

# *The Silver Lining*

*Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us,  
and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.  
Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise:  
be thankful unto him, and bless his name. .*

*Psalms 100:3-4*

*May  
2007*

Sermon by Bro. Bro. John Jackson, Bay City, MI

## I Corinthians 8:1-13

The Word has opened here to I Corinthians chapter 8. A short chapter, but very relevant teachings. A chapter on food offered to idols, which might seem to be something that doesn't apply to us. But I think there's teachings, in fact I know there's teachings in this chapter that are very relevant, that are very applicable to our everyday life. So let's read this chapter 8, looking for those teachings, again, that we need in our life.

If we look into the Word, if we look into the parables that Jesus spoke, we know it seems like when you would get right to the end of the parable, He would present a summary of His teaching. He would present something that would kind of tell us exactly what He meant by the parable.

If we read this last verse, I think we get a very good idea what Paul is trying to teach us in this. He says, "...if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend." I Corinthians 8:13. If meat causes my brother to sin, he says, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth. It's an exclamation! That if something causes my brother to sin, if it makes him weak, if it causes him to stumble, I'm not going to just not eat it now, I will NEVER eat it. We see, now what comes from that? Is that just an emotionless teaching? No, that's a heart belief. That comes from a heart of love for the brotherhood.

So as we read this, again the Apostle Paul is speaking out of love, out of compassion of his desire that the whole body, that everyone might be presented holy and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

So let's go through this chapter now. It says, "Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge..." I Co-

rinthians 8:1. He starts out, he says, we all have knowledge. We all are able to know and comprehend things. But he says, that's not where it's at. That's not what's most important. He says, "...Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth." I Corinthians 8:1. So knowledge makes one proud. Knowledge elevates, or knowledge inflates our own thinking, you might say. So yes, knowledge has its uses, but knowledge is only a tool. And we know a tool can be used for something good, it can be used for something evil. And He says, you need to be careful with knowledge.

You know, this world that we live in, you might say, almost idolizes knowledge. It lifts knowledge up as being something that, you might say, is how we measure one another, almost that we, those who have more knowledge or more education are somehow lifted up, and those who are not educated are somehow lowered. And he says here, there is a very big responsibility. Knowledge puffeth up. Knowledge makes one proud, and so be careful about separating people into classes based on what they know, because God does not do that.

But he says, though knowledge makes one proud or puffed up, charity edifies. So lest we think knowledge is where we need to be, he says, really charity, charity or love - that love that is put into action; caring, loving, showing affection, kindness, compassion - he says, that is what edifies. That is what builds up. Charity never fails. You know we can look, yes, knowledge is something that can be used for good or bad, but true love is always good. Why is that? Because it comes from God. Charity is something that, it says, that's what God is. God is love. And therefore if we

are carrying out charity, if it is coming forth in our life, if we are living by it, it only breeds good. It only produces good.

Now, that doesn't mean that it always affects us in a good way. Sometimes people don't use it correctly. Sometimes people don't respond to love very correctly. We know, sometimes when we love someone, sometimes they're rejective. Sometimes

*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

May 2007

### The Potter and the Clay

"Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way! Thou art the potter; I am the clay. Mold me and make me After Thy will. While I am waiting, Yielded and still." ("Have Thine Own Way, Lord," Hymns of Zion p. 113). It is so very easy to sing beautiful words in the hymns that we have, but the application of the words to our lives is often more difficult.

God revealed to Jeremiah that "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jer. 17:9). To help Jeremiah better understand that God was in control of his life, the Lord sent Jeremiah to the potter's house to watch the potter work. When a vessel was marred, the potter felt free to make another vessel of the same clay - a vessel that would be better than the first one.

The Lord spoke to Jeremiah "O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the Lord. Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are ye in mine hand, O house of Israel" (Jer. 18:6). The Lord then explained to Jeremiah that He could destroy a nation that was wicked but if the nation would repent, the scattered flock could be restored.

In addition, Jeremiah was instructed to teach the children of Israel not to complain so much. The children of Israel and some of the leadership had protested that the burden of the Lord was too heavy. They did not like what the Lord had done. The Lord reminded them that if they complained "...I, even I, will utterly forget you, and I will forsake you, ...and cast you out of my presence:" (Jer. 23:39). This led to a long period of difficulty. After this period the Lord said "...I will cause him (their governor) to draw near, and he shall approach unto me: for who is this that engaged his heart to approach unto me? saith the Lord. And ye shall be my people, and I will be your God" (Jer. 30:21-22).

The Lord also gave examples of making new vessels of clay of certain individuals in the Bible. When Saul was chosen to be King of Israel, he didn't feel worthy to lead God's people: "...Am not I a Benjamite, of the smallest of the tribes of Israel? and my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? where-

fore then speakest thou so to me?" (1 Sam. 9:21). But God could take that ineffective lump of clay "And the Spirit of the Lord will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into another man" and "...God gave him another heart..." (1 Sam. 10:6&9). As long as Saul was willing to be molded by God, it went well with him; but when Saul tried to become his own vessel, his kingdom was doomed.

We could cite numerous other examples where God took a marred lump of clay and molded it into a vessel useful for the work of the Lord. Among them were Moses, with his speech problem; Isaiah, who felt he had unclean lips; Peter, who was far too bold and sure of his own strength; and Saul (Paul), who was an over zealous Pharisee.

What kind of a lump of clay are we? Do we think we are too incapable to serve God? Are we too sure of ourself? Do we simply not believe? Is our faith too weak that we feel we are not useful to God? "Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh: is there anything too hard for me?" (Jer. 32:27). "...though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool" (Is. 1:18).

We are promised much good "If ye be willing and obedient, ... But if ye refuse and rebel..." (Is. 1:19-20) it will not go well with us. The Old Testament prophets recognized God's promises to those who served Him. But they saw this from afar and had faith, but in their lifetime they "...received not the promise" (Heb. 11:39). If all of these things could be understood without having observed the fulfillment of the coming of the Saviour, how much more should we be able to see what God will do for us since we know Christ died for us?

We were all lumps of contaminated clay. We were vessels that contained sin. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Ro. 3:23). How thankful we must be that even though "There is none righteous ... (we) are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one" (Ro. 3:10-12). God did not give up on us. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (Jn. 3:16).

Jesus told us how we could become a moldable lump of clay. Among the first words that Jesus preached following His great temptation were "...Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Mt. 4:17). When we truly repent we become humble and submissive to God. He will give us the grace we need to serve Him. "But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace to the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God, Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:6-7).

We may think it is too hard to submit to God and to follow the teachings of Jesus - but we have the promise from the Word of God that this is not so. John wrote "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous" (1 Jn. 5:3).

There will undoubtedly be times when serving the Lord will not be easy. Satan will see to it that we have troubles. "...In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (Jn. 16:33). Paul reminded us of this also. He encouraged those who were converted "...that we must with much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22).

Jesus offered much encouragement to His followers. "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls, For my yoke is easy and my burden is light" (Mt. 11:28-30).

The clay really has no choice about the type of vessel it becomes. It has no choice whether it will be pure or contaminated clay. It has no choice whether it will be a vessel of honor or dishonor. We, however, do have a choice. "...choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Josh. 24:15). If we choose to truly serve the Lord and submit to His commandments, we can be a vessel of honor to God regardless of the quality of our clay before we were converted by God.



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

### God-Honoring Communication

Although communication was slow and difficult in the New Testament church, much effort was made by the Apostles and other believers to keep in touch with each other and to share useful information. Whether it was by epistle or word of mouth, the teachings and traditions were passed on from one to another (2 Thes. 2:15). The good news of fruitfulness was not kept quiet. Paul wrote to the Romans, "For your obedience is come abroad unto all men" (Rom. 16:19).

Today's methods of communication are increasingly via electronic means. The purpose should be the same, which is to glorify God and to encourage and strengthen the Brotherhood. This article will describe ongoing efforts to fulfill this purpose by utilizing the capabilities at hand, whereby God's truth and its application can be shared within our Brotherhood as well as to anyone in the entire world.

### Church web site

The official web site of the Apostolic Christian Church ([apostolicchristian.org](http://apostolicchristian.org)) provides ready access to our Statement of Faith, English and Spanish versions of the Welcome booklet (which gives a summary of our church mission, beliefs and practices), assistance in locating individual congregations (including their basic data), listings of special programs (homes for the aged, handicapped and children with special needs) and other basic information.

Through the Special Services section, the reader can connect directly with Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services as well as

with Apostolic Christian Publications. Both of these resources have supporting materials that can now be printed anywhere in the world, as well as books and other publications that can be ordered for delivery.

This means of communication is also a step forward in sharing the Gospel with the lost and teaching others the blessings of obedience to the Lord's commandments (Matt. 28:19-20). The presence of a web site has resulted in inquiries from individuals from around the world. It is heartwarming to read the expressions of appreciation and support for our Statement of Faith and our biblically based walk of life. Many want to know more about our church and request supporting materials to share with their loved ones. A system is in place to answer all inquiries.

Analysis of use of the site indicates an average of 2,200 visits per month. Substantial time is spent on the Statement of Faith. Descriptions of "lifestyle," "the Church," and "Doctrine" are among the pages most frequently visited.

### Communicating the Truth in love

In order to glorify God and have His blessing upon these efforts, it is essential that communications disseminated in the name of our church be carefully developed and appropriately reviewed for content and spirit. Any church-approved programs that have developed their own web sites and desire direct links from the national web site may make application to the Mission Committee which considers such requests. It is unfortunate that this powerful media can easily be misused. There are individuals who have taken it upon themselves to

anonymously establish web sites in the name of our church to present information which, in some instances, misrepresents our beliefs. On a number of occasions people seeking to learn about our church have expressed confusion about some of the erroneous information they have encountered. It has been extremely helpful to be able to refer such individuals to our official web site, where every effort is made to communicate the truth in love.

### Expansion of web-based communication

The National World Relief Board is developing a web site which is to be released shortly. This will allow access to information on worthy activities and projects and provide direction on how to become involved in World Relief work at the local, regional, national and international level. The Mission Committee as well as the Magdalena orphanage (Casa Vida y Esperanza) are also developing web sites.

These sites will provide additional information on current activities and programs which involve spreading the Gospel and meeting the special needs of many precious souls. It is important to understand that reports on the humble deeds of service being offered are intended to glorify God and to encourage continued prayer and support for these worthy efforts. They are not for the purpose of bringing glory to man. Jesus did not expect us to hide our good works, nor to take credit for our efforts. Without the Lord's grace and blessing, all of our labors are in vain. Jesus said: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 5:16).



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

## Making a Difference with Children in Haiti

The Apostolic Christian World Relief Child Sponsorship Committee recently made an evaluation trip to Haiti to visit schools, students and the organizations we work with there. The song "Over the River and through the Woods" has nothing over Haiti. We went over the mountains and through the rivers to get to most of the schools.

ACWR Child Sponsorship works with two organizations in Haiti, MEBLH and Living Word Ministries. Living Word is closely associated with Palm Grove whom some of you may be more familiar with. World Relief has a longstanding relationship with these organizations and many of their school roofs have been put on by Apostolic Christian work teams.

### Living in poverty

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere with 80% of the population living in abject poverty. Most of the schools we visited, rural and remote, exist with no electricity, running water or indoor toilets in the villages. Most of the students live in thatched or concrete block homes with dirt floors. Life is at a subsistence level.

Two-thirds of the people "farm" which means they have a small garden, growing crops such as maize, citrus fruit, or bananas. Many try to raise a couple pigs, goats and/or chickens. Some cut trees to make charcoal to use and sell. Another "industry" consists of stripping fiber out of the sisal plant, which is then sold to make rope. It is a primitive and backbreaking process. The Haitian diet consists mainly of beans and rice. We saw some mal-

nourished children, but most in the areas we visited usually receive two meals a day.

### Health care

Health care remains a real problem. In the Living Word Ministries area it takes hours by tap-tap to reach the nearest town with a hospital. A tap-tap is "public transportation" usually consisting of a rickety bus or truck packed with people, chickens, and bundles. It is not unusual to see people sitting on the roof of the vehicle or hanging off the back. To provide health care, ministries in the area try to offer periodic health clinics, but they are few and far between.

Life expectancy in Haiti is 53 years. We saw one student whose ankle had been accidentally cut with a machete. It was swollen, infected and inflamed. He was given what antibiotics we had with us and antibacterial ointment was put on the wound before it was bandaged. Prior to our first aid it had virtually been untreated.

Some villages have no wells and people must walk to the nearest spring to get their water. If they do have a well, there is one pump for the entire village. It is not uncommon to see women and, sometimes, young children carrying five gallons of water on their heads – barefooted up the mountains.

### A more excellent way

Life is difficult in Haiti, at best. However, the people seem to cope with their situation. In the churches and Christian schools we witnessed sincerely joyful children and adults. What a blessing that donations to ACWR Child Sponsorship enable these children to receive a Christian education. They are taught

the Word, memorize Bible verses and learn many of the songs that are familiar to us. These donations give them hope in this life and help them learn how to have a hope for eternal life. We thank our sponsors for their part in providing a better life for these children. We invite all who have a heart for Haiti youth to contact us and help make a difference for now and all eternity.

### To apply for a student

The cost to support a student is \$21 to \$35 per month. To apply for a student to sponsor please fill out the following. A student will be assigned to you and you will be sent further information.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please check preference:

Haiti  Guatemala

Mexico  Jamaica

Wherever needed

If possible I would prefer:

Boy - Age \_\_\_\_\_

Girl - Age \_\_\_\_\_

No Preference

### Child Sponsorship Office

ACWR Child Sponsorship

PO Box 36

Morton, IL 61550

Phone: 309-266-6080

E-mail: [childsponsorship@acwr.org](mailto:childsponsorship@acwr.org)

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

### *In Loving Memory*

On Saturday, March 31, Sis. Helen Schuon passed away after a prolonged battle with cancer. Helen was the administrator of the group homes from their inception in 1988.

Helen first worked at Timber Ridge in the Activity Department when she was in high school in 1975. She continued to work in Activities while attending college. In 1979 she went to Leo, Indiana, to serve as a houseparent at Gateway Woods. She returned to Illinois in 1981 to work at Timber Ridge and to complete her special education degree at Illinois State University. Following her student teaching and completing her degree, she served as a substitute teacher. She then worked for Peoria Association for Retarded Citizens (PARC) in Peoria, IL, from 1984 to 1988. She was the Director of their Older Adults program for seniors with developmental disabilities.

When the Home planned and built their first smaller home, Oakwood Estate, Helen inquired and was hired as the Resident Services Director. When she became licensed by the state, she also became the Administrator. As additional smaller homes were developed, Helen's role grew to serve as Administrator for all of them. She was responsible for assisting with planning each new home and for supervising the directors of each of the homes.

She served faithfully for 18 years and touched the lives of many residents and staff. During the time of her cancer she continued to serve as she was able and provided support and counsel to those who assisted with her duties. We are grateful for the gifts she brought to all of us. We are thankful for each willing servant God provides to share in the responsibilities of this work.

We extend our sympathy to her family and to all the residents and staff who were blessed by her service. II Timothy 2:11-12 "It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with

him: If we suffer, we shall also reign with him."

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

### **Jeff Waibel**

Recently I heard someone say that everyone must be brought to a "point of disturbance." The speaker was saying that the only way to really get anyone to confront themselves and possibly change their behavior or mindset was to bring that person to a place where their very foundation was disturbed. Jesus was a master at bringing people to a point of disturbance. He did this with the rich young ruler when he made the suggestion that the young man sell all that he had and give the proceeds to the poor. It shook the young ruler's core. He also brought the woman at the well to a point of disturbance when he told her things about herself that she thought no one else knew. The difference, however, is that the rich young ruler walked away sad and the woman at the well ran excitedly to tell all of her friends about this man from Galilee.

This idea is something that Gateway Woods is very familiar with. In fact, it might be said that this is what we do for the young people and families we serve. We help people confront their behavior and heart patterns by continually bringing them to that point of disturbance, the uncomfortable realization that things are not as they should be. It can shake them to their core just as it did the rich young ruler and the woman at the well. For some young people it can bring about change and for others it can bring resistance.

Let's take it one level deeper though. How do I handle it when my Heavenly Father brings me to a point of disturbance? Do I resist? Do I find excuses for my behavior and thoughts? Do I try to avoid the disturbance by telling myself that it is not God pricking my heart? Or does it bring about repentance in me? Does it bring about a desire to not only change my behavior, but to tell others

about what I have learned? Do I respond like the woman at the well or the rich young ruler? How about you?

During this next month, listen closely for the Spirit's leading in your life as you read the Word, listen to sermons in church or in your prayer life. And when you feel the disturbance in your heart, don't resist, but listen. Also, when you feel this disturbance, turn your thoughts for a moment to Gateway Woods and pray that the young people and families that we minister to can feel the same type of disturbance and that it would begin to change their lives.

### *NEWS:*

- We are pleased to announce the hiring of Bro. John Stoller as our new Foster Care Manager. It is also not unusual for us to "recycle" employees and John has served us in various capacities over the years including House Parent and Child Care Supervisor. We are all thankful to have him aboard, especially his wife, Sis. Patsy, who serves as our Secretary.

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

- The new Cypress House welcomed the first residents as Jessica, Paula and Mauricia have recently joined the Plattner family.

- Finally, with spring in the air, Gateway Woods is gearing up for summer - which means volunteers! The brothers and sisters who serve during the summer are so crucial to our program, children and campus. Accordingly, we have hired Bro. David Thames (Washington, IL) as the Summer Volunteer Coordinator. If you are interested in volunteering, please call us at 888-443-4283 or visit our website [www.gatewaywoods.org](http://www.gatewaywoods.org) where you can apply on-line to be a volunteer.

- Please continue to pray for this Apostolic Christian ministry to troubled children and families. Now more than ever, a hurting world needs the Christ-centered services of Gateway Woods. Thank you for making this possi-

ble through your support.

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

“Neglect your Bible, forget to pray,  
forget to pray, forget to pray  
Neglect your Bible, forget to pray, and  
you’ll shrink, shrink, shrink.  
Read your Bible, pray everyday, pray  
everyday, pray everyday,  
Read your Bible, pray everyday, and  
you’ll grow, grow, grow.”

Our children are growing up quickly as all children seem to do. Our hope and prayer continues to be that the Word of God grows in their hearts as much as their little physical bodies are.

Plants have been our theme for the month of April. We have planted seeds and played in the dirt. Some of the kids were a little confused why nothing happened after they stuck their tomato seeds in the dirt. They soon found out that it took time and effort and love to get that plant to grow. It is paying off because we have just begun to see some green poke out above the dirt.

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**ALABAMA, ATHENS  
Louise Hall**

Our congregation was blessed a few weeks ago as we took Communion. It is always encouraging as well as sobering as we reflect on what our Savior did for each of us. We want to thank our Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) who was here with us for the weekend.

Bro. David Art recently spent some time in the hospital. He is back home now and doing better. We pray that the Lord continues to provide healing for him.

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and ministering Bro. Jerry Bauman (Rittman, OH). God bless you for your efforts.

We rejoice with Bro. Mike and Sis. Pam Moore on becoming first time

grandparents. Amber and Demond Garth are new parents of a baby girl, Alayna Shea. She was born Friday, April 13.

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**

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

*II Timothy 3:16-17*

Dear Readers, what a great positive truth to start and end our day. A very personal note: It amazes me (Sis. Ev) when folks say “you aren’t down!” God inspires His own, and He lives in my heart. What a joy to share Him!

It was a beautiful morning, April 8, when Easter Sunrise Services were held at the home of Bro. Robert and Sis. Christine Baum. Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) had the service. Other visiting ministers were: Bro. Randy Mogler (Washington, IL), Bro. Steve Ringger (Bluffton North), Bro. Troy Lyse (Bluffton), and Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO). How thankful we are for our faithful ministering brothers.

Congratulations to Justin and Keri Roth in the birth of their son, Finnley.

Grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Patti Roth and Bro. Ken and Sis. Jody Baum (Morton).

Hospital patients were: Dakota Thorpe (Bro. Chris and Sis. Heather), Sis. Kathie Labudde, Sis. Kathy Knochel, Sis. Heather Thorpe, Bro. Chuck Kieser, and Bro. Bob Farney.

We thank our winter visitors and look forward to your return.

Sharing God’s love is great!

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**ARIZONA, PRESCOTT  
Jane Hodges**

It seems like every Sunday this year we have had visitors from our other churches around the country. We wish to thank all of you for including Prescott in your travels and worshipping with us.

We are also very thankful for the help Bro. Dan Dubach has received with the ministry. Visiting ministers included Bro. John Reinhard (Sis. Pam, Bluffton, IN), Bro. Doug Wagenbach (Sis. Lillian, San Diego, CA), and for two Sundays, Bro. Troy Leyse (Sis. Kelly, Bluffton, IN). May the Lord richly bless them and their families for their love and support.

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**ARIZONA, TUCSON  
Lisa Knapp**

Our winter visitors are almost all gone and summer is threatening us. Our temperatures are in the 70’s and 80’s but we have had a couple of 90 degree days that put a little panic in us all. Today is April 19 and the forecast call for sunny skies and temperatures in the 80’s. Now if it could only stay this way!

As we were anticipating two weddings in our little church family this summer, we heard of another engagement. Bro. Brad and Sis. Sandy Bauer are announcing the engagement of their daughter, Mindy, to Brett Darling. We now look forward, Lord willing, to weddings in June, July and August. We pray God will direct Mindy and Brett as they plan their future according to His will.

Sis. Caroline Kaufman was hospitalized recently for surgery. She is home and recovering but has had some set-

backs with infection. We pray God will allow her to continue recovering and she will feel 100% before our "wedding season" begins, as two of the weddings involve her children!

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**CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA**  
**Tina Jackson**

"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."

*I Cor. 11:24*

Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) shared in the serving of Holy Communion on Saturday evening, March 31. We appreciate his willingness to assist at this most precious time of year when we remember our Lord Jesus' death.

Bro. Brent Kellenberger (Sis. Beth, Kansas City, MO), helped serve in the ministry on Sunday, April 1, along with Elder Bro. John Lehman.

Our Mountain top Easter Services were held in the church fellowship area because of rain this year. We enjoyed a time of singing and pondering the miracle of Jesus' resurrection. We can be thankful that Jesus' resurrection was not dependant on anything but the perfect justice of our Heavenly Father.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary Witzig were hospitalized this month. Sis. Mary fell and broke her arm which was serious enough to require surgery. Bro. Bill was hospitalized while Mary was still recovering. We pray that the Lord brings a speedy recovery to them both! Marian Hecker recently finished radiation treatments and we are continuing to pray for her to fully recover and to regain strength.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Adela Chavez on the passing of her brother who lived in Mexico.

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

What a blessing it was for our little

flock to welcome four dear souls as our new brother and sisters in the Lord. We were thankful to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of Bro. Murray and Sis. Esther Metzger, Sis. Naomi Ursu (Bro. Mike and Sis. Barb), and Sis. Eva Toth (Zoltan and Sis. Maria). We appreciated the labors of Elder Bros. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI) and Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA). Other ministering Brothers were Dan Stoller (Sis. Diane, Rockville, CT), Dale Stoller (Sis. Sandra, Fairbury, IL), and Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman, OH). We want to especially thank the dear brethren from Rockville who took over preparing and serving the baptism meal so the local brethren could enjoy the special weekend.

We appreciated Bro. Jesse Bedolla (Sis. Bonnie, Detroit, MI) serving on our rotation this month.

