God's love is the greatest gift we can give!

Bro. Gary Maibach was our visiting minister from Smithville, OH.

Our church dinner was enjoyed by many on February 25.

Surgical patients were Bro. Earl Roth and Bro. Lyle Zeltwanger. Sis. Kathy Labudde is hospitalized for treatment. Bro. Clarence Beyer had eye surgery. Dear readers, we appreciate your prayers for our disabled, as we pray for all of God's needy.

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## ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

### Jane Hodges

As mentioned in the February report, we held a wedding reception for Bro. Tyler and Sis. Alexis (Koehl) Scott, who were married in Morris, MN, on January 14. We wish to thank all those who attended (approximately 100), some from Phoenix, Tucson, Bluffton, Morris, etc. We appreciated everyone's support in welcoming our new couple.

Our annual business meeting was held February 10. Bro. Ed Schambach has become chairman of



the trustees and Bro. Tyler Scott is our new treasurer. We wish to thank Bro. Glen Furrer for serving as our previous chairman and Bro. Tim Furrer for serving as treasurer.

Our church property is now surrounded by a fence for the safety of our young children who like to play outside. Although there is a gate at the driveway into the parking area, it is not being used at this time because we have not had any problems with vandalism from the community. So anyone who comes to see our church during the week can still drive onto the property.

Bro. Dan Dubach has had assistance on the pulpit every Sunday, four weeks in a row, which he really appreciates. Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Sis. Nancy, Phoenix) and Deacon Bro. Herb Knochel Jr. (Sis. Laurie) were able to come twice, as was Bro. Arnie Gerst (Sis. Marjorie, Taylor, MO). The other ministers included Bros. Ron Joos (Sis. Christy, Bloomfield, IA) and James Emch (Sis. Gina, Phoenix). We pray the Lord will richly bless all of them for their love and support.

We appreciate the visiting brethren who have come to worship with us. A group came from Minnesota the weekend of March 10 for the open house of a new southwest division of Superior Industries in Prescott Valley. The business was started in Morris, MN, in 1972 by Bro. Neil Schmidgall. The Lord has blessed it so that it now has around 300 employees. We are thankful for the growth it has brought to our church family.

On March 18, the engagement of Bro. Corbin Fehr (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy, West Bend, IA) to Sis. Stacy Koehl (Bro. Jim and Sis. Hilde, San Diego, CA) was announced. Bro. Corbin moved to

Prescott the end of last year and Sis. Stacy is currently attending the Morris, MN, church while she is in college. May the Lord continue to bless and guide them as they plan their lives together.

Our visiting ministers this last month included Bros. Jeff Thames (Sis. Brenda, Washington, IL), Paul Schmidgall (Sis. Shawn, Morris, MN), Ed Knecht (Sis. Judith) and Todd Zollinger (Sis. Michelle), both of Silverton, OR. May the Lord bless them and their families for traveling the many miles to help support our church.

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## ARIZONA, TUCSON

### Lisa Knapp

It's the time of year when our winter visitors are starting to leave. The temperatures are going up; we have been in the 90's but have thankfully cooled down into the 70's this week and are enjoying some rain today. March is almost over but it was enjoyable while it lasted!

We were blessed to share Holy Communion in March with some of our winter visitors. Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich and our deacon, Bro. Herb Knochel, served our Communion on the first Sunday in March. We thank them for their service on our behalf.

We have enjoyed having several work teams through our area and are expecting another team this Sunday. May God bless them as they travel to a foreign country and lend their hands and hearts in service to Him.

We have been enjoying a visit from Bro. Paul Knoblock as he takes a break from the winter weather in Iowa. We are so thankful he is still able to assemble with us, even if it's only for the morning service. It's

good to have you here, Bro. Paul.

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## CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

### Tina Jackson

Spring is blossoming here in California. The once lifeless flowers are now brilliantly arrayed and rich in color. The trees are starting to bloom and the grass is now green and growing. The variety of the season's changing is a reminder to us of the goodness of God. But, oh, how glad we can be that God is unchanging! "For I am the Lord, I change not." (Malachi 3:6)

We extend our deepest sympathies to Armando Cervantes and his family at the sudden passing of his father. Armando's family live in Mexico and he was unable to attend the funeral, but felt the presence of the Lord in rich measure as he grieved his loss. "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away." (Revelation 21:4)

Bro. Laszlo and Sis. Maria Cser celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this month and we rejoice with them in their happy union. We want to thank them for their consistent example to each of us of a Godly, joy filled marriage.

We want to thank our visiting ministers this month, who helped share in preaching God's Word to us. Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Sis. Nancy, Phoenix, AZ) was here on Saturday evening, February 24, to assist Bro. Tom with the reading of the Memorandum. We were reminded to strive for true, biblical unity and peace.

Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary



Ann, Smithville, OH) was with us on Wednesday night, February 28. We thank him and his wife for being with us that evening.

Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Deb, Denver, CO) were here for the weekend of March 10-11 to share in the joy of baptism. Joseph Klotzle (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jody) joyfully shared his testimony of God's grace and goodness in his life and then experienced the blessedness of baptism on Sunday. We thank God for young people who desire to serve the Lord at a young age and testify of His saving grace to a world in need of a Savior.

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### **CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO** **Yasmin Koehl**

It was a special blessing to be encouraged, strengthened and uplifted as the Memorandum was lovingly shared with us. The Holy Spirit's guidance and presence was felt as our Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian) and visiting Elder Bros. Art Metz (Sis. Betty, Silverton, OR) and Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA) assisted in reinforcing the counsel our Elder body felt led in giving to the churches. How thankful we are for these brothers and for our Elder body for allowing the Lord to use them in fortifying us as a brotherhood in a closer walk with our Lord and each other. May we all make room for the Holy Spirit to work in our lives to encourage, admonish and mold us into the model of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Then together, we can march onward to Zion and find everlasting joy in true obedience to God!

Amongst our spring visitors were also ministering Bros. Justin Moser (Sis. Robin, Altadena, CA) and Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Anne,

Smithville OH). May God bless you both in your service to Him.

We rejoiced with Bro. Jim and Sis. Hildie Koehl and their family as the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Stacy, was announced to Bro. Corbin Fehr (Prescott, AZ). Sis. Stacy is attending school in Morris, MN. Our prayers are with her and Bro. Corbin as they prepare to blend their lives as one, and go onward jointly serving Christ.

Thus united and in concord  
let us walk the path of life,  
Hand in hand, oh may love bind  
us,

For each other's welfare strife.

*Zion's Harp #237*

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### **KITCHENER, ONTARIO** **CANADA** **Kim Leman**

We thank Bro. Mark Steiner (Sis. Sue, Smithville, OH) for sharing God's Word with us. We always appreciate the effort put forth by our visiting ministers as they serve on our rotation.

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

*Isaiah 53:5*

As we commemorate the death and suffering of our Savior, may it fill us with a greater appreciation and love for Him who died for us, that we might live!

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

We gathered on the evening of March 17 to hear the reading of the Memorandum from the last Elders'

meetings. It's a blessing to have those in authority over us care about our spiritual needs. Topics addressed were: 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. They reminded us of the four pillars of the church which are: spreading the Gospel, nurturing the believers, preserving sound doctrine and providing loving deeds of service. Let's remember to pray for our Elders as they fulfill God's calling. Recent visiting ministers have been Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO) and Bro. Lenard Meyer (Sis. Charlotte, Chicago, IL).

We are rejoicing with the angels as two souls have found peace with God and desire baptism. They are Daniel Leman (Elder Bro. Mike and Sis. Deb) and Benjamin Martin (Bro. Mike and Sis. BethAnn).

The following positions in our church have been filled by these members: Trustee, Bro. Mike Martin; Sunday school teacher, Sis. Theresa Katanic; Kitchen committee, Sis. Sarah Lasnier; World Relief sewing, Sis. Ann Gonglach.

Our prayers are with Sis. Ruth Pfeiffer as she is recovering from major surgery.

It was announced that over the next several months we will concentrate on strengthening the ties with the congregation at Kiowa, KS, the closest of our churches to us. We plan to host a group from Kiowa as well as get a group together to travel there.

We will miss Bro. Joel Leman as he is planning to move to Magdalena, Mexico, to assist at the orphanage there for a two-year rotation. May the Lord be with him and



guide him as he begins this new phase of his life.

Bro. Jacob Leman spent several days in Barra Vieja, Mexico, near Acapulco, having Bible studies with adults every evening and Bible school with children in the mornings. It is challenging to hear of the faith and perseverance of this small handful of seekers who have such a desire to feed on the Word, but are so far from a Bible-believing church. I once read that if we were let into a bank vault and told to take as much money as we wanted but walked out penniless, it's no one's fault but ours that we're poor. It's the same for Christians who fail to dig deep into the riches of knowing God.

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**CONNECTICUT  
ROCKVILLE  
Laura Virkler  
Amber Rocke**

We have had another blessed month in Rockville, in which we added five more souls to the body of our Lord. We welcome our new brothers and sisters: Warren Gottier (Sis. Carol, dec.), Bruce Gottier (Guy and Sis. Beth), Josh Bahler (Bro. Steve and Sis. Lori), Tanya Campbell (David), and Ashlee Hunt (Ken and Sis. Karen). Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Sis. Judy) and Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy), both of Chicago, IL, and Bro. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville, IA), as well as retired Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Sis. Shirley, Morton, IL) and retired ministering Bro. Earl Gerber (Sis. Esther, Forrest, IL) were with us the first weekend we had baptisms. Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) was with us for the second weekend. We thank these brothers for allowing themselves to be used in carrying out this work in the lives of

these five dear souls. We wish them much grace as they continue on in faith.

We also had ministering Bro. Ben Walder (Sis. Juanita, Congerville, IL) with us last weekend and we are grateful for his willingness to be used in our midst. It is always nice to have visitors on the east coast.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of our friend, Bernard Foote, at his recent passing. He was a brother to our Bro. Art (Emily) Foote and Bro. Paul (Sis. Roberta) Foote, who certainly have our love and support through this difficult time of loss.

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**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
WASHINGTON  
Henrietta Meyer**

It is taking awhile for Spring to come to this area. We have had some warm days and then we have snow in our forecast. I am so glad the Lord sends us what He knows we need.

This month our resident caretakers are Bro. Ernie, Sis. Lucy and Amy Isch from Bluffton, IN. We enjoy getting to know our caretakers better than the folks who we just meet for one Sunday. 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. While there is plenty to do to care for the Church, there is also lots of time to visit the sites in this area.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL), Bro. John Wiegand (Silverton, OR), Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA), Bro. John Bradle (Sis. Jill, Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Francesville,

IN). Our other visitors this month were from Columbus, OH, Champaign, IL, Lowman, ID and Lester, IA.

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.

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**FLORIDA  
FORT LAUDERDALE  
Renee Mangold**

We were thankful to have with us several visiting ministers this past month. Visiting were Bro. Vic Beer (Sis. Dorothy, North Ft. Myers, FL), Bro. Virgil Kaeb (Sis. Suellen, Sarasota, FL), Bro. Steve Stieglitz (Leo, IN), Bro. Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Fairbury, IL), Bro. Joe Braker (Sis. Shirley, Morton, IL), Bro. Paul Gasser (Sis. Joyce, Akron, OH), Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL), and Bro. Chuck



Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie, Elgin, IL). We pray for God's blessings on the ministers and their families that come to visit and to bring His Word to us.

Several brothers from the churches in Florida gathered at our church for a singing program. It was uplifting to hear their voices raised in praise. Afterwards, we hosted a church dinner for the visitors in our fellowship hall.

We also had a church potluck this month. As always, the food and fellowship were terrific. Bro. Chuck Kellenberger shared a program about the Indonesian tsunami disaster and rebuilding project. We are certainly enjoying all our winter company and encourage any and all to come and visit us here in sunny Florida.

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### **FLORIDA NORTH FORT MYERS Naomi Vogel**

We have had a very busy month here in Ft. Myers. Our peak attendance was around 235, so we have been bulging at the seams, which pleases us very much! Some of our men have expanded and enhanced our outdoor pavilion to better accommodate our overflow lunch crowd, so that has been a big help. On February 24, Bro. Dave Zehr (Gridley, IL) ministered to us while visiting his parents, Bro. Paul and Sis. Wilma, who winter with us. Thanks, Bro. Dave and Sis. Vicki, for sharing your vacation time serving in the Lord's work for our benefit!

Communion was served to us on March 4 by Elder Bros. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) and Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN). Elder Bros. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA) and

Peter Petrovic (San Diego, CA) shared in the ministry and other ministers present were Bros. Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Lennie Meyer (Chicago, IL), and Steve Stieglitz (Leo, IN). After the Communion Service, a church dinner was enjoyed by all. It was truly a blessed day! Last, but not least, Bro. Dennis Kaufmann and his wife, Sis. Bonnie (Bloomington, IL), shared their vacation time with us on March 11. May the Lord bless each and every one who so willingly serves us manna from heaven!

Bro. Carroll Gerber continues to progress in his rehabilitation from a stroke, but is not yet able to assemble with us. Others having health issues are Sis. Sue Hodel, Sis. Jeanette Yergler, Bro. Harvey Gutwein, Sis. Sara Hunyady, and Bro. Charlie Mann. May God comfort and watch over each one!

It is the time that our "Snow Birds" start their flight back north. A few have headed out already and several more will be leaving by the end of March. We are pleased that some stay for a few more weeks. We pray for traveling mercies for all of you and that you will return in the Fall!

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### **FLORIDA, SARASOTA Robin Wiegand DiAnne Brown**

Greetings all from Sarasota! We continue to enjoy the blessing of cool days, but know they are fleeting. Soon the hot summer of southern Florida will be upon us and with it the departure of most of our winter visitors.

Sunday, March 18, we gathered for our annual Appreciation Dinner, hosted by our northern brethren. It

was a wonderful time of food, fellowship and thanksgiving. Several groups shared the gift of praise and worship through song. There is something very inspiring about seeing little singers from the age of three, to those much older sharing the same good news of Jesus. We were richly blessed and are very grateful so many brethren spend their winters at our church during the winter months.

We pray for a special measure of grace for those who labored on our behalf this month, including Bros. Lenard Meyer (Chicago, IL), Mark Schmidgall (Eureka, IL), Gary Endress (Bradford, IL), Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Gary Sinn (Latty, OH) and Elder Bros. Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL) and Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH).

Our Sunday school auction was held the last Saturday in February. What a great time of gathering to support the good work being done by our Sunday School teachers and leaders. God is good and blessed us with a very successful auction, which will truly bless and support the various programs all throughout the coming year.

We were encouraged to take time to reflect upon the condition of our walk with Christ, as we prepared for Communion this month. It is a good thing to have this time to see how firmly our feet are set on the narrow path and if we have allowed any 'backsliding' to occur. What a privilege it is to share in the Lord's Supper.

Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann, Andy Stoller and Mark Streitmatter and Retired Elder Bro. Ben Maibach led the ordination service for Ordained Deacon Bro. Jeff Streitmatter (Sis. Lynne) on March



11. The Sarasota congregation is rejoicing at this important milestone for our church, and we were encouraged to keep Bro. Jeff and Sis. Lynne in our prayers as they grow into this new role to which God has called them. We have every confidence they are well equipped by our heavenly Father for this new mission.

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

Thank you to our visiting ministers: Bro. Lenny Meyer (Sis. Charlotte, Chicago, IL); Bro. Cory Metzger (Sis. Jodi, Wichita KS); and Bro. Byron Stoller (Sis. Carol, Gridley, IL).

Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville, IN) shared with our Bro. Tom Waldbeser the celebration of Communion and the reading of the Memorandum.

We will miss Bro. Kevin Kipfer who has accepted employment in Peoria, IL, and will assemble with the Morton, IL, congregation. May God bless you for your service in Sunday School and enthusiastic and cheerful attitude.

Those of you who assemble in smaller congregations can appreciate the feelings of joy and thankfulness that are felt when a new family moves to your area. We have not only been blessed with one family, but God has led two families to our small Atlanta church. We welcome Bro. Mark Maibach, his wife, Sis. Julie, and their children, Miranda, Rachel, Luke, and Reed. We also welcome Bro. Phillip and Sis. Lana Steidinger, and their children, Naomi, Chloe, Rudy, and Rocky.

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**ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE**

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

“Behold, a sower went forth to sow;”

*Matthew 13:3*

Ours sowers this month were Bro. Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL), Bro. Art Ingold (Rittman, OH), Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) and Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL). The seed was sown and we were taught once again to make sure our soil is prepared so it bears much fruit as we daily get rid of the thorns and daily feed our souls so our roots remain strong in the Lord.

Our other sowers this month were our Sunday school teachers and Sunday school children as they prepared a benefit dinner to raise funds for their mission trip to Magdalena. There they will also sow the seed of the love of God in the hearts of the children.

As we go about our daily lives, may we take the time to sow the seeds of God’s love to all the lives we touch as we endeavor to bear fruit for that great harvest day.

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**ILLINOIS**  
**BLOOMINGTON, NORMAL**

**Jen Heiniger**  
**Betsy Zimmerman**

Sis. Natalie Lehman and Bro. Andrew Gerber, both of Leo, IN, were united in marriage on February 18. Bro. Nate and Sis. Yvonne Lehman (Denver, CO) and Bro. Neil and Sis. Leesa Gerber (Washington, IL) are their parents. We wish them God’s blessings as they establish their home in Leo, IN.

Evan Fleming (Bro. Curt and Sis. Elma) and Rachel Howerton (Dan

and Brenda Howerton), both of Bloomington, have announced their engagement and approaching marriage. They are planning a June 15 wedding.

We rejoice with Bro. Joe and Sis. Carrie Kieser as they gave their testimonies and were baptized on February 25. We welcome them as our new brother and sister in faith.

Bro. Trace and Sis. Denise Brim welcomed home Felicity Kate, born on March 9. Siblings are Autumn and Charity. Grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Wilma Kieser, Mark Brim of Florida, and Sis. Barb Brim, Bloomington.

