

The Silver Lining



...If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

Revelation 22:18-19

February 2008

Sermon by Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall, Oakville, IA

I Kings 8:14-36, St. Matthew 16:13-28

That last hymn, Christian Greetings (Zion's Harp # 255), expresses my thoughts, extension of greetings to each and every one of you. As we stand before you, we stand before you with humility. It's such a comfort for me, being the least here amongst you, to be able to have my hands on the Bible. It brings a comfort to our heart. We stand and there's anxiety in our heart. We put our hands on the Bible. We have it on something that is truth. Something that can give direction to all of us in a very confused world.

Last night we heard the testimonies of three dear souls that have found something so much better in life. I just ask the question to all of us as we begin here this morning. Just something to think about. Is our name written in the Book of Life? Is our name written in the Book of Life? What's going to really matter when we get to the end? If it's not written in the Book of Life, we need to ask the question, why? May we look into the Word of God and find His direction and certainly appreciate your prayers.

I Kings 8 is a time that there was dedication of this temple. We have something so much better today in that the temple of God is in the hearts of people. But the Old Testament really did point to Jesus Christ. Here we have Solomon, he is thankful for what has taken place - this temple that was built.

As Jesus walked in the flesh, a lot of people didn't realize He was the Son of God. Didn't realize the depth of His message. He could have come in His glorious form, brought forth the Word. Maybe it may have had more impact on people. But that's not the way God instituted the plan of salvation. Jesus came in a man, lived in the form of a man, even though He was God. So this morning, as we read from the Bible, Jesus has a message. But He's not going to come in a glorious form. If we are looking for something dramatic, we are not going to find it. But what He told those that questioned Him, He says, you have the Word. Go look in the Word and you will find me.

There are times when we read a Scripture that a question mark stands out and a question is asked. I am going to read two questions, just as we ponder this Scripture. The first question Jesus asked, "For what is a man profited, if he

shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?..." Question mark. The second question is, "...what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Question mark. St. Matthew 16:26. Two questions that we need to ponder, all of us.

Friday this week, I was at the hospital. A brother, eighty five years old - and the week before that I received a phone call from his son, saying that there has to be a little bit of surgery on the heart. Some stents put in. It's high risk. There's a lot of blockage. Just wanted to let me know that his Dad might not survive this operation and that I'd pray for him, which we did. He did survive it. But when you start to look at life from that point of view, it looks just a little bit different. Friday evening this week, I sat down with him there in the hospital. He just reviewed life. First of all, it goes pretty fast. Wondered how he got to be eighty five years old. But he said something that I really appreciated - because he's been an obedient brother through the years. He says I really, really have appreciated the help of the church. It's helped me to put my focus in the right place. It's helped me to live the obedient walk of life.

I'm just humbled to be a part of a brotherhood where we can hear the truth. This morning we are not going to speak a word just to make people feel good. Because you won't really feel good until you have the truth in you and you find this wonderful, wonderful peace.

I read those questions again. What is a man profited if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? As we sat there and visited, I had to reflect upon life. He reflected on how he worked for a living. But you know, before too long, that's all going to be left. I wonder how much a man who has lost his soul, he's lost it, he says, how much would you be willing to give in exchange for your soul? What kind of a price would you be willing to put on a morning such as this, that if we found ourselves in everlasting destruction, how much would we be willing to pay for one more Sunday morning where I could have an opportunity to redeem my soul? A billion dollars? A trillion dollars?

Here this morning we have an opportunity to begin a new and living way. We start to look at life and we ask the

question, what is it of profit if I would gain the whole world and I lose my soul? What if I was the most wealthy man on the face of this earth? In the magazine, Forbes, they have a list of who's the wealthiest people in the world. What if I was number one? What if I was number

Sermon continued on page 44

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"Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph. 4:3)

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

February 2008

Addressing Threats to Unity

Since its earliest days the true church has faced many threats, including persecution as well as Satan's attempts to mislead and deceive. His efforts to destroy the church from within consist of two main areas of doctrinal error (Gal 1:6-7; Heb 13:9). The first is a return to man-centered "friendship with the world" (Jam. 4:4; 1 Cor 3:1-4). Jesus prayed that although the believer would dwell in the world, he should not be a part of the world (John 17:15). The second major internal threat is a man-centered focus on the form of religion rather than on Christ and His Word (Matt. 23:23; Luke 11:42; Phil. 3:8-11). Paul warned of the danger of worshipping and serving the creature rather than the Creator (Rom 1:25). When any true church is pulled in these erroneous directions by strong, diverse opinions and behaviors, a condition of discord or polarization develops. Polarization consists of differences which drive people apart, including unscriptural doctrine, behaviors and reactions which cause discord in relationships and in the church.

The vast majority of the beliefs and practices of our church are broadly supported and are clearly based on the Word. There are also areas where the Word does not give specific direction. These instances require discernment in the spirit of Philippians 1:9-11: to apply biblical principles, to consider our church heritage and to address the special needs of our times. In order for unity of the Spirit to be achieved, there must be Christ-like love, forbearance and submission, putting biblical principles and the welfare and peace of the Brotherhood above personal preference or opinion.