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

*I Corinthians 11:24,25*

We so appreciated our Elder Bro. Mark Bahr and retired Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Sis. Shirley, Morton, IL) serving us Holy Communion. What a sobering time to remember Christ's death and suffering and what a precious privilege to be able to have fellowship with His sufferings.

That same evening, we were encouraged to hear that our convert, Jesse Ursu (Bro. Mike and Sis. Barb), has found God's forgiveness, and now expresses peace in his heart.

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

On Easter weekend, approximately forty young people in our Sunday school and Young Group presented a program to the church. They reminded us of the gift that Jesus offers and urged us not to

refuse such a gift.

Two young men who have accepted the gift of God are Daniel Leman (Elder Bro. Mike and Sis. Deb) and Benjamin Martin (Bro. Mike and Sis. BethAnn). On the weekend of April 14-15, we were blessed to be able to witness their testimonies and baptisms. Elder Bro. Tom Klotzle (Sis. Jody, Altadena, CA) gave his time and assistance.

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

O, do not fear the cross' affliction!  
The Saviour suffered on it, too,  
To cause eternal joy and pleasure  
To ripen evermore for you.

*Zion's Harp # 171*

We were reminded of God's faithfulness as the Easter season has come and gone. It humbles us to ponder upon the sacrifice our Lord made on our behalf. We do have so much to be thankful for.

Our prayers extend to Bro. Everett (Sis. Nancy) Gerber as he recovers from a recent fall. May God continue to provide for him.

We welcome home the many couples that have been away over the winter months. We are grateful to once again have them in our midst.

"In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

*Proverbs 3:6*

This past month we bid farewell to Bro. Alfred and Sis. Barb Reutter as they make Lester, IA, their new home. In the next few weeks, Bro. Sam and Sis. Tyrene Moser will be relocating to the Silverton, OR, area. We wish these two couples God's blessings as they make these adjustments in their lives, and trust that their new congregations will thoroughly love and appreciate them as much as we have.



## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WASHINGTON

### Henrietta Meyer

Approaching Church yesterday morning, it was such a blessing to see so many cars, so many joining us to worship. In order to accommodate so many, we need to remember to park three across in the drive way.

This month our resident caretakers are retired Elder Bro. Art and Sis. Suzanne Bahler from Fairbury, IL. Sis. Doreen reports we have caretakers lined up through the summer, but will need more for the fall and winter months.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), Bro. Steve Sauder (Sis. Mary, Tremont, IL), Bro. Jerry Isch (Sis. Linda, Philadelphia, PA) Bro. Bob Meyer (Sis. Ann, Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Stephen Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley, IL) and Bro. Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, La Crosse, IN). Other visitors were from Bluffton, IN, Cissna Park, IL, Rittman and Latty, OH, and Rockville, CT.

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 is a change in the times of our services. Morning service will begin at 10 and afternoon at 12 noon.

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

## FLORIDA FT. LAUDERDALE

### Renee Mangold

We were grateful to have several visiting ministers over the past month. Visiting were Bro. Tom Leman (Sis. Marlene, Denver, CO), Bro. Dwight Stoller (Sis. Lori, Latty, OH), Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie, Elgin, IL), Bro. Paul Zimmerman (Sis. Loretta, Forrest, IL), Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Francesville, IN), Bro. Ron Jones (Sis. Liz, Portland, OR) and Bro. Joe Braker (Sis. Shirley, Morton, IL). We pray for God's blessings on the ministers and their families.

Our sympathy and prayers for comfort go to our friend Bernard Edwards on the passing of his wife, Louise. Bernard and Louise have been attending the Ft. Lauderdale church for several years and Louise will be missed by all.

As our winter residents are leaving, we wish them a blessed summer and hopes for their safe return in the fall. In lieu of Wednesday night church services, we will begin our summer of Wednesday singing in the fellowship hall.

## FLORIDA NORTH FT. MYERS

### Naomi Vogel

The majority of our "Snowbirds" are back home, so our crowd is dwindling fast. Our last Wednesday night service will be the last Wednesday of April. Where did the winter go? I'm sure it did not seem to go so fast for the people enduring the winter weather up north!

On the last Wednesday night in March, we had a spaghetti supper to say good-bye to the first batch of brothers and sisters who were heading north. We ended the evening service by singing "Blest Be The Tie That Binds". No truer words were ever spoken! We will miss all of you and look forward to your return if it is the Lord's will!

Bro. Carroll Gerber was able to assemble with us before heading back to Indiana. It was great to see him looking "well and strong" again. Others on our prayer list this month include Sisters

Jeanette Yergler, Verna Hodel, Sue Hodel, Gladys Kaufmann, and Bros. Glen Hodel and Charlie Mann. Our prayer is that the Great Healer and Comforter will make your cross bearable!

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL), John Baumgartner (Bluffton North, IN) and Rustin Meister (W. Lafayette, IN). All of them have parents or parents-in-law who winter with us. Thanks to these brothers and their families for your visit and your gracious service to our Great God.

The full-time residents have been discussing ways we might entice people, especially young couples with children, to come to Ft. Myers to live. One of the strategies we are considering is a web-site to list job opportunities in the area as well as the educational/cultural options, including the advantage of favorable weather conditions.

We welcome any inquiries and/or suggestions. Address these to Bro. Bill Masters at [mwrmasters@aol.com](mailto:mwrmasters@aol.com) or 130 SW 57th St., Cape Coral, FL 33914.

## FLORIDA, SARASOTA Robin Wiegand DiAnne Brown

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

*Hymns of Zion #257*

Greetings, all. Our number has grown much smaller as most of our winter guests have departed and the Spring breaks are almost over.

On March 23, a work team from our church left for the deaf school in Kingston, Jamaica. It was so exciting to watch them work over the last several months to learn sign language so they could communicate with the children.

One of the greatest blessings of the trip came early. Just days before the team was to leave, several workers still had not received their passports, without which they would not be allowed to leave the U.S. The fervent prayers of a

faithful congregation were answered when all 5 passports arrived, some within hours of departure. Isn't God good?

We enjoy hearing of the friendships formed, fellowship and testimonies shared, hard work, fun – even of teenagers getting up to work as early as 4 am - without complaint! Most of all, we hear about the children, of their love and appreciation for the work team and their love for the Lord. What a privilege it is to care for these little lambs.

On Good Friday, that darkest of all days, we were again reminded of the reason for our Lord's great sacrifice. We rejoice that Lindsay Leigh Brown (Bro. Larry and Sis. DiAnne) has started her walk of repentance. We encourage her to spend time in the Word and allow God to direct this wonderful new beginning in her life.

Many attended our annual Sunday School picnic on April 7, including a pesky raccoon that enjoyed the plastic 'Resurrection eggs' almost as much as our children. Good food and fellowship were enjoyed by all. Thanks to all who planned this nice event.

Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann gave leadership to a Bible study this month, encouraging us to be more 'Spirit-filled' and cautioning against being 'Self-willed'. We are told in Luke 9:23, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." I found myself thinking, did I take up my cross today? Did I deny myself? I strive to remember, this is not a struggle that ends as we emerge from the baptismal waters, but a commitment we must make anew each day.

With heartfelt thanks we acknowledge those visiting ministers who labored on our behalf this month, including: Bros. Ron Steiner and Tim Ramsier (Rittman, OH), Ron Heiniger (Bloomington, IL), Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI).

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

On Easter Sunday, our younger chil-

dren sang songs and recited the ten commandments and verses of the Gospel alphabet. The older children read their responses to the question "What would the world be like if Jesus had not raised from the dead?" What a terrible world it would be without the hope of eternal life in heaven!

We continue to pray for Bro. Chuck Kieser (Sis. Marie) as he recovers from an illness.

Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville, OH) ministered to us this month.

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

Throughout this month, we have been blessed with many visitors to Belvidere. Bro. Gary Anliker (Sis. Edie, Elgin, IL) was our visiting minister on Palm Sunday. They were among the grandparents and others who came to hear our Sunday School children present the Easter story. Their singing of hymns was beautiful and perhaps somewhat like the heavenly host that sang in the sky that first Christmas.

With spring here, I am reminded of an experience from my youth. One Sunday getting into our station wagon after church services, we noticed a prankster had written 'wash me' in the dust on the side. My mother was rather embarrassed and henceforth my sisters and I were washing cars with renewed resolution on Saturdays. So as we get busy with spring-cleaning, let us likewise remember to be diligent with the cleanliness of our earthly tabernacle. "Now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow." (Hymns of Zion)

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### **ILLINOIS** **BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL** **Jen Heiniger** **Betsy Zimmerman**

Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) shared in the reading of the Memorandum with us on Wednesday, March 21. Other visiting ministers this month included Bros. Duane Rocke (Minneapolis,

MN) and Scott Wegman (Taylor, MO).

We rejoice with the angels in heaven. Sarah Maurer (Bro. John and Sis. Emily) has found the grace to repent of her sins.

Bro. Joe and Sis. Carrie Kieser welcomed baby Ethan John to their family on March 18. Welcoming him are siblings, Emma and Eli, as well as grandparents, Bro. Bob and Sis. Laura Kieser and Hank and Becky Brandt.

Our sympathies are extended to Sis. Anne Marie Young (Bro. Lynn) and her family in the death of her mother, Trude Maurer. Also, we think of Sis. Annie Widmer and Sis. Dorie Widmer in the death of their sister, Sis. Madlyn Zimmerman of Roanoke.

We extend welcoming hands to Steve and Sis. Donna Maurer and their family as they have begun worshipping with us. We hope you find loving fellowship among us.

On April 1, we had the enjoyment of our annual Sunday School Easter Program. The children reminded us of the joy of the resurrection that made the way for our salvation. Thank you to all who were involved.

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

We appreciate the efforts of our ministers. Bros. Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL), Nate Wieland (Goodfield, IL) and Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Lacrosse, IN) visited us during the past month. We thank the Lord for bringing them into our midst.

We have had several church events during the past month. In addition to the blessed time of Easter, we observed Holy Communion. We also hosted ACYF on two Sunday evenings. Observing our youth makes us realize the importance of training up our children in the way they should go.

Bro. Phil and Sis. Donna Nenadov are thankful for the safe arrival of their second child. Kaitlyn Alice was born on April 10 and is welcomed home by her sister, Larissa. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Wilma Kieser and Bro. Paul and Sis. Marilyn Nenadov (Eu-

reka, IL). The parents would like to express their thanks and appreciation for all the prayers, love, and support they received during the difficult months prior to Kaitlyn's arrival.

Bro. John and Sis. Lucille Endress have made Apostolic Christian Skylines their new home. We are thankful that they can continue to worship with us and wish them the continued blessings of God.

We extend our prayers to the family of Sis. Lois Endress (the late Bro. Danny) as they saw their mother depart from this earth. Her children are the late Bro. Fred (Sis. Joanni), Bro. Gary (Sis. Ev), Keith (Ana), Judy (Lewis McKinney), Joan, and Bro. Bill (Sis. Renee). As was mentioned in the funeral, if we have the hope that we will see our loved ones on resurrection morning, we can say, "good night" instead of "goodbye".

We extend our condolences to Sis. Ev Endress (Bro. Gary) at the passing of her father, Bro. John Schrock, of Oakville, IA.

Sis. Marilyn Tanner (Bro. Richard) and Sis. Char Dietz have spent time in the hospital recently and we hope they can experience a full recovery.

#### *Note of Thanks:*

The family of John Tanner would like to thank the Bradford church family for all the love and support shown to our Dad while he made his home at the Apostolic Christian Skylines and at the time of his death. He especially enjoyed the young group singing on Monday nights and all the visitors from his "home" church. We also want to thank everyone for the memorial donations, cards, food, and love that we received since his passing into his eternal rest. May God richly bless you.

*Harold and Imogene Tanner  
Richard and Marilyn Tanner  
Melvin and Wilma Knobloch  
Herb and Nancy Stoller*

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## ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

### Rachel Meyer

Greetings from Chicago. Outside, our spring began with snow and cold

temperatures. Inside our hearts, may we find warmth and the love of Jesus all year long.

Our Sunday School presented beautiful Easter songs following morning services on Palm Sunday. With great fervor, the children sang, "Up from the grave He Arose!" I remembered singing that beloved hymn when I was their age, and how extra-special I felt when it came to those wonderful words...Up from the Grave He Arose!

Good Friday found us remembering that sorrow and sacrifice beyond compare preceded the joy of Easter Sunday. Yes, it is good to remember.

We thank dear brothers who come and visit and are willing to share God's Word. Bro. Jedd Rocke (Goodfield, IL), and Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH) brought their families to Chicago and shared on the pulpit. Both of these families were visiting loved ones who worship in Chicago and we thank them.

Please come and visit Chicago! Whether you have a family member, friend or want to enjoy a downtown Chicago weekend, we welcome you heartily.

Our Bro. Matthew Rassi presented a Topical Bible Study - "Guarding the Heart," on March 21. Thank you, Bro. Matthew, for being willing to study and share God's Word.

Our friend, Gary Halfer, is in our prayers as he continues his radiation/chemotherapy treatments. May he feel God's comfort as this is not an easy time.

Two dear sisters lost loved ones this past month. Sis. Velda Foxe (Bro. George) lost her brother, Al Lanz, from Atlanta, GA. Sis. Krista Stoller (Bro. Doug) lost her maternal grandfather, Bro. John Schrock, from Oakville, IA. We extend sympathy and love.

"Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, of Joses, and of Juda and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us...?"

*Mark 6:3*

I've been wondering...as a young toddler, did Jesus need to learn His name or did He somehow already know? Did Je-

sus have to learn to share like the rest of His brothers and sisters, or did He somehow already know? Was Jesus frightened by storms and did He need comforting as I, as a child?

I've been wondering...every time Jesus' hammer struck a nail as He worked, did He tremble? Did He shudder as Joseph taught Him to nail each piece of wood to another? Did the ring of iron crushing iron send a shiver down His spine?

I've been praying...is my life truly dedicated to living according to the teachings of my Lord? What can I do better? With whom do I need to reconcile? Have I been willing to speak up for Jesus when the opportunity for which I prayed actually arose? And you?

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## ILLINOIS CHAMPAIGN

### Jackie Eisenmann

With springtime in the air and the earth showing signs of new growth, it reminds me of God's many promises and plans, especially the ultimate hope and promise He has given to all mankind through sending His Son, Jesus. On the afternoon of Sunday, April 1, the Sunday School presented the Easter program to us. They continued the theme of "God's Construction Plan" that was begun at the Christmas program, telling us of God's "plan" for salvation, what Christ has done for us by paying the "price", and the "home" we can all have in Heaven. The program ended with the congregation joining in singing "Mansion Over the Hilltop".

I've got a mansion just over the hilltop,  
In that bright land where we'll never grow old.  
And some day yonder we will never more wander,  
But walk the streets that are purest gold.

With that reminder of the home that awaits the faithful, Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Charlen Banwart and family have laid to rest Charlen's father, Bro.

John Schrock, of Oakville, IA. Our prayers have been with the family in their loss.

On March 27, Bro. Bob Pflederer (Morton, IL) also taught us of God's construction plan when he conducted a Wednesday night Bible study held at the Illini Union on campus. He handed out a wonderful timeline of the Passion week and gave some very insightful teachings for the Easter season. May God bless him for his efforts in teaching God's Word.

Following God's plan for their lives, Bro. Alan and Sis. Theresa Miller and their darling children, Amelia and Adam, have moved to Gridley, IL. A farewell was hosted for them at Bro. Sam and Sis. Pam Furrer's home. We will miss all of the Miller family and hope they will come "home" to Champaign to visit often. May God bless them.

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## ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

### Pam Walder Janie Waldbeser

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO) with us to assist our Elder Bro. Tom Stock in reading the Memorandum. We thank them for their labors in encouraging us to a closer walk with our Saviour.

We gathered together on April 2 for our World Relief Night. We put together meal kits for the local food pantries, knotted comforters, and several other projects to help those who are in need. There was something for everyone to do, and we enjoyed the evening doing service for the Lord.

Our dear Sunday School children brought forth the Easter message on the evening of Palm Sunday. What a wonderful reminder of what our Lord and Saviour did on our behalf. May we often go to Calvary in our minds, and appreciate the drops of blood shed for us, that we might someday look forward to meeting Him in Heaven above some day. On that same note, we had the blessed opportunity to partake of Holy Communion on the Wednesday evening before Easter. We thank Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) for being here to assist in this labor.

Congratulations are in order for Brian Rudin (Bro. Arlyn and Sis. LaNae) and Bree Pirie (Bonnie and the late Brian Pirie, Catlin, IL), as they have announced their engagement. We pray God will bless them as they make plans for a June wedding.

As we look ahead to Mother's Day, we think of our dear Mothers and how thankful we are for all they have done for us. May God bless you dear Mothers, and perhaps some who are not Mothers, but have in some way or other touched a child's heart and made a difference in their life.

#### *To My Loving Mother*

I thank Thee, Lord, for sending my mother;  
Could I have chosen it would be no other.  
Her tender hands have guided me each day  
And many hurts she kissed away.

I remember the nights she tucked me in bed  
And listened when my prayers were said.  
She always found time to share in my play,  
And made me feel helpful (although in the way).

She took me on Sunday to the little Sunday school  
And I was taught quite young the Golden Rule.  
The best for her children was none too good,  
And sacrifices for us I've never fully understood.

She sent me off to school, happy and neat,  
And watched till I had safely crossed the street.  
I know she loves Thee, Lord, I've heard her pray,  
And through her prayers, I too, have found the Way.

I owe much to my mother, I confess,  
More than mere words can ever express.  
So I thank Thee, Lord, for my mother today

And for a mother who took time to pray.

—*author unknown*

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## ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

### Rachel Schrock

One of the saddest verses in the Bible was brought to our attention in a recent sermon: "Then Agrippa said unto Paul, 'Almost thou persuadedest me to be a Christian.'" (Acts 26:28). How terrible it will be on Judgment Day for those who remain almost persuaded but never fully commit their lives to the Lord!

Another tragedy would be to hear on that Great Day that we have become lukewarm and are being spewed out of the Lord's mouth! Thankfulness wells up in us for those who are willing to bring the Word of God to us each Sunday and Wednesday evening to help keep us focused on God's will. We are especially thankful for our recent visiting ministering brethren: Bros. Brent Kellenberger (Sis. Beth, Kansas City), Mike Wagenbach (Sis. Erica, Wolcott), Dan Stoller (Sis. Debra, Remington), Mark Zimmerman (Sis. Cheryl, Eureka) and Tom Leman (Sis. Marlene, Denver).

Sermons as well as our own devotions help us to preserve our soul's salvation. We are especially mindful of this during the weeks before we partake of Holy Communion. Just as we spring clean the church and our homes, so we must clean the corners of our hearts in preparation for partaking in this sacred sacrament. It is also good for us to be reminded of Jesus' supreme sacrifice each year during the Easter season. How grateful we are for this undeserved gift!

Bro. Jay and Sis. Melinda Steffen are grateful for the safe arrival of their daughter, Katy Ann. She was born on March 19 and was welcomed home by her siblings, Nathan, Justin, Molly, Levi and Owen.

Our hospital patients this past month have included Sis. Sherri Dietrich (Bro. Bill) and Nathan Zobrist (Bro. Mike and Sis. Susie). Our prayers are with them and all those who continue to recover from bodily illnesses.

*Note of Thanks:*

We are overwhelmed with the cards of love and prayers from our church family from across the land. Thanks to our Elders, ministers and brethren who visited us in the hospital, and to all the groups who came to sing, both in the hospital and at home. It was truly an inspiration to me that I will not forget. Thanks to all who have visited and helped us since returning home.

Sincerely,

*The Duane Steffen family*

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## ILLINOIS, ELGIN

**Amy Gasser  
Miriam Gasser**

While enjoying the beauty and fragrance of some Easter lilies, I thought of the following passage: "Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."

Matt. 6:28-29

The Sunday School presented their Easter program on the evening of Palm Sunday. Through the recitation of pieces and the singing of special songs and hymns, the students touched our hearts with the recounting of Christ's wondrous love for mankind.

We appreciated the ministry of two recent visitors: Bros. Edwin Strahm (Bern, KS) and Dan Koch (Tremont, IL). May God bless them for their labors on our behalf.

"Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock."

*Luke 6:47-48*

Bro. David Kellenberger (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Debbie) gave his testimony and was baptized the weekend of April 14-15.

We welcome our new brother in the Lord and wish him God's strength and blessing along life's way. May many more come, dig deep, and build their spiritual houses upon the Rock.

In the past month, Sis. Cora Schambach (Bro. Bill) was hospitalized with pneumonia, Sis. Marilyn Kellenberger (Bro. Elvis) dislocated her shoulder in a fall, and Sis. Hilde Schumacher had cataract surgery. We are thankful that all three sisters are on the road to recovery.

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## ILLINOIS, EUREKA

**Cindy Stoller  
Heather Beutel**

"For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come."

*I Cor. 11:26*

Our congregation recently partook of Holy Communion. Here to assist Elder Bro. Ervin with this holy work was Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA). We were once again reminded of what our loving Saviour has done for each of us, and how we need to remain true and faithful here below in preparation for the endless eternity.

Other visiting ministers who brought forth the Word of Life to us were Elder Bro. Bob Walder and Bros. Ben Walder and Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL), Don Manz and Tony Manz (Junction, OH), Floyd Frieden (Elgin, IA), and John Hartman (Fairbury, IL). May God bless them for their willingness to be used in His vineyard.

Our hearts are full of joy when we can hear of the Lord's leading in the lives of His children. The engagements of two couples were made known. Bro. Brad Stoller (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Sherry) to Sis. Amanda Hoerr (Bro. Norm and Sis. Connie), and Bro. Jason Sanders (Bro. Bill and Sis. Sue) is to marry Sis. Janel Cottrell (Bill Cottrell and Sis. Judy Cottrell). We wish these new couples the Lord's leading and blessings as they plan

and look forward to marriage.

Our prayers and thoughts are with our recent hospital patients. They are Bros. Harold Hodel (Sis. Mick), Sid Leman (Sis. Ann), Harry Rocke, Lewis Martin (Sis. Arletta), and Henry Blunier (Sis. Wilma). May they feel the healing hand of God and be granted sufficient health according to His will.

Bro. Jake and Sis. T. Anne Wiegand brought home a bundle of joy when their fifth daughter was added to the family circle. Welcoming little Maria Ruth are Anna, Emma, Sara, and Ella. Grandparents are Dale and Sis. Freidora Wiegand and Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy Rudin (Forrest, IL). It is always our prayer that God will grant wisdom and understanding to parents as they strive to train up their children in His ways.

On April 22, Bro. Kent Wiegand (Bro. Rick and Sis. Sue, Congerville, IL) and Sis. Lanae Zimmerman (Bro. Mark and Sis. Cheryl) were united in holy matrimony. We wish this new couple God's grace and blessings as they endeavor to serve Him together.

On the weekend of April 28-29, two souls were added to the family of God: Tricia Hoerr (Bro. Mark and Sis. Carolyn) and Jeremy Stoller (Bro. Jim and Sis. Janet). May they feel God's continued nearness and guidance as they walk the straight and narrow pathway. Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL) assisted Elder Bro. Ervin in this work.

This same weekend we were privileged to have some of our Hungarian brethren in our midst. Elder Bro. Ferenc Szabados (Ersekcsanad, Hungary) and Elder Bro. Ferenc Szabo (Baja, Hungary) were inspired to help minister the Word to us. Although we are separated by the vast ocean, the same Word comes forth by sincere and humble brothers who are willing to be used for God's service.