We thank Bro. Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL) for joining us on March 7 for Family Night. He spoke on family worship. Other visiting ministers this month were Elder Bros. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) and Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL), and Bros. John Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Nate Lehman (Denver, CO), Randy Gudeman (Francesville, IN), and Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL).

We pray for comfort and speedy recoveries for those in our congregation who are recovering from surgeries or illnesses.

Our sympathies go to Bob and Virginia Lockwood for the loss of their daughter-in-law, Angie (Charlie) Lockwood. May you feel the Lord’s comfort.

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

We appreciate the ministers who visited us this month. Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA) and Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL) were used of the Lord for our benefit.

Our sympathy is with the Tanner family at the passing of Bro. John



Tanner. Surviving are his two sons, Bro. Richard (Sis. Marilyn), Bro. Harold (Sis. Imogene), and two daughters, Sis. Wilma (Bro. Melvin) Knobloch, and Sis. Nancy (Bro. Herbert) Stoller. May the Lord remind them of the blessing of having godly parents and comfort them in this difficult time.

Sis. Trisha Kellenberger (Bro. Keith and Sis. Ida) was married to Bro. Doug Rocke from Tremont, IL (Sis. Kathy and the late Bro. Nelson). We wish them a life filled with the blessings of God.

Ryan and Jill Pyles are thankful for the safe arrival of their first child. Olivia Grace was born on March 1. Olivia's grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Becky Pyles and James and Brenda Kelly.

## **ILLINOIS, CHICAGO**

### **Rachel Meyer**

We shared a blessed evening as a congregation in late February when the Sunday School held their annual Benefit Dinner. A special program was presented by the students, including an inspiring report of the work team trip made to Magdalena last summer along with a group from Valparaiso. Proceeds from the event will support future such endeavors on behalf of our various church Mission and World Relief programs.

We were blessed by the visit and ministry of Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO). We extend a warm welcome to Blair Dimmick who has moved to this area from Tremont. We continue to hold up in prayer our dear friend, Gary Halfer, who is now undergoing radiation and chemotherapy treatments. May the Lord continue to provide.

It has been a special joy to hear that Amanda Fehr (Morris, MN) has begun her repentance through faith in Christ Jesus. She works as a nanny in the Chicago area and made her beginning while visiting loved ones in Morris.

## **ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN**

### **Jackie Eisenmann**

Greetings from Champaign-Urbana! The students hosted a Parent Appreciation Weekend on February 17-18. They served their parents and the Champaign church a supper at the church on Saturday evening. We appreciated their efforts. We were blessed on Sunday of that weekend to have several parents worship with us. On the pulpit were Bro. Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL) and Bro. Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN). It was a blessed weekend. Parents, you are always welcome here!

On February 24 the students hosted a conference on campus at the Illini Union entitled "In, But Not Of..." from John 17:15 "I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil." Over 200 attended and our church was blest to have some of the visiting students stay for Sunday.

On Sunday, February 25, we were thankful to have Bro. Jeff Bahler (Wolcott, IN) serving us on the pulpit. Our Wednesday evening Bible studies were conducted by visiting ministers, Bro. Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL), Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), and Bro. Jon Zeller (Morton, IL). We were also blessed to have the opportunity to listen to our retired Elder Bro. David Wiegand on a Wednesday evening. We are so thankful that Bro. David is

still willing to be used in this capacity from time to time.

March 4 was the wedding day of Bro. Ed Ramsey from Mansfield, OH, and our Sis. Michelle Stoller. Their parents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Laura Ramsey (Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Steve and Sis. Ann Marie Stoller (La Crosse, IN). Ed and Michelle will make their home in Mansfield, so we will miss Michelle here in C-U. We also want to thank Michelle for her years of service in Sunday school. We wish them God's many blessings in their new life together. That Sunday Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH), Bro. Ned Stoller (Alto, MI), and Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) shared the pulpit. We were blessed by their efforts in bringing forth God's Word to us.

Visiting us on the pulpit this month was Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN). May God bless him for his labors.

In the hospital this month were Bro. Gilbert (Sis. Kathy) Stock, Sis. Twylla Beer, and Alex Kaeb (Tom and Jill, grandson of Sis. Nancy Hauptli). We pray for their continued healing and strength.



We extend our sympathy to the family of Ralph Edelman (Helen), who passed away this month. His in-laws from our congregation are Sis. Judy Edelman (Urban) and Bro. Bill and Sis. Wanda Maul and Sis. Kathy (Mike) Maul. We also extend our sympathy to Sis. Twylla Beer at the passing of her son-in-law, Sid Zbinden, of Morton.

We rejoice at the news of an engagement in our congregation. Sis. Joanna Kaeb (Bro. Max and Sis. Beth) was announced to Bro. Will Manz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen) of Junction, OH. We wish them God's richest blessings as they plan to become united as one in the Lord.

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

*Children Use Their Talents to*

make our faith grow bold!

What fragments can you gather to  
use your talent fair?  
Carve beauty out of wood chips?  
Of cloth make quilts to share?  
Take time for lonely shut-ins?  
Visit small churches, too?  
Write letters to your loved ones  
who live far away from you?

Recently we were admonished not to hide our talents as they were given to us by God. Instead we should be willing to use them for His glory. The hard part is to make sure the glory goes back to God and not to become proud of that God-given talent.

Our thanks are extended to those who use their talent of revealing God's Word and will to His people through their ministering labors. We especially are grateful for Bro. Paul Schmidgall (Sis. Shawn, Morris, IN) who visited us this past month.

We offer our sympathy to the family of Flossie Hammer. It seems that no matter how old a soul is, there is a gap that occurs in the lives of those still on this earth when that soul's life comes to an end. May we all be certain that we are ready for the last day of our life, as no one knows just how or when that last day will be.

We were thankful to hear the engagement announcement of two souls experiencing God's direction to become one in the Lord. The thankful couple is our Bro. Kent Wiegand (Bro. Rick and Sis. Sue) and Sis. Lanae Zimmerman (Bro. Mark and Sis. Cheryl, Eureka). They are planning an April 22 wedding day.

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**ILLINOIS, ELGIN**  
**Amy Gasser**  
**Miriam Gasser**

According to Thy gracious Word,  
In meek humility,  
This will we do our dying Lord,  
We will remember Thee,  
Thy body broken for our sake,  
Our bread shall be;  
Thy sacramental cup we take,  
And thus remember Thee.

*Hymns of Zion, #301*

On March 3, Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN) assisted Bro. Ron with the serving of Communion. Before we partook of the symbols of Christ's suffering, Bro. Lynn meditated upon Jesus' love and servitude as He observed the Passover with His disciples.

For giving of his time and effort, we thank Elder Bro. Lynn, as well as the other visiting ministers who shared the gospel with us on Invite-a-Couple Weekend. They were Bros. Bruce Frank (Cissna Park, IL), Kevin Knapp (Bloomington-Normal, IL), Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL), and Kim Sutter (Taylor, MO).

We were encouraged to hear that God's peace has been given to the heart of David Kellenberger (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Debbie), who has experienced repentance and conversion. May he feel the support of the brotherhood as he awaits the time of his testimony and baptism.

Two who formerly assembled with us are no longer able and have moved to Resthaven: Dorothy Jones, the mother of Sis. Sandy Kinsinger, and Mary Lindoerfer (Bro. Ken). They enjoy seeing familiar faces on Sunday mornings and throughout the week!

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**ILLINOIS, EUREKA**  
**Cindy Stoller**  
**Heather Beutel**

On March 11, we witnessed the wedding of Bro. Brett Gutwein (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Wendy, Forrest, IL) and Sis. Jennifer Martin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Marilyn). We rejoice with them and pray God's richest blessings will be on their union.

We were blessed with several vis-



iting ministers recently, including Bros. Gary Brown and Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL), Chris Wuethrich (La-Crosse, IN), Bill Dotterer (Lamar, MO), Mike Ursu (Kitchener, Ontario), Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH), and Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA). We are thankful for their service to us. They truly have been profitable for the ministry of Christ.

We grieve with Bro. Bob (Sis. Kathy) Zimmerman and his family as they have recently laid to rest his mother, Sis. Madeline Zimmerman (Roanoke, IL).

As one has departed, we have had four new souls born into this world. Emmy Jean was born to first-time parents, Bro. Alan and Sis. Bethany Wettstein. Her grandparents are Bro. Jake and Sis. Mary Wettstein and Bro. Art and Sis. Pam Wiegand (Goodfield, IL). Also, first-time parents are Bro. Adam and Sis. Bethany Garber, bringing home their little boy, Cyrus Martin. He is the first grandchild of Bro. Craig and Sis. Marilyn Martin and Ray and Sue Garber (Roanoke, IL). Bro. Nate and Sis. Tammy Bradle rejoice in the birth of their fourth child, Micah Dean. He is welcomed home by Esther, Naomi, and Silas. Grandparents of Micah are Bro. Roger and Sis. Ila Bradle and Bro. Charles and Sis. Karen Sinn. Brian and Shannon Tuffentsamer are happy to bring home their first child, Keegan Samuel. His grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Janet Zimmerman and Rick Tuffentsamer (Texas) and Lynn Tuffentsamer (Marquette Heights, IL).

How happy we were to hear the good news of Bethany Carr (Bro. Tim and Sis. Donna) beginning her repentance. "Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a

new heart and a new spirit." (Ezekiel 18:31)

Our medical and hospital patients this month include Sis. Madeline Cawley, Dallas "Cy" Cawley, and Bro. Clarence "Mitz" Lehman. We pray for them and commit their well-being into the hands of our loving God.

Though we feel sadness at the relocation of Bro. Mark and Sis. Brenda Nenadov and their daughter, Laura, we are thankful for the family added to the Sardis, OH, congregation. May God bless their willingness to follow His leading.

*Note of Thanks:*

Dear Loved Ones All,

Nelson and I wish to say "thank you" to all for the prayers on our behalf, since his fall in May 2006. We also thank you for the cards, phone calls, and gifts from all over our land. Without the prayers of our beloved fellowship, we would be most miserable and alone. Nelson has made a change for the better, and can now talk to us and understand what is spoken to him. We give God all the praise and wait on His further blessings if He so wills. May God bless everyone for your concern and love.

Your least ones,

*Bro. Nelson and Sis. Mary Ellen Martin*

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

We are thankful for visiting ministers that come and are willing to share God's Holy Word with us. Those who spent time here are Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Bros. Warren Schlatter (Junction, OH), Gary Brown (Forrest), Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN),

Mark Zimmerman (Eureka), Jeff Bahler (Wolcott, IN) and Bill Masters (North Ft. Myers, FL).

We rejoice with two families that brought home precious newborn daughters this month. Little Whitney Anne joined the family of Bro. Alex, Sis. Traci and Jaydon Steidinger. Grandparents are Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish Steidinger and Bro. Ivan and Sis. Cinda Fehr. Bro. Bill, Sis. Shay, Rachel and Shayla Stork welcomed home Jolyn Marie. Jolyn's grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Eunice Stork and Bro. Chris and Sis. Kay Steffen.

Our hospital patients were Sis. Karen Steffen, Bro. Ben Lorch, Bro. Duane Kilgus, and little Lilly Blunier (Bro. Dave and Sis. Kara).

...Ready to go, Ready to stay,  
Ready my place to fill;  
Ready for service, lowly or great,  
Ready to do His will.

*Hymns of Zion # 124*

It's with mixed emotion that we bid farewell to Bro. Phillip and Sis. Lana Steidinger and their family who have heeded God's call to join the small group of Apostolic Christian believers assembling in Atlanta, GA. We are thankful they are willing for service, but will surely miss their presence here in Fairbury.

We were privileged to host the Western Area World Relief Project Informational Meeting in March at our Fellowship Hall. It was very well attended by brethren and friends from across the country as well as our local congregation. We heard about several current World Relief projects and how we can become involved. There were also various displays of items made for purchase by people in some of the



poorest areas of the world. Our local World Relief correspondents wish to thank everyone that came, especially those who gave presentations. "...Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matt. 25:40

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### ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Jill Wenger  
Lori Leman**

We are so thankful for God's Holy Word still going forth in truth through our visiting ministers. Bro. Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL), Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), Bro. Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL), Bro. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA), Bro. Rod Bajema (Lester, IA), Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL), and Bro. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN) were our visiting ministers this month.

A second son was born to Bro. Adam and Sis. Rachel Zimmerman. This newborn baby was named Tristan Wayne and has a big brother, Nolan, at home to love him. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Sherri Kelson and Bro. Rod and Sis. Micki Zimmerman.

Bro. Brett Gutwein and Sis. Jennifer Martin were united in the Lord through marriage at Eureka, IL, on March 11. Bro. Brett's parents are Bro. Jeff and Sis. Wendy Gutwein and Sis. Jennifer's parents are Bro. Craig and Sis. Marilyn Martin (Eureka, IL). We wish this new couple God's blessings all the days of their life and warmly welcome Sis. Jennifer to the Forrest congregation.

We pray God's healing hand can be felt in Sis. Velma Koehl's life as she recovers from a recent surgery.

### ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

**Amber Grimm  
Rita Bauman**

We are thankful for the service of our visiting ministers this past month. Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary, Fairbury, IL) shared the Memorandum with us on March 21, for which we were thankful for his words of admonishment for our walk of faith. Others here were Bros. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL), Steph Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley, IL), Bill Waibel (Sis. Carol, Bay City, MI), Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandy, Alto, MI), and Steve Stieglitz (Sis. Jane, Leo, IN). We enjoyed these visitors and pray that God will bless their lives.

In February, we held our annual business meeting. Bro. Mark Steffen is replacing Bro. Dave Zobrist as trustee, while Sunday School teachers going in are Sisters Shelley Rokey and Jenise Wiegand replacing Sisters Michelle Knapp and Cindy Schmidgall.

Bros. Rick Bauman, Randy Berardi, Tadd Gerst, Nate Sauder, and Kevin Wiegand will replace Bros. Andy Bauman, Brandon Descarpentrie, Steve Rocke, and Loren Zeltwanger. Bro. Steve Gerst will replace Bro. Dean Knobloch as church secretary. May the Lord bless those that were put in as they fulfill their duties. We thank those brothers and sisters whose terms have expired for their years of service and wish them God's richest blessings.

"As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the Lord is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him."

*Psalms 18:30*

Our sincere sympathy is ex-

tended to Bro. Ben Tanner, Sr. and Sis. Minnie Grusy on the death of their brother, Bro. John Tanner (Bradford, IL).

Our prayers for recovery of health and healing mercies are with Bro. Bob Schieler, Sr., and Kody Post (Bro. Greg and Sis. Missy), as they spent some time in the hospital.

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

*Genesis 2:24*

We rejoice with Sis. Meika Monfre and Bro. Jake Gerst as they were joined in Holy Matrimony on March 18. Their parents are Bro. Tony and Sis. Deonne Monfre, and Bro. Wally and Donna Gerst (Alto, MI). May God bless this couple as they begin their walk together.

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### ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

**Perry A. Klopfenstein**

You can smile when you can't say a word;  
You can smile when you can't be heard;  
You can smile when it's cloudy or fair;  
You can smile anytime, anywhere.

A smile and a cheerful countenance can serve as a pleasant witness for the name of Christ. A smile can both precede and accompany the love of Christ. As believers, we should be smiling a lot as we exhibit kindness in the name of Christ the Lord on a daily basis.

We were privileged to take Holy Communion on Wednesday evening, March 14. Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Peoria, IL) was here to help



with this work.

On Monday evening, March 12, Elder Bro. Ron Messner was here to present a report on the Home for the Handicapped at Morton. This was held in the Fellowship Hall. Our local Bro. Jerry Christensen, a board member, assisted him in this presentation. It was very interesting to be updated on the work at the Home as they care for persons with severe needs. May God continue to bless their efforts.

Sis. Carol Schrenk fell and broke her ankle. Bro. Larry Kiefer is still recovering from surgery. Bro. Elmer Witzig also continues to recover from his surgery. Sis. Shirley Kilgus also had surgery. We pray that God will help where the help of man cannot reach.

On March 8, a son, Jude Michael Gramm, was born to Bro. Joel and Sis. Jessica Gramm. He has a sister, Josie, 6, and a brother, Josiah, 3. Grandparents are Bro. Keith and Sis. Linda Zimmerman and Bro. Mike and Sis. Rosie Gramm. Great-grandparents are Bro. Herb and Sis. Jane Gramm, and Sis. Marge Meiss, Gridley; and Sis. Christiane Erkert, Peoria, and John and Lois Zimmerman, Fairbury.

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

Hosanna to our Risen Lord! God's work becomes our labor of love, when we say "yes" to an assignment He wants to give us. Otherwise our souls will grow skinny, starved and weak. For we were created for abundant fullness in His service. Give an enthusiastic "Yes!" to God's call to devotion and service. It's what releases His power and His joy in our souls. In preparation for Com-

munion service and this Easter Season we have been given the assignment to examine ourselves to come before His throne for correction, devotion and service.

On February 4 we had an invite a friend evening for our monthly hymn sing. The Mortonaires men's group sang with grace in their hearts to the Lord, bringing blessing to our evening. I never tire of hearing their voices blend together!

Bro. Ted Hirstein (Sis. Joyce) gave our topic on Family Worship night entitled "A Checklist for Encouragers." Each one of us has the privilege to come alongside another to give them a little "Honk" to keep on keeping on; as do the geese in the back of a flying formation. I'm amazed at the inspiration one sweet moment can bring.

Following an extraordinary birthing process, little Rya Grace made her debut truly as a miracle birth, to parents Bro. Tim and Sis. Jessie Mueller. The precious baby girl is cherished by big sis Kailie along with grandparents, Bro. Doug and Sis. Gerry Kruse and Bro. Jim and Sis. Jan Mueller (Roanoke, IL).

A little boy, Tao Joseph, was born to Bro. Joey and Sis. Julie Hoerr (Peoria, IL). Thankful grandparents are Bro. Randy and Sis. Jane Schick and Bro. Joe and Sis. Joanne Hoerr. Siblings, Kai, Aja, and Zoe welcome baby Tao into their home.

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**ILLINOIS, PEORIA**

**Kristin Menold**  
**Carissa Klopfenstein**

We wish to thank the quartet from Gridley, Living Waters, for singing at our monthly Hymn Sing on March 4, as well as the 3rd-5th Sunday school children. Your music was an encouragement to us and we

appreciate your efforts.