Let's take a look at contrasting views and reactions regarding an example of application of scriptural principles to illustrate how polarization occurs. We embrace the King James Version of the Bible. Some may interpret this as being an absolute rule and would view use of any other version as a step toward worldliness and deception. Others view this as more of a guideline and may freely use many versions, seemingly without concern for significant differences in word usage and meaning. The intent of our church's position is to promote unity, peace and edification in our worship and teaching activities (Rom. 14:19; Rev. 22:18-19), to foster church-wide Scripture retention over time (Ps. 119:11) and to avoid confusion and respect good order (1

Cor. 14:33, 40). The desired application involves keeping the KJV as the primary translation for our reading, study and teaching, and, as long practiced, only prayerfully and cautiously consulting additional respected versions along with other sound resources in seeking further understanding of a particular text or phrase.

In some instances the reactions to variations in application are of greater harm than the issue itself. Let's consider some examples of polarizing reactions. Some brethren may profess forbearance with widely differing views, yet strongly criticize what they perceive as rigidity in others (Jam. 3:9-10). Others may react so strongly to faults or perceived liberties that their behavior becomes harsh or implacable, thereby becoming disobedient to the Word by that very reaction (Rom. 1:31; Eph. 4:31). A Christ-like, reasonable response would be to convey heart-felt love toward all of the brethren and to set an example of using thoughtful discernment and respect in application of a particular teaching, focusing on the spirit (intent) rather than the letter (2 Cor. 3:6).

When numerous instances of differing views and strong reactions accumulate, contention develops, and the Lord's work is hindered. Satan plants thoughts of mistrust among the brethren and the welcoming atmosphere of love and nurturing within the church is disrupted, hindering the church's example to the lost (John 13:35).

We must remember that contending (or being contentious) with each other is not contending for the faith. When the spiritual objective of a particular teaching is lost in an atmosphere of discord, this results in loss of respect for the value of the warning (thus, increasing the risk of worldly influence) and over-spiritualizing the letter or form of the practice itself (thus, increasing the risk of self-righteousness). In this polarized environment, brothers and sisters see their own views as superior and fail to recognize the many Scriptures being violated when we discredit our brother who differs with us. Proverbs 13:10 teaches that "only by pride cometh contention." Proverbs 21:2 says that "every way of man is right in his own eyes...." The Apostle Paul gave wise instructions to believers with regard to dealing with differences. "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves" (Phil 2:3). When the entire counsel of God's Word is followed (Acts 20:27), and the welfare of the Body is lovingly placed

above personal preference (1 John 3:16), God is glorified, and there is "unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph. 4:3).

The Scriptures also teach that it can be expected that brethren will differ somewhat in their persuasions and choices in various areas where the Word expects us to use personal discernment and judgment (Rom. 14:5-6; Heb. 5:14). However, this flexibility does not apply to the well established basic doctrinal teachings of the Bible. As stated at the Bluffton Conference, compromise of God's Word is poison to true unity, but so are harsh words and implacable behaviors. May we never use our liberty in Christ for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another (Gal. 5:13).

The church leadership has acknowledged responsibility for its role in polarization and discord. They have unanimously resolved to address with humility, brotherly love and commitment the needed efforts to increase trust. A plan has been approved for addressing the issues causing polarization. It consists of three areas of focus: 1) Strengthen our stewardship as elders (Acts 20:28), 2) Nurture and engage the Brotherhood to a walk of growing faith and sanctification (Rom. 12:1-2; 2 Pet. 3:18) and 3) Decrease discord/polarization and increase trust, unity and hope within the Brotherhood (2 Cor. 7:16; Eph. 4:13).

The first step in this effort is a thorough, Spirit-led self-examination by every elder. As part of this effort, a series of small group elder meetings are being held with the goal of building trust, nurturing open, direct communication and seeking God's direction for coming closer to the pattern of Christ and the Scriptures in all leadership efforts. The intent is to set an example of applying the entire counsel of the Word of God in motive, thought, behavior and life-style (Jer. 23:4; 1 Pet. 5:3).

A good beginning has been made in this endeavor. This will be a long term, and persistent effort, and there is every reason to be hopeful and encouraged. Many brethren have asked, "How can we help?" Please pray for God's grace and direction: to love all the brethren as Christ loves us (John 13:34), to join in sincere self-examination (Ps. 139:23-24), and to make personal adjustments to humbly align more closely to the Word (John 17:17; 2 Cor. 3:5). The ultimate goal is to come closer to being a church that will glorify God in all that we do and faithfully fulfill our mission in accord with His Word.

An editorial committee of elder brothers is preparing articles for this section of the Silver Lining to address some of the special needs of our times.

Suggestions for subjects are welcome and can be sent to:

Silver Lining Editorials, 1377 County Rd 1600 N, Roanoke, IL 61561 or by e-mail to cleman@davesworld.net



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN

Mission Committee

...The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest. Matthew 9:37-38

Being Sent to Mexico

A Christian orphanage is a wonderful opportunity as an outreach for lost souls. Due to the prevalence of shallow religions, mysticism and apathy in Mexico, there are many souls in need of a sincere, true and saving faith. An orphanage offers many opportunities to minister to children in need, parents or relatives of the children, employees of the orphanage, neighbors, friends and the community. It also provides short and long-term mission opportunities for Mexican and American brothers and sisters.

Casa Vida y Esperanza (CVE) orphanage, located in Magdalena, Mexico, provides an opportunity for Apostolic Christian brethren to serve as ambassadors for Christ in this land of spiritual opportunity. It is a humbling experience to be called of the Lord and sent by the church to play a small part in serving as His hands, His feet and His mouth.