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## ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

**Lila Fehr  
Anna Schmidgall**

Greetings of love to each of you as we reflect on this wonderful Easter season. Our Sunday School re-told the story of

Jesus' death and glorious resurrection through song and verse at the Easter Program.

Elder Bros. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Rick Plattner in serving us Holy Communion. What a precious gift our dear Lord left us by which to remember His broken body and shed blood.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Bro. Don, Sis. Sandy Schneider, and their family at the death of his mother, Sis. Gladys Schneider, of Rockville, CT. We will miss her smile as she visited regularly.

God has blessed several families with new babies. Bro. Ryan and Sis. Hope Stoller, along with big brother Braeden, welcome little Kierra Faith. Her grandparents are Bro. Randy and Sis. Ronda Stoller and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Jane Steidinger. Bro. Derek and Sis. Rebekah Rassi are enjoying newborn Emily Rae and big sister, Bonnie Jo. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Diane Rassi and Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill Stoller (Forrest, IL). First-time parents, Bro. Walter and Sis. Janelle Edelman, are thankful for Gaige Walter. His grandparents are Bro. Walter and Sis. Rosetta Edelman and Bro. Randy and Sis. Dawn Steidinger.

We thank our visiting ministers for being God's willing servants. May He bless Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) and Bros. Al Schambach (Remington, IN), Brian Waibel (Campaign, IL), and Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL).

We extend prayers to those that have spent time in the hospital this past month which include Sis. Katherine Gerber and Joan Gaston.

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## ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Jill Wenger  
Lori Leman**

"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."

*1 Corinthians 11:24*

We were reminded of our Lord's death and suffering and the great price that was paid at Calvary as we partook of Holy Communion. We wish to sincerely thank our Elder Bros. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO) and Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL) for assisting our Bro. Wayne with this important work. May we each day continue to think of Calvary and be deeply thankful for the precious salvation that we share.

We were thankful to listen to the testimonies and welcome into the fold our new Bro. Jim and Sis. Lucy Slagel and their daughter, Sis. Kristen. May we continue to walk together and strive for that heavenly home.

There have been many in our congregation who have had afflictions of the flesh and we keep them in our prayers. May God continue to be with Blake Hall (Bro. Don and Barb), Sis. Kim Zimmerman (Bro. Matt), Bro. Les Roth (Sis. Ruth), Sis. Bernice Cox, Bro. Les Zimmerman (Sis. Louise), Bro. Larry Bachman (Sis. Donna), Mila Zimmerman (Bro. Josh and Sis. Molly), Bro. Paul Wiegand (Sis. Edna), and Jonathan Zimmerman (Bro. Paul and Sis. Loretta). We commit these souls to God and trust that He will provide even though the future may be uncertain.

We rejoice with Bro. Garrett and Sis. Bethany Kupferschmid on the birth of their son, Jackson Lee. His sister, Ava, and grandparents, Bro. Ed and Sis. Renee Wenger and Bro. Al and Sis. Wanda Kupferschmid, welcome him home.

Our sympathy and prayers are with Don and Marge Stephens as his brother, Raymond, passed away.

We thank the brothers who have shared the Word of Life with us this month. May God bless Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Lacrosse, IN), Bro. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL), and Bro. Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL) for their labors.

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## ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

**Rita Bauman  
Amber Grimm**

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:"

*Ephesians 1:3*

God has blessed us all in so many ways and it is good to stop and think on all that He has done for us, even in our everyday lives. There is a sister in church whom every time I get to and ask how she is doing she replies "Blessed." Couldn't we all say the same of our lives even if we are in the midst of a trial? God works in wonderful ways.

Bro. Tim and Sis. Susie Blunier welcomed a new blessing to their life on April 11 when Ella Rose was born. She was also welcomed home by her sister, Laura.

Sis. Beth Blunier (Bro. Duane and Sis. Eileen, Eureka, IL) was engaged to Bro. Tyrus Sauder (Bro. Ed and Sis. Bonnie, Roanoke, IL). May God bless their engagement and life together.

A great blessing of our church is visiting ministers. We are so thankful for Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH), Bro. Neil Widmer (Sis. Kristine, West Lafayette, IN), and Bro. Joe Dotterer (Sis. Rose, Bloomfield, IA) who shared the Word with us this month. Special thanks to Elder Bro. John Laukhauf (Sis. Marcia, Latty, OH) for being with us on Good Friday and serving Communion to us.

*Note of Thanks:*

We are very thankful for the outpouring of love and support through the illness and death of our loved one, Sis. Barb Wiegand. We felt the love and mercy of God working through so many of you, our dear family, church, friends, and community. Many prayers, cards, meals, kind thoughts, and deeds were extended to us over the past four months. We thank each one of you and pray God will bless you, too, beyond measure, as He has our family.

*Bro. Ron Wiegand and family*

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## ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

### Perry Klopfenstein

We were saddened by the passing of Sis. Pauline Witzig, who died on April 15 at age 90. She had been cared for by her daughter, Judith Witzig, and died at that residence. She is survived by four daughters: Ann Daughtery, Gridley; Sis. Kay Hock, Minonk; Betty Stuckey, Glen Ellyn; and Judy Witzig, Bloomington; 11 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren. Preceding her in death were her husband (of 57 years), Bro. George Witzig; a son, Raymond Witzig; and one son-in-law, Bro. Willis "Butch" Gramm.

Sis. Pauline featured a special warmth in greeting people. And one person made the comment that she had the same friendliness for everyone, regardless of their circumstance in life. As a mother, Sis. Pauline had to endure a grief that few mothers experience. Her son, Raymond, lost his life in Vietnam, a grievous time for the family, church and community. For weeks the family knew he had been engaged in dangerous places. Then one day a U. S. Army sedan drove into town, and the father, a city employee, surmised the sad news he was bearing. It was a time of great heaviness of heart — and the loss of life of a dear son was very sad.

Our recent visiting ministers were Bros. Brandon Emch (Kansas City, MO), Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN), Bruce Endress (Bradford), Jeff Grimm (Goodfield), Glenn Dill (Tremont), and Ken Hoerr (Peoria). We are thankful for the labors of these brethren.

Samuel Descarpentrie, sixteen-month-old son of Bro. Grant and Sis. Debbie Descarpentrie, suffered a broken arm. He is recovering nicely.

On April 6, a third child was born to Bro. Jaron and Sis. Julie Schlipf. He was named Maddox Michael. He has two siblings: Madison, 6, and Melody, 3. Grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Jill Schlipf, Gridley, and Bro. Steve and Sis. Gerri Schrock, Congerville. Great-grandparents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Winifred Schlipf, Gridley; Sis. Elna Nussbaum, Fairbury; and Bob and

Lillian Schierer, Eureka. May God continue to bless this family as they train up their children in the Lord's ways.

In giving birth, Sis. Julie experienced a severe sickness caused by toxemia. Doctors worked diligently to preserve her life, and by God's grace and favor, they were successful. We as a church all sincerely thank God that she survived to serve as a mother to her three children, and a wife to her dear husband.

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## ILLINOIS, MACOMB

### Kevin Frank

"Give thanks unto the Lord, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the people."

*I Chron. 16:8*

We have so much to be thankful for here in Macomb. So far, we have had many ministers and their families and friends. The last two ministers were Bro. Phil Schulz and Bro. Dale Frank. Bro. Phil (Burlington, IA) came on April 4, and Bro. Dale came on April 18. Those of us here in Macomb extend our thanks and appreciation to those that were willing to stand up before us and bring forth the Word. We also appreciate all the others that come with; it really helps with the singing, and the fellowship has been a real blessing to us.

May 2 is our last Wednesday evening service for this semester, but I believe services will restart at the beginning of the next semester. If you know of anyone that has a church background, we encourage and welcome them to come to services. If you know of anyone interested, contact Kevin Frank (319) 759-1884 or Norm and Janice Reckhemmer at (309) 231-0098.

Norm and Janice Reckhemmer are currently in Tucson, AZ, but will be back for the fall semester. We pray that they will have a safe and speedy trip.

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## ILLINOIS, MORTON

### Annette Tanner Julie Bahr

Along with our own local ministers,

we are thankful for our visiting ministers who bring us a blessing with their messages from God's Word. Thank you to Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS); Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL); Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) assisting with the Memorandum reading; Bro. Ken Hoerr (Sis. Darlene, Peoria, IL) had our Family Night message on End Time Prophecies; Elder Bros. Ervin Knecht (Sis. Sandra, Eureka, IL) and Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary Ann, Fairbury, IL) assisting Elder Bro. Ted Witzig with our Communion service. We are truly grateful for each one of you.

Welcome to a new tender soul to our Morton flock. Sis. Kristi Daniel gave her testimony and was baptized on April 22. She is the daughter of Bro. Billy and Sis. Sheri Daniel. Also welcome to Bro. Jeff Strunk who returned to make Morton his home after several years of employment elsewhere.

With grateful appreciation we thank those who are retiring from Sunday school positions. They are Sis. Joyce Kaiser, Sis. Kathy Tanner, and Bro. Dave Ploussard, Superintendent. Those stepping in to fill positions are Sis. Cassie Meiss, Sis. Ramona Davis and Bro. Jeremiah Psinas. Let God faithfully lead and direct you according to His plan.

On March 31, after a courageous fight against cancer, Sis. Helen Schuon gave in to her loving Saviour's call to come Home! She is the mother of one son, Jonathan; and the daughter of Bro. Carl and Sis. Elsa Schuon. Siblings are Hans, Anita and Lori.

We want to remember in prayer the families of others who passed away this month: Albert Lanz (Georgia) who is a brother to Sis. Anna May Getz and Kerwin Lantz; Sis. Lois Endress (Bradford) who is the mother-in-law to Sis. Joanni Endress; Walter Patton passed away — he attended church here in Morton.

God saw fit for the remodeling project of our fellowship hall to see completion. An open house was held on the afternoon of Palm Sunday. We are grateful for the many prayers offered up during this entire project!

We are requested to be in prayer for our soldiers in our Military. These precious young men are someone's sons, grandsons and daddies! Those who are in Iraq especially need our support and constant faithful prayer. Those who have families in Morton and are stationed in Iraq are Eric Hermann, Daniel Troyer, Scott Frank, Ray and Kristy Frank, Rodney Klein, Lisa Navarro, and Thomas Quimby. Others in the military stationed in the U.S. are Christopher Randall, Spencer Swearington, and Derek Funk. We wish to thank each soldier for the sacrifice you are making for the freedoms of our country. Let God richly bless you each one!

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

The winter has been a long one as we in Central Illinois can attest. Just when you think it couldn't possibly snow anymore, it does. It's amazing how much sunlight brightens our day and makes the most dismal situation seem more palatable.

The changing of the seasons, from the bleakness of winter to the vibrancy of spring, reminds me of God's faithfulness and how, even though we have no control over our lives, just as we have no control over the weather, God makes everything work together for good. He makes beauty out of ashes, the barren earth into a living garden. He can make beauty out of our lives, too.

The Sunday School, grades K-12, and the Young Group, had the Easter program on Sunday, March 25. We thank all the grandparents and friends who attended our church to witness this special event and the Sunday School teachers and students for their efforts to prepare and present the program.

Easter morning, a large group of people gathered to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord at a special Sunrise Service at our Fellowship Hall. The first part of the service was a hot breakfast prepared by a team of wonderful Sisters and Brothers—God bless you for your work, the food was amazing! After the

meal, there was a short time of congregational singing, a music program by the Peoria Choir, and a short sermon by our Bro. Jim Hoerr. Thanks to everyone who came and made this a special time.

The Peoria choir wishes to thank the Bloomington congregation for inviting them to sing at their monthly Hymn Sing on Sunday, March 18. They enjoyed being with you and pray the music was a blessing and encouragement.

Thank you, Bro. Jon Zeller (Morton, IL), for coming to speak at our Family Night service on April 11. We pray that we can all have a "Desire to Serve" and thank you for your exhortation.

The Benefit Dinner is approaching quickly. Probably by the time you read this, it will have already passed. If you wanted to come but missed it, don't worry—CDs will be available. If you would like a recording, contact a choir member, visit us in Peoria, or ask your friend or relative that attends our congregation to pick one up for you.

We are happy to announce three new converts who have come in repentance this month: Robbie Getz (Bro. Mel and Sis. Margaret), Rebecca Dingleline (Bro. Ed and Sis. Sara) and Shelby Waibel (Bro. Matt and Sis. Lisa). We wish you God's grace as you begin your walk with the Lord.

Many new babies have been born in our congregation. Congratulations to all of the families and may God's blessings be upon you as you raise this new child.

Bro. Joey and Sis. Julie Hoerr are happy to announce the birth of their son, Tao Joseph, who was born February 27. His brother, Kai, and sisters, Aja and Zoe, welcome him. Grandparents are Bro. Joe Sr. and Sis. Jo Anne Hoerr, and Bro. Randy and Sis. Jane Schick from Morton.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Michelle Kellenberger welcomed their daughter, Tekoa Rae, into the family on March 8. Her siblings are her brother, Tyden, and sister, Shaeya. Grandparents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Beth Herman, and Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol Kellenberger from Washington.

Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard are happy to announce the birth of their

daughter, Faith Nicole, who was born on March 22. Siblings are Sis. Kristin and Bro. Rodney Menold, Sis. Sarah, Bethany, Hannah, and Gabriel Reinhard.

Congratulations to Bro. Jim and Sis. Faith Carlson who are parents for the first time! Their son, Ivan Keith was born on March 28. Grandparents are Sis. Ardith and the late Bro. Harold Herrmann, and Wilma, and the late Keith Carlson. We wish you God's blessings as you embark on this new adventure.

Our prayers are with Sis. Hattie Hoerr and family in the passing of her husband and father, Bro. Dave Hoerr, and the Binkele family in the passing of their brother, Bro. Elmer Binkele.

The family of Bro. John Tanner would like to thank all those who showed love, support, and kindness to their father during the years he made his home at the Apostolic Christian Skylines. They sincerely appreciate all the kindness showered upon him and hope that you will be richly blessed.

Please pray for our Bro. Herman Schaefer, Bro. Wayne Wieland, Bro. Ed Meister II, Bro. Siggy Schubert, Sis. Norma Reiker, for health concerns and for Jeff Weber, son of Mike and Sis. Janet Weber, who is to be deployed to Iraq, Also with Bro. Dean and Sis. Holly Ramseyer in dealing with the damage caused by a fire in their home.

Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard and family are planning to move to Haiti to serve for a minimum of three years. Bro. Mark and Sis. Judy Sceggel are having a picnic at their home on April 29 to wish them well and bid them farewell. There will also be a singing on May 5 at the Peoria Fellowship Hall. Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan have been an active part of our congregation and ministry in our church and will be greatly missed but we know that God has great things for you in Haiti and wish you the best as you begin this new work for Him.

Blessings to everyone and many happy days of sunshine!

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

"Anywhere with Jesus I can safely go; anywhere He leads me in this world below." We wish God's protection and wisdom to Bro. Clint and Sis. Bethany Plattner as they and their children, Tyler, Abrey, Chelby and Emily, move to Gateway Woods as houseparents. Bro. Nick (William) and Sis. Gladys Knobloch have moved to Apostolic Christian Skyline. Bro. Andy Schick (Bro. Stan and Sis. Margie) is moving to Greenville, South Carolina, for employment. He will attend the congregation at Atlanta, Georgia. May each feel God's love, especially during any lonely times they may feel.

Sis. Arlene Knapp spent a short time in the hospital. She is back at Skyline Home and improving. Sis. Phyllis Knobloch recently had her second hip replacement. She is likewise home and recuperating. She would like to thank each one for their prayers, visits, food, and deeds of kindness. "Our Christian family means so much!" Bro. Nathan (Sis. Esther) Martin is in rehab at this time, recovering from surgery, but is hoping to get home soon.

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Fred Witzig (Indianapolis, IN), Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL), Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL), and Tom Bolliger (Tremont, IL) who was here for a Bible Study. May God bless each of these Brothers and their families for allowing themselves to be used by the Spirit.

We have a few graduates from college. As they seek employment, we pray for God's nearness for them. Our prayers are also with our high school graduates as they start a new phase in their lives. Dear ones graduating from high school are Arica Baer (Don and Carol), Leah Baer (Bro. Larry and Sis. Vera), Matthew Braker (Bro. Glen and Sis. Audrey), Beth Christ (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Connie), Lanae Christ (Bro. Fred and Sis. Tina), Josh Graham (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Pam), Lucas Herrmann (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Lavonne), Devon Knobloch (Bro. Keith and Sis. Lisa), Sis. Tonya Martin (Bro. Craig and Sis.

Terri), Kelsey Stahl (Bro. Rod and Sis. Cathy), Zachery Rumbold (Bro. Rick and Sis. Joyce), Adam Streitmatter (Bro. Alan and Sis. Janet), and Sis. Brittany Streitmatter (Bro. David and Sis. Crystal).

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

As we gathered together on April 1 to observe the Lord's Supper, we were exhorted to "beware the leaven of the Pharisees" - we must be ever mindful that sin is not allowed to creep back into our lives. We appreciate Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Denver) for his willingness to assist in serving Communion. Other visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor) and Bro. Bob Meyer (Bluffton North).

We welcome Bro. Adam and Sis. Amy Spangler from Morton, as they are now assembling with our Roanoke congregation. Sis. Amy is the daughter of our Bro. Steve and Sis. Diane Bates.

Bro. Glen and Sis. Carol Martin are rejoicing at the birth of a grandson, Landon Alan, who was born to Ben and Sara Martin on February 15.

The engagement of Bro. Tyler Sauder and Sis. Beth Blunier (Goodfield) was made known on April 15. Their parents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Bonnie Sauder and Bro. Duane and Sis. Eileen Blunier (Eureka).

On March 28, we enjoyed listening to our Sunday School children and Bible Class students as they participated in the Easter Program.

We extend our thanks to the Washington choir, who were guests at our monthly family hymn sing in April.

On March 31, the Gridley brothers joined the Roanoke brothers in a combined men's choir. We were truly blessed as they presented the Gospel story in song, beginning with Isaiah's prophecy, continuing through Christ's crucifixion and resurrection, and culminating with the rapture of true believers.

In the midst of this joyful Easter season, there is also sorrow among us. Sis. Pam Bryan lost her mother, Isabel

Norton, on March 24. Sis. Madlyn Zimmerman passed away on March 21. She is survived by her husband, Bro. Bob; and children, Bro. Bob (Sis. Kathy), Bro. Stan, and Sis. Tammy (Bro. Steve) Hofstetter. On April 3, Sis. Lisa Gerber went home to be with the Lord, after a year-long battle with leukemia. Many times in the past year, our thoughts have flown to Bro. Byron and Sis. Lisa, and our prayers have gone up to the Heavenly Father on their behalf. Even as we sorrow with her family, we can rejoice that she is now in the presence of her Lord and Saviour, and can once again hold dear little Micah in her arms, as she so often longed to do. Besides Bro. Byron, she is survived by her parents, Bro. Don and Sis. Colleen Leman; and siblings, Kirk, Bro. Kirby, and Heidi. "For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth." Job 19:25

This is our hope...this is what we cling to...when loved ones are taken from us, we believe we shall see them again through the hope that we have in our Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

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

"Oh, how lovely is the morning, when it is begun with God..."

*Zion's Harp #166*

It is a glorious spring day outside as I sit at my computer and write this letter. The sun is shining, and everything smells and looks like spring. How thankful I am that God has provided us with the seasons that change and how we can look forward to each one as it comes.

As we think of spring, we always think of the newness of life as the flowers start to bloom and the trees bud with new leaves. Experiencing the newness of life are two families. Bro. Gary and Sis. Kathy Wagenbach are very thankful for the safe arrival of Betsy Sue. Sis. Kathy had quite a lengthy hospital stay prior to her birth. Big sister, Anna, welcomes her home. Betsy's grandparents are Bro.

Ron and Sis. Liz Wagenbach and Bro. Phil and Sis. Diane Koch. Bro. Dick and Cindy are first-time grandparents. Kenny and Jillyn Lee welcome Serenity Gabrielle into their home. May these young parents raise their children in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

As with the newness of life, so is the sadness of death. Clint Koch passed away unexpectedly this past month, leaving behind his dear wife, Nola; son, Dirk (Erika) Koch; and brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Bro. Glenn and Sis. Dorothy Stuber, from our congregation. We extend our deepest sympathy to them and pray that God will hold them in the hollow of His hand during this difficult time.

Our congregation had the special privilege to have Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht and Elder Bro. Jim Plattner with us on a Wednesday night to give us an exhortation on choosing a Deacon. Our congregation has since been prayerful in voting for one of our ministers to assist our Elder Bro. Charles Sauder in his duties. We also had a commemorative evening in which we took Communion to remember our Lord's death and suffering on the cross. Elder Bro. Tim Funk assisted Elder Bro. Charles in this endeavor. Then on Easter, Bro. Dennis Rassi lent himself on our behalf to preach the Word.

Celebrating a wedding day were Bro. Doug Rocke and Sis. Trisha Kellenberger. Their parents are Sis. Kathy (the late Bro. Nelson) Rocke and Bro. Keith and Sis. Ida Kellenberger. May God richly bless this young couple as they begin their life together.

Illness seems to touch all of us at one time or another. Timothy Rowell (Bro. Landon and Sis. Teresa), Sis. Ann Steiner (Bro. Dick), and Sis. Ida Schweigert (Bro. Chris) have spent some time in the hospital. We pray for God's healing hand on each one. Larry Bolliger, son-in-law of Bro. Karl and Sis. Velda Glueck, has been in the hospital with a serious illness. We are thankful that they report that he is home now, and getting better each day.

We extend a hearty welcome to Bro. Bill and Sis. Ellie Knobloch who have

moved here from Lester, IA. They are the parents of our Sis. Mary (Bro. Nelson) Koch and Sis. Renee (Bro. Mark) Kaiser.

We also enjoyed the children as they sang us the Easter story. It is such a pleasure to see them up on the risers, singing their hearts out to Jesus. They can tell the story in such a way that one remembers it well. May we never forget that while Easter comes physically once a year, it needs to be alive in our hearts each and every day, so that someday we can hear our Saviour say, "Well done".

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### ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON Elizabeth Heinold Nancy Knepp

Thank you to all our guests who came to spend "invite a guest" day with us. We especially appreciated the services of Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL). Thank you also to Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta, Alto, MI) who helped serve Holy Communion, and to Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Lisa, Eureka, IL) for ministering to us.

It is always good to remember our Lord's suffering and resurrection. We were impressed again by the excellent program the Sunday school presented to us. I've been told the early Christians used to greet each other with the words, "He is risen!" responded to by "He is risen indeed!" What an amazing miracle! What a wonderful promise! What a blessed hope!

We sorrow with Andrew and Chastity Martin in the sudden loss of Chastity's father, Marvin Gilbert. We also sympathize with Sis. Carol Huber in the loss of her brother-in-law, Bro. George Erb. Bro. Ted Schick is recovering from a leg injury due to a fall. We gladly lift him up in prayer for healing and patience as his body heals.

We praise the Lord for His mercy for sparing the Jeff Thames family for serious injury when their van overturned. How many times have we also been spared on a journey for which we had beseeched His protection? Do we remember to thank Him always or only on the close calls? "Were there not ten cleansed,

where are the nine?"

Bro. Tommy Hitz moved here from Manhattan, KS. We also welcome Bro. Chris and Sis. Jill (Wagenbach) Hartter and family, who moved here from Remington, IN.