On February 25, the Peoria Choir traveled to Washington, IL, for their monthly Hymn Sing. They wish to extend their thanks to the Washington congregation for their warm welcome, enjoyable fellowship, and delicious snacks.

The choir from Cissna Park visited our congregation in Peoria on Sunday, March 4. They sang at the jail early in the morning and at the home on Skyline drive directly following church services. Before returning to Cissna Park, they had a meal at church with us. We are glad you could be with us. Thank you for your ministry to those in prison and the elderly. We wish you God's continued blessings.

The annual Benefit Dinner is scheduled to take place April 28. Please contact Sis. Eva Jean Schaefer if you would like to reserve a seat for this event.

We thank Bro. Jeff Thames and his family for being with us on Wednesday, March 7, for our Family Night. Bro. Jeff shared many stories and analogies that were applicable to the topic, Living a Life of Purpose.

We rejoice with Caleb Hoerr (Bro. Don and Sis. Jackie) who has come in repentance this past month. We wish you God's grace as you begin your journey.

Our prayers are with Bro. Randy and Sis. Becky Marx in the passing of Bro. Randy's mother, Loretta Marx, and Bro. Dan and Sis. Kayla Hoerr in the passing of her mother, Sis. Vi Schmidgall, from Morris, MN.

We pray for the strength and healing of our Sis. Amy Ginzler, Bro. Herman Schaefer, Bro. Wayne Wieland, and Bro. Ed Meister II as they deal with various health issues.



Easter is quickly approaching. Our Easter program is scheduled for March 25.

Communion is scheduled for Palm Sunday and there will be a Sunrise Service held at our Fellowship Hall Easter morning.

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## ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

**Vera Baer  
Connie Christ**

"Out onto Calvary's hill, where Jesus died I'll go." We were privileged to partake of Holy Communion on Saturday, March 17. Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN) assisted our Elder Bro. Jim with this work.

This month we also appreciated the labors of other visiting ministering brothers which included Bros. Bruce Endress (Bradford, IL) and Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA).

We continue to remember our loved ones who have had surgery, been hospitalized, or are suffering the illnesses of the flesh. These include Bro. Nate and Sis. Esther Martin, Bro. Dave (Sis. Beulah) Ehnle, Wolfgang (Barb) Christ, Gerald "Pooch" (Louise) Martin, and Bro. Nick (Sis. Gladys) Knobloch. May God continue to heal and provide as only He is able for every need. Our Sis. Edith Martin has moved to Peoria Skylines Nursing Home. May God be with her in this adjustment in life.

We rejoice with the angels in heaven and with Bro. Fred and Sis. Nancy Menold as their daughter, Whitney, has begun her repentance and is seeking the Lord's will in her life. May God be very near her and all of our converts as they seek to submit and humble themselves before God.

We have several happy grandpar-

ents in our congregation who are enjoying sharing their love with a new grandchild. Bro. Art and Sis. Joy Baurer welcomed Simon Thomas Baurer on February 19. His parents, Clark and Irica, and big sister Amelia, are also enjoying him. Bro. Gale and Sis. Sonia Stoller are enjoying Gavin John Stoller, born on March 2, along with his parents, Alex and Cassie, and big sister, Caitlyn. Bro. John and Sis. Liz Wieland have added Noah Joseph Wieland to their family circle on March 6, and Brent and Jessica are happy first-time parents. Bro. Steve and Sis. Mary Lynn Streitmatter have welcomed Madison Kate Cozadd into their family circle. Ben and Esther are her thankful parents along with happy siblings, Gage and Lilly.

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## ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

**Dee Fehr  
Judy Sauder**

Bro. Tony and Sis. Katie Mueller became first time parents of Jordan Levi on February 19. Excited grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Joyce Hodel and Bro. Jim and Sis. Jan Mueller. We rejoice with them and wish them God's blessings as they raise him in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley) spoke on the "Biblical Perspective on Competition" at our Family Worship on February 21. We were reminded that we were created to serve others and to seek the welfare of others; these ideas are contrary to a competitive spirit.

On March 11, Bro. Matt Steffen (Princeville) ministered to us. We are grateful to these brothers for letting themselves be used of the Lord in the outreach of the Gospel.

On March 3, the Bible Class hosted their annual spaghetti supper. It is a joy to witness students and adults working together to raise money for a charitable cause.

"Amazing Grace", a group of men from the Bloomington congregation were guests at our Family Sing on March 4. We were inspired by their songs of praise and worship to the Lord.

Sis. Jane Hodel's sister, Frances Gotto, of Schaumburg passed away February 23. We extend our love and sympathy to Sis. Jane and her family.

On March 4, Ron Lindwall of Minneapolis passed away. His survivors include his wife, Betty (Rassi) Lindwall, who was originally from Roanoke, three sons, Erik (Laura), Bob (Sarah) and John, and two brothers, Henry and Richard. We are so thankful that Ron had given his heart to the Lord in repentance shortly before his death. Bro. Duane Rocke (Minneapolis) was privileged to work with Ron in his desire to seek the Lord and was able to be with us and participate in the funeral which was held in Roanoke.

"It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness." (Lamentations 3:22-23). Bro. Dick Hoffman (Sis. Ann), Russ Leman and Mark Blunier (Cathy) are dealing with various health issues. We pray for God's healing touch upon them, and that in all things, His will would be done.

On March 14, the Scripture Memory program was held. Our grade school students presented a program with various Bible verses set to music which they've memorized over the last few months. These Bible verses will stay with



them throughout their lives to be a source of guidance and instruction.

*Notes of Thanks:*

The family of Jerry Hodel would like to express their heartfelt thanks to everyone for their kind words, cards, flowers, and memorials in Jerry's name. Losing a loved one is never easy but we felt we had been blessed by having Jerry with us two years longer than expected and for that we will be forever grateful. Since turning his life over to the Lord, Jerry couldn't wait to get to church. There may be an empty seat in our church, but we are sure he is in the front row in God's Church.

We would also like to thank everyone who sent Jerry a card for his 71st birthday. He was so surprised and couldn't believe that he could have received so many. It really made his birthday a special one.

The family of Sis. Ann (Beer) Hangartner wishes to thank those who visited her, sent cards and prayers, while at the Apostolic Christian Nursing Home. And for the love, kind deeds and prayers offered on our behalf during the loss of our dear mother and sister. God bless each of you.

*Doris Irving*

*Marvin and Gwen Hangartner*

*Sis. Margaret Beer*

We would like to thank everyone who remembered our family with prayers, cards, food, and memorials since the passing of Sis. Madlyn Zimmerman. May God bless each one of you.

*The Robert Zimmerman Family*

## ILLINOIS, TREMONT

**Teresa Rowell**

**Sheri Allen**

Rejoicing over the birth of their precious baby boy are Bro. Landon and Sis. Teresa Rowell. Timothy Robert was born on January 11. Benjamin is excited to be a big brother. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Jeannette Beutel and Bro. John and Sis. Nelda Rowell (Burlington, IA).

Engaged to be married are Greg Huetten (Bro. Bill and Sis. Marilyn) and Sally Nicholson. Our prayers are with them as they prepare for their wedding.

We want to remember Sis. Ida Schweigert (Bro. Chris) and her family in our prayers as they mourn the loss of her sister, Florence Miller. We pray that they can feel God's loving comfort during this time of sorrow.

Bro. Si Wagenbach (Sis. LaVonne), Bro. Cleo Koch (Sis. Nancy) and Bro. Derek Sauder (Sis. Leann) have all spent time in the hospital recently. We continue to pray that they will experience God's healing touch.

We want to welcome Bro. Bill and Sis. Ellie Knobloch to our congregation. They have recently moved here from Lester, IA. We are glad to have them worshipping with us.

We were able to gather together for the Memorandum. We were glad to have Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) with us that evening. We appreciate his willingness to assist Elder Bro. Charles. Other visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Fred Funk (Morton, IL) and Bro. Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL). We are so thankful for their service.

## ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

**Nancy Knepp**

**Elizabeth Heinold**

This month we've gotten a glimpse of spring in the air! It's exciting to see things getting green and bulbs poking up through the ground. It reminds me of the seasons of life the Lord takes us through and how harsh elements and sunny days of life combine to help us grow.

We were blessed with visiting ministers this month. Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI) thoughtfully shared the Word with us and Bro. Tim Hohulin (Sis. Cathy, Roanoke, IL) shared a Bible Study with us. We are grateful to these brothers and their families.

Our prayers are with those in a difficult season of life who have health concerns. Harold Wettstein continues his chemotherapy and we are glad to see him in church when he is able to attend. Our Sis. Sue Ruppert is recovering from surgery and we look forward to seeing her back in church in the weeks to come. Bro. Frank Wackerle, husband of our Sis. Alma, is back home at the nursing home recovering from surgery.

There are those in our congregation who are dealing with the loss of someone they love. Our Sis. Ann Meiss (Bro. Harold) has lost her sister, Sis. Vila Schmidgall, from Morris, MN. Bro. John and Sis. Ellen Cox have said good-bye to Bro. John's mother, Mary Ann Cox, from Burlington, IA. Also saying goodbye to a dear mother was our Sis. Tammy (Bro. Steve) Hofstetter. Sis. Madeline Zimmerman (Roanoke, IL) was called home.

*Note of Thanks:*

Thanks to all for the cards,



prayers, thoughts and concerns for me during my recent illness. May God bless each one.

*Harold Wettstein*

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## **INDIANA, BLUFFTON**

**Jan Schwartz  
Amber Steffen**

“For I am the Lord your God, the holy one of Israel, your Savior...”

*Isaiah 43:3*

It seems that at times we are reminded daily of the Lord's presence in our lives. Within the past month at Bluffton, God has moved in the hearts of three converts, and we rejoice with them as they prepare for baptisms in the near future. Jonathan Magnin (David and Judy Hussaker), Bill Frauhiger (Bro. Kris and Sis. Annie), and Ashley Fiechter (Bro. Brian and Sis. Deb) have all expressed a peace and commitment to God's service, and we are prayerful for them in the upcoming weeks as they anticipate their baptisms.

The congregation will be sharing in Communion on March 17, and as we prepare our hearts for such a wonderful evening, we feel blessed to be able to share it with two visiting Elders. Bro. Tom Klotzle (Sis. Jody, Altadena, CA) and Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Sis. Nancy, Phoenix, AZ) plan to be with us to share in the remembrance of Christ's ultimate sacrifice for us. We are thankful for their willingness to share this special moment with us.

It is always a blessing to see the church body coming together for those in need. This month there are several who have had the opportunity to reach out to those in need. Justin Grube, the 18 year old son of Bro. Jay and Sis. Ronda Grube, is

currently hospitalized with pneumonia and other severe complications. Prayers from the church have been evident throughout the course of Justin's trauma and continued prayers are truly appreciated on his behalf.

Jesse Terhune is recovering from colon and stomach surgery. He, too, deeply has appreciated the prayers of the church. Walt Snodgrass also extended his thanks and request for continued prayers as he recovers slowly from shoulder surgery.

Jeff Frauhiger (the grandson of Sis. Mary Frauhiger and the son of Leon "Pete" Frauhiger and Susie (Speheger) Tinnel) was killed in an automobile accident recently. We lift this family up in prayer in their time of sorrow.

There have been many opportunities for service in the past month as well. Several teams from Bluffton have traveled to Agua Prieta and Magdalena, MX, for a week at these two orphanages. It's incredible to see the blessings that come out of serving others wherever we are.

As spring arrives, we are truly thankful for the rising opportunities to be prayerful for others and to lend ourselves in service to the Master! May God richly bless you in the next month!

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## **INDIANA BLUFFTON NORTH Sherry Pfister**

This month Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Sally Frauhiger welcomed their new son, Clay Alan, into the world on March 15. He joins siblings, Livia, Kaitlyn, Breann and Quinn. Grandparents are Bro. Alan and Sis. Sheryl Ringger and Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene Frauhiger.

New grandparents are Brian and

Marcia Brewster with grandson, Jackson Bradley White. The proud parents are Bradley and Lori.

Our sympathies to Sis. Mary Honegger (Bro. Bob) in the loss of her brother, Phil Heinold, of Valparaiso, Indiana.

We welcome Sis. Kristi Tucker to our church family. She has recently relocated to Bluffton from Mansfield. We look forward to her support and family visiting us also.

Several loved ones have been hospitalized: Sis. Wanda Gerber (Bro. Wendell), Bro. Paul Meyer (Sis. Sarah Jane), and Blane Baumgartner (son of Bro. Brad and Sis. Michelle). We pray the Lord's presence and healing touch be with them.

We were very glad that Bro. Howard Baumgartner (Sis. Joyce) returned to our Sunday worship following his stroke and convalescence.

Bro. Carroll Gerber (Sis. Louise) would like to thank each one of you for cards and prayers while he was recuperating from his stroke. God bless you.

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## **INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Barbara Huber Jessica Murray**

Greetings in the blessed name of Jesus! It is a joy to witness blue skies and sunshine which signal the arrival of Spring after the serious blizzards we experienced in February. Due to the storm, we were forced to assemble for Sunday services on February 18 at our Fellowship Center. It was a wonderful, united effort on the part of our brethren that we could quickly re-arrange to enjoy Sunday worship. Once again, the blessing of our fellowship becomes apparent to us!

Our thoughts and prayers are



with our Sis. Marie Heinold with the recent loss of her son, Phil. We pray that the God of all comfort will be her constant help and strength as she goes through this time of sorrow, and that she will be encouraged by the love and prayers of the church.

With our love and support we are thankful to announce the following who were recently elected to various offices. Sunday School teachers are our Brothers Les Kaeb, Jeff Tanner and Kevin Wuethrich and Sisters Rosa Wuethrich and April Young. Joining our Ushering Brothers are Larry Leman, John Murray and Mike Putt. Bro. Dale Gudeman is our new Church Trustee; and Bro. Richard Overmyer, our Fellowship Center Trustee. Serving on our Missionary Committee will be Bro. Karl Westfall while Bro. Roger Overmyer will be joining our Parkview Haven Board. We pray God's grace and blessing on them and on everyone already serving the Lord in leadership positions.

Our ministering Bro. Brian Huber blessed us through the inspiration of God's Holy Spirit with a topical Bible Study based on I John 1:7 with the theme of "Walking in the Light". Bro. Brian relayed an earlier experience of "spelunking" or cave exploration as a contrast to our Christian walk. Without a light in a darkened cave, danger was imminent and great physical harm could be encountered. The possibility of taking a wrong "fork" could result in being lost beneath the earth and not finding our way out. The parallel is that in our spiritual lives, walking without the light of God's Word applied to our every day renders us just as helpless to reach our Heavenly home. The evening was very thought provoking and a chal-

lenge to each of us to honestly examine our lives. Walking in the light of God is also the only true source of joy and loving fellowship with one another.

Our Bible Class attended the Apostolic Christian Youth Fellowship Day at Purdue University recently. May God bless our young people and the teachers who faithfully teach them.

We continue to be thankful for our brothers and sisters who have been experiencing physical illnesses and surgeries and are realizing healing. It is a privilege to pray one for another.

As we look forward to the glory of another Easter, may we also reflect and remember the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus on the cross of Calvary which opened our only opportunity of salvation.

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

*Isaiah 53:5*

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

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

*Proverbs 18:22*

Following God's direction has led Bro. Rudy Troxel (Bro. Tom and Sis. Luann) and Sis. Rosario Gonzalez (Sis. Bertha and the late Bro. Javier Gonzalez - Ixtlan, Mexico) to announce their engagement. Also re-joining are Bro. Steve and Sis. Anna Marie Stoller at the marriage of

their daughter, Sis. Michelle (Champaign, IL) to Bro. Ed Ramsey (Mansfield, OH). We wish God's richest blessings to both of these couples as they seek His will in their lives.

Our thanks go to Bro. Don Steidl (Akron, OH) as he served us in the ministry. May he feel God's blessings for his labors on our behalf.

Several from our congregation were able to travel to Biloxi, Mississippi, recently to help on the work projects down there. We are thankful for their safe return home.

Our Bible Class spent the day at Purdue University on March 10 for the ACYF gathering. We appreciate those who organize and those who teach our youth at events such as these.

We are glad to have Bro. Calvin Schneider assembling with us again after a couple of weeks of recuperation from a back surgery. May he continue to feel God's healing touch.

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

"This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you."

*John 15:12*

On February 18, Bro. Andrew Gerber and Sis. Natalie Lehman was united in marriage. The wedding was held in Bloomington, IL. While Bro. Andrew and Sis. Natalie have been serving at Gateway for some time, we welcome them into our congregation as a new couple in Christ. Their parents are Bro. Neil and Sis. Leesa Gerber (Washington, IL) and Bro. Nate and Sis. Yvonne Lehman (Denver, CO).



On February 25, Sis. Anna Pfister (Bro. Dave and Sis. Karen) and Bro. Mitch Schlatter (Bro. Gus and Sis. Leann, Latty, OH) were pronounced husband and wife in the Lord. Bro. Mitch and Sis. Anna have chosen to continue living in the Indianapolis area. We pray that both of these couples will sense God's nearness as they start their lives together.

We were blessed this month to have many visitors including ministering brothers. Elder Bro. John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia, Latty, OH), Bros. Dwight Stoller (Sis. Lori, Latty, OH), Greg Stieglitz (Sis. Lisa, Indianapolis, IN) and Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis, IN) were with us for Bro. Mitch and Sis. Anna's wedding. A heartfelt thanks to all of you for your willingness to serve and bless us.

"Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others."

*Philippians 2:4*

As a church we would like to welcome Sis. Ann Jacobs (Bay City, MI) and Bro. Ryan and Sis. Bethany Donaghy (Bluffton, IN) to our congregation. Donaghy's have four children, Kyler, Kinsey, Alayna, and baby Audrey. Sis. Ann and Donagnys have come to work at Gateway Woods. We pray that they would feel welcome here at Leo. May God bless them for looking at the needs of others and serving our brotherhood at Gateway Woods.