For the past several years in Magdalena, Bro. Seth Gerber has been blessed to be a part of what God is doing through our brethren. His journey to Mexico began with several work teams during high school and college years. From those trips, God began opening his eyes to a world outside of his rural Bible belt community.

Preparation

In the spring of 2005, during his last semester of college, Bro. Seth learned of the need for single brothers to assist with the children at Casa Vida y Esperanza (CVE) in Magdalena. Because he was still in the process of his job search, his parents encouraged him to prayerfully consider the opportunity of serving in Mexico.

His testimony was that "there were no signs or earth-shattering revelations; just many questions. Why me? Why not me? What is my biblical calling? Where does God want me to be? Where can I be used more effectively? Where will I grow closer to Him?" Amid these many questions, one surfaced that he did not expect, "Am I called to stay?" (Matt. 28:19-20, Matt. 9:37-38)

Opportunities

Based on the need in Magdalena, a lack of a calling to stay at home in the Midwest, and his current availability, God directed him to step out in faith and apply with the Mission Committee to serve in Mexico.

His original commitment to Magdalena was one year. He has now been at CVE for over two years. His first two years at CVE were occupied with being a "father" to nine boys. As a single brother (with training in business, and almost no training in child-rearing or Spanish), he has learned that through our weakness, God's strength and grace is perfected. (2 Cor 12:9-10)

Bro. Seth has experienced that living everyday with children from such difficult backgrounds continually reminds him of the blessings he has had in his life... a loving family and a church which has supported, taught, and been an example to him. These have given him a solid foundation; something many people throughout the world have not had. In Mexico, the majority of people have respect for Jesus and His Word, but they have never read or studied the Bible. Their concept of Jesus and the salvation He offers is twisted because of the lies and half-truths they have been taught from their youth.

Appreciation and prayers

The first children arrived at CVE in February 2005, and today there are 24 children living on campus that have a new hope for life. Scheduled work teams throughout the year are a blessing for the CVE family and church community. Perimeter housing and a new church building, as well as ongoing maintenance needs, are the current projects for the visiting work teams.

As our brotherhood continues to reach out to those who do not know Christ, Bro. Seth would like to thank the church body for partnering with the Lord in His work in Magdalena. Your support in prayer is essential in this most important work:

- For the children at CVE, the community of Magdalena, the country of Mexico, and, the entire world.
- That God will shine the light of His Truth into people's hearts; and that it would drastically change their hearts and thereby the very core of who they are.
- That they would think with the mind of Christ and see with the eyes of Christ.
- As Paul prayed for the church at Ephesus, that it is His will that none should perish but all should have everlasting life.

"Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling..." (Ephesians 1:15-18)



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

USA Committee

The USA Committee has worked through many projects this year. Disasters have reached across the country creating needs and hardships in the lives of many. The Committee provides for the physical needs and replacement of personal property after natural disasters like fire, wind, floods and storms.

As these disasters occur, the brotherhood has opportunity to ask "How can we help?" Because our God has blessed us, we can sometimes feel so secure. But visiting with those who have come through these disasters reminds us that everything we have, even our own life, is fragile. God knows our heart better than we do ourselves. It is our prayer that we will continue to ask for His direction to open our hearts to help those in despair with extensive needs.

Opportunities to serve

Brethren have been able to help and serve in numerous locations throughout the country. Tornadoes caused destruction in many areas, including Greensburg, Kansas, which was devastated. Brethren from the Kansas churches made several trips to help those that had their homes completely destroyed. Similar storms through the central states caused damage as well. There will be opportunity to rebuild for several years in these areas that were so distressed.

Kansas brethren also had opportunity to help flood victims due to heavy rains during summer storms. World Relief supported our western churches due to many fires that were driven by Santianna winds near our brethren in the California area.

A winter ice storm created a disas-

ter across an area from Oklahoma to southern Nebraska, creating power outages and tree damage. This again encouraged brethren to pull together for several weeks and help in restoring power, removing broken tree limbs and cleaning up. As the weather continued to bring its fury, floods caused many to suffer in the Indiana and Illinois areas. It is a wonderful opportunity for us to offer physical and spiritual help to those in need.

A race well run

We rejoice that we had a brother that worked so diligently in this vineyard so that God's work could continue. We are saddened that Bro. Dick Hoffman, the Administrator of the USA Committee, laid down his battle so that he can meet his maker of Mercy and Love. This has helped us all to reflect on the fragility of life, teaching us that our days are numbered and challenging us to use the talents God has given.

We express the deepest sympathy to the Hoffman family. The heartfelt effort that was given by Brother Dick in using his God given gifts will be deeply missed. Although we will no longer benefit from his leadership, we pray that his loved ones left behind will always remember his love of serving others.

Katrina hurricane

Along with all the changes, God allows each to adjust to do his will. The USA Committee, with the support of the Apostolic Christian World Relief Board, gave opportunity for a winter project in the Katrina Hurricane area, building new homes for people that were displaced and living in temporary shelters. Anyone moved to help

on a work team should contact our Katrina Coordinator, Bro. Ron Hodel at (309) 530-9241. Or check the World Relief web site at www.acworldrelief.org to register.



Katrina Work Team

Other projects

The USA Committee gives direction to many other projects from the funds available through the generous donations of the Apostolic Christian Church brotherhood. Supported projects include: Galilean Home, Southside Mission, His Ranch, Midwest Food Bank, Peoria Rescue Mission, Berean Prison Ministry, Harbor House, Navajo Indian Nation, Bethany Home, Echo Project, Loving Shepherd Ministries and Empty Tomb.