Many from our congregation helped with the Eureka Home Benefit Auction and Bake Sale and the Central Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale. We especially thank Bro. Fred Wyss for 25 years of service coordinating the Washington volunteers at the relief sale. We are grateful that Bro. Curt Feucht has agreed to take his place.

The ladies enjoyed a Spring Victorian Tea, with a theme centered on prayer. As sisters shared examples of answered prayers, and sang "For You I Am Praying," we were also reminded of the times God is silent, when "there are no answers." Even as Abraham, "Who against hope believed in hope, ... staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform."

LOST and FOUND: Men's double-breasted black coat, size 46 long (made in Sri Lanka) was found at Washington Church on January 6, the day of Sis. Ida Pfaffmann's funeral. Missing is a Men's single-breasted black coat size 46 short.

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### INDIANA, BLUFFTON Amber Steffen Jan Schwartz

"...The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel."

*Mark 1:15*

Our congregation was truly blessed on the weekend of April 14 and 15 as Sis. Ashley Fiechter (Bro. Brian and Sis. Deb), Bro. Bill Frauhiger (Bro. Kris and Sis. Ann), Bro. Jon Magnin, and Bro. Matthew Brooks shared their testimonies of faith and were baptized into the family of Christ. We rejoice with these four and pray God's blessings upon them

in their new life in Christ. We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North) and Bro. Steve Frauhiger (Sis. Irene, Bluffton North) to minister to us during this weekend.

We rejoice with a new convert this month. Blaine Aschliman (Bro. Derryl and Sis. Peggy) has realized a need for our Saviour in his life and has made a beginning in serving our Lord.

The engagement of Bro. Ryan Bertsch to Sis. Jessica Yergler (Bluffton North) was announced to our congregation on April 1. Their parents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Carmon Bertsch and Bro. Jeff and Sis. Peg Yergler (Bluffton North). On April 8, Bro. Tyson Frauhiger and Sis. Amanda Isch announced their engagement. Their parents are Bro. Kris and Sis. Ann Frauhiger and Bro. Jim and Sis. Rachel Isch. On April 15, Bro. Lynn and Sis. Ronda Fiechter announced the engagement of their daughter, Sis. April to Bro. Adam McAfee, son of Bro. Jeff and Sis. Linda. We rejoice with these three couples as they look forward to a blessed life together in the Lord.

Ron Kaehr went to his eternal rest on March 16 following an extended illness. Our prayers are with his mother, Sis. Lucille Grandlienard; as well as his wife, Fern; his three sons, Kenyon Kaehr (Donna), Jason Kaehr (Mary), and Aaron Kaehr; a daughter, Denise Chatterton (James); his brothers, Jim Kaehr (Marcia) and Bro. Keith Kaehr (Sis. Lou Ann); and a sister, Sis. Rita Everett (Bro. Dick).

Bro. Harold Isch also went home to be with the Lord on March 27. Our prayers are with his son, Bro. Les (Sis. Ann); his daughters, Sis. Janet Furrer (Bro. Vernon, Wolcott), Sis. Jean Moser (Bro. Phil), Sis. Judy Kipfer (Bro. Ken), and Laura Compton (Brad); and his sister, Sis. Dorothy Frank.

Sis. Mildred Gerber (Bluffton North) also went to her eternal rest on April 6. Our thoughts and prayers are with her son, Bro. Sam Gerber (Sis. Mary Jo, Bluffton North), and her daughter, Sandy Mendenhall (Rick); her sisters, Sis. Marge Ringger (Bro. Bill) and Sis.

Rose Ringger (Bro. LaVerne); and her brother, Bro. Tom Frauhiger (Sis. Rose).

Also a recipient of our prayers are Jonathan and Lisa Ringger who serve on the mission field in Laos. Lisa has been hospitalized in Bangkok with some difficulty in her pregnancy with twins. Jonathan is the son of Bro. Tim and Sis. Marlene Ringger, and Lisa is the daughter of Dave and Loretta Smith.

Spending time in the hospital this month is Jimmy VandenTop as he is being treated for a reoccurrence of leukemia. Our prayers are certainly with Jimmy during this time of illness. Our prayers also extend to Bro. Denny Gore, who also spent some time in the hospital this month. Also a ten-year old Ethiopian child who has been living with a family in our Bluffton congregation underwent corrective heart surgery. Our prayers are definitely with her as we have come to know and love her during these past months.

We rejoice with several new grandparents. Leon and Sis. Cindy Kauffman were blessed with their granddaughter, Noelle Lyn Fox, on February 14. Noelle's parents are Nathan and Jamie Fox. On February 23, Aubrey Nicole was welcomed by her parents, Bro. Ryan and Sis. Bethany Donaghy (Leo). Aubrey is the granddaughter of Bro. Terry and Sis. Jean Neuenschwander. Sis. Jeannie Baumgartner welcomed her little granddaughter, Leah Jalene Werling on February 26. Leah's excited parents are Jay and Barb Werling. Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Sally Ringger (Bluffton North) greeted their new son, Clay Alan, on March 15. Happy grandparents are Bro. Alan and Sis. Sheryl Ringger and Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene Frauhiger (Bluffton North).

And finally on April 1, we were reminded of the death and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour as we heard our Sunday school children singing to our Lord in our Easter program. The program was truly a blessing to us all.

## INDIANA BLUFFTON NORTH Sherry Pfister Darren Drayer

"I am He that liveth, and was dead  
and behold I am alive for evermore..."

*Revelation 1:18*

My friend, Bro. Ryan Bertsch (Bro. Mike and Sis. Carmon, Bluffton), is engaged to Sis. Jessica Yergler (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Peg Yergler). May they feel the Lord's blessings.

Ryan and Crystal Gerber are the parents of a son, Case David, born on March 27. Bro. Duane and Sis. Betsy Gerber are the happy grandparents. Bro. Duane and Sis. Betsy faithfully oversee our church lunch preparations.

Helen Hoover, the mother of Bro. Phil Hoover (Sis. Cindy), passed away on March 31. We offer our sincere sympathies to her husband, Merle, and family.

Sis. Mildred Gerber passed away on April 6. She is survived by a son, Bro. Sam Gerber (Sis. Mary Jo); daughter, Sandy Mendenhall (Rick); daughter in law, Sis. Nancy Gerber (the late Bro. Linus); a brother, Bro. Tom Frauhiger (Sis. Rose); two sisters, Sis. Marjorie Ringger (Bro. Bill) and Sis. Rose Ringger (Bro. Laverne); 10 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and 2 great-great-grandchildren. Our sympathies are shared with this family.

Our Sunday School performed the Easter Program on April 8. The nursery, kindergarten and 1st grade reminded us to "Praise Him." The 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grades gave us a great picture of the "Love of God" that was demonstrated "At Calvary." They also favored us with a poem "One Solitary Life." The 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grades lifted up God's name on high and asked God to create in them a "clean heart." The event was capped off by the high school and graduates: using scriptural narration, they led us through "The Seven Words of Jesus on the Cross" to the Resurrection and finally to our Consummation. We were reminded that it is only through the work of Jesus that we will go to heaven.

*"My Loving Jesus"*

Oh my loving Jesus, I put Thee on the tree.  
 Thou sacrificed Thy holy life just to ransom me.  
 I know it's only through Thy work and nothing of my own,  
 that I'll see Thee face to face in our eternal home.

**INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE**

**Barb Huber  
 Jessica Murray**

Greetings, loved ones, in the name of our Father. This past month we have started to see the new flowers spring up from the ground as the earth takes on a new smell during the Springtime. Good Friday services, Sunrise Services, and at last Easter Day, the Lord's Day — what a sweet time to reflect again how much Jesus has given for each of us personally.

We had the joy of hearing all the stories and songs from the lips of the little children as they presented the Easter program Sunday afternoon.

Their gift of giving their whole heart unto the Lord in song and story is so precious — we should be more like them every day.

Francesville was the host church for College Weekend with about 25 churches' young members here to worship on Sunday. It was an inspiring weekend as they focused on the topic "Standing On The Promises" of the Lord and His Word and had a good time with friends and colleagues. May you each take your memories and grow from them and reflect on this weekend often. May the Lord bless each of you in your daily walk.

Visiting this month was Bro. Lynn Fiechter (Sis. Ronda, Bluffton IN) who had the Wednesday evening topical Bible study. "Maturing in Christ" was the topic, and Bro. Lynn told about many ways we can look at our lives and make the changes where we need to, with the goal being to be more like Jesus was here on earth. It was so inspiring for the young and old alike. We were reminded that setting limits in our lives is the best way we can have others around us want

to know why we choose to live the way we do. As we set the limits and the boundaries for our children, we are teaching them valuable lessons for them as young adults and for the rest of their lives. Thank you, Bro. Lynn, for your time and thought that went into this great lesson and may the Lord continue to bless you and your family.

We have several who are in the hospital or recovering this past month with many different ailments. May the Lord guide you and your families through these challenging times and strengthen you both physically and spiritually. You are in our prayers.

**INDIANA  
 INDIANAPOLIS  
 Penny Schroder  
 Gail Bradford**

We rejoice along with father and mother, Michael and Heather Rowe, on the birth of their daughter, Annmarie Jean, on March 28. Greeting his sister was little brother, Holden, and happy grandparents, Bro. Ken and Sis. Lyn Wuethrich and Kay Rowe. Sadly, grandfather Gene Rowe passed away earlier this year, so the family will tell Annmarie about her grandpa, and someday, they will meet in heaven.

Indianapolis young people from grades 7 to 12 joined others in their age group for "ACYF", Apostolic Christian Youth Fellowship, at Purdue University on a recent Saturday. Many of us remember fondly the times when we gathered with friends and dedicated teachers and ministers for such a day of spiritual edification and fellowship.

It has brought our church much joy to see Dee Mandaza turn her life and heart to the Lord. We pray for her and want to continue to surround her with love as she begins her new life in Christ.

Bro. Ben and Sis. Karla Aberle recently moved to the Indianapolis area. We welcome them and enjoy having them a part of our church family.

We appreciate the services of our visiting ministers, Bro. Wayne Leman (Sis. Julie, Roanoke, IL), Bro. Chris Huber (Sis. Sharon, Francesville, IN), Elder

Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL) and Bro. Ken Lawson (Sis. Sharon, Atlanta, GA). We hope they felt the prayers lifting them up as they preached the Word.

When we met on Good Friday and again on Easter Sunday, we recalled the Lord's passion and His sacrificial love for us. As the year progresses, let us continue to live with an attitude of gratitude for this incredible gift!

"Oh death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?"

*I Corinthians 15:55*

**INDIANA, LACROSSE**

**Bethany Johnson  
 Julie Rocke**

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is  
 For brethren to dwell together in unity."

*Hymns of Zion #188*

We have had many opportunities to gather together in the past month. The weekend of March 24-25 we hosted our annual Fellowship Weekend. It was a very nice weekend with loved ones from many different congregations. Communion was held on March 31. It was a blessed evening and we appreciated the service of Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Sis. Judy) from Forrest, IL. On April 14, we enjoyed a singing shower for Bro. Ed and Sis. Michelle Ramsey (Mansfield, OH) who were married in Champaign on March 4. Sis. Michelle spent many years in our congregation and we were pleased for the chance to have her "home" again for a visit.

Our Sunday School Easter Program was on Palm Sunday. The story of Jesus' death and resurrection was retold again in song and verse. Thank you to all of the teachers, parents and students who worked together to share the story of old.

Sharla Heinold has taken God's Word to heart and started her repentance. We rejoice to have another convert and pray that God's perfect work will be done in her life.

Our thanks go out to the many visiting ministers who labored on our behalf: Bros. Ken Eisenmann (Sis. Sharon, Cissna Park, IL), Doug Harmon (Sis. Lanna, Toledo, OH), John Bradle (Sis. Jill, Roanoke, IL), Dan Moser (Sis. Ann, Elgin, IL), Lucas Frank (Sis. Crystal, Detroit, MI), and Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI).

Bro. Bill Frank had shoulder surgery and we are thankful he is recovering well. Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Curt and Sis. Lyla and their family as their little granddaughter, Mila Zimmerman (Bro. Josh and Sis. Molly, Forrest, IL) underwent open heart surgery. We are thankful for the knowledge and skill that God has granted doctors and are praying for her quick recovery.

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

Greetings in the name of Jesus our Risen Savior! It is truly wonderful that He is alive and that He conquered death so we can live with him! (John 10:10) What a wonderful way to approach the newness of life this spring.

On March 25 our Sunday School presented the annual Easter Program for us. It was a time of praising the Lord through songs and scripture. A hearty thanks to each of the students and the teachers for reminding us of our Redeemer!

“And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”

*Matt. 26:26-28*

We, as a church family, were able to partake of Communion this month. Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) assisted Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz in this special Easter Communion. We were encouraged to remember the things Jesus did for us. Our thanks

to Bro. Bill Schlatter for ministering to us.

On Good Friday Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL) shared the service with us.

Pete Garman spent some time in the hospital as he had a knee replacement. Our prayers continue to be with him as he recovers at home.

This has been a special month for two families. On April 5, JaeDin Allen was born to Amanda from the Oak House at Gateway Woods. We are thankful for his safe arrival and the health of Amanda.

Nathan Manuel Schrenk arrived home on April 11 from Guatemala. His adoptive parents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Linda Schrenk. Nathan is also welcomed home by his four sisters, Sis. Elizabeth, Sis. Abigail, Hannah, and Sarah.

We are happy to have Bro. Clint and Sis. Bethany Plattner back with us again at Gateway Woods. They have four children: Tyler, Abrey, Chelby, and Emily. We hope they will feel at home here with us again!

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

*Easter*

Christ is the world's dear Paschal Lamb.  
He is the great "I was, I Am"  
Through Calvary's pain and dismal gloom,

He conquered over death and tomb.  
He rose His own to justify,  
And draws all men up to the sky.  
If you have found the Christ, His way,  
Then you can keep this Easter day.

*Hymns of Zion #89, vs. 3*

On Wednesday evening, February 28, Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter exhorted the congregation that the deeper we examine ourselves in preparation for Communion, the deeper the blessing we receive in partaking in the Communion service. He also reminded us how important taking part in Communion is to the Christian walk of life.

Several birthdays were celebrated in

the month of March, including this reporter's husband, John Hurd. Bro. Ray Haab was surprised when friends gathered at a restaurant to help him celebrate his 70th birthday.

Sunday evening, March 4, the monthly hymn singing was once again held at the Nursing Home. It was noted how much the residents enjoyed seeing the children singing along with their parents.

On March 9, Tillie (Graff) Kasbaum reached her 100th year. An open house was held in honor of her 100th birthday at the Lakeland Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center where Tillie resides. Tillie is the only survivor of the Fred Graff's twelve children. This reporter's grandfather, Oliver Graff, was the oldest of Tillie's siblings.

On March 10-11, the Young Couple's Potluck Group held an Invite-a-couple weekend. The whole congregation enjoyed the presence of the visiting young families. May God bless all who took part in this event.

The Silver Thimble Club held their annual church auction and supper on Saturday, March 17. The club uses the proceeds for their special events and charity work. This year the Christian fellowship among young and old taking part in the auction was an extra special blessing for the whole church.

Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL) and Elder Bro. William Schlatter (Junction, OH) served Communion to the Milford congregation on March 24. By reading from Exodus 12 and Luke 22, Bro. Tom shared with the Milford members the history of the Passover and how Jesus instituted the last supper. What a wonderful blessing for Christians today to be able to share Communion. Once again, the Milford congregation wishes to thank Bro. Tom and his wife, Sis. Karol, Bro. Bill and his wife, Sis. Emily, for not only sharing Communion with us, but for the Sunday services and the church dinner following services.

Also on March 24, Bro. Alvin and Sis. Carol Haab became grandparents to their first grandson. Greg and Kelli (Haab) Koutsouros are the parents of Carter Rhys. Paternal grandparents are

Greg and Sue Koutsouros, Irvine, CA. Paternal great-grandmothers are LaVerne Donlinger, Glenview, IL, and Dot Koutsouros, Sarasota, FL. Carter joins two sisters, Kylie, 7, and Hannah, 3.

Also joining the Milford church family on March 17 is baby Joshua David Price. His parents are Bro. Daron and Sis. Monica Price. His parental grandparents are Bro. Phil and Sis. Jane Price, maternal grandparents are Bro. Dick and Sis. Gwen Steffen, and maternal great-grandparents are Bro. Walter and Sis. Dorothy Steffen, all of the Milford congregation, and Sis. Isabelle Bauer, Tucson, AZ. Paternal great-grandparents are Bro. Chris and Sis. Emma Knapp, Morton, IL.

On Palm Sunday, April 1, Amy Beer (Bro. Randy and Sis. Deb) welcomed us to the Easter program with this poem:

Jesus came to die for us  
So many years ago  
And we would like to share with you  
The things we've learned to know  
We're happy that you joined us  
To celebrate His love  
And wish each one a blessing  
From our loving God above.  
—by Carol Haab

It is always a special blessing to listen to our Sunday School classes tell of Jesus' love.

Easter Sunrise found the ground covered in cold white snow! But the Sunrise Service was warm in Christian joy that Christ had risen from the grave after shedding His blood and dying on the cross for our sins. We were reminded again of how much pain He suffered so that we can have eternal life.

"I know that my redeemer liveth."  
*Job 19:25*

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

This month we choose to remind ourselves that our loss is someone else's gain. Moving to Illinois and worshipping with the Washington, IL, congregation

will be Bro. Chris and Sis. Jill Hartter and their three children. We are happy for Ethan, Emily and Eric's grandparents to be able to enjoy their grandchildren much closer to home. Their new address and telephone: 307 Columbia Terrace, Peoria, IL 61606. (309) 688-0624

Visiting ministers were: Bro. Ken Weerts and Elder Bro. Tom Stock, both of Cissna Park, IL. Thank you kindly for sharing the Word.

Sis. Cheri Frantz experienced a health challenge and will require some ongoing therapy. We all need each other even during times that it's not so obvious.

Thought for today: Nobody is a real loser – until they start blaming somebody else.

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

We are once again thankful to our Elder Bro. Curt Frank and his wife, Sis. Lyla (Lacrosse, IN) for serving Communion to us. It was such a blessing to share in remembrance of Christ's supreme sacrifice

Easter sunrise services were a blessing to all who attended. We also appreciated the effort the children and teachers put into reminding us of the empty tomb that we celebrate on Easter. May we each have faith like these dear children, not questioning or doubting, simply trusting.

"Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."  
*Matthew 18:3*

"He is not here: for he is risen, as he said."  
*Matthew 28:6*

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**INDIANA, VALPARAISO**  
**Marguerite Hoerr**

April is upon us and on the first day of the month comes the observance of Palm

Sunday, recognizing our Lord's journey carrying His own cross; and finally the celebration of Easter and His resurrection. Bob and I were married on Palm Sunday, 1946, in Milford, IN, while Bob was still in the Army. We went by train to California and arrived in time to eat Easter dinner in an Army guest house mess hall on Easter Sunday. For a farm girl it was a very different way to observe Easter.

In Milford we would have Sunrise Services at my Uncle Henry Beer's cabin on Turkey Creek, and the jonquils would have just started to bloom. The birds would be singing and spring was beautiful. The atmosphere in the guest house dining room was much different that first Easter Bob and I experienced together as man and wife. It was the beginning of experiences that no matter where we are we can always worship on Easter Sunday, and rejoice over our Lord's resurrection.

Our good friend Nathaniel Susdorf graduated in Daytona Beach, from Harley Davidson school this past month. His grandparents, Bro. Ken and Sis. Cindy Susdorf, attended his graduation as did his mother, Sis. Karen Susdorf, and his aunt and uncle and cousins. Nathaniel will be moving to Atlanta to start his new job, where he will be building Harley Davidson motorcycles. We wish him God's blessings in his new venture. We miss seeing Nathaniel during our worship, when he and his mother would come to church together, and we will always give him a warm welcome when he visits.

Our spring/Palm Sunday/Easter program brought the message of Christ's betrayal and resurrection so plainly to our hearts and minds. The very youngest Sunday school children recited this beloved verse in unison and without a mistake: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son; that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." St. John 3:16

The older boys read the Easter story blending various parts of the scripture. The high school girls gave it to us in a very personal way, as they took the parts

of Peter, Mary Magdalene, the Roman soldier, and Pilate; citing scriptures that pertained to each of them. It made it all come alive in our hearts as we re-lived the betrayal, the journey to the cross and the resurrection. As a brother so aptly put it this week, "We were truly blest by our young people."

We were getting signs of spring here in SW Michigan and Northern IN, with jonquils blooming, trees bursting into bud and flower; when winter decided to keep its tentacles on our weather and now we're getting bursts of wind, snowflakes and 28 degree temperatures. We think of the verse in Ecclesiastes 3:1 "To everything there is a season; and a time to every purpose under the heaven." God alone knows when we need these changes, keeping us all aware of the fact that He is in control of our seasons and our lives.

Easter Sunday blessed us with the visit of ministering Bro. Arnold Gerst and his wife, Sis. Marjorie. Bro. Arnie is a brother to Sis. Lois Bucher and made the visit to be with her, Bro. Garry, and their family. The Valpo church received an added blessing because of this.

We're looking forward to Communion during the month of May. May God help us cleanse our hearts and minds so we can receive the greatest benefit from this very special time; as we commemorate Christ's broken body and the blood that He shed for us. It seems very fitting to celebrate this rite so near to the season He sacrificed Himself for our sakes.

We felt deeply blessed this Easter weekend when our son-in-law, Dick Pelath, was able to be with us for a family dinner. It's been a long nine months for him and Becky and his family. His last appointment with the Dr. in Chicago showed him to be free of cancer cells. His complete recuperation will probably take some time but he's determined to give it his best. He wants to thank you all for your prayers in his behalf.

On April 15, we were pleased to have visiting us ministering Bro. Nelson Beer of the Milford congregation and his wife, Sis. Shelby. They blessed our day with their presence and with his ministry. It seemed like home week to Bob and to me

because it was the blending of the loved church we moved from, with the loved church where we now attend.

We hope Sis. Marie Heinold, of Parkview Haven, is feeling the prayers of those of us in her Valpo church, where she attended for many years. Our prayer is that she can soon experience better health.

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## INDIANA WEST LAFAYETTE

**Darlene Walder  
Hollie Meister**

It really is amazing how quickly time flies by. Spring is here and Easter is past and we have been blessed above measure in our Christian walk with God in this free country of America.

Backing up a little, March 18 was the beginning of what we hope will be the first of many family praise nights that we want to have in W. Lafayette. We hope to gather every other month to share dinner, sing praises to God, and fellowship with each other as our church family.

April 1 was our Sunday School Easter Program. It was very sweet to see the young and older children remembering Christ's suffering and death and most importantly, His resurrection. I like to think of Easter as Resurrection Day. We also were very blessed to take Holy Communion just prior to Good Friday, on April 4, and are thankful that Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Peoria, IL) could help our Bro. Curt in sharing of the emblems of Christ's suffering.

Other visiting ministers this month were Bros. Randy Gudeman, Chris Wuethrich, Virgil Metzger, Nile Bucher, Dan Beer, and Brace Wieland. We certainly want to thank these brothers for their labors of love on our behalf.

We were saddened to hear of the death of Sis. Jan Furrer's father. Our sincere prayers and sympathy go to her and Bro. Vernon and their extended family that fellowship with us every Sunday.

"The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts

and minds through Christ Jesus."

*Phil 4:7*

As always at W. Lafayette, we appreciate fellowship with our Purdue students. On their behalf, we would like to thank the Francesville congregation for hosting college weekend on April 14-15. I was not personally involved but was told that the weekend had many uplifting moments and we appreciate all the people that took part in making it a weekend of blessing for all who attended.