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

*Psalms 127:3*

On February 23, Audrey Nicole

was born to Bro. Ryan and Sis. Bethany Donaghy. Audrey's excited siblings are Kyler, Kinsey, and Alayna. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Terry and Sis. Jean Neuenschwander (Bluffton, IN) and Tom Donaghy (Ossian, IN) and Sherry Donaghy (Ft. Wayne, IN).

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Erik and Sis. Carrie Wiegand and Sis. Christy Wiegand for the loss of their mother, Sis. Barb (Bro. Ron, Goodfield, IL). Our prayers continue for them as they return to their daily lives. May God grant them His measure of comfort. We will also miss Sis. Christy as she moves back to be with her family in Goodfield, IL. We thank her for serving at Gateway Woods.

We also extend our prayers to Sis. Velma Williams who had surgery this month. We pray that God would be her comfort and strength.

As spring begins again in our area, may we all take a moment and remember our Heavenly Father as the Great Creator. The newness of life should remind all of us of His faithfulness.

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### INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Beth Virkler  
Tammy Waibel**

We greet you in the Lord's name. Spring is officially here and we have Jesus' dying on the cross for our sins to be very thankful for at this time of the year.

This month's visiting ministers are: Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. (Sis. Donna, Morton, IL), Elder Bro. Curtis Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN), Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL) and Bro. Marshall Heinold (Sis. Janice, Ixtlan, Mexico). Thank you and your families for giving of your time to

help us to better understand the words of the Lord.

We had two souls come to the church on a Saturday evening this month and offered their testimonies to us and were baptized the following day. These two young men were: Bro. Mark Waibel (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Jody) and Bro. Luke Bahler (Bro. Tim and Sis. Lynnette). We are so very blessed to greet you as our brothers in faith.

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### INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**Becky Langhofer  
Natalie Virkler**

We are thankful to Elder Bro. Curt Frank and his wife, Sis. Lyla (Lacrosse, IN), and Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN) for coming to share the Memorandum with us.

Our love and prayers go with Sis. Kara Beebe, as she will be working in Ohio for three months. She will be attending the Toledo church while there. Our small congregation will miss her and look forward to her return! Dr. Aline Merkle will also be missed as she has moved to Parkview Haven nursing home in Francesville, IN. Our prayers are with her as she makes this transition.

"Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."

*Isaiah 53:4-6*

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## INDIANA, VALPARAISO

### Marguerite Hoerr

We were unable to drive to Valpo church the first Sunday of this month because of ice and blowing snow causing whiteouts. It's a 38 mile drive for us, so considering our age, we have to make that decision. By missing the first Sunday we missed ministering Bro. Ron Kipfer (Sis. Linda, Bluffton, IN). As we understand, they braved the weather and we wished for their same courage. Reports were that their visit was a true blessing to everyone who attended.

On this particular Sunday, the LaCrosse congregation was once again able to worship in their own church home, after being with us for the three previous weekends. We loved having our benches full those three Sundays and the resounding singing that accompanied them, and we missed their fellowship.

The second Sunday of the month ministering Bro. Randy Gudeman and his wife, Sis. Becky, came to visit. Since our Michigan weather did not deter our going to church that Sunday, we can personally say what a blessing they were to us. Also worshipping with us and helping mightily with the singing were the three Wuethrich brothers, Bro. Mark and Sis. Lynne's sons.

Our deepest sympathy is expressed to Sis. Marie Heinold, who's son, Phil, passed away recently. Marie worshipped with us at Valpo before making her home in Parkview Haven, Francesville. As her heart has always been with the Valpo congregation, so is our heart with her as she mourns the death of a dear son, and adjusts to his loss. Bro. Garry Bucher officiated at the services for Phil.

We spent a week in Florida with our son and his wife, Bob and Lilliam Hoerr, and their daughter, Allison. It was a wonderful time of touching hearts and of enjoying the sand, sun and the water. God allows these respites for us intermittently and we are so grateful. We realized as we flew back home, what a wonderful country we have and what privileges we are given to travel by various means. We were able to go from our home in New Buffalo, Michigan, to their winter home on Little Gasparilla Island. While in that area we visited my loved cousin, Bro. Vic Beer, and his dear wife, Sis. Dorothy. We were privileged to visit the Ft. Myers church and were blessed there as we found many old friends and enjoyed warm times in visiting with them.

Since we're home, our son-in-law, Dick Pelath, was able to drive over to visit us. His body is replacing diseased cells with healthy cells, following his stem cell transplant, and he says his pain is manageable. Prayers have been ongoing for his welfare and are so appreciated.

The Easter season will be gone by the time you read this news. During the intermittent time we will once again be reminded of the supreme sacrifice when our Lord traveled to His death, carrying His own cross. We'll rejoice in His resurrection and the promise of eternal life. How can we not give Him our best and commit our lives to Him?

## INDIANA WEST LAFAYETTE

### Hollie Meister Darlene Walder

This month we had the opportunity to gather to hear the Confer-

ence report from Elder Bros. Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL) and Curt Frank (Lacrosse, IN). Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN), Bruce Frank (Cissna Park, IL), and Dan Beer (Milford, IN).

We thank each of them for bringing us God's Word.

Our Bible class along with other high school students from our Indiana churches gathered at Purdue for ACYF (Apostolic Christian Youth Fellowship) on March 11. They all enjoyed a day of fellowship and hearing the wonderful Word of God.

## INDIANA, WOLCOTT

### Lowell Bahler Erica Blume

"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help; My help cometh from the Lord which made heaven and earth."

*Psalm 121:1-2*

We are thankful for Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam; Washington, IL) and Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. (Sis. Donna; Morton, IL) who represented the Apostolic Christian Counseling Service to us. The brothers shared what they have learned about depression and the help that is available to those who are affected by it. The following day, they presented a women's seminar on a variety of relevant topics surrounding Christ-centered self-worth, relationships, and body image. God blessed their efforts to our hearts.

March 4 was a most blessed day for us as two young souls, Kimberly Lehman (Bro. Greg and Sis. Mary Beth) and Rebekah Edelman (Bro.



Kip and Sis. Donita) were taken into the fold. We rejoice with them and thank our Elder Bros. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna; Remington, IN) and Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary Ann; Fairbury, IL) for their labors of love and for sharing the Word with us on that day. Also present with us were ministering Bros. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy; Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandy; Alto, MI).

On Wednesday evening, March 14, our Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna; Remington, IN) was with the combined Remington and Wolcott churches for a Communion exhortation. We appreciate his willingness to lay our solemn responsibilities upon our hearts.

Sis. Irene Ratcliffe has been relocated now from Monticello Healthcare to Parkview Haven Retirement Home in Francesville. Judy Heinzelman was recently diagnosed with a second kind of cancer and would benefit from our prayers and support as she faces treatment.

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### IOWA, BLOOMFIELD

#### Barbara Schock

"There's a peace in my heart, that the world never gave..." Believing that he has found peace with God and man, it has been announced that our convert, Daniel Maibach (Bro. Tim and Sis. Mary), is ready to come before the church, desiring baptism. March 24 and 25 has been set aside for his provings and baptism. We are thankful that he has found peace, and pray that he may feel the Lord's nearness in the coming days.

March 3 and 4 was our annual Invite-A-Couple weekend. We were blessed by a number of visitors from far and near who came to share in the weekend. Among these visitors

were ministering brothers, Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley) and Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Lisa, Eureka). We thank these brothers for letting themselves be used during the weekend, and may the Lord richly bless them for all their efforts and deeds.

Also that same weekend, it was made known unto the church that two souls have sought the Lord's will in their life, and following His direction, are now engaged. Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Rachel Maibach (Bro. Tim and Sis. Mary) and Bro. Doug Stoller (the late Bro. Harold and Sis. Luella) from our Smithville congregation, as they prepare for their life together. A wedding date has been set for May 13, Lord willing.

Our thoughts and prayers are also with Sis. Evelyn Metzger (Roy) and Bro. Russell Wuthrich as they continue to battle afflictions of the flesh. May they feel the Lord's healing hand through it all.

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### IOWA, BURLINGTON

#### Laurie Schulz Krystal Knapp

This past month we were thankful to have the Memorandum letter read to us and expounded upon at the Oakville Church. There was much encouragement and direction to help us in our daily walk with Christ.

We are also thankful to have Bro. John Buster assembling with us again after some time in the hospital.

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### IOWA, ELGIN

#### Gloria Frieden Heidi Butikofer

"Then Peter said unto them, Re-

pent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins..."

*Acts 2:28*

Baptism: "...the answer of a good conscience toward God..."

*I Peter 3:21*

We rejoice with our new brother in faith, Caleb Knobloch (Bro. Jim and Sis. Marcy), who has found the grace to repent and allow God to work His miraculous work of conversion within him. May God remain with Caleb all the days of his life as he seeks to know His will in all things, as he battles against the enemy of his soul and as he endures the trials, temptations and tests of this life.

Visiting ministers for this blessed occasion were Elder Bros. Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA), Paul Messner (Sis. Jan, Winthrop, MN) and Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA), and Bro. Kevin Banwart (Sis. Sandy, West Bend, IA).

Bro. Albert Butikofer (Sis. LaVerne) is recuperating at home following his recent open heart surgery. May God continue to bless him with renewed strength.

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### IOWA, GARDEN GROVE

#### Willa Clark

There are friendships that we cherish  
in our daily walk of life,  
Friends with whom we meet  
and labor,  
In our earthly toil and strife.

Friends among the aged and  
youthful,  
friends who live from us apart. . .  
But we prize the friendships  
highest,



of the one whose heart is true,  
 Friends who live by truth and  
 goodness  
 And who live in Him anew.  
 Friends whose hearts are up in  
 heaven,  
 Though their feet traverse this  
 sod,  
 Find a place of highest merit  
 in our fellowship with God.  
 —*Christian Friendship,*  
*Hymns of Zion, #91*

The year 2007 marks the 30th year since our church building at Garden Grove was built. We recently were talking of all those dear ones who have been a part of our congregation at some point in those 30 years, whether for a period of several years or just a short college stay. Some have gone on to meet the Lord. Many have moved to another community, perhaps had several addresses since being a part of our congregation.

We talked of how much we appreciate the time you were here. We would like to gather as many of you as possible in our church the weekend of June 23-24. We are planning a supper and singing on Saturday evening and a day of fellowship and worship on Sunday. Whether you were one of the college students in Ames and Des Moines who made Garden Grove your home church away from home, or if you lived and worked in our community, we would like to have you join us. We truly do prize the friendships of those who love the Lord.

We have room for a few in our homes, but depending on the response, some will need to stay in a motel. We have learned there is another event in the area, so you may want to call soon for a room. Please call Bro. Brad and Sis. Laura Funk

at 641-443-2661 or Sis. Willa Clark at 641-414-2549 to let us know you are coming. We can also give you a list of motels in the area.

While we prize the fellowship we have had with brothers, sisters and friends through the years, we also value those who have visited in recent weeks. Visitors who have shared God's Word and wisdom with us were Bro. Bruce Endress (Sis. Elizabeth, Bradford, IL), Bro. Brandon Emch (Sis. Maria, Kansas City, MO), Bro. Tom Schambach (Sis. Connie, Elgin, IL), Bro. Matt Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville, IL), Bro. Steve Sauder (Sis. Mary, Tremont, IL), and Bro. Phillip Shultz (Sis. Kelly, Burlington, IA). Our thanks to the many who travel to fellowship with us. Elder Bros. John Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Oakville, IA) and Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield, IA) spent a Sunday with us and shared the Memorandum. We are indeed a blessed people to have Elders and their wives who give so much to guide us on life's pathway.

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### IOWA, IOWA CITY Diana Butikofer

We rejoice at the news of Elizabeth Bryan (Joe and Cinda) beginning her repentance. We pray our Lord will guide her as she seeks Him and His will.

We were glad to have our Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall and his wife, Sis. Julie (Oakville, IA), visit us this past Wednesday evening and appreciate his speaking the Word to us.

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### IOWA, LESTER Polly Metzger Gloria Moser

Even as the springtime flowers

grow beneath the sun's warm  
 rays,  
 So the Lord by His own powers  
 makes us garlands for His praise.  
*Zion's Harp #166*

As we see the evidence of spring with trees budding forth and the regrowth of perennials and shrubs, we so appreciate this newness of life after a long cold winter. How much more we appreciate the newness of life we can have through Christ Jesus.

Our congregation rejoices with two families who have welcomed new babies into their homes. Bro. Cory and Sis. Rachel Leman and Sarah are thankful for the arrival of a baby boy, Seth Carl, born on March 10. Grandparents are Bro. Henry and Sis. Charlene Messner and Bro. Dale and Sis. Lezlee Leman (West Bend, IA). March 10 was also the day that first-time parents, Brent and Priscilla Bosch, welcomed Breyona Grace into their lives. Grandparents, Bro. Tony and Sis. Pam Bosch, are happy for a new grandchild to love.

Thus united and in concord,  
 Let us walk the path of life;  
 Hand in hand, O may love bind us,  
 For each other's welfare strive.  
*Zion's Harp #237*

We congratulate Betty Ross and Jeff Popkes as they were united in marriage on March 10. May God's blessings be upon their home.

We extend our sincere thanks to Bro. Roy Koehl (Morris, MN) who was here on March 4 to share the Word of Life with us. May he be blessed for his efforts.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Ellie Knobloch have moved to the Tremont, IL, area. They have been a part of our



congregation for many years and we trust that God will continue to bless and provide for them as they get settled in a new community.

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to those who bid farewell to loved ones in this past month. Bro. Kyle and Becky Knobloch are mourning the loss of her stepdad, Ed Cochran. Bro. Melvin and Sis. Wilma Knobloch and family bid a final farewell to their father and grandpa, Bro. John Tanner (Bradford, IL). May God's comfort and peace be with each one that is in a time of bereavement.

Cassie Metzger (Bro. Tom and Sis. Deb) spent time in the hospital. Several in our congregation are suffering from physical afflictions. We place our trust in God that He will provide healing and comfort.

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### IOWA, OAKVILLE Sharla Wiegand

Church was canceled on Sunday, February 28, because of icy weather and no electricity. Some areas were without power and water for many days. It shows us how much we take for granted and what little we can do without electricity!

On Saturday, March 3, we gathered together to hear the Conference report. Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sabetha, KS) came to help with Memorandum and preached the Word on Sunday. May the Lord richly bless him for his efforts on our behalf.

Our dear Sis. Gladys Vierling passed away on March 7. We extend our sympathy to her brother, Melvin Kupferschmid (Sequim, WA), her two stepchildren, Virginia Miller (LaPorte City, IA) and Wayne Vierling (Mountain Home, AR), and her sister-in-law, Sis. Virginia

Kupferschmid, of our congregation.

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### IOWA, WEST BEND Janet Fehr Sue Schneider

The Word of the Lord was brought forth when Bro. Virgil Metzger (Sis. Mary, Chicago, IL) came to West Bend, as well as when Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX) was here to minister to us. May the Lord reward these brothers for their labors of love.

Sis. Heidi Knapp (Bro. Jordan) and Bro. Noah Gerber (Sis. Emma) were hospital patients this past month. We pray God's presence can be felt, and may He continue to provide for each of them according to His perfect will.

We welcome home those from our congregation who have spent some of the past winter in warmer climates. We're thankful for God's protection as they traveled to and from their destinations.

Many families from our West Bend church have recently moved from one place of residence to another. With each move comes change and adjustments. Aren't we thankful our God is always faithful and changes not? May each family feel His nearness through all stages and changes in life.

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God  
my Father  
There is no shadow of turning  
with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions,  
they fail not;  
As Thou hast been Thou forever  
wilt be.

*Chorus:* Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies  
I see;

All I have needed Thy hand hath  
provided –  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord,  
unto me!  
*Melodies of Praise #216, vs. 1*

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### JAPAN, SHIODA Ayako Inoue

We were thankful for several visiting ministers this month who ministered God's Word to us in simplicity and clarity. Our Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev) visits us twice a year, and we appreciate his love and wise counsel to us. Bro. Joe Klotzle (Altadena, CA) was returning from World Relief work in the tsunami area and also shared the Word from the pulpit. Bro. Stan Virkler (Remington, IN) accompanied Bro. Joe. Their comments on the work there were thought-provoking and very interesting.

Our Bro. Willis Ehnle spent several weeks in Mexico for medical treatment. While there, unfortunately Sis. Lois Ehnle injured her left elbow in a fall and underwent surgery on it. We are so thankful she is recovering from it and the many discomforts this brought. Several of our local sisters have kindly assisted the Ehnles with nursing duties and daily chores.

At the end of this month visitors were again our blessed portion as we welcomed Bro. Dana and Sis. Martha Kay Regier (Princeville, IL) and Philip Drete (Washington, IL), both relatives of Sis. Jana Klaus. We so appreciated Bro. Andrew's ministry, also. Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Sis. Kay Kellenberger (Elgin, IL), both with Japan connections, were here that same Sunday and were a great blessing to us. It was nice to see all the benches full in our small assembly.



Due to a job transfer, this will be my last writing for this column, and Sis. Carrie Ito (Bro. Akihiro) will continue the work. We trust she will also receive a blessing from writing these lines as I did.

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

Our best wishes and congratulations go to Trent and Jenny Rokey, as they begin their life together as husband and wife! Parents of the couple are Bro. Morris and Sis. Arlinda Rokey, and Nancy Allen (Shawnee, KS).

We wish Matthew Hundley and Amber Cuevas the best as they make plans for a June 30 wedding. Happy parents of the couple are John and Sis. Margaret Hundley, and Jaime and Linda Cuevas (Topeka, KS).

Invite-a-guest weekend brought ministering Bros. Cory Metzger (Sis. Jodi, Wichita, KS) and Paul Zimmerman (Sis. Loretta, Forrest, IL) to our congregation. We also want to thank Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. Lavonne, Sabetha, KS) for proclaiming God's Word to us this month!

Bro. Bill Wulf (Sis. Leona) has spent time in the hospital and we pray that God's healing hand be with him.