The Apostolic World Relief web site has information to inform us of the details of these projects, which are supported with either physical labor or financial help because of the outpouring of the heart of the brotherhood.

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

Mark 9:41

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Music and laughter, along with hugs and pats are a universal language whether one makes the music and gives the physical touch or just enjoys being the recipient of them. Our Activities Department does a great job of providing these stimuli in a relaxed setting of fun and relaxation. The musical activities provided have included individuals and groups performing (singing, playing the guitar or piano) in the multi-purpose room and a hymn sing (an area Apostolic Christian church served us) this month. Every season of the year activities are planned so the residents understand what season or holiday is upon us. The winter weather does not allow as much community access as other seasons so leisure interests of an indoor nature are planned and enjoyed by both the residents and staff. More In-house events that have occurred were a special New Year's Eve party, a Taco & Ice Cream Sundae Bar and a Pizza & Karaoke night.

Outings into the community are still planned on a much smaller scale and take place if the weather permits. One interesting outing is Enabling Gardening offered at the Fondulac Park District in East Peoria, IL. Also small groups of our residents may go swimming at the Easter Seals pool in Peoria, IL, many dining out meals, many snacks (Krispy Kreme, McDonald's, Eli's, Starbucks...), Special Olympics activities, church activities and other community offerings.

As you enjoy your winter season and events and thank God for this time of year, remember the developmentally disabled population and keep the home and our residents in your prayers. Pray God's blessing will be upon this home and that He will send people with a heart for service to our facility to seek employment.

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Tim Sauder

Each winter our young people have a retreat in Michigan. This year the theme is "Life at the speed of the Spirit." In our planning discussions it was asked "Is the Spirit fast or slow? Quiet or loud?" Upon examination of scripture we can see that the Spirit is all of those things and more.

For Elijah the Spirit of the Lord wasn't in the wind, the earthquake or the fire, but in a 'still small voice'. This time He was quiet. At the dedication of the temple (I Chron 5) when Solomon had sacrifices by the thousands and musicians and singers by the hundreds, the Spirit was loud. Or when the angels announced Jesus' birth with "Glory to God in the highest", again He was loud AND bright! Or what about the people on Palm Sunday crying "Hosanna." If they had not, the rocks would have cried out - loudly.

Is the Spirit able to keep up with us or perhaps do we lag behind when He is prodding? I recall an impromptu family skit years ago when it was exclaimed that, "Sin is fast!" But not faster than the Spirit to warn and convict us in the face of temptation. Sometimes when we have sought the Lord's will for months waiting for a word of leading or direction, we might be tempted to think the Spirit is slow. Perhaps, but only according to our human standards and impatient schedules.

Most of all He is on time - on God's time. Galatians 5:25 says, "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." If we are to walk in the Spirit we should be tuned in, paying attention and keeping in step with Him and not expecting that He will somehow conform to our impulsive, carnal pace.

I was recently told of one of our foster moms whose husband asked, "Why did you make so much food for dinner?" She replied that she just knew by the Spirit that they would need it. Before the dinner was served they had re-

ceived a call from a case manager and had welcomed two emergency foster children into their home. That's tuned in!

Collectively our Board of Directors and management have sought the Lord and feel directed to move forward with a number of projects to serve additional troubled children including the Pine House group home. The site has been prepared and as soon as the frost is out of the ground, construction will begin in earnest. We trust the Spirit of God will move our supporters to partner with us for financial help to build and that He'll move our members to step forward to fill the needed houseparent positions to provide just what at-risk teens need.

NEWS:

- We are very grateful to Bro. Jason and Sis. Joy Kilgus and their family for the years of service they've given to Gateway Woods. Bro. Jason states, "God led us to Gateway Woods just over three years ago. Courtney, Tyler, Landon, Joy and I have been wonderfully blessed living and working with young teenagers during this time. We've learned this is a family ministry, not just a job. Working with children who need someone to turn to for help and guidance creates a wonderful atmosphere to examine our own hearts, motives, desires, and convictions. Not only does God use Gateway Woods to teach children that He has a wonderful plan to restore broken lives now and for eternity; but He also uses this work to refine with fire His own children in the process. We have been blessed to establish relationships with children that will continue on into the future. As Jesus, by His own example, has taught us to lead others by serving others; please consider responding to the need, laying down your "nets", stepping into the trenches at Gateway Woods, and serving your King (and children). We will miss working here greatly, but know that God will fill the openings with

someone who is willing to answer His call.”

We wish God's blessings on Bro. Jason as he begins work for Bro. Lynn Stieglitz at Milan Center this month and his family as they adjust to the change in their lives.

-Praise God for His continued provision at Gateway Woods! We are very thankful that He continues to provide us with the right staff. Because of our Adoption services expanding into Illinois, Houseparents moving to serve God in new capacities, and other ministry opportunities here, there are a number of service positions waiting to be filled. Please see the ads in this month's edition of *The Silver Lining*. We trust that God will continue to provide us with qualified, mature Brothers and Sisters who will be able to serve Him in a ministry that is 'Turning Lives Around'. Perhaps this includes you!

- We are looking forward to our annual Gateway Woods Representatives Meeting on our Leo campus on Saturday, March 8. This is a great opportunity for us all to learn together and sharpen our swords for the work. We are very thankful for all of our Representatives and we appreciate their ongoing prayers and support.