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## INDIANA, WOLCOTT

**Lowell Bahler  
Erica Blume**

Greetings in our Savior's holy name!

A group of young converts, Bible class students and several parents, totaling 19, spent the week of Spring Break, March 17-24, on a work trip to Biloxi, Mississippi. We are thankful for God's protection and safe travel.

Bro. Gary Sinn (Sis. Paulette, Latty) was here March 28 for our special Bible topic on the church at Laodicia. We sincerely thank him for a timely exhortation on examining our lives in accordance to His Word.

We commemorated Good Friday through songs and poems about the ultimate sacrifice: the suffering and death of our Lord and Savior. Our Easter program reminded us of the blessed hope of eternal life.

On Saturday evening, April 14, we were again reminded of the shed blood of our Lord through Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Sis. Karol, Cissna Park), along with our Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington), served us on this special occasion. We thank them for their labor of love on our behalf.

Bro. Troy Furrer (Sis. Lisa) was recently injured in a fall from a grain bin, sustaining damage to his shoulder and elbow. Our prayers are with him for God's healing mercies.

Our prayers are also with Russ Winger (Marty) in the loss of his mother, Anna. It is always comforting to know we have a loving Heavenly Father who we can call upon in our time of need.

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## IOWA, BLOOMFIELD

### Barbara Schock

Believing that it is God's will for their lives, the engagement of Bro. Eric Wuthrich (Bro. Ken and Sis. Lora) and Sis. Katie Kuenzi (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Marilyn, Silverton) was made known unto the church. Our prayers go out to this couple as they prepare for the next steps in their lives.

Yes, my name's written there  
On the page white and fair  
In the book of Thy kingdom  
Yes, my name's written there.  
*Hymns of Zion # 211*

On March 24, Daniel Maibach (Bro. Tim and Sis. Mary) was able to bring his testimony before the church as proof to us that the Lord had worked within his life, and that his name is written in the book of life. On March 25, we welcomed him into the fold as our Bro. Daniel Maibach. We thank Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Sis. Sandra, Lamar) for his labors on this special weekend. We also thank Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove) and Bro. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville) for being here the same weekend. May God bless each one.

On April 14, Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman) was here to aid our Elder Bro. Doug Schock in the serving of Holy Communion. We thank Bro. Merle for all the time and effort that was put forth on our behalf. May the Lord richly bless him.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Sis. Evelyn (Roy) Metzger and Sis. Ester Rinkenberger (Bro. Cleo) as both of these dear sisters have spent time in the hospital this past month. May they and their families feel the Great Physician's healing hand during this time.

As the school year comes to a close, there are those that have finished this step of their lives. Graduating from high school is Loren Schock (Elder Bro. Doug and Sis. Clara). Graduating from college are Ryan Schock (Bro. Dale and Sis. Teresa), Bro. Eric Wuthrich (Bro. Ken and Sis. Lora), Sis. Angie Wuthrich (Bro.

Roger and Sis. DeAnn) and Sis. Barbara Schock (Elder Bro. Doug and Sis. Clara). May each of these feel the Lord's guiding hand as they go forward in life.

#### *Note of Thanks:*

I would like to thank everyone who remembered me with cards, phone calls, food and gifts when I had my knee replacement surgery. Your thoughtfulness was greatly appreciated.

#### *Sincerely*

*Sis. Shirley Wuthrich and family*

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## IOWA, BURLINGTON

### Krystal Knapp Laurie Schulz

Elder Bro. Paul Messner assisted our Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall as we partook of Holy Communion. May God richly bless these brothers for their willingness to serve.

Our prayers and sympathy go out to Bro. Joe and Sis. Lois Wiegand at the passing of Lois's brother, Bro. John Schrock (Sis. Ruth, Oakville, IA).

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## IOWA, ELGIN

### Gloria Frieden Heidi Butikofer

"Honor thy father and thy mother:  
that thy days may be long upon the land  
which the Lord thy God giveth thee."

*Exodus 20:12*

Honor – to give great respect; high regard.

Our nation has set aside the second Sunday in May to honor our mothers and the third Sunday in June to honor our fathers. But obedience to obey this commandment requires that we honor them on a daily basis, not just one day annually. Whether our parents are still living or have gone to their reward, may we remember to give God thanks for their years of sacrificial love.

Our prayers are with Sheryl (Butikofer) Schroeder, today, as she is having surgery for a total knee replacement.

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## IOWA, GARDEN GROVE

### Willa Clark

Just when spring seemed to be here in all God's glory, bitterly cold temperatures hit and stayed for a week. The nodding daffodils hung their heads; tulip buds, too heavy to be supported by the limp stems, fell heavily to the ground. We discuss whether the bulbs will have enough energy to make it through another season, without the leaves creating food stores. We wonder whether the flower buds of the fruit trees were frozen too hard to bloom and produce fruit.

That weather parallels with some of the seasons of our lives. Just when we feel the sunshine of God's love shining on us, a chill might overtake us. Perhaps it is a cloud of sorrow in the death of a loved one, the fog of financial setback or the chilly cold shoulder of someone we thought was our friend.

And as the cold weather that bowed the daffodils eventually warmed and new buds opened with only minor damage on the edges, we also can safely rest in the knowledge that our loving Savior will continue to send His sunshine of love, and it will, if we let it, make its way through the chilly clouds of sorrow and sin that surround us.

Praise His wondrous name!

We thank our visiting brothers who have ministered to us in the past month, including Bro. Wes and Sis. Esther Moser (Lester) and Bro. Kim and Sis. Vonette Sutter (Taylor).

This year marks the 30th year since our church building at Garden Grove was built. We extend an invitation to all who have been a part of our congregation in those 30 years to join us June 23-24 for a weekend of fellowship and worship. We are planning a supper, fellowship and singing on June 23, with worship and fellowship on Sunday, June 24. 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 for the weekend.

Please contact Bro. Brad and Sis.



Laura Funk at 641-443-2661 or Sis. Willa Clark at 641-414-2549 or email [wjclark@grm.net](mailto:wjclark@grm.net) to let us know you will be coming. We hope it fits in your summer plans to join us June 23-24.

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

We are thankful for another convert. Renae Snodgrass (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Becky) has begun her repentance. May she find the grace of God to be sufficient for her every need.

We are also thankful that Rachel Snodgrass (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Becky) has found peace with our Lord and awaits baptism.

Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Sis. Sandy, Eureka, IL) assisted Bro. Joe Gerst with the sharing of the Memorandum in March. We are thankful for his help and willingness to stay for Sunday and serve us again. We also thank Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL) for helping from the pulpit on a recent Sunday. May the Lord bless both of these brothers for their love for the brethren and willingness to serve us.

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

We are so thankful for the spring season, and we are enjoying the newness of it all.

A precious baby boy, Jack Robert, was born April 2 to Stuart and Karin Moser. His sister and brother, Samantha and Cody, lovingly welcome him home, and grandpa Jim Moser is glad to have another grandchild to love. May God continue to bless them as they raise their family.

March 24 was the wedding day for Melissa Seggerman and Brett Metzger (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Joleen). We wish them God's blessings as they begin their life together and establish their home.

We have had many hospital and surgical patients this past month: Cassi Metzger (Bro. Tom and Sis. Deb), Bro. Andy Mogler (Sis. Freida), Bro. Willis Nester (Bro. Gene and Sis. Shirley), Sis.

Rosella Metzger (Bro. Bob), Sis. Kristi Knobloch (Bro. Lance), and Bro. John Tolvstad. May they feel the healing hand of God and may we continue to pray for those in the nursing homes and those undergoing treatments.

March 31, Elder Bro. Gerry Hertz (Sabetha, KS) was here to assist Elder Bro. Dennis with Communion. Other ministers visiting this month were Bros. Darren Fehr and Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA), Bro. Greg Braker (Lamar, MO), Bro. Dave Hartter (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Jim Butikofer (Iowa City, IA). We thank them for their efforts and pray God will continue to bless them.

A new address for Bro. Nathan (Bud) and Sis. Irene Knobloch is:

Nathan and Irene Knobloch  
Rock Rapids Health Centre  
703 South Union Street  
Rock Rapids, IA 51246

We welcome Bro. Alfred and Sis. Barb Reutter to our congregation. They are formally of the Rockville congregation. We hope these two dear couples feel God's nearness as they make these adjustments in their lives.

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

We celebrated Holy Communion on March 17 with the help of Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL). This is a time of close fellowship among the brethren as we remember what Jesus did for us.

Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. (Morton, IL) gave two presentations on behalf of the Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services on March 23 and 24. We are very thankful for the resources this service provides to our churches. On Sunday, March 25, Bro. Ted brought forth the Word. Bro. Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA) and Bro. Phil Schulz (Burlington, IA) also visited us. May God bless them for their willingness to be used by the Spirit.

For Good Friday services, Bro. Rod Bajema (Lester, IA) came to worship with us. He was also here for Easter Sunday along with Bro. Bruce Frank (Cissna Park, IL). What a joy that we hear the same Spirit-filled message from

our ministers across the land.

On April 6, Bro. John Schrock passed from this life into eternity leaving behind his beloved wife, Sis. Ruth, and three daughters, Sis. Charlen and Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL), Cathy and Jack Larson (Oakville, IA) and Sis. Evelyn and Bro. Gary Endress (Bradford, IL). We lift up this family in prayer that God will bring them comfort.

*Note of Thanks:*

The family of Bro. John Schrock would like to thank friends and brethren for their expressions of love and sympathy during his illness and death. May God bless you.

*Sis. Ruth Schrock*

FOUND: Women's black leather coat was found after the funeral of Bro. John Schrock on April 10. To claim it, please call Bro. John Steiner at 319-394-3313.

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

We were blessed with many visiting ministers, and very much appreciated the giving of each one's time on our behalf. Bro. Clint Schmidt (Sis. Magdaline, Winthrop, MN) shared the precious Word with us on March 18. Then on the following Sunday, Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris, MN) was in our presence. Bro. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diane, Iowa City, IA) spent Good Friday services with us, and Bro. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN) came to West Bend for Easter.

Communion was held on April 15, and Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Sis. Sandra, Morris, MN) was kind enough to assist our Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm. How thankful we were to again taste of the bread and sip the wine in remembrance of our dying and risen Lord. Also, Bro. Beirne Messner (Sis. Joyce, Morris, MN) spent the same day with our congregation here in West Bend and brought forth the Word through the Spirit.

We enjoyed hearing some of our older Sunday School children sing for us on Palm Sunday—how refreshing! May God richly bless each one, and someday lead

them to Him.

Sis. Madeline Banwart spent time in the hospital, and is now home and feeling much improved. Our thoughts and prayers are with all those, young and old, who struggle with health issues.

Bro. Corbin Fehr (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy) and Sis. Stacy Koehl (Bro. Jim and Sis. Hildy, San Diego, CA) have announced their intentions to be married. Bro. Corbin now resides in Arizona and attends church in Prescott, and Sis. Stacy attends the Morris, MN, church. Clark Anliker (Bro. Lenard and Sis. Helen) from Windsor Heights, IA, and Cynthia Hughes, daughter of Thomas and Debra Hughes, of Davenport, IA, also announced their engagement and plans to be married in the near future. We wish both of these couples God's blessings as they make plans for this very important step in their lives.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Ruth Metzger and her family as they experience the death of Ruth's brother, Jake Schneider, of Elgin, IA. May our Heavenly Father bring peace to the hearts of all concerned.

Even though our mothers are loved and appreciated all year around, may we be especially mindful of their love again on this Mother's Day.

Love isn't like a reservoir,  
You'll never drain it dry.  
It's much more like a natural spring.  
The longer and farther it flows,  
The stronger, and deeper, and clearer  
it becomes.

—Eddie Cantor

## JAPAN, SHIODA

Greetings from Shioda! The last months have been busy for us with many guests! Elder Bro. Mark Bahr and Sis. Beverly came for one of their semi-annual visits in February. We appreciate their support and feel like they are a part of our small church family! Ministering Bro. Joe Klotzle (Altadena, CA) and Bro. Stan Virkler (Remington, IN) visited our church after their World Relief trip to Indonesia. Bro. Joe encouraged the brethren by remembering the inspiration they

were to him when he visited Japan as an unconverted person years ago. We appreciate the brothers making the effort to travel out to Yamanashi to share the Word and would encourage others also to include Shioda in their Japan travel plans! In March, we enjoyed visits from Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon Fehr (West Bend, IA), Bro. Dana and Sis. Martha Kay Regier (Princeville, IL), Philip Dreeste (Washington, IL), and Sis. Kay Kellenberger (Elgin, IL).

We are thankful to have Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois back from Mexico. The bad news is, though, that Sis. Lois fell and had a severe break in her elbow which is causing much pain. We are thankful that she is recovering, and continue to pray for healing and patience to endure. Bro. Willis' treatment for cancer went well, but we continue to pray for his health as well. He will be returning to Mexico for more treatment/evaluation in May, so we pray for traveling mercies for him and for Sis. Lois as she will await his return.

Also returning to Japan is Li-san, our Chinese friend. He had visited China after graduating from university to see his family and new wife. We are praying that all the paperwork will be finalized speedily and that his wife can come to Japan soon. We are grateful for his smiling face and cheerful spirit in our church and pray for him as he starts his work here in Japan.

Our prayers certainly go with Sis. Ayako Inoue who has been transferred several hours away from Shioda. She hopes to worship with the Tokyo believers, but we hope that she will be able to visit us periodically as well! We pray the Lord will bless her as she settles into a new hospital work environment.

We all enjoyed our "sunrise service" (at 8 AM!) up in the mountains with a good view of the pink peach blossoms. It looks like pink fog settling into the whole valley and is a beautiful surrounding to think about the resurrection of the Lord!

Our church is discussing the issue of remodeling/addition to our church and would ask for your prayers that God would give us clear direction.

## JAPAN, TOKYO Jana Klaus

Our Sunday School Easter program was held on the afternoon of Easter Sunday. Once again, the students did a fine job retelling the beautiful story of Hope in both Japanese and English. It was special to have Philip Dreeste (Bro. Mike and Sis. Kathy, Washington, IL) be a part of the program, too, as he was staying with his cousins, the Klauses, for 6 weeks. This year, there were around 17 students, ranging from kindergarten to 8th grade. Of those students, Keita Oyamada and Amy Klaus became first graders, and Atsuya Nakai and Sarah Klaus became Jr. Hi. students. Just to explain the education system here a little — The first year of elementary school (grades 1st-6th), the first year of Jr. Hi. (grades 7th-9th) and the first year of High School (grades 10th-12th) are looked on as important milestones.

Pre-school/Kindergarten is a separate system from elementary and is optional for 1-3 years. The school year starts in April and ends in March with a 2 week break in between. We thank you for your prayers for all of our Sunday School students and for their teachers, Sis. Marie Inoue, Sis. Grace Klaus, Sis. Haruyo Onoda, and Sis. Hiroko Utsuki.

Most of our Japanese Sunday School students are Sis. Marie Inoue's English class students and come from non-Christian homes, but the parents are willing to let them learn about the Bible. At least one parent usually attends the Easter and Christmas programs, where we hope a seed will be planted in addition to what they hear from their children who may share what they learn at home. There is one instance in my mind that I would like to share of a child who tried to put into action at home that which he had learned at church, and did not get a good reception. This boy came some 14 years ago as a young elementary student and I remember him as being very sincere. He seemed to grasp the concept of faith in the one true God and there came a time when he told his mother he could not offer the incense to his ancestors/idols as he was being asked to. His

mother then talked with Bro. Akito and asked if we were teaching there is only one God and when she was told that was so, she no longer allowed him to come to Sunday School.

They lived in the area, so Marie occasionally saw and talked with him and/or his mother over the years. Personally, I have never forgotten this boy, and have thought of him and prayed for him from time to time, as I am sure Marie has also. A few years ago, Marie heard that sadly, his mother passed away suddenly from an aneurysm. Now the son is a college student and a couple weeks ago, he came back to church for the first time and asked for a Bible. He is busy with college life, but please join us in praying for this young man that the Spirit would again revive and soften his heart and that he could become a mighty warrior for the one true God. May the Lord have mercy and shower his grace upon this young man!

It is encouraging also, that we have another family who has been attending in the last few months, Mr. and Mrs. Muramori and their two young boys in addition to Mr. and Mrs. Suzurikawa and their three children, who have been attending regularly for the last couple years. Having these two families with young children brings more life to our congregation and we just thank God. Please pray for these families as well. Thank you for prayers for our dear Sis. Shizuko Urushino who has been unable to attend church since Christmas. She has been earnestly listening to the sermon tapes that Sis. Yoshiko Sakuta faithfully sends to her each week.

Sis. Yoshiko went through a very similar trial a few years back and has been a constant source of encouragement to Sis. Shizuko, calling her and visiting her. Please continue praying for her to become stronger in body, but even more in her faith, that her family can be brought to the Truth through this.

We were so sorry to hear of Sis. Lois Ehnle's (Shioda) fall resulting in a broken elbow while in Mexico. Our prayers continue to be with her and with Bro. Willis.

We had many guests from America in

the past couple months that were able to worship and fellowship with us. Sis. Kay Kellenberger (Elgin, IL) came back for a few weeks to baby-sit her brother Gary's children while they moved.

Sis. Kay had worked here for 2 years as a teacher at the same international school Gary works at and had become a very dear part of our congregation. We were all very happy to see her again! Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon Fehr (West Bend, IA) came back for the second time since they were married over here years ago when Bro. Jim was stationed here in the service. It was fun to hear their stories of how it was then and see them make more memories this time around. We thank Bro. Jim for his part in the afternoon Bible Study. And, Bro. Dana and Sis. Martha Kay Regier (Princeville, IL) came to visit the Klauses for a first time experience in Japan. It was wonderful to share our life here with my sister and her husband. We thank Bro. Dana, too, for his part in the afternoon Bible Study.

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

Our Communion services was held at the end of March. We appreciated having Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA) with us for that special evening and the next day for Sunday services.

Four of our converts believe they are at peace with God and man. Byron and Emily Stoller as well as Hans Strahm (Bro. Kyle and Sis. Peggy) and Stefany Edelman (Bro. Earl and Sis. Donna) will give their testimonies to the church on June 2-3. We look forward to hearing how God has worked in their lives.

Elder Bro. John and Sis. Connie Lehman are happy to have another grandson in their family. Cade Benjamin was born on April 4 to Bro. Tim and Sis. Amber Lehman (Taylor, MO).

Bro. Reuben Moser laid down his cross and has entered into eternity. He was the oldest brother in our congregation at age 95. Our sympathy goes to his son, Jim (Ann), and his daughter, Karen

Chitwook (Robert) of Casa Grande, AZ, and their families. In the same week Ann's father, Raymond Bucher, also entered into eternity. May God comfort this family and know that our prayers are with them.

Our hospital patients for the month were Bro. Bill Wulf (Sis. Leona) and Bro. Waymer Esslinger. May God continue to heal them.

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

"And He said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer."

*St. Luke 22:15*

In the margin of my Bible, the notation next to these words by our Lord Jesus explains, "or, I have heartily (desired)". It is very soul-stirring to think that if Christ was present in the flesh at our Holy Communion service, He would heartily desire to partake of it with US exactly as He "with desire" desired to partake of it with His disciples in the upper room.

On the last Friday evening in March, Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS) and Fort Scott's Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) shared Holy Communion with us. The binding of our hearts through the Holy Spirit was deeply evident as we partook of the Communion tokens.

We enjoyed having visiting ministers, Bro. Bill Dotterer (Sis. Sharon, Lamar, MO) and Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA) share God's Word. We thank them and their wives for their loving fellowship.

Bro. Harold Kraft, his wife, Sis. Wanda, and their family are continually remembered in our thoughts and prayers as Bro. Harold bravely battles his disease.

Recently I was dragging the broken wooden folding table a significant distance across our gravel. Finding myself complaining under my breath as I painfully labored, I pictured Jesus suffering mightily with stripes on His back, under

His heavy cross, as He trudged up the road to Calvary. I stopped complaining.

We honor our mothers on Mother's Day, whether birth mothers or "adopted" mothers, of which may sometimes include grandmothers, older sisters, or aunts. Thanks and praise to God for their loving part in our lives.

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

"Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? Or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

*Matthew 25:37-40*

There are groups of young (and not so young) Apostolic Christian Brothers and Sisters and friends from our colleges and schools across this wonderful United States that (in my opinion) fulfill the above Scripture! They give of their time and expense to travel not only to places like Biloxi, MS; Louisiana; Jamaica; Magdalena, Mexico; but also to rest homes, prisons, etc. They give up their spring-summer-fall and Christmas breaks. To seek worldly pleasures as so many do at these times? No! To help the sick, the deaf, the orphans, the widows, the poor, the blind, and those who cannot help themselves. We, as adults, have a tendency to criticize our college and high school youth, but maybe we should look at the good they do and the joy they bring to so many! Though they aren't seeking the praise of men, maybe we should thank them sometimes for their labor of love; encourage them in their walk with God, and most of all, lift them up in prayer that they not become discouraged. Hebrews 13:16, "But to do good and to communicate forget not; for

with such sacrifices, God is well pleased."

For those of you who met the seven German Mennonite children (ages 5-18 years) who attended the Kiowa Church for almost two years, we would ask for your prayers on their behalf, as their Dad (Deidrich) passed away at the young age of 38 years this month.

We are thankful that Sis. Lois Allenbach is again in our midst after undergoing a surgical procedure this month, and Bethany Hamilton again traveled to Mao. Sis. Marie Tucker is also again with us after her foot surgery. May we keep them as well as Judy Tucker in our prayers, as she is undergoing tests.

There was joy in the home of the Bahrs this month as Sis. Stephanie Bahr was home for 16 days from Magdalena. We appreciate all those who have taken time out of their lives to serve there in Mexico. And though we are grateful for e-mail and telephone, it is so good to have them home in person. Our church was also privileged one evening to ask questions and listen to Sis. Stephanie tell of the work there in Magdalena.

For those of you who went out of your way to come worship with us this month, Thank You, and God bless.

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

Jesus in the night of His betrayal,  
When His covenant He did endow,  
When His blood, in love and grace  
eternal,  
For transgression and for sin did flow,  
He established for His church a token,  
That His covenant might ne'er be broken,  
This His holy Sacrament and feast,  
For His own, from sin and death released.

*Zion's Harp #26, vs. 1*

On March 31, we were taken back to Calvary to behold in reverence the suffering, bleeding, and dying of the pure and holy Lamb of God as we partook of Holy Communion. We appreciated Elder

Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) being here to help serve us and for bringing forth the Word on Sunday.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Nadine Kraft as her uncle, Ivan Donohoe, passed from this life.

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

Spring invite-a-couple weekend took place March 17-18. How blessed we are for the Christian fellowship we can enjoy with those from across our nation!

Visiting ministers this month included Bro. James Knapp (Sis. Lisa, Congerville, IL), Bro. Larry Bahr (Sis. Julie, Fort Scott, KS), and Bro. Tom Leman (Sis. Marlene, Denver, CO). We thank these ministering brothers for bringing the Word of God and the joy of salvation to our hearts and minds.

Recent hospital patients included Bro. Cliff Edelman (Sis. Barb), Sis. Cheryl Metzger, and Sis. Carol Kaufman (Bro. Keith). Our prayer is that God will continue to heal their physical ailments.

Good Friday services were held in Sabetha with Bern visiting ministers, Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie), Bro. Galen Rokey (Sis. Nancy), and Bro. Darrel Stoller (Sis. Gloria). What a blessing it was to have our assembly filled to overflowing as we remembered our Savior's crucifixion and the price He paid for our sins.