We remember Bro. Steve and Sis. Lois Hartter, and Bro. Gordon and Shari Grimm, at the passing of their mother, Maggie Mason (Sabetha, KS). We pray that God's comforting hand may fill the void they will feel.

We said farewell to Bro. Austin Esslinger as employment is taking him to the Garden Grove, IA, area. We will miss Bro. Austin, and hope that he returns home often to visit!

It is so hard to believe the Easter

season is so fast approaching. Tis' not the manger but the cross, that sets the spirit free!

*Easter Joy*

Jesus came to earth,  
 To show us how to live,  
 How to put others first,  
 How to love and how to give.  
 Then He set about His work,  
 That God sent Him to do;  
 He took our punishment on Himself;  
 He made us clean and new.  
 He could have saved Himself,  
 Calling angels from above,  
 But He chose to pay our price for sin;  
 He paid it out of love.  
 Our Lord died on Good Friday,  
 But the cross did not destroy  
 His resurrection on Easter morn  
 That fills our hearts with joy.  
 Now we know our earthly death,  
 Like His, is just a rest.  
 We'll be forever with Him  
 In heaven, where life is best.  
 So we live our lives for Jesus,  
 Think of Him in all we do.  
 Thank you Savior; Thank you Lord.  
 Help us love like you!  
 —*Joanna Fuchs*

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

Sit and pause awhile, my spirit,  
 This great miracle behold;  
 See the King of highest merit  
 On the cross, so bare and cold!  
 Out of heaven God has given  
 His own Son in love untold!  
*Zion's Harp #226*

The above hymn, although always appropriate, is especially meaningful this time of year as we approach Easter. Let us, as the hymn writer, pause and reflect on

God's great miracle and love.

On a recent Wednesday evening, Elder Bro. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO) shared with us the Scriptural background of Holy Communion. He also reminded us that it is the most intimate sacrament that is ever shared by the body of Christ.

Sunday, March 11, marked the first time Bro. Jeff Fischer opened the Word and shared it with us. It was made known to us on the previous Thursday evening that Bro. Jeff will be serving with our ministering

Bro. Larry Bahr on the pulpit. Elder Bros. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS), Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS), and Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO) were present. We support and pray a blessing on Bro. Jeff, Sis. Gloria, and their four children, as we greatly rejoice in the Lord's provision.

We are thankful for our visiting ministers. They were Bro. John Hartman (Sis. Rosemary, Fairbury, IL), and Bro. David Oberghel (Sis. Kathy, Peoria, IL). One of them reminded us that the only difference in the temperature of water that is hot, and the temperature of water that is hot enough to boil and turn to steam, producing power to move a locomotive, is only one degree. If we would boldly step out only one degree, our locomotive of faith can powerfully move us to do great things for our Lord.

"Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

*Hebrews 4:16*

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

We held our annual business



meeting this month. We want to thank the brothers and sisters who are giving of their time and talents to fulfill the duties of the church and our young people learn more about our Lord.

Our hospital patient this month was Bro. Kent Kisling. Sis. Marie Tucker and Sis. Lois Allenbach (Bro. Ron) both had surgery this month. Our continued prayers are with these dear ones as they heal. May we also continue in prayer for Bethany Hamilton (Sis. Sandra) for God's healing hand over her.

We want to extend prayers and congratulations to Tom and Shawna Sterneker upon their recent marriage. Shawna is the granddaughter of Bud and Sis. Helen Murrow. May

God be a guiding light in their new life together.

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**KANSAS  
LAMONT-GRIDLEY  
Ester Knobloch**

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

*Zion's Harp #226, vs. 1*

As the Easter season is upon us, let us follow the words of wisdom in this beloved hymn and take time to truly ponder the price of our redemption.

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Galen Rokey (Bern, KS) and Bro. David Hartter (Sabetha, KS). We appreciate their willingness to bring forth the Word in it's purity and power.

We experienced the blessed fellowship of our precious faith when

several came to visit for our invite-a-guest weekend. We were encouraged and strengthened by the examples of the faithful brethren that were with us.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Nadine Kraft at the death of his sister, Virginia Morrison.

Sis. Dorothy Young became ill and had to spend some time in the hospital this past month. May she be strengthened by the hand of the Great Physician.

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**KANSAS, SABETHA  
Dawn Strahm  
Rebekah Beyer**

This past month Bro. Ed Strahm (Sis. Ramona, Bern, KS) served us in the ministry. We want to thank all those that lend themselves in the Lord's vineyard.

The young group enjoyed the fellowship of the many single brothers and sisters that came to Sabetha and Bern for a blessed weekend. Visitors were here from Lamar, MO, Forrest, Fairbury, and Cissna Park, IL, and Oakville and Burlington, IA.

Our prayers have been with several who were hospitalized or ill recently. This includes Sis. Lucille Kellenberger, Bro. Carl Strahm, and Sis. Marie Hartter (Bro. Virgil). Sis. Marci Grimm (Bro. Darin) and their family have been in our thoughts and prayers as well.

All the way my Saviour leads me,  
Cheers each winding path I tread;  
Gives me grace for every trial,  
Feeds me with the living bread;  
Tho' my weary steps may falter,  
And my soul athirst may be,  
Gushing from the Rock before me,  
Lo! A spring of joy I see.

*Hymns of Zion #21*

**KANSAS, WICHITA  
Emma Miller**

On a recent Sunday in late February, we were blessed to have two families from the Sabetha congregation assemble with us. Bro. Dave Hartter filled the pulpit duties in the absence of Bro. Cori and Sis. Jodi Metzger who were on a trip and Bro. Glen and Sis. Sally Funk who were called to the home of their son, Derek, as members of his family were experiencing health problems. Bro. Dave and his wife, Sis. Beth, and children were accompanied by his brother, Bro. Dennis, and wife, Sis. Beth, and some of their children, so we had more children in Sunday School and more people in the pews. We were blessed.

Elder Bro. Jay Luthi and Sis. Jane met with us on March 4. Bro. Jay shared the Memorandum. Each of us was given an outline of the Memorandum which included the scripture references. This may have been done previously, but it was a first for me. I appreciate the dedication of whoever was responsible for the outline. It amplified any pondering by me at a later time.

We are using the children's blue hymn book when the children assemble with us before services start in the morning. As you know, the book contains many familiar tunes that we remember from our own youthful days. However, some of them are new to me as was "God Can do Anything but Fail." That song ran through my head all the following week. An acquaintance called me and was relating some of her problems. She concluded that she just would have to give them over to the Lord. That gave me the opportunity to use the words, "God can do anything but fail."



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## MEXICO, IXTLAN

“Be thou my strong habitation, whereunto I may continually resort...”

*Psalm 71:3*

Greetings of love from Ixtlan. Our prayer is that the Lord be our strong habitation continually, whenever our hearts are full with happiness or sorrow.

We rejoice with our Sis. Rosario González (Bro. Javier [dec.] and Sis. Bertha González, Ixtlan) and Bro. Rudy Troxel (Bro. Tom and Sis. LuAnn Troxel, Lacrosse, IN), as their engagement was announced on February 19. May the Lord bless and guide them as they are preparing to spend the rest of their lives together.

We were very blessed to have ministering Bro. Loren Schrenk and his wife, Sis. Betsy, among us again this month. Blessed be the Lord for permitting him to have health to keep serving the people here in Ixtlan. Thanks also to all of you that are willing to help make possible the eye clinic!

We also want to extend our sympathy to the Cervantes family (Sis. Carmen, Sis. María, Sis. Ana, Sis. Teresa, Bro. Rogelio, Bro. Gabriel, Bro. José, Carmela, Sergio, and Armando) as they lost their loved one, Manuel Cervantes, who passed away on March 4. His wife is Sis. Carmen Cervantes. We also express our sympathy to Sis. Esthela Salceda Placencia, whose brother, Antonio Salceda, passed away on March 6. May the Lord be their strong habitation and give them the consolation that they need in this time of sorrow.

Our little congregation appreciates the ministers that served the pulpit this month: Bro. Loren Schrenk, Bro. José Cervantes, and Bro. Antonio Cervantes.

...Thou hast given commandment to save me; for thou art my rock and my fortress.”

*Psalm 71:3*

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## MEXICO, MAGDALENA

### Gloria Gonzalez Carissa Schlipf

“Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it:...”

*Psalm 127:1*

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

After our morning service on February 18, everyone walked out to the construction site of our new church and had a short dedication. We sang the hymn, Día en día (Day by Day), and Bro. Bill Schick read Psalm 127:1 and had a short message. Afterwards everyone signed a board which had Psalm 127:1 written on it, as witnesses to the purpose of the new church.

The week of February 18, a group of Roanoke couples shared their talents and hard work with us here at CVE. Their fellowship was a blessing! We also appreciate Bro. Tim Hohulin's (Sis. Cathy, Roanoke, IL) willingness to share God's Word with us on Wednesday night.

We welcome Eduardo, a little 16 month-old toddler, to our CVE family. While we are still unsure how long his stay with us will be, he has quickly become the family “bebé” (baby) and we are enjoying his huge

smile!

We are thankful to God for His healing hand in the lives of Magda and Jaqueline, two of our young girls here at CVE. Magda spent several days in the hospital but we are thankful that she is now feeling better.

Representing the Mission Committee, Elder Bros. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) and Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) visited Casa Vida y Esperanza the end of February to meet with staff and to discuss how the Mission Committee can better support those who are on the mission field.

“Así, pues, todas las veces que comiereis este pan, y bebiereis esta copa, la muerte del SeZor anunciáis hasta que él venga.”

*I Corinthians 11:26*

February 27, we shared in the blessing of Holy Communion. We are thankful to Elder Bros. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ), Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) and Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) for sharing in this special time, as we remember all that our Savior has done for us. It was also a special time for our Bro. John and Sis. Katie Schick, Sis. Ruth Duarte, and Sis. Stephanie Bahr as it was their first time sharing in Holy Communion.

On behalf of the CVE Board, Elder Bros. Jon Kokanovich, Tom Hoffman, and Wayne Banwart, and ministering Bro. Marshall Heinold met in Magdalena March 1 and 2, for their spring meeting. We appreciate their time and effort as they seek God's direction in the decisions that are made regarding the work here at Casa Vida y Esperanza.

“I am the vine, ye are the



branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.”

*St. John 15:5*

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## MICHIGAN, ALTO

**Terri Huber  
Rose Watson**

Our congregation has been blessed three times this month with God's littlest angels; we welcome the following boys to our church family. David and Tanya Steffen brought Logan Boyd home to his three sisters. Shaun and Betty Hyde along with Jamie and Destini Goff brought home their first bundles of joy; Avery George and Colten John.

Thankful grandparents are Elder Bro. Aaron and Sis. Loretta Steffen, Don and Sally Meyer, and Bro. Ed and Sis. Julie Sanders. Congratulations to all and may God be with all of you and guide your little ones.

We would like to thank Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Sis. Sandy, Eureka, IL) for visiting and helping with the Memorandum.

Our congratulations and prayers go out to our wedding couples this month. Bro. Jake Gerst (Bro. Wally and Donna) and Sis. Meika Monfrey (Bro. Tony and Sis. Deonne) were married in Goodfield, IL. Also, to Carl Steffen and Sue Foreman. May God be with you all as you start your new journeys together.

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## MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

**Sarah Knochel  
Janelle Ramseyer**

Greetings of love in our precious Savior's name!

Many from our congregation had surgery or spent time in the hospital during the past month. They in-

clude Bill (Lori) Bateson, Jennifer Curtis, Bro. Robert Knochel, Bro. Wade (Amanda) Meylan, Mike (Sis. Cheryl) Schmidt, Bro. Sam and Sis. Lorraine Wackerle and Bro. Wallace (Sis. Alvina) Wackerle. May the Lord's will be accomplished in each of these loved ones lives and may each one trust Him for their healing and restoration of health.

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

*Hymns of Zion #248*

We are saddened by the sudden passing of Sis. Millie Wieland. Millie was a dear, kind-hearted sister who had given her life to Christ over 60 years ago. May God's comforting hand rest upon her family. We especially want to remember her siblings from our congregation, Bro. Howard (Sis. Pauline) Wieland, Sis. Alice Wieland, Sis. Laura Wieland, Sis. Edith (Gerald) Meier, and Margaret Fierke. Sis. Millie also had many cousins, nieces, and nephews from our Bay City congregation.

We also want to remember Sis. Illean Wackerle in the passing of her sister, Alice Schnell, and Lyle (Sis. Marlene) McNally in the passing of his brother, Bob McNally.

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## MICHIGAN, DETROIT

**Kay Rauhe  
Manuela Denes**

It's the middle of March and here in the Detroit area the signs of spring are all around us. Yesterday morning I saw the first robin and as I walked through my garden I saw that the bulbs I had planted in the fall were now several inches above

the ground. With the sun shining and the smell of new growth in the air, I said a small prayer of thanks and as always was amazed by the beauty of our Lord's creation.

It was a blessing for all to hear that our friend Miomira Miladinov was announced for peace. Life can be such a struggle at times but when we open ourselves to what God can offer, that struggle becomes so much more bearable. We look forward to her testimony and baptism in the near future, Lord willing.

Our prayers continue with Bro. Dan Coughlin as he begins his chemotherapy treatments. It was so good to see him in church on Sunday. We all appreciate his very positive attitude and we pray that his faith will get him through this difficult time. Sis. Darlene Kujawa (Bro. Bill) was also back with us after having had surgery.

Those of us who are healthy and able to attend church on a regular basis need to remember those who unfortunately have not been able to worship with us. In the hospital at the time this article was submitted is Michael Reardon (Bro. John and Sis. Linda). We pray that the Lord will grant him the health to return home to his family. Others that we miss seeing include Virginia Smiley, Bro. Guy and Sis. Rosie Wieland, and Sisters Lois Belsley, Ethel Rambeau, Ann Tachar and Perseda Wieland.

As we approach the Easter season, may we remain prayerful and never forget or take for granted the great sacrifice that Jesus Christ made for each and every one of us.

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**MINNESOTA  
MINNEAPOLIS  
Mary Mogler**

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God..."

*Ephesians 2:8*

We rejoiced to hear that our friend, Ron Lindwall (Betty), was able to turn his life over to the Lord in repentance and be a partaker of that precious gift. Only days later, we received the message that Ron's battle with cancer was over, and that he had passed from this life into eternity.

Our sympathy and prayers go out to Ron's dear wife, Betty (Rassi), and sons, Erick, Bob and John.

Sis. Katie Blunier has returned home from the hospital and would enjoy a card or note at her current address:

Katie Blunier  
3220 Lake Johanna Blvd.  
Presbyterian Homes of Arden  
Hills  
Arden Hills, MN 55112

*Note of Thanks:*

To the churches of Minneapolis, Belvidere, and Roanoke: I want to express my heartfelt thanks for the many prayers, cards and notes, food, flowers, memorials, and for everyone who came to Ron's visitation in Minneapolis and his visitation and funeral in Roanoke. God's Love shines through you to ease my loss. I sorrow in his passing but rejoice in his victory.

*Betty Rassi Lindwall*

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**MINNESOTA, MORRIS  
Sheila Reuter  
Heidi Nohl**

Elder Bros. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO), Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) and ministering Bros. Todd Stoller (Latty, OH) and Joe Dotterer (Bloomfield, IA) were our visiting ministers this month. May God bless them for their willing service.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Sis. Vila Schmidgall who was taken from this life. Vila leaves behind her husband, Bro. Floyd; and her children, Sis. Pam (Bro. Randy) Sutter, Dan (Jacki), Bro. Tom (Sis. Ruth), Sis. Kayla (Bro. Dan, Peoria, IL) Hoerr, Sis. Jodi (Bro. Keith) Schieler, John, Jeni, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. We pray God will be near them during this difficult time.

Hospitalized this month was Sis. Thelma Dogotch (Bro. Leo) and Sis. Ila Gramm (Bro. Harold). We pray God's healing hand will be upon each one of them.

We rejoice with Amanda Fehr as she has begun her repentance. Her parents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Sandy. We pray God will be near her as she begins this new step in her life.

*Note of Thanks:*

The family of Vi Schmidgall wishes to express thanks to all for the kind expressions of love, cards, prayers, food, flowers and memorials at the loss of our wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother to Lewy body disease. Every thoughtful act was greatly appreciated by her family. God bless you all.

*The Floyd Schmidgall family*

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**MINNESOTA, WINTHROP  
Rachel Steiner  
Julie Schmidt**

I need the prayers of those I love,  
While trav'ling o'er life's rugged  
way,

That I may true and faithful be,  
And live for Jesus every day.

I want my friends to pray for me,  
To bear my tempted soul above,  
And intercede with God for me,  
I need the prayers of those I love.

*Hymns of Zion #201*

Our prayers continue to be with our loved ones that have heavy burdens to carry.

May God continue to provide for Sam Miller (Sandy) as he has been diagnosed with cancer. We pray that they can feel His presence and comfort in their time of need. Sis. Hazel Schmidt (Bro. Elmer) spent some time in the hospital. We are thankful that she is home and we will continue to keep them in our prayers also.

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**MISSOURI, LAMAR  
Becky Marti  
Mindy Braker**

We were thankful to have ministering Bros. Dale Wulf (Lester, IA), Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL) and Beirne Messner (Morris, MN) with us this past month. May the Lord bless them for their service in His vineyard.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Bro. Raymond (Sis. LuEtta) Braker as he spent time in the hospital recently.

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**MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS  
Betsy Schrenk**

Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington) and Bro. Fred



Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Indianapolis) graciously expounded God's Word to the St. Louis congregation recently. We are very thankful to have ministering brothers travel to serve us on the pulpit and bless us with fellowship.

No matter how cleaned up the yard and flower beds are in the fall, we find some maintenance is always necessary in the spring. Winter storms bring down branches and blow around leaves, and the dreaded sweet gum balls. Little weeds start growing vigorously before the desired plants come up. This is all obvious when the snow is melted and the bushes and trees haven't greened up yet.

As we prepare for Holy Communion, we are reminded to examine our lives and focus on Christ and His sacrifice for us. Just as we clean up our yard, we look at our lives to see if some maintenance is needed, to remove debris that the storms of life have blown around, and to uproot the undesirable weeds that sprout so enthusiastically.