- We depend upon you to help us spread the word about God's work at Gateway Woods. Please continue to lift us up in prayer, check our website often for updates, and make sure that you're on our mailing list.

“Each of us must come to care about everyone else's children. We must recognize that the welfare of our children and grandchildren is intimately linked to the welfare of all other people's children. After all, when one of our children needs lifesaving surgery, someone else's child will perform it. If one of our children is threatened or harmed by violence, someone else's child will be responsible for the violent act. The good life for our children can be secured only if a good life is also se-

cured for all other people's children.”

- *Lilian Katz, Author*

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL Athens, Alabama Melissa Slagel

I have always wondered how children can have so much energy bottled up inside such a small body. One morning at circle time we had a pretty big group of kids. We were trying to read them the Bible story and it was quite a chore getting them to all be quiet and not touch anyone and not kick their friends and not pull the cute little girls' piggy tails and not pick their nose and stay sitting down....it can be quite interesting! One little guy that was wiggling constantly, looks up at me and says, "I just have too much energy!" It made me laugh and remember that kids will be kids. Sometimes, as another 4 year old told me one day, they "just tan't contwol themselves!" In the midst of the challenges it is so important to be thankful that they are healthy and find joy in their abundant enthusiasm and cute little kid ways!

Each January we have a pajama day. The children all get to come to school in their pajamas and slippers. It is so adorable to see them all in their cute fuzzy pajamas. They looked forward to it all month and when it finally came, they sure seemed to have as much fun as they were anticipating.

ALABAMA, ATHENS Louise Hall

Our congregation would like to extend thanks to ministering Bros. Ted Luginbuhl (Sis. Stephanie, Smithville, OH) and Troy Leyse (Sis. Kathy, Bluffton North, IN) for coming to preach the Word of God.

Bro. Ryan Stoller has been put in as our new adult Sunday school teacher. We thank him for being willing to do this service for the Lord.

Sis. Corrine Thomas is recovering from knee surgery she had recently.

We are thankful that she is doing better and pray for God's continual healing.

Our prayers also go out to the family of Rebecca Dupree. She passed away in the last few weeks after quite a long sickness. She was the sister of Sis. Hazel Vibbert and Sis. Corrine Thomas.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron and Ev Hoerr

“Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.”

John 9:31

What a lovely way to start a new year, greeting our loved ones in church. Our dear Lord gave us some needed sprinkles of moisture.

The fellowship hall is advancing nicely, for which we are grateful (some of us have front row seats, living across the parking lot).

Just returned from our Youth Pancake Breakfast (January 19) — we have so much to appreciate in our Apostolic Christian Faith.

His love and fellowship is truly the basis of our lives. I (Sis. Evelyn) was raised a Grace Presbyterian, until Bro. Ron's grandfather, Bro. Chris Hoerr (Peoria) asked: "What do you think you're doing taking my grandson away from his church?" Dearly beloved readers, we are so blessed! Keep close to Him every day, in every way! Yes, He was my Master before being confined to a wheelchair; but when He chose me to be a missionary, His love makes me bloom. Oh, what a wealth of His love.

Our visiting ministers were Bro. Dan Beer (Milford) and Bro. Art Mueller (Belvidere). Thank you dear brothers.

We thank God and praise Him for His healing touch to our hospital patients: Bro. Don Emch, Bro. Dick Beery, and Sis. Jill Huetter.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Sis. Nancy and Bro. Leon

Baumgartner on her mother's death (Sis. Iola Knobloch, Lester, IA) and to Sis Valerie and Bro. Mike Howell (Sis. Iola's granddaughter).

We appreciated hearing the Memorandum on January 13.

Dear readers, let us give thanks for His abundant love! Some of us may be disabled, but would love to share fellowship in the Spirit. Take time to say hello!

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

Jane Hodges

Miracles have been happening in the life of Laura Coughlin (Bro. Ed and Sis. Gayle Schambach) in answer to prayers offered after she sustained severe injuries in an auto accident in December. Continue to pray for her as she has many months of recovery before her and suffers with intense pain.

Our visiting ministers included Bros. Kent Mogler (Sis. Mary, Minneapolis, MN), Nile Bucher (Sis. Phyllis, Bluffton North, IN), and Curt Kaufman (Sis. Caroline, Tucson, AZ). We thank all of you for your service to the Lord and to our congregation. May Herichly bless you and your families.

To update your minister book, our minister, Dan Dubach & family have moved to a new home: 3827 Fallen Oak Dr., Prescott, AZ 86305. Their phone number remains the same.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

We are enjoying seeing all of our winter visitors and familiar faces return to Tucson.

We had a blessed year in 2007 with God's protection and provision in every area of our lives. No baptisms or births but we did have three weddings this summer of "Tucson babies"; so for a little church, that's a full year.

We experienced many different kinds of weather so far this winter with some sunny, warm days and also

some really cold, rainy weather. No snow like last January, at least not down here where we live, however, the mountain tops are capped with snow today.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Tina Jackson

Celebrating Christmas in Southern California can be somewhat challenging if one was raised in the Mid-west where cold temperatures, grey skies and snow are the typical backdrop to the holidays. It often feels more like Thanksgiving than Christmas here — to my senses — which are not easily convinced by the calendar which marks December 25. But the season has changed and it is indeed that time of year where we celebrate our Lord's birth whether our senses recognize it or not. I suppose that this is also true of God's unchanging character as well. Whether our senses, emotions or mind comprehend it, God is exactly who HE says He is and will do exactly what He says He will do. "For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations." (Psalms 100:5)

Although it is the Christmas season - a quick note to mention that some from our Altadena congregation traveled to Magdalena, Mexico, along with some from the Denver, CO, congregation over Thanksgiving. This now annual trip has been a huge blessing to those who have been able to participate!