Lyle Grimm (Bro. Rod and Sis. Arlene) and Amanda Fehr (Bro. Gary and Sis. Sandy, Morris, MN) are engaged to be married. We pray that God is ever with this couple and will guide their marriage as only He can.

Our prayers are with Sis. Cornelia Aberle and her husband, Bro. John, as they have laid to rest her mother, Trude Maurer (Heinz Maurer, Tremont, IL). Bro. Loren and Sis. Jeanne Edelman and their children, Laura, Tristan, Deborah and Kaden, are in our prayers as they have lost their grandmother/great grandmother.

Todd Strahm and Kara Walter have announced their engagement. Their parents are Bro. Carl Strahm (the late

Sis. Sharon) and Bro. Chuck and Sis. Karen Walter of Silverton, OR. May God shower blessings on this couple as they seek to join in the marriage union.

Our congregation along with the Bern congregation is now meeting every other Sunday evening for church singing and will resume mid-week Wednesday evening church in the fall. Please feel free to join us if you have the opportunity.

*Note of Thanks:*

Words cannot express my deep appreciation for the visits, phone calls, cards, food, flowers, monetary gifts and prayers since my car accident. A sincere thank-you to my church family for their love and kindness. May God richly bless each one.

*Sis. Leota Grimm*

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## KANSAS, WICHITA Emma Miller

The weekend of March 31 – April 1, was special for us in Wichita. A group of brothers and sisters from K-State and Washburn University formed a work team to help with a siding project on the home of one of our church families. They willingly worked in spite of the inclement weather and then stayed to worship with us the following day.

I am sure that many of you have chanted the old rhyme, "April showers bring May flowers." This year, we can change it to "April snows ruined March flowers." The trees that were bursting with green look so sad with their blackened, curled leaves.

On April 15, about 15 people from the Lamont-Gridley congregation worshipped with us as a part of the small church project. While I am certain they were missed in their home church, it was a blessing to have more people on our benches. My grandson is now my Sunday chauffeur and his comment as we drove into the churchyard was, "Looks like we have more people here today." I have reasons to limit myself concerning highway driving, however, seventeen years ago God provided for me and the need that would befall me when I reached this

point in my life.

Bro. Al Langhofer was hospitalized this past week. Thankfully, Sis. Judy had recovered enough from her fall and was able to come to church the week before Al's hospitalization. We continue to pray for them both.

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## KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON Barb Huber

How wonderful it is to awaken at the break of day and hear the birds beginning to sing. Just as they sing their song of praise to their Creator, so, too, we wish to offer up our thanks and praise to our Redeemer and Lord for providing faithful ministers to come and share God's Holy Word. We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Sis. Gloria, Congerville, IL), Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Sis. Judy, Forrest, IL), Bro. Lynn Fiechter (Sis. Ronda, Bluffton, IN), Bro. Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, LaCrosse, IN), and Bro. John Hartman (Sis. Rosemary, Fairbury, IL). We pray God's blessings upon all their efforts put forth.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Bro. Doug and Sis. Rebecca Germann and their family, in the death of Bro. Doug's dad, Henry Germann. May the Lord comfort their hearts is our prayer. May God bless our dear mothers on Mother's Day. We are thankful for their never-ending love and care.

### A MOTHER'S LOVE

A Mother's love is the closest thing  
that we may ever know,  
To the love that Jesus had for us  
as we travel here below,  
A mother's love is selfless and pure  
as it stands the test of time,  
How I thank the Lord - He gave  
to me a godly Mom.  
Someday we'll see Christ face to face,  
we'll rejoice with one another;  
But the closest thing we'll know down  
here  
Is the love of a Christian mother.

We were blessed with the fellowship of other visitors represented from the following churches: Francesville, IN;

Bloomington, Eureka, Washington, IL; Columbus, Latty, Rittman, OH. It is an encouragement to have you worship with us.

Again, we extend a welcome to come and visit us in Lexington. You may contact Bro. Doug Germann (859) 223-0294 or Bro. Lester Huber (859) 745-2541.

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## MEXICO, IXTLAN Claudia Gonzalez

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

*Luke 24:5-6*

Once again we were reminded about the great suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ for us. We could not repay His sacrifice with anything. But praise to the Lord that our Savior is alive and that is our greatest hope.

"...and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

*Matthew 28:20*

This month we had the privilege of having ministering Bro. Tom Troxel (Sis. LuAnn, LaCrosse, IN) sharing God's Word with us. We appreciated that very much.

On April 24, we said our last good-bye in this world to our dear friend, Jesus Lira. Jesus was the brother of our Sis. Carmen Lira Cervantes. We will miss his fellowship in church with us.

On April 17, all those of a willing heart got together to clean our church building as we do every year. Thank you to all of you who gave your time to do this labor.

"Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."

*II Corinthians 8:17*

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

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

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,"

*1 Peter 1:3*

As we reflect on the past month, we remember with thankfulness the death of our Savior Jesus Christ and the hope we have in His resurrection.

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

Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ."

*Colossians 3:23-24*

In March and April, we were blessed to host four workteams in a row. The groups were college groups from Illinois State University/Bradley, and University of Illinois, and Sunday school groups from Bluffton, IN, and Tremont, IL. We are thankful for all the work they accomplished on the new church building and group home, as well as the many other projects they completed. The added fellowship was a blessing and the extra prayer on-site much appreciated.

We also thankful for the labor of a group of cement workers from Arizona and Illinois, who came and poured the floor for our new church building. We pray they are blessed for their service here.

Along with the physical labor, we also appreciate the spiritual labor of Elder Bros. Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian, San Diego, CA) and Charles Sauder (Sis. Miriam, Tremont, IL), and Bros. Ed Sauder (Sis. Bonnie, Roanoke, IL), Wayne Leman (Sis. Julie, Roanoke, IL), Ron Kipfer (Sis. Linda, Bluffton, IN), and Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Fairbury, IL).

We are grateful for the prayers offered up on behalf of Magda during her

time of illness.

"A father of the fatherless ...is God in his holy habitation."

*Psalm 68:5*

On March 23, we welcomed four new children, siblings, to Casa Vida y Esperanza: Alfonso ("Poncho"), Aaron, Diego, and Candelaria ("Candi"). Although we don't know their ages for sure, we think they range in age from 1 to 7. We pray that while they are here with us at CVE they can learn about Jesus, His love for them, and plan for their lives. Please pray for their caregivers as they take on the added responsibility of these little ones.

"Así os digo que hay gozo delante de los ángeles de Dios por un pecador que se arrepiente."

*St. Luke 15:10*

We are filled with joy to hear that Elizabeth Martinez, who attends church here with her mother, Marcela, has made known her desire to repent and give her life to Christ. Please pray for Elizabeth as she is a light for Christ to her mother and four sisters.

We praise God that our church here in Magdalena is growing and in April we found it necessary to add another Sunday school class to help decrease the class sizes. Please pray for our Sunday school teachers, as they teach these little hearts about our Savior and the precious Word of God.

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

*Psalm 90:12*

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

The angels were rejoicing this month as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptism of two dear souls. Hannah Knudstrop (Charles and Mary) and Lisa Zaagman (Ed and Sis. Joyleen Zaagman) were taken up this month, and thanks to Deacon Bros. John Jack-

son and Ted Steffen for assisting Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen over the wonderful weekend. We thank God for granting us such wonderful grace.

We thank our visiting ministers this month for coming and sharing the Word with us, namely Bro. Bill Waibel (Sis. Carol) and Bro. John Jackson (Sis. Peggy), all from Bay City, MI.

Our thoughts and prayers go to Sis. Helen Steffen this month as she is in the hospital with illness; we pray she will be on the road to recovery and home soon. Also, we are thankful Carl Steffen has had surgery and is home recovering.

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

We are going down the valley, one by one,  
When the labors of the weary day are done;  
One by one, the cares of earth forever past,  
We shall stand upon the river bank at last.

Our congregation has mourned the loss of two dear brothers in this past month. We rejoice in their victory; yet are saddened in their family's loss. Bro. Wallace Wackerle passed away on March 21. We especially want to remember his wife, Sis. Alvina, and his children, Gayle (Richard Roberts), Kenn (Kathy), and Tina (Andrew Heinz).

Bro. Howard Wieland passed away on April 13. His family includes his wife, Sis. Pauline, and children, Bro. Rod (Sis. Evelyn), Sis. Corrine (Bro. Ray Schlatter, Junction, OH), and Sis. Pam (Bro. Ken Schlatter). Bro. Howard will also be missed by one brother, four sisters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

We also want to remember Sis. Eleanor Knochel in the loss of her sister, Norine Ballard.

Bro. Floyd Knochel (Sis. Marion), Sis. Eleanor Munsel, and Sis. Shirley Wright (Bro. Gary) all spent time in the hospital this past month. We pray that

they could regain their strength and that they could return back to good health such as the Lord would will.

On April 14, our congregation gathered for Holy Communion. This time is always special for our small body of believers and we are thankful for Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) and Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta, Alto, MI) for coming to assist Bro. John in this important work.

On April 14, we sang "Blest Be the Tie" as another couple is moving from Bay City. Retired Elder Bro. Andy and Sis. Maxine Virkler are moving down to Central Illinois and will be worshipping with the Congerville congregation. Even though Bro. Andy and Sis. Maxine will be missed, we know that this move will allow them to be closer to some of their children and grandchildren.

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### MICHIGAN, DETROIT Manuela Denes Kay Rauhe

All hail the power of Jesus' name!  
Let angels prostrate fall,  
Let angels prostrate fall;  
Bring forth the royal diadem,  
And crown Him, Crown Him,  
And crown Him, Crown Him;  
And crown Him Lord of All!  
*Hymns of Zion #80*

This special hymn, sung by our congregation, was the beginning of our Easter program. As Christians, this is a wonderful time of the year, when our Lord Jesus was crucified for our sins and then arose...Hallelujah! As our Sunday School children filed into the sanctuary with smiling faces and waving at loved ones, there was an apparent joy then, and also evident as they recited their pieces and sang songs to glorify our Lord and Saviour. The theme this year was "Triumphant...Forever" ...Jesus was triumphant over His own will and pride, over bitterness, over sin, and over death and because of all He did for us, all we need to do is to submit to Him through repentance and baptism and enjoy our final reward in Heaven.

Our heartfelt thanks goes to visiting ministers, Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn; Indianapolis, IN), Bro. Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla; LaCrosse, IN), and Bro. Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN), for sharing the Word with us. We also appreciate visiting ministering Bro. Walter Rager (Sis. Sharon; Toledo, OH) for conducting church services at Woodhaven Retirement Community recently. They also brought along Bro. Matt and Sis. Deanna Manz and Jim Harmon to help with the singing. We sincerely appreciate their willingness to "serve the Lord with gladness." Psalm 100:2.

Our love and prayers to Sis. Perseda Wieland as she was recently hospitalized, and we are so thankful as she continues to recuperate at home. Sis. Ethel Rambeau is hospitalized with pneumonia, and we need to keep her in our thoughts and prayers.

We were saddened to hear about the death of Sis. Millie Wieland from Bay City, Michigan. Our love and sympathy to her brother, Bro. Guy Wieland (Sis. Rose), and sister-in-law, Sis. Perseda Wieland (late Bro. Floyd), and to her great niece and great nephews, Sis. Bonnie Bedolla, Bro. Steve Wieland, and Bro. Andy Wieland. Our deepest sympathy, continued prayers, and love to Sis. Bonnie Bedolla (Bro. Jesse), Bro. Steve Wieland (Sis. Tiffany), and Bro. Andy Wieland (Sis. Krista) on the death of their grandfather, Bro. Howard Wieland (Sis. Pauline) of Bay City, Michigan. Praying that Sis. Perseda Wieland, sister-in-law to Bro. Howard Wieland (late Bro. Floyd), and brother, Bro. Guy Wieland (Sis. Rose), find comfort in the promise of Jesus to restore hope and peace to their souls. Sis. Kathryn Losiewicz is saddened over the death of her sister-in-law, Mary Toth (George...currently living in Shelby Township at a Veterans Home). Our love and prayers are with Sis. Kathryn and her brother as they go through this difficult time.

Our prayers continue to be with Bro. Aaron and Sis. Bekah Plattner as they are in India for a month rotation at a hospital there, and we look forward to their

safe return.

Elder Bro. Mark Bahr asked us to read the verses from Psalms 139 and James 3:13-18 in preparation for Holy Communion and to have grateful and submissive hearts and great love for each other. "And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace." James 3:18. We are looking forward to Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Sis. Debra; Peoria, IL) sharing a blessed evening with us and assisting Elder Bro. Mark in the Communion service.

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

*I John 4:12*

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### MINNESOTA MINNEAPOLIS Mary Mogler

Anew, Lord, we are bound to Thee,  
Through Thy blest sacrament, which  
we  
Partook, that joined in heart and  
hand;  
To Zion's realm and holy land  
We journey on.

*Zion's Harp #200*

As we pause to reflect on the deep suffering Jesus endured to pay our debt of sin, we cannot comprehend His great love for us. Truly, in this moment of quietness, we are renewed and desire His grace to journey on. We appreciate Elder Bros. Art Nohl (Morris, MN) and Dave Graf (Akron, OH), along with Deacon Bro. Duane Rocke, as we gathered for Communion service. It was a blessing to have Bro. Al Schambach (Remington, IN) also worship with us that weekend and appreciate these brothers' willingness and faithfulness in bringing forth the Word. Our Sunday School students added to the blessings of the day as they shared the beautiful message of Easter through song and verse. It's always heartwarming to hear the childlike declarations of Christ's love.

It was an unexpected and welcomed blessing to have Bro. Jim Meiss (Phoe-

nix, AZ) and wife, Sis. Candy, in our midst on a recent Sunday as they gathered for a family celebration in our area. We were uplifted by Bro. Jim's inspired message of hope.

Happy grandparents in our congregation, Bro. Jim and Sis. Deb Tilbury, welcome grandson, Kaleb James, born to daughter, Jeanette, and husband, Corey Ackman.

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### MINNESOTA, MORRIS

**Heidi Nohl**

**Sheila Reuter**

We are so thankful for souls that are giving their heart to the Lord in repentance. Amanda Fehr (Bro. Gary and Sis. Sandy) and Mitch and Abby Fehr have begun their repentance. We trust God will grant them the grace to build a firm foundation.

Two families have been blessed with babies this month. Blaire Lily was born to Mark and Becky Reuter. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Carolyn Reuter and Dan and Mary Jo Dammann. Also Bro. Kurt and Sis. Rachel Domnick welcome home Macy Rae. Excited for her arrival were Morgan and Reese and grandparents, Bro. Gary and Sis. Velma Domnick and Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Sherry Stoller (Eureka, IL). We wish them all God's richest blessings as they raise their children.

The engagement of Sis. Stacey Koehl to Bro. Corbin Fehr of Prescott, AZ, was announced. Their parents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Hilde Koehl (San Diego, CA) and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy Fehr (West Bend, IA). May God bless this couple as they make plans to be joined together as one.

Hospitalized this month was Sis. Sophie Nohl, Sis. Thelma Dogotch, Bro. Otto Schaefer, Neil Joos, Bro. Shane Jones, Sis. Kari Koehl and Sis. Eileen Nohl. May God heal where it is His will.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to James, Joyce, Terry, Richard, Robert, and Eileen Greiner in the passing of their mother, Gladys Greiner. We trust God will comfort them.

*Note of Thanks:*

We would like to thank the Brethren of the Morris congregation as well as other congregations who knew of my recent trip to the Cleveland Clinic and remembered us in prayer and with gifts of love. May God richly bless each one.

In Christian Love,

*Bro. Shane and Sis. Ruth Jones and Family*

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### MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

**Rachel Steiner**

**Julie Schmidt**

Upward soar, my soul and spirit,  
This great miracle behold;  
See the King of highest merit  
On the cross so bare and cold!  
His compassion brought salvation  
While He died in love untold.

*Hymns of Zion #236*

Easter morning had an extra blessing with a breakfast put on by the Sunday School students and teachers. We appreciate their efforts and labors of love.

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### MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

**Becky Weiss**

The reading of the Memorandum took place on the evening of February 11. Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH) and our Elder Bro. Don Braker shared with us many timely exhortations. Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Sis. Nancy, Elgin, IL) joined us for services on Sunday.

On March 3 we observed Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) was here to help serve. We appreciate these Brothers' willingness to help and may God bless them for their efforts. Other visiting ministers have been Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS).

We welcome Sis. Marie Luthi from Lamont-Gridley who is assembling with us for a few weeks while she is doing a school rotation in our area.

### MISSOURI, LAMAR

**Mindy Braker**

**Becky Marti**

Anew, Lord, we are bound to Thee  
Through Thy blest sacrament..."

*Zion's Harp #200*

We were privileged to partake of Holy Communion on April 15. We appreciate Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzler (Sabetha, KS) being here for the weekend and serving us in the Lord's work.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Bro. Dale and Sis. Corrine Marti and Bro. Joe and Sis. Evelyn Marti in the loss of their brother-in-law, Bro. John Schrock (Sis. Ruth) of Oakville, IA.

We are thankful that Brent Luthi (Elder Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Sandra) is seeking the Lord in repentance. May God grant him the needed grace in this most important step. We pray that many more will heed His call while His grace is yet available.

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### MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

**Betsy Schrenk**

We have arranged with the Drury Inn and Suites at Olive and I-270 in Creve Coeur for our visitors to be given a corporate rate. Phone-(314) 989-1100. Mention that you are visiting the Apostolic Christian Church when you call for a reservation. You will also receive a savings on part of the tax. This very nice facility is about 15 minutes from our church, following the directions in the minister book.

We miss Bro. Jonathan Auperle as he has moved back to Princeville after being employed in the St Louis area for about a year.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Rex Frieden (Sis. Vera, Lamar), and Elder Bro. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kansas City). We appreciate their love and faithfulness.

Bro. Loren Schrenk had a biopsy of a suspicious-looking lesion on his tongue on Good Friday, and was thankful to get the report that it was "benign". We are continually reminded of how fragile we human beings are, and that we are just



pilgrims passing through this world. Our true home is Heaven.

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## MISSOURI, TAYLOR

### Sally Haerr

God WILL Take Care of You... (Hymns of Zion #138) ... No matter what may be the test ... How true are the words of this cherished old hymn! Isaiah 26:3 tells us that the Lord will "keep us in perfect peace if our mind is stayed on Him..." (paraphrased) our part is to TRUST!

We were served Holy Communion on March 24. We want to sincerely thank Elder Bro. Rick Plattner and his wife, Sis. Mary Ann (Fairbury, IL), who came to assist Elder Bro. Kent in this sacred rite. What a privilege it is to be a child of God and in oneness with each other.

Our Easter program took place on April 1. What greater gift could we give to our children than to teach them the love of a crucified and risen Lord and Saviour ... "Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends..." (John 15:13). And Deut. 6:7 tells us to teach our children at home and as we walk and talk with them.

What can show the miracle of Christ more vividly than the birth of a precious baby and the rebirth of a precious, repentant soul. We are so thrilled, here in Taylor, to have both. On April 4, Cade Benjamin was born to Bro. Tim and Sis. Amber Lehman. May the Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 4:22) fill their lives and home so that little Cade will grow to know Jesus as his personal Saviour. Experiencing this birth, with great joy, are first time grandparents, Elder Bro. Kent and Sis. Jan Heimer and Elder Bro. John and Sis. Connie Lehman (Bern, KS). Also this month, Reed Yackley (Bro. Elwood and Sis. Trudie) made known his decision to follow Jesus. We pray that God will give him the needed grace to build a firm foundation.

Bro. Loren Schrenk (Sis. Betsy, St. Louis, MO) came to present a Bible Study on April 11. He spoke on understanding scripture, the deeper meaning of the Jewish custom of "sharing the cup". This was used in sealing an agree-

ment such as a marriage proposal as well as a sign of unity and much more. I've often thought how much a believer misses out on when we do not take time to study the scriptures. In spite of some health issues, they made the extra effort to be with us and we are so grateful to them for their love and care for us.

We are thankful to have Sis. Nerys Lightener (Peter) back in church with us after a time of illness. We need each other and we miss even one when they are not with us.

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## NEW YORK

### CROGHAN-NAUMBURG

### Hope Graves

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Paul Messner and his wife, Sis. Jan (Winthrop, MN), for the weekend of March 24-25. We shared a potluck dinner together Saturday evening before the reading of the Memorandum. It was a blessed time of fellowship, encouragement and awareness of how we can do better in our daily living. We were happy to have ministering Bro. Duane Reutter and much of his family with us for the last weekend in March. We shared a potluck dinner together Saturday evening, followed by a singing. It was another blessed weekend of fellowship. May the Lord richly bless both of these brothers for their many labors in His service.

Our Sunday School Easter program was held on Easter Sunday. It was a great learning time for all of us and a beautiful time to reflect on the Lord's sacrifice and love for us. We pray the children will remember all that they have been taught in their years coming to church and that these teachings may bring them closer to the Lord each day of their lives.

We held a World Relief work night on Friday, April 13. We were grateful for all of the helping hands that worked so well together to assemble health, school and sewing kits as well as snack bags. After the work was finished, we had a special treat of pizza and snacks while showing pictures of the work that has been done in Biloxi. It was wonderful to be able to share together the many labors of love

that have been taking place since hurricane Katrina.

The prayers of the church have been with Brad Herzig and Bro. Ted Virkler who have been hospitalized recently.

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## OHIO, AKRON

### Mara Henico

### Rachel Pamer

How thankful we are that our Lord was willing to die and shed His pure blood for the remission of our sins! As we remember that and then His glorious resurrection during this time of year, it really puts life into perspective. How thankful we are for grace to continue to offer our lives as a living sacrifice so that God's name can be glorified.

We are so very thankful that we can now greet our dear Mary Leidl as a sister in the Lord and pray that God will bless Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH) for his assistance during Sis. Mary's testimony and the Communion exhortation that followed. Bro. Jon Zeller (Sis. Christine, Morton, IL) also visited and served us in the Word; we are thankful for his willingness to be used by God for our encouragement and edification.

A group recently traveled to Biloxi to help with the relief efforts there. We are thankful for the safe return of our Bro. Justin and Sis. Lisa Gherian as well as Bro. Glen and Sis. Joan Greenbank, and their boys Samuel, Arthur, and Steven. We trust that God will continue to find willing servants who are "ready to go" and "ready to stay" according to His plan. We each have a "place to fill".

We pray that God will strengthen those who have recently been hospitalized. Bro. Greg Henico (Sis. Sarah) had surgery. Bro. Todd Graf (Sis. Lydia) also spent some time at the hospital. George Hunyadi (father of Sis. Diane Bako) was also recently hospitalized. We trust that each one will find that God is near and that they will feel our prayers.

We will miss our Sis. Bonnie Bako as she relocates to North Carolina, near to where her daughter resides. We trust she will feel our prayers and support as she seeks to follow God's direction in her

life.

Our prayers are with Sis. Coleen Demrovsky (Bro. Andy and Sis. Vera) and Bro. Ryan Gasser (Bro. Fred and Sis. Mary, Rittman) as their engagement was recently announced. May God guide and provide His grace during this time of transition.

We were thankful to hear that Bro. Emery and Sis. Erika Gal's newest daughter arrived safely. Older sister Tiffany and brother Mark also welcome little Breanna Joy to the Gal household. Grandparents are Sis. Sherri Schlatter (Forrest, IL) and Eugene and Helen Gal.