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### MISSOURI, TAYLOR Sally Haerr

"Teach us to number our days,  
that we may apply our hearts unto  
wisdom."

*Psalm 90:12*

This verse becomes very sobering if we have ever sat at the bedside of some one who senses the fact that God is telling them they may not live much longer. It makes me wonder just how our dear Heavenly Father feels when we race through life as though we will live forever. Life is very serious, especially at death.

On February 24, Elder Bro. John

Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) came to assist our Elder Bro. Kent in the reading of the Memorandum/mid-winter Conference conclusions. It is always a special blessing to have Bro. John and Sis. Connie here with us.

February 25, the engagement of Sis. Jenae Sutter (Dan and Sis. Tina) and Bro. Trent Leman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Marilyn) of Eureka, IL, was announced to the church. We wish them much joy and patience as they prepare for their wedding day. What a special blessing it is when we choose Christ to be the center of all of our plans.

March 4 - Exhortation for Communion - Just the mere definitions of these two words tells me the seriousness and importance of preparing and taking part in this Holy rite. Our shepherds love us enough to urge us to be prepared for life or death.

On March 7, Bro. Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield, IL) came to present a topical Bible study. This study was based on I Peter 3:8. The five key elements were harmony, compassion, love, tender hearts and humble minds. Each of these practiced according to God's Word will motivate us toward a closer walk with Christ and each other.

What a blessing and spiritual encouragement it is when a soul "turns their heart toward home" and we can sing with great joy "Ring the Bells of Heaven" (Tabernacle Hymns #202). This was our privilege last Sunday as Joe Marquart (Bro. Dave and Sis. Lori) made known his desire to follow Jesus. We pray that he will experience true peace "that passes understanding" as his conversion progresses. What a wonderful reminder to all of us to continually pray for all of our con-

verts - those seeking salvation through Jesus and His shed blood on the cross at Calvary.

Those sick/hospitalized this past month were: Bro. Eric Knochel (Sis. Penny), Bro. Jim Sutter (Sis. Kris), Lester Reiman (Jane), Sis. Marge Gerst (Bro. Arnie), retired Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Sis. Dona) and Nikki (Haerr) Miller (Bro. Norman and Sis. Sally). Many of these dear ones are once again enjoying good health and we continue to pray a prayer of thanksgiving for them and a prayer of healing and comfort for those who's health is a daily struggle.

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### NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Hope Graves

We are now beginning our maple syrup season here in upstate New York. We always look forward to this time of the year and know that spring is just around the corner!

We are thankful that Bro. Lowell Virkler and Sis. Lois Virkler are both home now recovering from surgery. Our prayers are with Emily Virkler who has been hospitalized recently. Paul and Emily live in the Kansas City, MO, area and would appreciate everyone's prayers on Emily's behalf as they await her test results.

My hope is built on nothing less  
than Jesus' blood and righteousness.

I dare not trust the sweetest  
frame,

but wholly lean on Jesus' name.  
When darkness seems to hide His  
face,

I rest on His unchanging grace.  
In every high and stormy gale,  
my anchor holds within the vale.  
His oath, His covenant, His blood,



support me in the whelming flood.  
 When all around my soul gives  
 way,  
 He then is all my hope and stay.  
 When He shall come with trumpet  
 sound,  
 Oh, may I then in Him be found.  
 Dressed in His righteousness  
 alone,  
 faultless to stand before the  
 throne.

On Christ, the solid Rock I stand,  
 all other ground is sinking sand.  
 All other ground is sinking sand.

*Hymns of Zion #99*

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**OHIO, AKRON**  
**Mara Henico**  
**Rachel Pamer**

We are thankful that those who have recently traveled from our congregation have been able to return safely. Our prayers were especially with those who traveled to serve others. Our Bros. Todd and Dan Graf recently traveled to Biloxi to help with the relief work there. Also, we were thankful for Bro. Ron Palitto's safe return from Haiti. May God bless each one who labors for Him in ways that are seen and unseen.

Two families from our congregation have been blessed with baby girls. Kayla Marie was born to Jeremy and Angela Weller. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Mark and Debbie Palitto. Alina joined older brothers, Ruben, Sanyi, Daniel, Janos, Samuel, and Zoltan in Bro. Sandor and Sis. Gyongyi Hegedus' family. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Sandor and Sis. Kathy Bako of our Akron congregation.

Our prayers are with Bro. John and Sis. Jan Graf as Bro. John was recently hospitalized. May God grant healing according to His will. Our thoughts and prayers are also

with the family of Sis. Lou Rigggenbach (Smithville, sister of our Bro. Dave Graf) as we heard of her recent illness and passing. We trust that God will be near to each one and grant comfort and acceptance of God's will in this situation.

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**OHIO, COLUMBUS**  
**Nancy Banks**

This is a wonderful time of the year as we watch for the first robin, a new calf laying next to it's mother or shoots of daffodils or hyacinths peeking through last year's leaves. May we always appreciate the wonders of God's creation.

We were fortunate to have with us this month Bro. Tim Ramsier (Rittman, OH), Bro. Tim Gerber (Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN). We appreciate their efforts in traveling the miles to be with us.

World Relief was held this month and soup packets were made to be distributed to a food pantry in the Columbus area.

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

I now have found the firm foundation  
 Where evermore my anchor  
 grounds!  
 It lay there ere the world's creation,  
 Where else, but in my Saviour's  
 wounds?  
 Foundation which unmoved shall  
 stay,  
 When earth and heaven pass  
 away!  
*Zion's Harp #221*

This firm foundation is what  
 Chet Manz (Bro. Dave and Sis.

Kathy) is searching for as he has yielded his life to the Lord in repentance. What a joyous time for us as we can take courage that another soul has answered the call.

We have had several in the hospital this past month. We are thankful Sis. Kathryn Emch (Bro. Harold) and Haley Manz (Bro. Scott and Sis. Sara) are healthy and back in church and we will continue to lift up Sis. Inez Rose and Sis. Betty Manz (Bro. Alvin) in prayer as they continue on the road to recovery.

Our Invite a Guest weekend was a blessed time of fellowship. Many thanks to all those who had a part in the weekend as well as the many guests that traveled the miles to be with us. A special thank you to those who ministered to us, including Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA), Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH), Bro. James Knapp (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH).

We also appreciated having ministering Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) visit us on a recent Wednesday evening. We trust the Lord to bless you as only He can.

Bro. Ben and Sis. Carolyn Manz were blessed with another granddaughter, Olivia Grace Manz, on February 28. Daniel and Angie are her parents. We wish them God's blessings as they raise their young family.

"Love of all gifts, is the greatest, Which the Spirit does bestow..." (Zion's Harp #37). Bro. Will Manz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen) and Sis. Joanna Kaeb (Bro. Max and Sis. Beth) of Cissna Park, IL, recently announced their engagement. May God be near you to lead, guide and direct you as you make your wedding plans.

Communion is a special time to



remember in solemnness all our Lord and Redeemer endured that we might have a hope of spending eternity in Heaven with Him. Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) aided in this blessed evening as we partook of Holy Communion. As Good Friday and Easter draw near, may we take time to truly ponder the cruelty that our Saviour endured for us. It truly is beyond our imagination!

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

I was recently reminded of the importance of letting God enter and abide in all areas of my heart. The Shunemite woman allowed Elisha the prophet into her house. Are we, as His children, letting God into every area of our hearts and abide therein? May we all pray that this is so.

Kim Miller (Derek), the daughter of Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol Stoller, has chosen to forsake the old life and turn her life over to God in repentance. May God be with her and her family as she begins her walk with the Lord.

Two ministers visited us this past month. Bro. Randy Gudeman (Sis. Becky, Francesville, IN) and Bro. Mike Rinckenberger (Sis. Pat, Congerville, IL) ministered unto us. God bless them for their efforts.

Mark and Bethany Weigold (Columbia City, IN) were recently blessed with a baby girl, Lucy Ann, born on March 10. Grandparents are Bro. Dwain and Sis. Wanita Laukhuf, Dave Weigold, and Dave and Barb Munk.

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

Where God in truth abides,  
 Where two join hand and heart,  
 We find a three-fold cord,  
 Not lightly rent apart.

*Zion's Harp #79 v. 3*

On March 4, Bro. Edward Ramsey Jr. (Bro. Edward Ramsey Sr. and Sis. Laura) and Sis. Michelle Stoller (Bro. Steve and Sis. Anne Marie, LaCrosse, IN) joined hand and heart in marriage in our Champaign, IL, congregation. A reception for the newlyweds was also held in Mansfield on March 18. We heartily welcome Sis. Michelle into our congregation.

We also welcome two precious newborns. Mitchel Stephen was born on February 6 to Bro. Matt and Sis. Tami Domka. Welcoming him home are little sister Makenna and grandparents, Bro. Dan and Sis. Mary Ann Domka and Bro. Pete and Sis. Karen Baltic.

On February 27, Raya Dee was born to Bro. Curt and Sis. Elizabeth Walter. Excited to have her home are little brother Jadon and grandparents, Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Jeannine Masters and Bro. Charles and Sis. Karen Walter (Silverton, OR).

We bid farewell to Sis. Kristy Tucker as she follows the Lord's leading to move to Bluffton North, IN. We will miss her smiling face and helpful hands but hope she returns often to visit us.

We also bid farewell to Sis. Elisabeth Betsch who went to her eternal home on February 27. She is survived by her daughter, Sis. Florina (Bro. Michael) Baumann, and her son, Reinhold (Betsy) Betsch.

Continue to pray for the many of

our congregation who were recently in the hospital: Bro. Bob Bird (Sis. Miriam), Sis. Becky Vent (Richard), Sis. Zuzanna Pfeiffer (Bro. John), retired Elder Bro. Ken Sauder (Sis. Sue), Ashley Gabor (Scott and Lori), Sis. Dorothy Durkin, Sis. Dorina Miller (Bro. Roger) and Sis. Pat Beer.

We thank Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) for his willingness to come and teach us.

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**OHIO, RITTMAN**  
**Sarah Bauman**  
**Linda Zollinger**

Sweetly, Lord, we have heard

Thee calling,  
 Come follow me!  
 And we see where Thy footprints  
 falling,  
 Lead us to Thee.  
 Footprints of Jesus,  
 That makes the pathway glow.  
 We will follow the steps of Jesus,  
 Where'er they go.

*Gospel Hymns #111*

The weekend of March 3-4 two new brothers were added to the fold. We rejoice with Bro. Abram Rufener (Bro. Leon and Sis. Lori) and Bro. Richard Miller (Sis. Melba). May they continue to follow in the footsteps of Jesus!

Visiting ministers here for baptisms were Elder Bros. Dave Graf (Akron, OH), Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) and Bro. Vic Bauman (Smithville, OH). This month we also had ministering Bros. Lynn Fiechter (Bluffton, IN), Ben Wysong (Sabetha, KS) and Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL). We truly do appreciate their efforts to be with us.

We also rejoice with Kurt Gasser



(Kelly) who has begun his walk with the Lord. May he continue to feel the love and prayers of the church!

The engagement of Bro. Keith Stoller (Bro. Joe and Sis. Mim) was made known to Sis. Autumn Miller (Bro. Max and Sis. Diane) of our Smithville, OH, congregation. May God richly bless them as they plan for their upcoming wedding and marriage.

February 16 was the wedding day for Adrian Beery and Alyssa Raines. Bro. Stan and Sis. Karen Beery and Eddy and Darlene Raines are their parents.

On February 18, Bro. Bob and Sis. Lorie Rigggenbach welcomed their first grandchild, Ashlie Rose. Bro. Tim and Sis. Crystal Zollinger (Smithville) are first-time parents of Ashlie.

Ezra Jonathan joined the home of Bro. Tim, Sis. Sharon and siblings, Amos, Megan, Jacob, Jubal, and Gretchen Hartzler on February 25. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie Hartzler and Bro. Ken and Sis. Jane Hartzler (Smithville, OH).

Bro. Bob and Sis. Lorie Rigggenbach welcomed another boy into their family on March 2. Jaden Robert joins older siblings, Bro. Josh (Sis. Megan, Smithville), Sis. Crystal (Bro. Tim Zollinger, Smithville), Sis. Cymbal, Charity, Jacob, Jeriah, Carissa and Jevan. Grandparents are Boyd and Barbara Acker and Bro. Ed and Sis. Anita Rigggenbach.

Bro. Dean and Sis. Jan Hartzler welcomed another grandchild, Shaiden Yost Hartzler, who joined the family of Fred and Mindy Hartzler.

Emma Renee joined first-time parents, Bro. Ryan and Sis. Julie Steiner. Her grandparents are Bro.

Jeff and Sis. Bev Hartzler and Bro. David and Sis. Carole Steiner.

This past month, Sis. Diane Raifsnider, Sis. Erma Ingold, Fredona Shiffer, Sis. Calla Steiner and Sis. Bertha Kiser were hospitalized. May they feel the Lord's nearness as some are still recovering.

Our thoughts and prayers are extended to the family of Bro. Rowen and Sis. Judy Schar at the passing of his mother, Marie Schar.

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### OHIO, SARDIS Eric and Jami Hartzler

Call and cry, ye watchmen, boldly;  
Call aloud and spare them not!  
Jesus wants a faithful witness;  
Teachers not confessing Jesus  
Have stern judgment as their lot.  
Call and cry, ye watchmen, boldly;  
Call aloud and spare them not.

*Zion's Harp #112*

On the evening of February 24, Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH) assisted our own Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda) with the reading of the 2006 Memorandum. We are so thankful that the Lord has once again blessed us and taught us His will through these Brothers. May the Lord bless Bro. Andy for being willing to minister the Word on Sunday also.

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

*Proverbs 3:5-6*

Our church has once again been blessed through God's leading. Bro. Mark and Sis. Brenda Nenadov and their daughter, Laura, have felt

God's direction to move to Sardis. We welcome them into our congregation and pray they can make the transition to Ohio smoothly and comfortably. We pray for their families and the Eureka congregation as our gain is their loss, but we hope that everyone would feel welcome to come visit the Nenadovs and our congregation here.

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### OHIO, SMITHVILLE Edith Miller Ruth Gasser

O Thou who in the grave didst lay,  
O sacred be to us this day,  
For on this day our Lord arose  
In glory from His death repose.

May, Lord, Thy holy love to us  
Keep our hearts true and virtuous.  
The image of the Father dear,  
Make us like Thee, so pure and  
clear!

*Zion's Harp #124, vs. 1,8*

We appreciate the ministers who have visited and shared the Word with us this past month. May God bless the efforts of Bros. Ron Steiner (Rittman, OH), Gary Endress (Bradford, IL), Paul Kilgus (Fairbury, IL), Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH) and Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN).

Two engagements were recently made known to us. Bro. Doug Stoller and Sis. Rachel Maibach have felt the Lord's leading in bringing them together. Parents of this couple are Sis. Luella and the late Bro. Harold Stoller and Bro. Tim and Sis. Mary Maibach (Bloomfield, IA). Sis. Rachel and her family had recently moved from our area to Bloomfield, and we are happy to welcome her back to Smithville. Also, Bro. Keith Stoller (Rittman, OH) has felt led to



ask for Sis. Autumn Miller to become his wife. Parents of this couple are Bro. Joe and Sis. Marian Stoller (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Max and Sis. Diane Miller. For both of these couples, we wish God's blessings as they prepare for their wedding, and more importantly, their marriage.

The blessing of a new baby has been experienced by three families this month. On February 22, Jule Kimberly was welcomed by Bro. Cody and Sis. Kara, Hayden and Ava Stoller. Jule's grandparents are Sis. Irma Stoller (Latty, OH) and Bro. Vic and Sis. Brenda Bauman. On February 23, Bro. Ken and Sis. Jane Hartzler welcomed a new grandson, as Ezra Jonathan was born to Bro. Tim and Sis. Sharon Hartzler (Rittman, OH). On March 17, Bro. Gaylord and Sis. Cheryl Beery became grandparents to Dirk Melvin born to Brad and Tonya Beery. May God's blessings rest upon each of these homes.

Prayers for God's healing are expressed for Sis. Jessica (Bro. Corban) Riggenbach and Sis. Betty (Bro. John) Dotterer, who have both required surgery this month.

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes..."

*Rev. 21:4*

After a five month battle with cancer, our Sis. Lou Riggenbach (Bro. Glenn) was relieved of her suffering. We sincerely sympathize with Bro. Glenn and all the family. Also surviving Sis. Lou are her three daughters, Becky (Tom) Jordan, Sis. Shelly (Bro. Dwaine) Beery, and Jessica (Adam) Brewster; as well as her brothers and sisters, Sis. Mary Ann (Bro. Gary) Maibach, Sis. Rose (Bro. Marvin) Luginbuhl, Becky DelPropost, Ernest (Vicki) Graf,

Steve (Char) Graf, Bro. Dave (Sis. Barb) Graf, and Roger (Sharon) Graf. May God's grace and comfort continue to sustain Bro. Glenn and the family as he looks to the future. Others in our congregation also felt the loss of loved ones. We sympathize with Sis. Gretchen (Bro. Tom) Stoller in the loss of her grandmother, Marie Schar. Also, Eileen (Arthur) Beery's father, Guy Snyder, passed from this life in recent days. May God's comforting hand be upon all who have experienced such losses.

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

When burdened with care  
When thou wouldst despair,  
Then call on thy loving Redeemer.  
*Zion's Harp #46, vs. 1-2*

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### OHIO, TOLEDO Teresa Rywalski Rebecca Beard

"For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit."

*I Co.12:13*

On March 11, we witnessed the baptism of Bro. Brad and Sis. Holli Shields. May they continue to feel God's nearness in their walk of life. Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) was here to offer his service on our behalf. May God be his rich Rewarder.

Our annual "invite a guest" weekend was held this year on March 17-18. We had a wonderful turnout that about doubled our little congregation. Visiting ministers

were Bro. Bob Beebe (Sis. Sue, South Bend, IN), and Bro. Lynn Fiechter (Sis. Ronda, Bluffton, IN). We are always thankful when we have visitors. May they feel the blessings of God, as we surely did.