We held our Annual Sunday School Christmas Program on December 16. The students were especially excited this year about sharing the truth of not only Christ's birth, but also the glorious message of the gospel of peace and good news for all to hear. From the small children rocking the baby Jesus in their arms, to the older students who memorized and recited poems, scripture and inspirational messages, we were encouraged once again NOT to take Christ's birth for granted in our

busy and hectic lives.

We were thankful to have Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Indianapolis, IN) in Southern California, visiting family over the holidays and sharing the Gospel message from our pulpit. He reminded us that God's love to us, through Christ Jesus, is a glorious message that can be revealed through the life of an obedient follower of Christ.

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

Genesis 2:24

January 6 marked the wedding day of Bro. John Klotzle and Sis. Amy Jackson. Parents are Elder Bro. Tom and Sis. Jody Klotzle, and Bro. Don and Sis. Tina Jackson. Elder Bro. Tom encouraged Bro. John and Sis. Amy that their marriage union would be a reflection of Christ's relationship with the Church, His bride. We wish them God's richest blessings as they begin their new lives together in Detroit, MI. We were grateful to all those who traveled the many miles to make their wedding day even more rich by their presence! Among those were Elder Bro. John Jackson (Sis. Peggy, Bay City, MI) and many other close family members and friends.

We said farewell to Sis. Kara Beebe from South Bend, IN, who has been working and living in our area since early Fall. Her presence here will be missed.

Little Cody Moser (Bro. Justin and Sis. Robin) had successful surgery two weeks ago. He is recovering well in spite of a 'nojumping' policy mandated by his doctors!

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Yasmin Koehl

What a blessing it is to step into our church's foyer and be greeted by more than a dozen visitors! We welcome all

our annual and first time visitors who have made San Diego their winter or vacation destination. Thank you for gathering with us. May we all continue to do our part in holding fast to the Word of God and to one another so future generations can enjoy the blessings we experience from our brotherhood today.

Blest be the tie that binds,
Our hearts in Christian love....

Hymns of Zion #156

**KITCHENER, ONTARIO
CANADA
Kim Leman**

"I was glad when they said unto me,
Let us go into the house of the LORD."
Psalms 122:1

We appreciated our Elder Bro. Mark Bahr being with us recently for a weekend. Through a special topical sermon on Saturday evening we were encouraged to remember the promises in God's Word, and to be comforted and assured in the things that we KNOW are true.

Also that weekend, Bro. Mark announced the results of our recent balloting for church duties. Bro. Chad Leman will be replacing Bro. Tim Tomic as Sunday School superintendent. Bro. Murray Metzger was elected as our new trustee, and Sis. Esther Metzger will be replacing Sis. Kim Leman on the kitchen committee.

Our congregation had the opportunity to minister in song to two different homeless shelters in Kitchener. How thankful we can be for our loving families, warm homes, and bountiful food supplies! May we never take them for granted.

**COLORADO, DENVER
Ann Gonglach**

Over the past month, it was nice to see many visiting friends and family. It was a blessed day when Bro.

Benjamin Martin (Bro. Mike and Sis. BethAnn) and Sis. Ema Gonglach (Bro. Bob and Sis. Ann) were united in marriage on December 30, 2007. The couple plans to make their home here. May God bless them as together they serve Him.

Sis. Theresa Katanic and her children, Jackson, Jed and Annie, have moved to Tucson, Arizona. Bro. Tom plans to join them as soon as he finishes a job here in Colorado. We will miss the Katanic family, but wish them God's blessings wherever He leads them.

We rejoice with those who desire to walk with God. Whitney Steffen (Bro. Larry and Sis. Sue) and Austin Anliker (Bro. Rod and Sis. Anne, Belvidere, IL) have expressed faith in Christ, a desire to turn from their old life in repentance, and a willingness to dedicate their life to the service of God. We're praying for these young people as they seek God's will for their lives.

Sis. Autumn Hohulin (Bro. Doug and Sis. Sharolyn) spent part of her school break on a mission trip to Haiti where she helped work on church/school roofs and build benches.

We welcome Bro. David Thames (Washington, IL) who is in Denver for a few months while he finishes his education.

**CONNECTICUT
ROCKVILLE
Amber Rocke
Laura Virkler**

"And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger;"

Luke 2:6

It has been good to gather with family and friends at this special time of year and remember the birth of our Savior. We had the privilege to hear our Sunday School children sing

praises to our Lord at the annual Christmas program. It is always a special day and we hope from the littlest on up they realize how much it pleases their God in heaven as much as those who sit and listen in the pews.

It was a great blessing to be witnesses to the marriage vows of Bro. Brandon Gudeman and Sis. Sarah Gerber as they were joined as one in the Lord. We will miss Sis. Sarah as she makes her home in Bradford, IL, with Bro. Brandon, but knowing it is the will of God, may she go with His richest blessing and grace. We wish them both peace and happiness as they begin this new pathway together.