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## OHIO, COLUMBUS

### Nancy Banks

Greetings of love from the Columbus church as we anxiously await the arrival of spring and warm weather. Along with the snow showers outside, we deeply appreciate the "showers of blessings" inside from our many visiting ministers this month. Many precious teachings have been shared with Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH), Bro. Bill Brake (Sis. Miriam, Sardis, OH), Bro. Fred Domka (Sis. Connie, Mansfield, OH), and Bro. Tim Gerber (Sis. Wendy, Mansfield, OH).

Our sympathies and prayers are offered to the families of our ministering Bro. John Grimm (Sis. Julie) and Bro. Bill Sauder (Sis. Becky) at the passing of their grandmother and great-grandmother, Pauline Edmondson. May God's Spirit of comfort be felt during this time of loss.

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

*Psalm 127:3*

Rejoicing in the birth of another grandchild are Bro. Bill and Sis. Becky Sauder. Thankful for the safe arrival of Natasha May are Bro. Henry and Sis. Diane Pfeiffer (Mansfield, OH).

A ladies purple fleece jacket and a ladies black sweater have been left on the coat rack in our church. If either of these sound like something someone has been missing, please contact Bro. John

Grimm and we will gladly return them.

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## OHIO, JUNCTION

### Cindy Schlatter

Ministering Bro. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH) visited us this past month. We would like to thank him for his visit and for his laboring on our behalf. May the Lord richly bless you!

Bro. Randy and Shirley Miller are pleased with the arrival of their little granddaughter, Carolina Grace Zappa. Little Carolina's parents are Charles and Ashley Zappa. We wish them much Godly guidance as they raise their little girl.

We pray for God's healing hand to be upon Bro. Paul Gherian (Sis. Sharon) as he recently had surgery and also for Richard Gerber (Eleanor) as he spent time in the hospital. May we also continue to pray for those who are dealing with physical afflictions.

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## OHIO, LATTY

### Amanda Steffen Carmen Eisenmann

We were thankful for our many visiting ministers this month. They included Bro. Earl Beery (Sis. Susie, Rittman, OH), Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL), Bro. Art Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH), Bro. Ron Steiner (Sis. Ruth, Rittman, OH), and Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA). We thank these brothers for their willingness to serve us.

We rejoice with Bekah Klopfenstein (Bro. Lee and Sis. Desma) as she has made a beginning in her repentance. We pray that God will be near to her and grant her grace to meet her every need.

Also rejoicing this month is Chet Wenninger (Bro. Larry and Sis. Joyce) as he has felt the wonderful peace of God. We pray that God will continue to be near him as he prepares to give his testimony and be baptized.

April 15 was the wedding day for Bro. Jason Pelfrey (Bro. Dale and Sis. Beth, Rittman, OH) and Sis. Crystal Stoller (Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol). We pray that

God will bless them with joy and peace as they begin their marriage together.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Sis. JoAnne Klopfenstein (Bro. Keith) and her family on the death of her mother, Kathryn Waltz. We pray that the Holy Spirit would comfort this family during this time of loss.

Comforting prayers have been needed by many in our congregation who have needed hospitalization this month. They include Bro. Jim Gerber (Sis. Marge), Bro. Ralph Stoller (Sis. Esther), Natalie Krzesinski (Vinc), and Sis. Josephine Wenninger (Bro. Don). We also pray for Bro. Walt Sinn (Sis. Renee) as he was a surgery patient this month. May God provide healing according to His perfect will.

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## OHIO, MANSFIELD

### Esther Baumann

"Safe in Christ whate'er befall me;  
Calmly wait I till He call me,  
Peace, peace is mine."

*Gospel Hymns #342*

On Easter Sunday morning, April 8, we heard the good news that Rachel Gerber (Bro. Tim and Sis. Wendy) and Staci Beer (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Robin) have received God's amazing peace. Continue to pray for them as they await baptism.

On the evening of March 24, we were blessed with the opportunity to partake of Holy Communion. We thank Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Deb, Denver, CO) for coming to help in this holy work. We are also thankful to Bro. Sam Schlatter (Sis. Linda, Junction, OH) for being with us.

Precious little Natasha May was born on April 9 to Bro. Henry and Sis. Diane Pfeiffer. Excited siblings welcoming her home are Austin, Ezekial, Autumn, Naomi and Sicilia; grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Zuzanna Pfeiffer and Bro. Bill and Sis. Becky Sauder (Columbus, OH).

Our sincere sympathy to Sis. Sue Sauder (retired Elder Bro. Ken) on the passing of her mother, F. Pauline

Edmondson.

Continue to pray for those in our congregation who have recently been hospitalized: Sis. Christine Dotterer, Ray (Carol) Enderle, Sis. Sophie Sabo, Bro. Elmer (Doris) Oesch, Sis. Wilma McCutchan and Bro. Mike (Sis. Jelena) Garunovic.

Also, pray for those who have recently moved to assisted living/nursing homes for help with their care: Sis. Catherine Armstrong, Sis. Christine Dotterer, Louise Heckel and Sis. Wilma McCutchan.

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### OHIO, RITTMAN

**Sarah Bauman  
Linda Zollinger**

“And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it and gave to them and said, Take, eat: this is my body. And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it. And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many.”

*Mark 14:22-24*

Holy Communion was served on March 31. Assisting our Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler were Elder Bros. Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumburg, NY), Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) and our retired Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer. It was a sacred and blessed evening.

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Sis. Karen) minister unto us on Sunday, April 1. May God bless his efforts.

Our hearts are filled with rejoicing as another dear friend, Joanne Steiner (Bro. Matthew and Sis. Gail), has heard and answered the call of the Lord in humble repentance.

Those hospitalized this month were: Sis. Marjorie Stoller (Bro. Everett), Sis. Mary Ellen Saylor (Bro. William), Bro. Henry Kiser (Sis. Bertha), Roger Hessidence (Evelyn), Sis. Ruth Ingold, Sis. Sara Steiner (Bro. James) and Sis. Mary Jane Winkler (Bro. Andy). We wish each of them God's healing and comfort according to His will.

On April 15, Bro. Jason Pelfrey (Bro. Dale and Sis. Beth) and Sis. Crystal Stoller (Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol) of Latty were united in holy matrimony. We welcome Sis. Crystal into our congregation. We pray the Lord will bless this union.

The engagement of Bro. Ryan Gasser (Bro. Fred and Sis. Mary) to Sis. Coleen Demrovsky (Bro. Andrew and Sis. Vera) of Akron was made known. May the Lord's grace and guidance be upon them as they make their plans.

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### OHIO, SARDIS

**Eric and Jami Hartzler**

We sing our heartfelt thanks,  
Thy truth and love adoring.  
For guidance and for light  
Thy Spirit we're imploring.  
Our hearts we offer Thee  
For life and ev'ry day.  
That with Thy grace we tread  
The straight and narrow way.

*Zion's Harp #13, vs. 4*

Our congregation truly has much to be thankful for, for God has blessed us in various ways this month. First, Sardis has been blessed with the addition of another family as Bro. Jeb and Sis. Kristy Joos moved here from Bradford, IL. We hope they feel the love and prayers of all as they make their home in Sardis.

The weekend of March 24-25, we were blessed to have visiting ministering Bro. Matthew Rassi and his family with us. May the Lord bless the willing efforts made.

Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry Zollinger welcome a daughter-in-law to their family. Ben Zollinger married Susan Todd of Missouri on March 14. They plan to make their home at 463 Colony Street, Newport News, VA 23602. Prayers and sympathy are extended to Ben and Susan Zollinger as Susan's father recently passed away. We pray the Lord will guide and provide for this dear couple.

Our prayers are with Sis. Janet Indermuhle (Bro. Allen) as she has not been able to assemble with us recently due to pneumonia.

### OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Edith Miller  
Ruth Gasser**

According to Thy gracious Word,  
In meek humility,  
This will we do, our dying Lord,  
We will remember Thee...  
When to the cross we turn our eyes,  
And rest on Calvary,  
Oh Lamb of God, our sacrifice,  
We must remember Thee.

*Hymns of Zion #301*

With love and gratitude we remembered our Lord's sacrifice in Holy Communion on March 24, shared by Elder Bro. Ronald Schambach (Elgin, IL) assisting our local Elders. We appreciate the labors of our Elders, as well as other ministers visiting this month. May God bless the efforts of Bros. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), Tony Manz (Junction, OH) and Lucas Frank (Detroit, MI).

Our prayers go with Bro. Mark and Sis. Julie Maibach as they and their family (Miranda, Rachel, Luke and Reed) have relocated to Atlanta, GA. We wish them a good transition and hope they will be able to visit us often.

We are always encouraged when seeking souls are blessed with peace, and were pleased to hear that Doyle and Lynelle Stoller (Bro. Scott and Sis. Charlene) have felt God's peace and are awaiting to make a covenant in baptism. May they be encouraged and continue to grow in grace.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Bro. Bill and Sis. Pam Hartzler in the loss of her father, Everett McIntyre, after a lengthy illness. May they be comforted and feel our love and support.

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### OHIO, TOLEDO

**Teresa Rywalski  
Rebecca Beard**

We wish to thank Bro. Jesse Bedolla (Sis. Bonnie, Detroit, MI) for serving us this past month. May God bless him and his family.

Dave Sancraint (Sis. Connie) had

knee surgery and is doing well. It was good to have Bro. Bob Stevens (Sis. Dorothy) back in church after missing several weeks due to a foot injury.

Our prayers are with Sis. Gina Schlatter (Bro. Ray and Sis. Corrine) whose grandfather, Bro. Howard Wieland (Bay City, MI), passed away.

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

We've appreciated the following visiting ministers this month: Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty), Bro. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie), and Bro. Todd Zollinger (Sis. Michele), all of our Silverton congregation. We trust each of these brothers could feel our prayerful support as they labored on our behalf.

We were privileged to hear the Easter story brought forth in song and verse by our Sunday school students on April 8. Each of us were inspired and uplifted by this presentation. We offer our thanks to the students and their teachers for all their efforts, but most of all we thank the Lord for granting the talents to each one.

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

We are keeping Bro. Loren Dettwyler (Sis. Marlene) in our prayers as he is facing major back surgery in May.

Sis. Kathryn Kuenzi (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Marilyn) and Bro. Eric Wuthrich (Bro. Ken and Sis. Lori) of Bloomfield, IA, recently announced their engagement. We wish this couple God's blessings as they prepare for a July wedding.

We are rejoicing with Harold Hari (Sis. Linda) who has found peace with God and man. We are looking forward to Harold and also Nicole Kuenzi's (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Jennifer) testimonies and baptism at the end of May, Lord willing.

Bro. Craig Schurter (Leonard and Cheryl) and Sis. Juanita Sinn (Bro. Don and Sis. Linda) were united in holy matrimony on April 15. We are thankful that God has brought these dear souls together.

On Palm Sunday evening, our Sunday school students so willingly expressed the Easter story once again this year. We are also thankful for the parents and teachers who put forth efforts in teaching the children about God's Word.

We certainly appreciate the willingness of the ministering brothers every time they give of themselves. This past month Bro. Ron Jones (Sis. Liz) and Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy) of Portland were in Silverton serving our congregation.

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### **PENNSYLVANIA** **PHILADELPHIA**

When we are in the midst of life's greater burdens, can we see beyond and embrace God's greater purpose? Often, Christ taught His followers about God's purpose through simple parables.

The only survivor of a shipwreck was washed up on a small, uninhabited island. He prayed feverishly for God to rescue him. Every day he scanned the horizon for help, but none seemed forthcoming. Exhausted, he eventually managed to build a little hut out of driftwood to protect himself from the elements, and to store his few possessions.

One day, after scavenging for food, he arrived home to find his little hut in flames, with smoke rolling up to the sky. He felt the worst had happened, and everything was lost. He was stunned with disbelief, grief, and anger. He cried out, "God! How could you do this to me?"

Early the next day, he was awakened by the sound of a ship approaching the island! It had come to rescue him! "How did you know I was here?" asked the weary man of his rescuers. "We saw your smoke signal," they replied.

It's easy to get discouraged when things are going badly, but we shouldn't lose heart, because God is at work in our lives, even in the midst of our pain and suffering. Remember that the next time your little hut seems to be burning to the ground, it just may be a smoke signal that summons the Grace of God.

Our precious friend, Francis Via, en-

dures the challenges of a life-threatening chronic illness. He was recently hospitalized, as he is from time to time. We are thankful that he can assemble with us again. We all take courage from his positive outlook and pray that he may be strengthened each day.

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

We were blessed this month as our congregation shared Holy Communion together. We are thankful for Elder Bros. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen; Bluffton North, IN) and Don Braker (Sis. Eileen; Kansas City, MO) who were here to serve us. We were also strengthened from God's Word by other ministering brothers. Our visitors were Bros. Craig Martin (Sis. Terri; Princeville, IL) and Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy; Chicago, IL), as well as retired Elder Bro. Roy Grimm (Sis. Dona; Taylor, MO). In addition, the Lord blessed us through the willing service of ministering brothers who were here during the mid-week, Bro. Bruce Endress (Sis. Elizabeth; Bradford, IL) who shared a Wednesday evening service with us and Bro. Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha; Rittman, OH) who served us on Good Friday. We are also thankful for the fellowship of brethren and friends visiting from Bradford, Chicago, Eureka, Forrest, Gridley, and Princeville, IL; Bluffton North, Francesville, Indianapolis, and La-Crosse, IN; West Bend, IA; Alto, MI; Kansas City and Taylor, MO; and Akron, Junction, and Rittman, OH.

If you are traveling in or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. The following churches are scheduled for services in the near future: Bluffton, IN (5/20); Fairbury, IL (5/27); Eureka, IL (6/3); Sarasota, FL (6/10); La-Crosse, IN (6/17); Roanoke (6/24). 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.

---

**TEXAS, AUSTIN**  
**Amy Ringger**  
**Serenity Ringger**

God's mercies and kindness are new every morning. (Lam. 3:16) The Word of God is fresh and new because it is alive, reaching in our hearts.

We are thankful for the Word preached by our visiting ministers: Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis), and Bros. Scott Schaeffer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend), Rich Gramm (Sis. Samantha, South Bend), Leland Plattner (Zapata), and Ron Heiniger (Sis. Kayleen, Bloomington). We are also thankful for our visitors from Rockville, Kansas City, Congerville, and Rittman.

The minister schedule for June is San Diego (3), Gridley (10), Alto (17), and West Bend (24).

We extend a warm welcome to anyone who may be in the area to worship with us, even midweek, though we don't have a regular schedule for midweek services. 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, ZAPATA**  
**Mary Plattner**

Our heartfelt thanks to Bro. Dan Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford, IN) for making the effort to minister to us. We certainly appreciate those that make the effort to come in the summer months when all of our winter residents have returned home.

The small group in Zapata joined the group in McAllen for worship on Easter. We enjoyed the fellowship and appreciated the visitors from Congerville who were there also.

Anyone coming to Zapata this summer is encouraged to contact us. Most all the residents have travel plans to go to the Midwest this summer and there will be times that no one is in the area.

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

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

*St. John 14:6*

As we assembled together on Easter Sunday we were reminded of how our Savior loved us so much that He was will-

ing to carry our sins to the cross and suffer such a horrible and cruel death so that we could have this hope of salvation. Are we praying enough for the unbelievers and sinners who have not yet taken advantage of this precious gift of salvation? Are we telling others about this wonderful Jesus we know? Let us never get too comfortable here in this world that is not our home, but shine our lights bright for Jesus so that others can also taste of this way of salvation.

Our dear Bros. Warren Zahner (Sis. Bonnie) and Duane Reutter (Sis. Kay), both from Rockville, CT, served our small flock here in Vermont. We are so thankful for those who faithfully come to feed us from the Word.

If you are interested in fellowshiping with us here in Vermont, and would like information about service locations and dates, please contact Bro. Kirby Reutter (802-776-5293) or Bro. Nathan Reutter (802-447-2426). 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). Inventory is available upon request. This is a wonderful opportunity to support those of the household of faith (Galatians 6:10).



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

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

This article is the first in what is planned to be an ongoing column in the Silver Lining. Our hope is that these articles will be educational, encouraging, and informative to the readers. To start we will review the various services that ACCFS offers. Future articles will provide more in-depth information about specific topics.

ACCFS is a ministry of the Apostolic Christian Church of America. Our staff is comprised of clinical and discipleship counselors who provide information, support, consultation, and/or counseling to address issues that come up in life. Below are six points that guide how we provide our services:

- Our goal is to alleviate suffering and promote Christian maturity so that people can grow in their likeness to Christ, experience a deeper relationship with God, and enter into a more effective life of service to others.

- We believe in the authority of God's Word and recognize the importance of emphasizing grace while not minimizing sin.

- Our services will support local church leadership and local church membership.

- We believe in the diversity of gifts within the Body of Christ and will use spiritual and clinical counsel to offer healing and hope to hurting individuals.

- In order to promote Godly, healthy living and to minimize needless suffering, our services will emphasize prevention, early intervention, education, and enrichment.

- We recognize that people are complex spiritual, biological, psychological, and social beings and will seek to promote their well being in these areas using the gifts of counseling and teaching.

**Website:** Our website is intended to make helpful information available whenever it is needed. The site provides topical information that you can read, download, or print. Online ordering of brochures and books is available.

**Counseling:** ACCFS provides individual, marital, and family counseling for those who can travel to our office. The counselors provide counseling from within a Christian framework that supports the doctrine and traditions of the church.

**Consultations with a Counselor:** People calling ACCFS can receive a consultation with a counselor who can help callers understand mental health issues and relationship problems and develop a plan of action to deal with these issues.

**Counseling Referral Information:** ACCFS maintains a database of mental health professionals located near Apostolic Christian Churches. Our goal in providing this service is to help struggling people find mental health professionals who are located near the caller's home area, have strong clinical skills and good credentials, and will be respectful of their client's religious beliefs and faith backgrounds.

**Apostolic Christian Way of Purity:** ACWP is a 60-lesson biblically-based accountability program for individuals struggling with sexual temptation and sin. Each participant is assigned to a mentor who provides support, feedback, and guidance. Anyone wanting to enroll in the ACWP program needs to get the approval of their home elder.

**Education:** ACCFS counselors can provide presentations to churches or to smaller groups on mental health or relationship issues. ACCFS also has print materials available (screened by staff and/or overseeing elders) covering a variety of mental health and relationship issues.

**Financial Stewardship:** ACCFS provides biblically-based instruction on God's way of handling money and possessions. One option is a 10-week Bible study using Crown Financial Ministries materials specifically modified for our church. Another option is financial counseling for individuals and families, to help them make wise choices in areas such as saving, spending, budgets, debt, and credit.

**Mentoring & the Mental Health Forum:** The counselors at ACCFS provide information, guidance, and mentoring to members and friends of the Apostolic Christian Church who are interested in going into a mental health-related field. Our goal is to offer them guidance and encouragement, while promoting spiritual safety and accountability.

**Funding:** ACCFS is a ministry of the Apostolic Christian Church of America. The only charge for services is for direct counseling. A sliding fee scale based on family size and annual income is used. No one is refused services based on inability to pay. The remainder of funding is from individuals and churches who want to support the work of ACCFS. Our annual budget is approximately \$525,000. Donations from individuals and churches account for 75% of this amount.

## Foster Care Manager Opening

Gateway Woods has an immediate need for a full-time Adoption/Foster Care Case Manager. The Case Manager would work with the Adoption Program as well as case management in our Foster Care Program. In this position, there would be opportunity not only to work with foster and adopted children, but also foster parents and adoptive parents. We would prefer a Bachelors Degree in Social Work, but would accept a Bachelors Degree in a related field such as Guidance, Sociology, or Psychology.



Please prayerfully consider our need and contact Bro. Jeff Schumacher or Bro. Lynn Stieglitz for more information concerning this position. This is an opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of children.

## 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



## 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  
(219) 627-2159

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



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**  
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**Fairbury, IL 61739**  
*or phone (815) 692-3616*

## 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](mailto:parkview@home.ffni.com).



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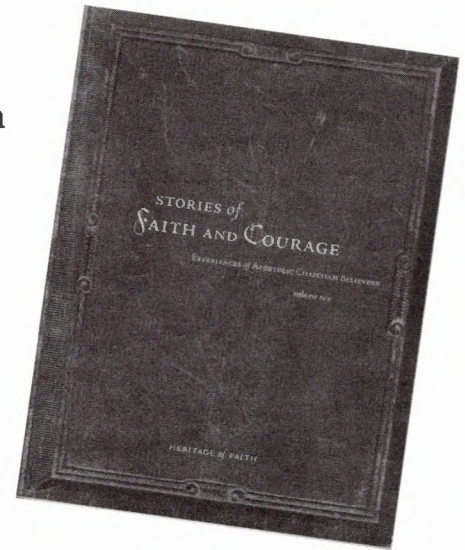
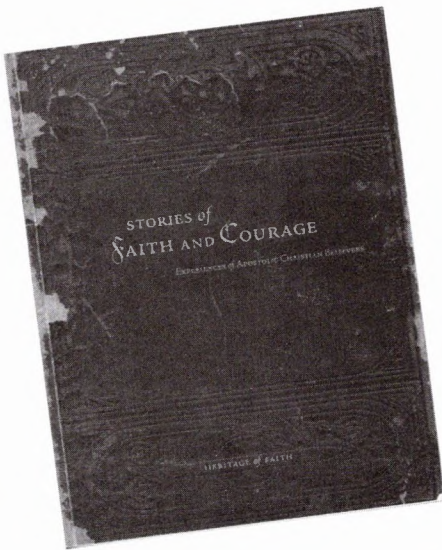
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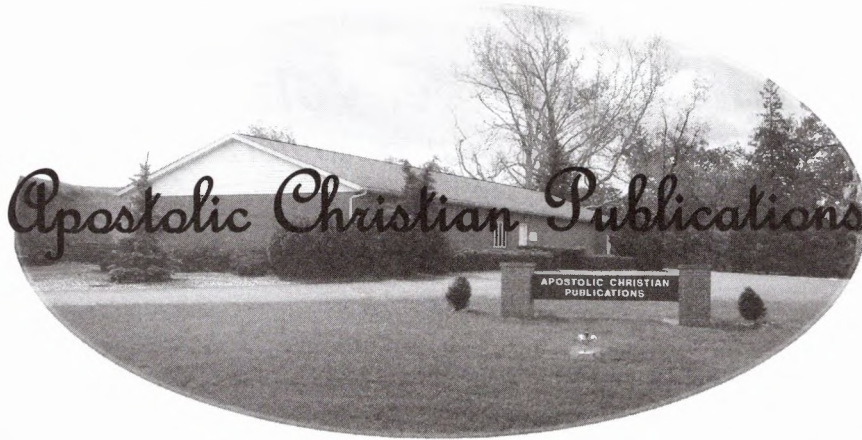
### **"Zion's Melodies" Instrumental CD**

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 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.

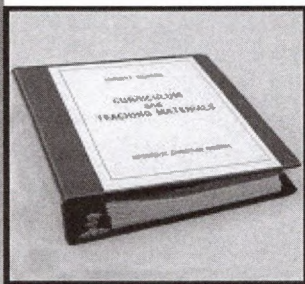


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*Sermon continued from page 2*

they don't want to be loved. Sometimes it hurts, it hurts to love. Sometimes it hurts to receive love. But nevertheless, it comes from God. And we know God was not always received. Christ was not received by everybody, but yet He continued to love. He loved right unto death. So, charity will never fail, as the Word says. (I Corinthians 13:8)

He says, "And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know." I Corinthians 8:2. That's a principle for us today. If we ever think that we know something, if we ever think that we have some superior knowledge in this world, he says, we really know nothing yet as we ought to know. Again, we see that the knowledge of God is really the worthwhile knowledge. Knowledge in this world only has limited, you might say, limited ability or limited use. But the knowledge of God, "...if any man love God," it says, "the same is known of him." I Corinthians 8:3. So, "...if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know." I Corinthians 8:2. Certainly that's something that we can probably remind ourself from time to time. When we ever think that we know something, let's remind ourself of this verse two.