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### OREGON, PORTLAND Brianna Strahm

Our congregation enjoyed a blessed weekend on February 17 and 18 for the proving and baptism of our new Sis. Rebekah Jones (Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz). We rejoice with her as we welcome her to the household of faith. May the Lord grant her much grace and humility to remain true and faithful all the days of her life. We especially appreciated Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA) who came to assist our Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty) in this work.

We are also thankful to report that our dear friend, Austin Knecht (Bro. Allen and Sis. Jennifer), has turned his heart to the Lord in humble repentance. We truly do rejoice with the angels in heaven over one sinner that repents. May we remember him in prayer as he works out his salvation with fear and trembling.

Our prayers have been with Sis. Liz Jones (Bro. Ron) who spent a brief time in the hospital recently.

We appreciated having ministering Bro. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie, Silverton, OR) with us and thank him for his labors in the Lord's vineyard.

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### OREGON, SILVERTON Melissa Kuenzi Cindy Metzger

A new child, Dawson Lenn, was born to Maya Dettwyler on February 15. His brothers, Dallas and



Devon, welcome him home. His grandparents are Bernie and Margaret Dettwyler of Silverton.

We sincerely welcome Sis. Tara Kellenberger from Morris, MN, into our congregation as she moves here for employment.

Bro. Ben Bolliger (Sis. Carolyn) had surgery to place a heart stent recently. Our prayer is that God will give him peace and comfort, as he will have further surgery again at a later date.

We are thankful to those who were visiting and ministered to us this month. Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Sis. Judy) traveled from Forrest, IL, to help Bro. Art with the reading of the Memorandum. Also visiting were Bros. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA), Ron Jones (Sis. Liz) and Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy), both of Portland, OR.

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## PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

We were so blessed to have with us Elder Bro. Duane and Sis. Karen Farney from the Croghan, NY, congregation. We think about how the early apostles traveled amongst the churches to serve one another, upholding the brethren and reinforcing the true doctrine. May God bless the efforts of our dear Elder Brethren.

We recently shared the Lord's Supper in Holy Communion in Philadelphia. It is so strengthening to hear the words: "That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is

the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me."

We all rejoice with Bro. Nathan and Sis. MaryElizabeth Gasser in the recent arrival of their son, Gavin James. Gavin joins his sisters, Eliana and Calina. Grandparents are Dave and Gail Gasser and Bro. Daryl and Sis. Norma Luginbuhl.

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## TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE Mike and Monica Fritz

The Lord has provided bountifully for our needs with encouragement from His Word. We are thankful to our visiting ministering brothers who so willingly lent themselves in His service: Bros. Byron Stoller (Sis. Carol; Gridley, IL), Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia; Washington, IL), Marvin Leman (Sis. Jane; Bradford, IL), and Greg Stoller (Sis. Jill; Forrest, IL). We have also been blessed by the fellowship with brethren and friends visiting from Rockville, CT; Bradford, Chicago, Congerville, Eureka, Forrest, Gridley, and Washington, IL; Francesville, IN; and Bern, KS.

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: Leo, IN (4/22); Burlington, IA (4/29); Elgin, IL (5/6); Junction, OH (5/13); Bluffton, IN (5/20); Fairbury, IL (5/27). If you are planning to worship with us, please call ahead to confirm our schedule. 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.

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## TEXAS, AUSTIN Amy Ringger Serenity Ringger

We welcome Clint Meyer, who moved to Austin for a new job a few weeks ago. He is the son of Bro. Steve and Sis. Kaye (Bern, KS).

Our visiting ministers were Bros. Gary Brown (Sis. Jane, Forrest), Greg Braker (Sis. Wendy, Lamar), Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, La-Crosse), Bro. Wes Moser (Sis. Esther, Lester). We are also thankful for our visitors from Eureka, Tremont, Milford, Bluffton, Bluffton North, Bern, Silverton, Winthrop, and a group of singles from Lester.

In May we anticipate ministers from Fairbury (6), Kansas City (13), South Bend (20), and Smithville (27).

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.

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**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. If the world would only put their trust in Him, think how wonderful life would be here on this earth.

We thank our visiting minister and his wife, Elder Bro. Arthur Metz (Sis. Betty, Silverton, OR), for taking their time and effort in being with us, and in serving us, and may God continue to richly bless them.

If you will be in the McAllen area, we would appreciate having you worship with us. Our upcoming services will be held on April 14 and 29, on May 13 and 27, and on June 10 and 24. 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.

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**TEXAS, ZAPATA**  
**Mary Plattner**

Most all of our winter residents have returned home for the season

and we look forward to their return this fall. Those who include Zapata in their summer travel plans should contact us as the residents in Zapata will be traveling this summer and at times there may be no one in the area.

As usual, we appreciated our winter residents being with us again and are thankful when each one returns to their homes safely.

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**VERMONT, NORWICH**  
**Nathan and Miriam Reutter**

"As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God."

*Psalms 42*

Once again we were very thankful to have the pure Word of God brought to us through willing servants this month. We were blessed to have Bro. Dan Goric (Sis. Mary Lou, Rockville, CT) in the Clarendon location along with other brethren. It was a blessed day for all. Following the afternoon service we sang beautiful hymns together and gathered for a potluck supper.

"Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands: Sing forth the honour of his name: make his praise glorious."

*Psalms 66:1-2*

Also, this past Lord's day we experienced once again the blessings of being under the sound of the Living Word of God. Our dear shepherd Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl, Rockville, CT) ministered unto us. Along with other visitors from Rockville, CT, and Kitchener, ON, we enjoyed time together and a potluck supper to conclude the day.

If you are interested in fellow-

shipping with us here in Vermont, and would like information about service locations, and/or dates of services, please contact Bro. Kirby Reutter at 802-776-5293. We love to fellowship with believers whether it is during the week or on the weekend. Please let us know if you are planning on being in our area so we can accommodate you. 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 from our dear Sisters in Ixtlan, Michoacan, Mexico please contact Sis. Areli Reutter at 802-776-5293. An inventory is available upon request. This is a wonderful opportunity to support those of the household of faith (Galatians 6:10).

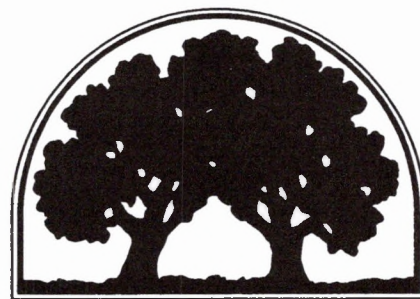


**Director Of Nursing  
Position Available**

Parkview Haven in Francesville, IN is seeking a Registered Nurse to fill the position of Director of Nursing. This position has come available for the first time in 9 years. Parkview is sponsored by 6 nearby churches—Francesville, Valparaiso, LaCrosse, Wolcott, Remington, and West Lafayette. Please call Steven Stoller at 219-567-9149, or contact by e-mail at parkview@home.ffni.com.



*Gateway Woods has openings in our Foster Care Program in Indiana and our Adoption program in Illinois. Gateway Woods is in the process of expanding our Adoption program into 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.*



## **Foster Care Manager Opening**

We are in need of a Foster Care Manager to lead the Foster Care program in Indiana. Experience in foster case management is encouraged. A Master's Degree is preferred, but we can also work with a Bachelor's degree in a related field.

Please prayerfully consider our need and contact Bro. Jeff Schumacher for more information concerning this position.

## **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:*

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

Bro. Lynn Stieglitz  
 Counseling Elder  
 15417 Doty Rd.  
 New Haven, IN 46774  
 260-657-1033  
 lynnstieg@lightningnet.net



## Assistant Houseparent Needed

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

Bro. Ed Graf  
PO Box 151  
Leo, IN 46765  
1 888 443-4283  
ed.graf@gatewaywoods.org

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



## 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

Bro. Lynn Stieglitz  
260 657-1033  
lynnstieg@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 Schumacher  
Residential Program Director  
PO Box 151  
Leo, IN 46765

Lynn Stieglitz  
Counseling Elder  
15417 Doty Road  
New Haven, IN 46774





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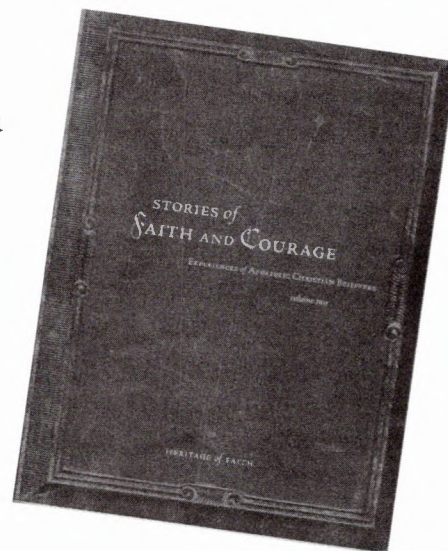
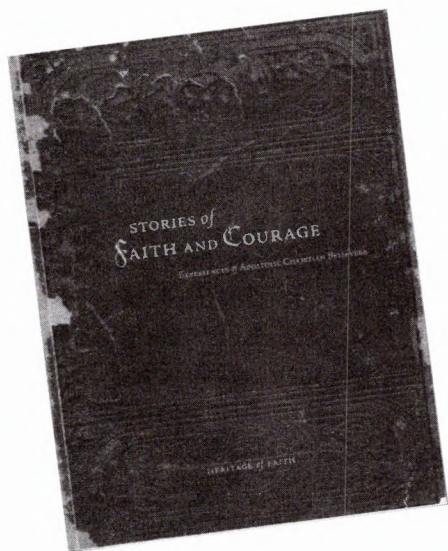
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### **"Zion's Melodies" Instrumental CD**

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

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

### **Zion's Melody Music CD**

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



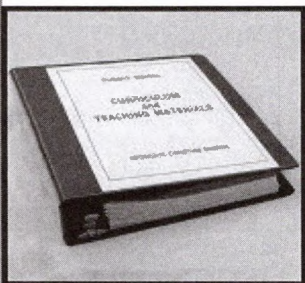


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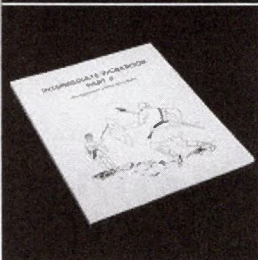
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*Sermon continued from page 2*

washed their feet. And He looked into the face of Judas and He did the same to him as He did to the other twelve, knowing the deed that was done, He could share that love. (St. John 13:4-15) How is that for you and me? If there are those that have wronged us, are we willing to love them as Jesus Christ?

So Jesus had been brought before Pilate, and he had asked Him many questions...

Dear ones does that not move our hearts, to have a love for Jesus Christ that we would give anything? He gave it all for us. He gave up the glories of Heaven and He came to walk on this earth amongst the vanity and vexation that Solomon spoke of (Ecclesiastes 1:14). Christ Jesus knew what this earth was about. He knew what He was going to have to go through. And yet, out of love, and humility, and submission to His Father, He came and He walked a perfect life...no mistakes. That His blood, that blood that when they pierced His side, when that blood flowed out, that pure and precious blood, that blood paid the price for your sins and for mine (St. John 19:34).

What do we owe Jesus Christ? Can we ever repay Him for what He did for us there on Calvary's tree? Dear ones, let us think about it. Should there be anything in this life that the scripture asks of us that we cannot give up for Jesus Christ? Should there be anything that He asks us to do that we would be willing to look at Him, to look at Him hanging there on Calvary's cross and say, no I won't do that? Would it not hurt His heart?

He sits there now on the right hand of the Father in Heaven. He has no less love today for us than He did there on Calvary's cross. He begs and pleads with the Father for you and for me. When He left, after He died, after He gave His life, and He left and He ascended up to Heaven, He had told his disciples there that He would send the comforter, the Holy Spirit. That Spirit which affects your life and mine every day (St. John 15:26). He loves us. So what do we owe Him? Do we not owe him our every breath? We should think about it. Every moment of the day, dear ones, this should be in the back of

our minds, what Christ Jesus did for us. How often do we thank Him? I hope we thank Him all the time. Because He did die for you and me.

We read hear a little of the torment that He went through, the mockery, when it says Pilate had scourged Him. There was blood shed there. The soldiers platted a crown of thorns and put it on His head. They put on Him a purple robe (St. John 19:1-2). There was blood shed when they crushed that crown of thorns down on His head. Dear ones, at times when we would go out and we'd walk in the woods and we'd see those thorn trees, those thorns that are long, and pointy, and sharp, that's what I think of when I see those trees. I think of that platted crown of thorns that they crammed down on top of His head. Have you ever been pricked by one of those? They sting. But He loved us.

It says He didn't say a word, He didn't argue with them (St. John 19:9). It tells us in the other scriptures how they spit on Him and they slapped Him. They blindfolded Him and they would slap Him and they'd ask Him to prophesy and say who did it (St. Mark 14:65). Mocking Him. Laughing at Him. Who of us would be willing to do that? It's a question I ask myself, to think about.

And they said, "...Hail, King of the Jews! and they smote him with their hands. Pilate therefore went forth..." St. John 19:3-4. And he told them, he said, "...I find no fault in him." St. John 19:4. He found no fault in Him because there was no fault in Him, dear ones. He was perfect. Not one of us here were perfect, nor shall we ever be until we gain the realms of Heaven above, by the grace of Jesus Christ, by the grace of God the Father. But we need to try. The Word says many times, Be ye perfect, even as I am perfect (St. Matthew 5:48). He pleads with us to try, to strive, to ask Him for grace day by day to obtain, to become overcomers.

But there was a mob there. There was a mob that had delivered Him for jealousy and for envy, for hatred because Jesus Christ came and He brought the truth. He brought the truth of the Word. The hierarchy of the Jewish nation at that time had taken the truth and they had twisted it to make themselves feel good, to bring

praise on mankind and when Jesus Christ came and spoke the truth, it hurt.

I think about how many times in my life when I hear the truth, how it cuts. How about each of us? When we sit under the sound of the Word or when in the quietness of our home we open the Word with a prayer on our heart that God will show us where we have erred. And it hurts. And that's good! Because when it hurts, then we'll beg and we'll plead the Father to show us, to help us, to grant us His grace. That pain will humble us, dear ones. We need to ask that day after day. Because as we walk on the face of this earth we will fail. We will come short, because we have an adversary. The same adversary that was alive and well here, when he who entered into Judas, when Judas went out and he made a deal with the Chief Priests. And he sold Jesus for, I believe, it was 30 pieces of silver (St. Matthew 26:15). And if I err not, that was the price of a slave.

And we have that same adversary today. I often wonder what Satan must have felt like. Was he glorying in the fact that Jesus Christ was hanging on the cross? Did he think he finally had won? Approximately 4000 years had transpired since he met Eve in the garden there, and it was his goal ever since that time to tear down mankind and to make them fall and to take them to Hell. And that hasn't changed.

And it was the same way it was there on the cross, at the time of that trial, when he put it into the hearts of those His disciples, as they, I believe it tells us that each one of them said they would follow Him unto the death. Peter was even more bold about it, and Christ said you'll deny me three times before the cock crows in the morning. No, No I won't (St. Mark 14:29-31). But we have the account, don't we loved ones? Satan is so strong. Let's not ever one of us try to fight him by ourselves. God has given us so many weapons to fight him off with. He's given us His Word, He's given us each other. And yet we find among ourselves that we can fight and we can tear down, and we bring strife and then we let it come into our lives, and instead of helping one another we're actually

*Sermon continued on page 44*



*Sermon continued from page 43*

tearing one another down.

God doesn't want it that way. How many times in the Word does He preach about the church, and does He speak about His children? He says, Be of the same mind (Romans 12:16). Have the mind of me, Christ Jesus (I Peter 4:1). Don't fight among yourselves. He has given us one another.

Let's think about those disciples that walked away, that didn't have enough courage to stand up against the mob that came. Place ourselves in their shoes. Would we have done any better? Dear ones, there may come a time when we have to stand up, strong and bold against Satan. We do in personal ways, every day. But there may come a time in this nation, we have brethren we can read of, we have brethren whom we can speak of that have now come to this country, who have had to face that. That persecution. That which has been delivered by Satan to try to snuff out the church. Let's pray for faith. Let's pray for that assurance that we can understand and we can believe the Word.

Dear ones, we read this account here of Christ's crucifixion. None of us were there. But I would dare say that if we went up and down the aisles in this church, every one here would say that it is true. I don't think there is one person in this room that would deny that Jesus Christ died on the cross for their sins. How about those that are unconverted here? Do you really believe it? Do you believe it enough to take it personally? I hope so. Because He did die for you and for me.

"The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the son of God." St. John 19:7. It continues on and it says, "When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he was the more afraid;" St. John 19:8. Pilate obviously had some knowledge of God. We don't know to what extent, but it brought fear in his heart. That he went and he asked him, "...Whence are thou?..." St. John 19:9. Who are you? It says Jesus gave him no answer. Pilate said, "...Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee?" St. John 19:10. Pilate was try-

ing to throw his power around there. Yes, he had extreme amount of power among men, but he was not dealing with man. He was dealing with God. He was dealing with His Son Jesus Christ, and Jesus answered and said, "...Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above..." St. John 19:11.

As I read that, dear ones, I think about our foe. We know that God only allows Satan to go so far (Job 1:12). We read that in the book of Job, and we know that God has the ultimate power. But Satan is running to and fro on this earth. He's seeking those who are willing to listen to him, who are willing to serve him. And once he finds a heart that's not quite right and not on the strait and narrow way, he'll snatch it up. If he sees a void in our life, where an emptiness is there, that we've allowed, we have not taken the opportunity to fill our life full of the Holy Spirit, he sees that void. He'll grab it. He'll take hold of it. He knows you and I better than we know ourselves.

But the Word also promises us, dear ones, that when we want, if we have the desire in our heart to overcome, that He will not let anything come upon us, but that He'll make a way of escape (I Corinthians 10:13). And we need to look for it. He doesn't want us to fall. It tells us in the Word, He has no pleasure in the death of a sinner (Ezekiel 33:11). But it is his desire that all should come to the knowledge of the truth (I Timothy 2:4). That all should repent. That all should become converted. That all should live an overcoming life. And that He could say, "...Well done, thou good and faithful servant..." to everyone. (St. Matthew 25:21) But he also tells us the truth.