A warm welcome goes to Sis. Kim Lanz, who has moved here from the Philadelphia, PA, congregation to take a position in our Longview Village facility. We hope that she can feel truly at home here, and wish her God's nearness as she takes on these new duties. We also want to express many thanks and good wishes to Sis. Jen Kloter, who put in five years of service as caretaker there. As she moves on and takes on new responsibilities, we wish her much grace. Her efforts are very appreciated by all!

As we move into the New Year, may God be near to all, and find us more fit for His kingdom at its end.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

Watch and pray; the tempter may be near us;
Keep the heart with jealous care;
Lest, the door a moment left unguarded
Evil thoughts may enter there.
Hymns of Zion #121, vs. 2

At lunch Sunday someone mentioned reading in the caretaker manual about keeping the gates closed to prevent deer from entering the yard. Soon after we paused and to watch seven deer stroll by in the wooded area

behind our property.

Our caretakers for part of December were Bro. Frank, Sis. Angela, Gideon, Olivia, John, James and Joanna Kiefer from the Sarasota, FL, congregation.

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis, OH), Bro. Ron Heiniger (Sis. Kayleen, Bloomington, IL), Bro. Todd Graf (Akron, OH) and Bro. Sam Schlatter (Sis. Linda, Junction, OH).

Other visitors this month were from Akron, OH, and Morton, IL.

Directions to our new location depend on which way you are coming. The best suggestion is to contact the folks listed below or the contact 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.

If you are planning to visit Washington, D.C. area for vacation or business, please contact Bro. Joe and Sis. Holly Bohart at jbohart@gmail.com or Sis. Henrietta Meyer at (703) 904-8301 for assistance and to let us know how many to expect for Sunday services. If you would like to get together on Saturday evening, please let us know that as well. We would be happy to have an evening of fellowship and/or singing.

**FLORIDA
FORT LAUDERDALE
Renee Mangold**

We enjoyed the Christmas and New Year's Eve services and the visitors and families that came to be with us. Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL); Elder Bro. Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL); Bros. Tom Bolliger (Sis. Jane, Tremont, IL); Stephen Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley, IL); and Ron Jones (Sis. Liz, Portland, OR). Bros. Earl and Bruce served us Holy Communion, as we remembered the

sacrifice that our Lord and Savior gave for us on Mount Calvary.

Sunday evening we enjoyed a church supper and singing with our guests.

Hospital patients this month were Sis. Renee Mangold (Mike), and Bro. Dave Steffen (Sis. Emmy). We pray for them and for their recovery and return to worship with us.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Joe and Sis. Shirley Braker as they mourn the passing of his sister in Minnesota.

**FLORIDA
NORTH FORT MYERS
Naomi Vogel**

Just as predicted, our pews are filling up fast. It's like a preview of the big reunion in heaven. "What a day, glorious day that will be!"

Those of us who spent Christmas here, away from our families, had a potluck supper and sang Christmas carols. Then we were together again on New Year's Eve to welcome 2008. It was a blessed time of fellowship and celebration!

We were pleased to have Elder Bro. Bruce Hohulin minister to us this month. Bro. Bruce and Sis. Charlene are from Goodfield. Thanks for sharing your vacation with us!

Get well wishes for this month go out to Sis. Donna Wuethrich and Sis. Mary Ann Mann. May you feel God's nearness as you heal!

Our annual business meeting was held last Sunday. We got all our decisions made and now we are ready to move forward for 12 months, Lord willing.

Wednesday evening services in Naples started this past Wednesday. At North Ft. Myers church, every other month we have a church potluck followed with singing and an inspirational message in place of the regular mid-week service. Bro. Vic Beer read from Revelations describing heaven and many of the songs we sang were about heaven also. I'm sure everyone in attendance was longing for the home-

land after such an inspiring evening. "When by His Grace I shall look on His face, that will be Glory, be Glory for me!"

Note of Thanks:

My family and I wish to express our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to all of you, who so lovingly remembered us with your visits, prayers and gifts during the illness of my beloved wife, Sara. Sincere thanks to Bros. Lenard Meyer (Chicago, IL), Jeff Streitmatter III (Sarasota, FL) and Victor Beer (Fort Myers) for their comforting words at the services. Our thanks also to the sisters at the Sarasota church for serving a fine meal for the many visitors following the burial. God bless you all.

*Most humbly and gratefully,
Andy Hunyady and family*

**FLORIDA, SARASOTA
DiAnne Brown**

Warm winter greetings! At this writing, it is a sunny and balmy 78° in Sarasota and we just finished planting petunias.

This week we drove to a power station to see the manatees that gather there when water temps fall in Tampa Bay. They have learned the water coming out of the power station is a warm 95° and can be found here throughout the winter months. There were about a hundred of these gentle giants, swimming by to view the visitors with about the same curiosity with which we viewed them. We also saw an amazing sight: a 5-foot shark leapt from the water, spinning like a twister, in hot pursuit of his prey! The sight seemed to conflict with the serene ballet of the manatees—and yet it is all part of God's spectacular creation. We can be thankful that so often when those jaws of "temptation" come after us, we have a loving Lord to pull us to safety.

December 22-23 we enjoyed Christmas caroling to many friends and brethren that are no longer able to make it to services regularly. It was a

joy to see the thrill our visit brought and we all felt excited as we spread the news of the birth of Jesus. Afterwards, a light supper was held by Sisters Elda, Vera and Mary Martin. It was so much fun to share treats and fellowship under the starry winter skies.