Verse 3, "...if any man love God, the same is known of him." I Corinthians 8:3. Again, it gets right back to charity. In verse one he says, charity edifieth. In verse three, he says, if any man love God, the same is known of Him. So the Apostle Paul is trying to redirect these Corinthians from a mind of being puffed up in pride of their knowledge, to try to direct them into a mind of love, one that's motivated by love. So first he says, charity edifieth. Then he says if you love God, the same is known of Him. Then God knows you. So again, we

see the direction, being directed to God.

He says, now "As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols..." I Corinthians 8:4. So apparently there were those then who wrote to the Apostle Paul to ask him to address this issue of what about things that are offered in sacrifice to idols. And as we think about it, this Corinthian church, if we look back in history, it was composed of a lot of different people. A lot of different, you might say, backgrounds or ethnicities came to Corinth. They were brought there by Rome to rebuild Corinth. So there was all kinds of idolatry. Rome itself brought in all kinds of idolatry, and also many of these peoples brought into Corinth to rebuild the city brought in their idols. And so now they had to deal with these idols. Many of these people then worshiped these idols, and they were converted, and so therefore idols were part of their former life. They wanted nothing to do with them. And so when you eat food sacrificed to idols, that left them very uncomfortable, as we can understand and probably expect. So he says, now let's talk about this.

He says, "...we know that an idol is nothing in the world..." I Corinthians 8:4. An idol is nothing. An idol is just something that's made by men's hands. It has no breath, it has no life, it has no power whatsoever. It just sits there. It does nothing. "...and that there is none other God but one." I Corinthians 8:4. He says, let's start from this foundation, the foundation of truth. And that is, that an idol is nothing, and that there is only one God. These idols are not a god. There is no other god in this world but one, but God. God is one. "For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth...But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and

one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him." I Corinthians 8:5-6.

So he says, there is one, though there be that are called gods. There are those that are called gods in heaven and earth and he says "(as there be gods many, and lords many,)" I Corinthians 8:5. So there are rulers, there are principalities, there are powers, there are spiritual beings, there are authorities, you might say in this world other than God, but there is one God. And he says, so let's understand this. There is one God. There is one God who is the Father of whom are all things, and we in Him.

He is the one, then, that cares for us. He is the one that sustains us. He is the one from whom we get our very life from. And there is "...one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him." I Corinthians 8:6. There is one Lord Jesus Christ. There is one Lord, one supreme in authority, one Messiah, one Redeemer, he's saying, by this Lord Jesus Christ by whom are all things. And so we can read also in the Word that God created the world through Jesus Christ, and we by him.

Again, we are sustained by him. We are not judged, because of Christ. Because of Christ's work on the cross, we then have passed from death unto life. So again, there is one God the Father and there is one Lord Jesus Christ, he says. One God.

"Howbeit there is not in every man that knowledge..." I Corinthians 8:7. It says even though this is true, even though truth is truth regardless of what someone understands or believes, not everyone knows that. Not everyone comprehends or understands that truth, he says.

He says, "...for some with conscience of the idol unto this hour eat it as a thing offered unto an idol;

*Sermon continued on page 44*

*Sermon continued from page 43*

and their conscience being weak is defiled." I Corinthians 8:7. So some, they believe that this idol has some value, they believe that this idol has some power. They lived all their life worshiping this idol and now it's very difficult to break that; even those believers who came into the church. They had a hard time putting that past in the past and leaving it in the past. Their whole lives had been wrapped around worshiping these idols and now they have become a believer and it's hard to break away from placing significance on those idols.

So he says here, some with conscience of the idol. So some are stirred up in their mind by this idol. They eat this food offered unto an idol and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. So when they eat this food that's been sacrificed to an idol, their conscience is affected, and they are weakened. They don't have faith that it's okay to eat. Again we can read that in other places, about whatsoever is not of faith, is sin (Romans 14:23). And so those then that ate this food that was sacrificed to idols with a weak conscience or without the faith believing that it was okay for them to eat, they are defiled, they are brought low. There is a part of them that is weakened. In another place we can read that we sin when we defile our conscience or when we go against our conscience. Now he says, let's think about this. Is it really a big deal, he says, as far as this meat? He says, "But meat commendeth us not to God: for neither, if we eat, are we the better; neither, if we eat not, are we the worse." I Corinthians 8:8. So he said, the meat is not an issue. He says, it doesn't matter. If your brother is made weak or sins because of this meat, then forget about it. Meat doesn't draw you closer to God. Certainly we need things to eat to sustain us, but

what's the most important thing? Being drawn close to God! For meat commendeth us not to God.

So, our primary motive in life for the things that we do, for what we value, does it commend us to God? Does it draw us closer to God? Is it something that God is pleased with? You know, sometimes it seems like we get so caught up as we live our life, in making sure we get our three square meals and everything goes according to schedule when what's really important is, does it please God? Does it draw us closer to God, or does it not? Does it have value in edifying us in our walk with God, or not? And that's what the Apostle Paul now was trying to get their minds straightened on. And isn't that something for us, we need to be reminded of that because there's so many things in this life that we're bombarded with. And he says, what you need to keep in mind is, Is it edifying? Is it drawing you closer to God?

So some eat this food with the conscience of the idol, and their conscience being weak is defiled. But meat commendeth us not to God: for neither, if we eat, are we the better; neither, if we eat not, are we the worse. So God does not say if you eat meat you're better, or if you don't eat meat you're better. God doesn't care. So he says, you need to understand that. That that's not where the value is.

But he says, "But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak." I Corinthians 8:9. Now, so we have this liberty. God doesn't care if we eat or not. The food is really not the issue. What's the issue is our faith, is our heart. So we have a liberty to eat or not to eat. Now he says, take heed how you use your liberty. Take heed that your liberty does not hurt someone else. Certainly that's something for us to consider. That's something for us to consider that as we have liberty, as the word

speaks that we have liberty, how do we use our liberty? Oftentimes we know the world tells us to use our liberty to please ourself. The Word says to use your liberty to look out for your brother, to help your brother. Take heed lest this liberty of yours becomes a stumblingblock or a hindrance to them that are weak, to them that are weak in faith.

Again, we see this principal in the scripture that comes right from the beginning, about caring for those who are weak. If we go back to when the children of Israel left Egypt, and how, was it some of those people, of the Philistines I believe it was, or the Edomites, who came and they attacked those who were behind. They attacked those who were weak. And God judged them for that. So God cares about the weakest among us. He cares about the weakest of His creation.

We know Jesus talked about that. Jesus talked about the sheep that went astray. He said the shepherd will leave the ninety-and-nine and will pursue that one that went astray (St. Luke 15:4). The heart of God is to pursue the weak. So again, that needs to be our thought. Our life, our affections, you might say, our goal in life is to look out for those who are hurting, for those who are struggling, for those who are weak. Because that's the nature of God.

"But take heed lest by any means this liberty of your's become a stumblingblock to them that are weak. For if any man see thee which hast knowledge sit at meat in the idol's temple, shall not the conscience of him which is weak be emboldened to eat those things which are offered to idols; And through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died?" I Corinthian 8:9-11. So we see the Apostle Paul now being concerned for the soul of these people; for those who are weak. To be concerned so much for them that he's

willing to give up any liberty that he has, or any right that he may have to eat anything.

Again, so that's the principal for us. That there are things that aren't right or wrong. There are things in this life that really don't matter. But if it causes a brother to become weak - a brother or sister to become weak, to sin, it causes them to be pulled back into their life that they once lived, then he says, stay away from it.

"And through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died?" I Corinthians 8:11. Knowledge really isn't worthwhile. Knowledge really isn't worth much if through the exercise of our knowledge a weak brother stumbles. "But" he says, "when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ." I Corinthians 8:12. We're all the body of Christ, right? All the brothers and sisters are all the body of Christ. And when we sin against one who is weak, when we cause him to stumble and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ. Again we see the value that God places on every single member of the body.

Now let's just stop and think a minute. There's some other teachings. We know we can go to Romans 14, and we can read some more about this same issue. We can read also about that, again we are not to judge one another. Yes there is liberty. We're not to judge another brother. But again in this chapter that we're reading right here, the Apostle Paul is focusing in on one issue. And that is on how the stronger brother uses his liberty. And here we are to again, only exercise that liberty so that we can help one another. Now, how do we do that?

We need to know each other. We need to have relationships with one another. We need to know the areas where we're weak and where we're strong. So we need to be vulnerable with each other. We need to be will-

ing to share these things. Otherwise we don't know where we're weak or strong. It's true that there are things among us that are similar. Men are similar, women are similar in certain ways, but we need to communicate. Communicate like a family, like a close family that would talk about our strengths and weaknesses. As the Word says, to confess your faults to one another, that you may be healed (James 5:16).

So again we see that concept of the body that the Apostle Paul is talking about. A body that functions well together. A body that communicates with one another. A body that humbly submits to one another. I think about that scripture where the apostle says that we are to submit one to another (I Peter 5:5). So there is that mutual submission that we read about in the Bible, of us submitting to one another. That where someone again has a weakness, that then we go out of our way to help them in that weakness, to not provide a stumblingblock for them in that weakness. Verse 13 he says, "Wherefore, if meat maketh my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend." I Corinthians 8:13.

You know, the Apostle Paul there, he seems to kind of pull out any limit, you might say, on: If meat make my brother to sin, or to offend, or to stumble, or be made weak, I'm not going to eat it. I'm not going to eat it EVER while the world standeth. And so, again, we see that principle, that if we have a choice, if we know that something that we do offends, or causes a brother to sin or stumble, he says, give it up! Don't even attempt to exercise that liberty. And you know, I think, if you go to chapter 9, the Apostle Paul also speaks about liberty. And he says here in verse 19 of chapter 9, he says, "For though I be free from all men, yet have I made

myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more." I Corinthians 9:19.

Again we see that principle, that mind that the Apostle Paul is speaking about, and that mind of Christ. "For though I be free from all men..." I Corinthians 9:19. The Apostle Paul was free. He wasn't a servant to anyone, but yet he says, I have made myself a servant to all. He says, I don't have to be. I'm not by nature a servant to anyone, but I have made myself, I have submitted myself, I have committed myself to being a servant. Why? That I might gain the more. That I might be as effective as possible in God's kingdom in carrying out my calling on this earth. And again, that's for each one of us.

We're not all Apostle Pauls, but we're each given positions, we're each given things in this life, or opportunities to carry out responsibilities. And we carry out that responsibility best when we make ourself a servant, when we choose that role of a servant. Even though we're not forced to, even though we're not told to, when we willingly choose to be a servant. And when we choose to make ourself a servant, then we're following in the footsteps of Jesus. And we think again, all these teachings point right back to the gospel; the gospel of Jesus Christ when He walked on this earth. Of Him being Lord of all, God of heaven and earth coming down and walking on this earth and submitting Himself to death on the cross for every one of us. He is the perfect, the one and only example, again, that we are to live by.



## 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**

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We again have places to send all of these books.

Please get your books to us or the Goodfield World Relief Center.

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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

In addition to our regular worship schedule in Aurora, if the Lord is willing, we plan to hold services at the following locations:

- **July 15** Mead Town Hall  
◦ *Located in northern Colorado near I-25 and CO 66 about halfway between Aurora and Estes Park.*
- **July 22** Ponderosa Conference Center  
◦ *Located near Colorado Springs at Larkspur.*
- **July 29** YMCA of the Rockies (Snow Mt. Ranch) – Leggett Bldg.  
◦ *Located in the Grand Valley between Granby and Winter Park*

Morning song service will begin at 10:15 A.M., followed by lunch and afternoon service. Ministering Brothers from the Denver congregation will be responsible for the services, however we welcome and encourage visiting ministers to support this effort if your travel plans bring you out west this summer. The intent of these services is to alleviate *some* of the crowding that we tend to experience during the busy summer travel season. (We don't want all our visitors to avoid Aurora!) We welcome all our visitors and deeply appreciate the fellowship that we share in Christ, whether in Aurora, or at the optional locations. For more information, and to help us plan more effectively, please notify Bro. Tom Leman if you will be attending services on any of these dates.

*Home telephone: (303) 696-1540      E-mail: lemantom@comcast.net*

## 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.

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## CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 2006/2007

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

HAITI			
Project	Date	Coordinator	Capacity
Les Cayes AWA Water Aid	Nov 2-9, 2007	Troy Stuber 309-925-2603 <a href="mailto:tstuber@highstream.net">tstuber@highstream.net</a>	4
Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Nov 9-16, 2007	Ted Habegger 260-694-6765 <a href="mailto:tjh@adamswells.com">tjh@adamswells.com</a>	12
Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Dec 7-14, 2007	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 <a href="mailto:topnotch@home.ffni.com">topnotch@home.ffni.com</a>	4
Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Jan 4-11, 2008	Ron Palitto 330-336-5373 <a href="mailto:rcp@lek.net">rcp@lek.net</a>	12
Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Jan 18-25, 2008	Dean Pashak 989-662-7685 <a href="mailto:dwpashak@charter.net">dwpashak@charter.net</a>	12
Les Cayes SEED Agriculture Aid	Jan 25 - Feb 1, 2008	Dale Frank 319-766-3661 <a href="mailto:frankfarm@iowatelecom.net">frankfarm@iowatelecom.net</a>	9
Les Cayes AWA Water Aid	Jan 25 - Feb 1	Troy Stuber 309-925-2603 <a href="mailto:tstuber@highstream.net">tstuber@highstream.net</a>	5
Les Cayes SEED Agriculture Aid	Feb 22-29, 2008	Dale Frank 319-766-3661 <a href="mailto:frankfarm@iowatelecom.net">frankfarm@iowatelecom.net</a>	9
Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Feb 22-29, 2008	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 <a href="mailto:topnotch@home.ffni.com">topnotch@home.ffni.com</a>	4
Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Mar 28 Apr 4, 2008	Rich Bertschi 309-467-6110 <a href="mailto:lemangm@mtco.com">lemangm@mtco.com</a>	12
Les Cayes MEBSH Maintenance	Apr 18-25, 2008	Jon Zeller 309-266-9009 <a href="mailto:jzeller@mtco.com">jzeller@mtco.com</a>	12
Les Cayes AWA Water Aid	May 16-23, 2008	Troy Stuber 309-925-2603 <a href="mailto:tstuber@highstream.net">tstuber@highstream.net</a>	5
Haiti MEBSH Caribbean Eval.	Jun 6-13, 2008	Tom Hitz 734-454-9229 <a href="mailto:thitzhome@juno.com">thitzhome@juno.com</a>	Invitation
Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Jun 20-27, 2008	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 <a href="mailto:topnotch@home.ffni.com">topnotch@home.ffni.com</a>	4
JAMAICA			
Jamaica Deaf Village CCCD Ohio Sunday School	Jun 23-30, 2007	Jay Maibach 330-939-5234 <a href="mailto:jmmaibach@earthlink.net">jmmaibach@earthlink.net</a>	60+
Knockpatrick School CCCD Bluffton Sunday School	Jun 23-30, 2007	Steve Gerber <a href="mailto:sandggerber@hotmail.com">sandggerber@hotmail.com</a>	50

**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)*

Project	Date	Coordinator
Juarez Construction	Jun 16-23, 2007	Jerry Leuthold 317-578-1170 <a href="mailto:leuthold.jerald@sbcglobal.net">leuthold.jerald@sbcglobal.net</a>
Juarez Medical/Dental	Sep 19-26, 2007	Cheryl Herrmann 309-385-1082 <a href="mailto:cherrmann@verizon.net">cherrmann@verizon.net</a>
Magdalena Construction	Jun 2-9, 2007	Keith Hinrichsen 623-215-8267 <a href="mailto:keithtam1@cox.net">keithtam1@cox.net</a>
Magdalena Construction	Jun 9-16, 2007	John Ricketts 309-444-9061 <a href="mailto:jonr@grimmauto.com">jonr@grimmauto.com</a>
Magdalena Construction	Jun 16-23, 2007	Neal Kellenberger 913-782-8063 <a href="mailto:nealkim1921@yahoo.com">nealkim1921@yahoo.com</a>
Magdalena Construction	Jun 30 - Jul 7, 2007	Brent Knobloch 815-923-4736 <a href="mailto:bmknob@mc.net">bmknob@mc.net</a>
Magdalena Construction	Jul 21-28, 2007	Tyler Banwart 620-223-1362 <a href="mailto:tybanwart@hotmail.com">tybanwart@hotmail.com</a>
Magdalena Construction	Nov 17-24, 2007	Rod Schmidt 303-774-7913 <a href="mailto:rschmidt@Acosta.com">rschmidt@Acosta.com</a>
Magdalena Construction	Dec 15-22, 2007	Kent Levy - Purdue 317-385-0752 <a href="mailto:kentlevy@gmail.com">kentlevy@gmail.com</a>
Reynosa Construction	Mar 10-17, 2008	Trent Barth 309-696-4157 <a href="mailto:iccygcommittee@hotmail.com">iccygcommittee@hotmail.com</a>
Reynosa Construction	Mar 24-31, 2008	Jeff Leman 260-565-3815 <a href="mailto:jvleman@adamswells.com">jvleman@adamswells.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

**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

### NOTICE:

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



*This issue begins a series on a long letter written by Bro. Joseph Bella to Bro. Samuel H. Froehlich. It is dated September 8, 1850, and written from Pest, Hungary. It will be published in several installments. Bro. Bella eventually emigrated to the United States and was a strong force in helping establish the new congregations in this country. He was known as a "roving Elder," He remained single and traveled widely. He is buried at the South Side cemetery, south of Fairbury, Illinois. This letter was submitted by Tibi Dirici, Nagy, Hungary, in September, 2006. It was translated from German to English by Bro. Peter Weber, Peoria, Illinois, in October, 2006.*

### **Joseph Bella Writes to Samuel Froehlich**

In God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, dearly beloved S. H. Froehlich, and all the dear and precious brethren in Strasbourg! Grace, peace and joy in Jesus be with you now and into eternity. Amen!

It has been a long time since I have written you. I was not able to write as I was captured as an evildoer at (among) the dearly beloved Kowatz brethren. They (authorities) sent me from one place to another for sixteen days, and nobody was mistreated and badly handled as I was. One called me a spy, another an antichrist, and a third a heathen. Such accusations were made — that I was a seducer, a hermit among the children of men and a false prophet; and who knows what other accusations they made against me. I was a spectacle and monster to the children of men.

During those sixteen days, I was incarcerated at four different places to which they transferred me; first at

Schoenegg, then at Eggersee, third at Warston and Warohatel, a small town and then at the bishop's residence at Westbrunn. Everywhere they confronted me with the highest of this world — mighty men and princes and representatives of the Emperor, presidents and adjutants of the regional administrator.

When I was interrogated, I answered as the Lord inspired me to tell the truth. They advised me to have a hammer and file in my hands, to toil and not seduce my fellow citizens from their faith. Another said grimly that I would think about all this when I became aware of what they plan to do to me.

Finally, they led me before the bishop. A sergeant with saber and rifle marched ahead of me. A soldier was behind me. He carried all the books and writings, which they had confiscated at the dear Kowatz brethren; also, all the letters that were there.

I faced the bishop between these two servants. He began by asking me, "What is your name?" "Joseph Bella." "Where are you from?" "From Lipptauer." "Are your parents still living?" I replied negatively.

"Oh, you unfortunate human being!" he hollered. "How can you have peace in your conscience when you departed from your faith and are trying to mislead others from their faith?" But I cut him short with, "I have peace in my heart and rejoice that Christ has set me free from all unrighteousness; and now I want to lead a sanctified life among mankind, and inherit eternal life, and endeavor to offer it to others, which demonstrates love for my fellow man! What are the people of this world, who curse God and Christ?" But he retorted, "We must punish people like

children in school; one learns easily and another poorly, and we must tolerate the just as they." He said that I should be quiet and not continue to persuade people — and he continued with more of the same speech.

As I did not continue to talk, he had me returned to prison with the two guards. The sergeant bowed and kissed his hand. A few days later, I was released from prison and ordered to be returned to my home town by mass transit (with pertinent release documents). I was transferred as a prisoner from one place to another, and it was remarkable they took me through the moor, where our dear Bro. Knipplit and friend Pscherer live. God directed it that I could pass by there and stay overnight.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **April, 2007 - Hungarian Brethren Visit America**

In late April, four brothers in faith (including two Elders) and one sister from Hungary visited in the United States. They were escorted by Bro. Tom Bako of our Akron, Ohio, church, who translated for them as they visited with American brethren. Interestingly, this group visited the grave of Bro. Joseph Bella, who is buried at the South Side Cemetery, located south of Fairbury, Illinois.

*By: Perry A. Klopfenstein*

**Next Issue:**  
Continuation of the Bella letter

# The Light Of Hope

## From Across The Ocean

### 希望の光

#### "A Sense of Belonging"

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

It is said that we all need a sense of belonging. If you don't belong to anybody or to any group, you may feel all alone and isolated. This is usually not a good feeling inasmuch as we humans are gregarious; we live and work in groups.

Now that I am convinced that I need to have a sense of belonging, the next question is, "To whom should I belong?" One idea is that when we were newborn babies, we belonged to our mothers. We owe a great deal to our mothers and we love and honor them which is right and proper. If we have experienced our mother's love, we can never outlive belonging to our mothers. It's a good feeling and a comforting feeling.

However, it is not always good to rely on feelings. Somewhere we have to get a hold of an absolute and rely on that, something or someone that doesn't change with our feelings. That absolute is Christ. In Mark 9:41 we read, "For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to

Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward." Since we need a sense of belonging, how about belonging to Christ? That is the best option available. I am not alone in this world, because I belong to Christ, the Son of the living God.

Lodges and fraternities are designed to give men a sense of belonging. There are similar organizations for women. In the case of men, the title "Brother" is used, and I assume that with women, the title "Sister" is used. They help each other and hopefully give each other a sense of belonging, a sense of security because they are not alone.

In addition to belonging to Christ, what about belonging to church? Does that fill our need to have a sense of belonging? For me, it does. To belong to the Apostolic Christian Church gives a sense of belonging at the most important times in our lives, our physical birth, our spiritual birth, our wedding day, if we marry, and at the time

of our funerals. A sense of belonging to Christ and to the church needs to be cultivated. We are taught in I Corinthians 6:20, "For ye are bought with a price." We need to have a sense of belonging to the church, which is the body of Christ. I Cor. 12:27.

When I repented, I first told my mother, "Mother, I want to join church." I often think about that and about why I said it in those words. The fact is, I wanted to make sure I was ready to meet God and since "joining church" was a common phrase in my church environment, I just naturally used that phrase. It would have been more Biblical for me to have said, "I want to repent and serve Christ," or "I want to make sure I have faith in Christ, unto salvation," but instead I said in essence that I wanted to belong to, or join church. That's not all bad as the purpose of the church is to help us belong to Christ and to remain His possession. We do need a sense of belonging.

# 希望の光

*O sing unto the Lord a new song:  
sing unto the Lord, all the earth.  
Honour and majesty are before him:  
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.*

*Psalms 96:1,6*



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