Satan is powerful enough. There are many whom he has deceived, many whom he has just swerved from the truth, just enough. They have a part of the truth. Satan doesn't usually come with a full, outright lie. He mixes it with just enough truth so that it looks good. That's why the Word says so many times, 'take heed', it says 'watch', it says 'Beware!' Because we have an adversary. And he was alive and well at that time when Christ was crucified, and he's alive now.

It says, "...therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater

sin." St. John 19:11. We think about that, dear ones. Our mind automatically goes to Judas Iscariot. But how about me? How about you? Was it not because of you and me that Christ Jesus died? Was it not because of you and me that He had to go to the cross, that He had to give his life? Yes it was.

If we look at the brother or sister next to us, or we look at the friend or the convert next to us, it was for them. What are we willing to give for them? Would we be willing to lay our life down for our brother or sister? Maybe not even...let's think about that in more than a physical way. Let's think about that in a way, dear ones, of our life that we live. Often the Word refers to our life as our conversation. Is our conversation such that we would be willing to give it up for our brother or for our sister? Or for our friend? If we're living an offensive life, if we're living a life that maybe would lead them to sin? Perhaps we're strong enough. The Word would tell us that's our responsibility. We are our brother's keeper. We're our brother's helper. Let us think about that. That's what Christ did for us.

It says, "And from thenceforth Pilate sought to release him..." St. John 19:12. But the power of the mob, they wanted His life. They wanted it, and they said here, "...If thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar's friend: whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Caesar." St. John 19:12. Here they were applying a little peer pressure there. Have any of us ever been affected by peer pressure? I don't think there's one in this room that could say we haven't been. Sometimes it's good. So often it's bad. Our friends are doing it, so we're kind of pressed into doing it too. Maybe in our, as growing up, through our high school years we knew the things that our friends were getting involved in were wrong. But we didn't want to look like the odd man out. So we went along. That's how Satan works. One step at a time he brought us into sin. He's still trying to do that today.

It says, He went forth to the place called Golgotha, and they crucified Him with the two malefactors, one on either side. And they placed a sign over his head that said 'JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS'



(St. John 19:19). And those of the Chief Priests said to Pilate, don't put that He is the King of the Jews. Write that 'he said' - I said I was the King of the Jews (St. John 19:21). Because, they wanted to make it clear that Christ had claimed that for Himself. They didn't want to admit that that's who He really was. Sometimes when I read this scripture and I read the superscription here that was written above His cross, 'Jesus of Nazareth,' and what Pilate's answer was, "...What I have written I have written." St. John 19:22, was he coming to the knowledge of the truth? Was he coming to the knowledge that this really was Jesus Christ, the King of the Jews? And not only the King of the Jews, but the King of you and me, the King of all that would come throughout the ages of time that would believe on Him.

"Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also his coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout." St. John 19:23. And it's those prophesies fulfilled again and again throughout this entire account here. Just hundreds of prophesies throughout the old testament being fulfilled, all coming to this point. And so many more, dear ones, that point to the time when Jesus Christ will come back again. We can read in the end of the Revelation how it says that when He comes back again He's going to have His name written on His thigh that says, "...KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS." Revelation 19:16. That once and for all He's going to snuff out Satan's reign.

And the victory can be ours along with Him...if...we are overcomers. If we use the weapons of warfare that He has given us. We heard so much about that in the conference, dear ones, and we look forward to hearing the tapes, those of you that weren't able to go to conference. About the armor of God. The weapons that He has given us to fight against our enemy. He provides all we need. There's no doubt about it. He gives us all the training we want. All the training that we need, it's right here in His Word. All it needs is a willing heart, a willing heart to use it. To fit it to us personally. To defend not only our own selves but to defend our

neighbor, our brother, our sister, our friend, our convert. To help them, to help each other gain eternal life.

He showed his compassion and his love here for his mother as she was standing there and he said unto his mother, "...Woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother!..." St. John 19:26-27. What compassion He had. In the agony that He was in there hanging on the cross, He still was concerned about his loved ones. He was concerned about you and me. And it says that disciple took her unto his own home (St. John 19:27).

Those precious words that we can read. Those words that hold so much power. In verse 30 He says, "...It is finished..." It is finished...the agony that he was going through...it is finished. What else was finished there? The plan of salvation. It was written. It was now complete. It was available for mankind. He had given His life.

And they came to him, because it was the day of preparation before the Sabbath day, they besought Pilate that they could break their legs so they would suffocate (St. John 19:31). But when they came to Jesus Christ, they found they couldn't take His life (St. John 19:33). They couldn't take His life because He had given it up. He had already given up the Ghost. He had laid His life down for you and me.

A precious, precious gift. How much value do we put on the gift of Jesus' blood? Can we put a price on it? Can we even put a value on it? Just think about it. Just think about the power that is in that blood. And let's think about the love that He had there. Let's think about the care and compassion He had. He was thinking about His disciples, those that were on the outskirts looking on. He knew about Peter who went and wept bitterly after he heard that cock crow. Because He knows all things. And we can believe that Jesus' heart wept too. He knows our tears, He knows our battles, He knows our strife, He knows our cares and concerns, He knows when we are hurt physically, spiritually, and He cares! And proof is in this chapter right here that He cares. What further need we?

Solomon knew someday there was going to be a Saviour coming. David knew, Abraham knew, Adam knew. All

through the lineage of Jesus they'd passed that on to their children. But somehow through the ages of time it got a little bit mixed up. But there was always a remnant, dear ones, that knew the truth and they knew it was going to happen. And we can rest assured that as the day of grace continues on that there is going to be a remnant. There is going to be a remnant that knows the truth and they know what we have to do to serve our Lord. That remnant is going to know the truth, and what it takes to obtain eternal life.

Is it our desire, our strong heart's desire today, to be a part of that remnant, that we can gain eternal life? That we can live free from sin and Satan, we can live free from turmoil and trial and temptation and strife for all eternity. Because there is not one of us here that hasn't heard the truth...time and time again. And if we don't live that overcoming life, and we stand before Christ Jesus, it tells us, every knee shall bow, and every tongue shall confess (Romans 14:11). We're all going to be judged individually by Jesus Christ. We're going to be judged by our deeds. Is our name written in the Book of Life? And if we are told that we came short of that mark because of disobedience, or we came short of that mark because we allowed this or that to come into our life when we were instructed not to, and we are turned away...that will be Hell in itself. Just knowing that we knew the truth.

So let's press on, dear ones. "...press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:14. Let's press on. Helping one another, holding one another up, encouraging one another along life's pathway. In love and in compassion. And let's look to this Word. Let's look to the life of Jesus Christ. Let's mirror it with our own. Let's try to pattern our life after the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter of I Corinthians, which explains Jesus Christ. We call it the love chapter...but that was His life. How are we doing today?





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

"...Be ye holy; for I am holy" (I Peter 1:16). Learn more about the topic of holiness and becoming more holy in your Christian walk at this year's annual Athens/Tennessee Memorial Day Weekend scheduled on Saturday, May 26 and Sunday, May 27. Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, Ohio) and Bro. Herbert Knochel, Jr. (Phoenix, Arizona) plan to speak on this topic during the weekend.

### Weekend Schedule

*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. Everyone is encouraged to bring one item to donate. Proceeds will be used to maintain the Tennessee Fellowship property and for the Athens Apostolic Christian Preschool. Supper is scheduled at 6:00 p.m. with singing (both congregational and group singing) beginning at 7:00 and Elder Bro. Andy Stoller speaking at 7:30 p.m.

*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 (both congregational and group) starting at 4:00 p.m. Ministering Bro. Herbert Knochel, Jr. will speak on holiness beginning at 5:00 p.m. with supper at 5:30 and singing resuming afterward.

Everyone is invited to attend this weekend of fellowship, singing and worship of the Lord.

### Contacts

Please contact your local church contact or one of the names listed below by April 30 if you plan to attend to assist with meal planning or have further questions.

Tennessee Fellowship Secretary Sis. Gwen Leuthold at (615)356-5755 or leutholdg@aol.com, Tennessee Fellowship Chairman 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.

## Opening for Pre-School Cook

The Apostolic Christian Preschool has an opening for a cook/teacher's aide. No educational degree is required for this position. A few of the duties will include cooking/preparing meals for the children, planning menus, grocery shopping, and assisting with the children in the preschool. If you feel directed by the Lord to fulfill a mission working with small children, as well as being an asset to a small congregation, please contact Bro. Mike Moore by phone (256) 729-0620, or by email: ALM38@aol.com. We prefer a married couple but we will thankfully accept someone single as well.



## COLORADO SERVICES

Due to growth in our congregation, and increased visitors during the summer vacation season, if the Lord is willing, we will be holding worship services in a second location for three weeks this coming summer. Details will be published in the coming months. Preliminary plans are for these locations:

- July 15 Northern Colorado (Loveland/Estes Park area)
- July 22 Colorado Springs area
- July 29 Winter Park area

Services in Aurora (Denver) will continue on our regular schedule, with one of the Denver ministers serving the second location.

### **Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services**

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

**877-370-9988 (toll free)**

*www.accounseling.org*

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problems, etc...*

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- Information about mental health issues and relationship problems
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- Referrals to specialized services
- Apostolic Christian Way of Purity
- Information and presentations on Biblical financial stewardship
- Materials and presentations on other specific topics
- 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](mailto: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](mailto:lemangm@mtco.com). For Jamaica, direct your inquiry to Bro. Mike Rassi, Ph. 1-309-359-3020 or E-mail [michael\\_rassi@hotmail.com](mailto:michael_rassi@hotmail.com).

HAITI					
ORG.	DATE	AREA	COORDINATOR	PROJECT	CAPACITY
Palm Grove	TBD	Puit Sales	Tom Hitz	School Roof	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](mailto:mfiechter@onlyinternet.net)

Location	Date	Project	Coordinator	Phone	E-mail
Juarez	June 16-23, 2007	Construction	Jerry Leuthold	317-578-1170	<a href="mailto:leuthold.jerald@sbcglobal.net">leuthold.jerald@sbcglobal.net</a>
Juarez	September 19-26, 2007	Medical/Dental	Cheryl Herrmann	309-385-1082	<a href="mailto:cherrmann@verizon.net">cherrmann@verizon.net</a>
Magdalena	June 2-9, 2007	Construction	Keith Hinrichsen	623-215-8267	<a href="mailto:keithtam1@cox.net">keithtam1@cox.net</a>
Magdalena	June 9-16, 2007	Construction	John Ricketts	309-444-9061	<a href="mailto:jonr@grimmauto.com">jonr@grimmauto.com</a>
Magdalena	June 16-23, 2007	Construction	Neal Kellenberger	913-782-8063	<a href="mailto:nealkim1921@yahoo.com">nealkim1921@yahoo.com</a>
Magdalena	June 30 - July 7, 2007	Construction	Brent Knobloch	815-923-4736	<a href="mailto:bmknob@mc.net">bmknob@mc.net</a>
Magdalena	July 21-28, 2007	Construction	Tyler Banwart	620-223-1362	<a href="mailto:tybanwart@hotmail.com">tybanwart@hotmail.com</a>
Magdalena	November 17-24, 2007	Construction	Rod Schmidt	303-774-7913	<a href="mailto:rschmidt@Acosta.com">rschmidt@Acosta.com</a>

### U.S.A. BOARD WORK PROJECTS

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

**Kansas:** Paul Kaeb  
 Phone: 785-284-3261  
 Cell: 785-547-5269  
 E-mail: [paulkaeb@ksiconveyors.com](mailto:paulkaeb@ksiconveyors.com)

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

**Illinois:**

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

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

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

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

### NOTICE:

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





# REMEMBERING

## *Our Spiritual Heritage*

*Having spent a recent weekend in northern Alabama, I was moved to include a short history of our church's presence in that area. The initial efforts of ministering Bro. Amos Hartzler, Rittman, Ohio — to spread God's Word — are of great interest. Excerpts are taken from "Marching To Zion."*

### **Athens, Alabama**

In the late 1930's minister Amos Hartzler of Rittman, Ohio, initiated efforts which resulted in the formation of an Apostolic Christian presence in northern Alabama. He was inwardly moved by the Scriptural teaching to "go into all the world and preach the gospel." He sincerely felt the church should do more in this realm.

His method of reaching people with the Gospel centered on placing advertisements in newspapers offering free Bibles. These advertisements appeared in newspapers in Alabama, Arkansas and Tennessee. The response to his notices was encouraging, particularly from areas in northern Alabama. Each person who responded to his advertisements received a free Bible and a personal letter from Amos Hartzler.

It soon became evident there was a hunger and thirst for God's Word in the Lawrence and Limestone County areas in the extreme northern portion of Alabama. The people who were attracted to the Lord, and to our church, at that time mostly lived in rural areas, and some were very poor. In time, there were four churches established at Athens, Hillsboro, Landersville and Huntsville. The first church was at Hillsboro (1940). A church at Athens soon followed. In 1952, church meetings commenced in Landersville (also called Munk City), and in 1971 a partially com-

pleted church was purchased at Huntsville. By 2007, the church at Athens was a part of the Apostolic Christian Church. It had 33 members with 15 in Sunday School. An average of 55 persons attend church services each Sunday. Bro. Mike Moore is the local minister of that congregation.

Those presiding over the Gospel-spreading efforts in Alabama were Elders from the northern states. Some of the first Elders to visit here were Elder Noah Hartzler, Rittman, Ohio (brother of Bro. Amos Hartzler), and Elder Ernest Graf, Sr., Akron, Ohio. Among other leaders who visited Alabama in the early days were Elder Rudy Graf, Akron, Ohio; Elder John Bahler, Rockville, Connecticut; and Elder Noah Schrock, Oakville, Iowa.

At a brother meeting in Cissna Park, Illinois, on November 17, 1949, Elders Noah Bauman, Rittman, Ohio, and Henry Kilgus, Forrest, Illinois, were given the oversight of the Alabama churches. Bro. Kilgus served until November 3, 1962, when heart trouble forced him to relinquish his Alabama duties. During his years of service, he made sixty-five trips to Alabama. Bro. Bauman died on January 29, 1974.

Although he began involvement in Alabama in 1962, Elder David Bertsch, Leo, Indiana, assumed oversight of the Alabama work in 1966. In a twenty-year period, he made 140 trips by automobile and air travel to visit the flocks in Alabama. Many others gave of themselves in a selfless way to move to Alabama and serve the Lord in efforts to expose souls to God's plan of salvation.

When meetings began at Athens, Alabama, they were held where suitable space could be rented. For a time a Legion Hall was rented. Later, the group

assembled in an empty store on Main Street using nail kegs and planks for seats, and a large store box for a pulpit.

In 1952, an old Baptist Church building was purchased on North Clinton Street in Athens. This facility included a small apartment north of the sanctuary. John Wagler and family lived here for awhile as did the Lynn Klopfenstein family. In 1976, construction began on a large brick church on the eastern edge of Athens at 15284 Hastings Road. Dedication services were held on June 26, 1977. A significant portion of the cost of this new church was borne by the national Apostolic Christian Church.

Regarding the early worship services held in Athens, Bro. Henry Perry recalled (in a May, 1975, *Silver Lining* article) how the Gospel drew him to the Lord: "My wife started going to people's homes when Brothers Otto Norr and Matt Wackerle came to Alabama around 1940. Later, some more brothers came down, and the time came when they wanted to have church in our home. Some of those brothers would come out in the fields while I plowed with an old mule. I am so glad these dear brothers kept coming to our home. They just wouldn't give up on me."

In addition to the brick church on Hastings Road, a fellowship center exists north of the church parking lot. A pre-school program is conducted by the Athens church.

Bro. Lavoyd Moore, a native Alabamian, was placed in the ministry in July, 1964. He was ordained Elder on February 10, 1980, the first resident Elder in Alabama. He passed away in 2001 from colon cancer at age 63.

*By Perry Klopfenstein*

**Next Issue:** Misc. historical data



# The Light Of Hope

## From Across The Ocean

### 希望の光

#### “Who Gets The Credit”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

All human beings like recognition. Children and spouses should be praised for the good things they do. However, when it comes to bringing God glory, the purpose for which we live, we must be careful about expecting credit from others for what we do. Jesus said, “So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.” Luke 10:17. What’s this? If we do everything which is commanded us in the Bible, shouldn’t we be given a little credit? Perhaps Jesus is telling us to serve Him just for the joy of serving Him, not for the recognition, credit, or praise from other human beings. At least, we are told to be humble enough to recognize that even if we do everything commanded, we are only doing our duty, nothing more.

This statement, “We are unprofitable servants,” even after doing all, indicates extreme humility, to the point of belittling

oneself. By this statement, the Lord Jesus put an end to the idea that we should try to build ourselves up, as if we were somebody. For sure, we should not think more highly of ourselves than we ought to think. Romans 12:3 “For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think.”

It is clear then, that we ourselves should never say, and if possible, never even think, that we should take credit for anything we say or do. However, Proverbs 26:2, “Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth,” indicates that it is all right for me to praise you, and give you credit for all you do, but I should never take credit for anything myself. Therefore, permit me to tell you that you are wonderful and that you should be praised for all you say and do, assuming that it is all good. I tend to be an optimist. Every human being is precious and valuable but don’t

get puffed up about it.

Scriptures indicate that God is keeping score and He knows who should be given credit for what. II Corinthians 5:10 “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”

When we appear before the judgment seat of Christ and are told that we get credit for something, what are we going to say? Hopefully we will all say, “I am an unprofitable servant.” Why? Because that’s what the Bible teaches and we know, that credit for what we are, what we say, and what we do, if it is good, should go to Christ, not us. He bought us and we are His. I Corinthians 6:20 “For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.

Let’s not seek credit; credit belongs to Christ, and to others: never me.

### 希望の光



*And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them,  
and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.*

*John 10:4*



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