Our beloved convert, Lindsay Leigh Brown, has been announced for peace and her baptism is being planned, God willing, for Sunday, March 30. Thanks be to our merciful Lord for His guiding of Lindsay thus far and we trust Him for the balance of her journey to salvation.

Medical patients who would appreciate our prayers include Bro. Tom Miller and Ken Rocke (son of Sis. Doris Rocke). We petition God for mercy, comfort and relief as He wills for them, and for their loved ones as well. We extend our deepest condolences to the family of Sis. Brenda (Bro. Rudy) Zollinger, who passed away this month in Sarasota. May God comfort her family and loved ones and help them celebrate her life.

The annual business meeting was held on January 9 under the direction of Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann and Bro. Jeff Streitmatter. Election results are as follows: Bro. Aaron Ott - Trustee, Bro. Timm Kaeb - Sunday School, Sis. Emily Koehl - Sunday School, Sis. Paulette Cochran - Kitchen Committee and Sis. DiAnne Brown - Secretary.

We have been richly blessed by the following visiting ministers: Elder Bro. Ted Witzig, Sr. (Morton, IL) and Bros. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL), Mike Baumann (Mansfield, OH) and Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL).

We ask for prayers of protection for those of our congregation, including several from our Sunday School class, traveling with World Relief to Jamaica in March. We have witnessed first-hand what a life changing event this can be and trust God will use them greatly in their service.

We think of the harsh winter weather so many of our brethren are enduring at this time of year and re-

mind all there is a place where you are welcome to worship with like-minded believers in a milder climate. We encourage you to visit our beautiful area here on the west coast of Florida. Our seats are almost full with our northern brethren and it is nice to see so many familiar faces once again.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA Melinda Gramm

God has been working in our congregation and we rejoice that Miranda Maibach has turned her life over to the Lord. It is so encouraging to see the joy in Miranda since she has made this decision.

God is gracious as we have two wedding engagements to report. Bro. Linn and Sis. Brenda Stoller's daughter, Sis. Staci Stoller, was engaged to Bro. Brent Rocke of Roanoke. Brent is the son of Bro. Dennis and Sis. Evabeth Rocke. Bro. Joshua Lindberg (Bro. Rich and Sis. Julie) was engaged to Sis. Bethany Fischer from Leo, IN. Her parents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Leanne Fischer. We wish God's grace and wisdom for these two couples as they prepare for their weddings.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE Doreen Moser Sheila McCoy

Is there anything we can be sure of in the coming year? The Lord has certainly left us with many promises that we can be absolutely sure of.

~ God is still on the Throne and Jesus is still interceding for us....

The letters that were written to the early churches are still being brought to the churches today. Our Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) shared the Memorandum with the Belvidere congregation this month. We appreciate our Elders and know that they keep watch and give warnings to the flock here on earth. Are we listening and

heeding the warnings?

~ We must repent and be born again or our name will not be written in the book of life....

A lost soul has turned his life over to the Lord and started his repentance. Trent Steffen (Bro. Dean and Sis. Carol) has answered the Lord's call. Our hearts rejoice as the door of grace is still open and continue to pray for those that continue to wait.

~ If we wait on the Lord He shall strengthen thine heart....

Waiting on the Lord we lift those up in prayer who have had surgery and have been sick. Bro. Brian Anliker had surgery, and Sis. Alice Thompsen has had more health issues. If we but wait on the Lord, He has promised to see us through the trials here on earth.

~ If we live a holy life, the Lord will dwell within our hearts...

The Lord's house was filled with many from the young group from various churches. Truly we were all blessed to be able to take time to be Holy and praise the Lord with heart and song.

~ The Lord will return someday

Will we be ready? In our gathering in Madison we have been studying the Old Testament. The Lord so much desires to have a relationship with His people and sin has gotten in the way since the beginning of Adam and Eve and continues yet today. As the last two chapters in Revelation describes the new heaven and the new earth, may we go forth in the new year and let ALL the world know, what the Lord has planned for those who choose to live for Him.

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

The Sunday School reminded us of the true meaning of Christmas with their program on December 16. We thank Bro. Tim Hohulin (Roanoke) for joining us on the pulpit that day as well.

We were saddened by the loss of Sis. Sandy Kupferschmid, who lost her battle with cancer. Our prayers are with her husband, Larry; sons, Samuel and Stephen; and daughter, Sunita (Ben) Krugger, El Paso. Our sympathies also go to Sis. Carol (Bro. Rick) Hany at the loss of her great-aunt, Elenora Arterburn, of Peoria.

**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Philip and Donna Nenadov**

We are blessed to have two new couples in our congregation. Bro. Brandon Gudeman (Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa) was wed to Sis. Sarah Gerber (Bro. Loren and Sis. Anne, Rockville) on January 6 in Rockville. On January 20, Bro. Brad Kieser and Sis. Rachel Baer gave their vows and were united as one in the Lord. Parents are Bro. Gerald and Sis. Wilma Kieser, and Ron and Sis. Deann Baer, all from the Bradford congregation. We can rejoice when the Lord does His wonderful work in the lives of His children.

Visiting ministers this month were Bros. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago), Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto), and Gary Sinn (Sis. Paula, Latty). We are thankful for each brother's labors and wish God's blessings upon them.

Hospital patients this month were Sis. Becky Endress (Bro. Larry) and Bro. Lucas Gudeman (Sis. Diana). It is when we suffer the infirmities of the flesh and spirit that we fully understand our dependency on the Lord.

On January 9, we had our annual business meeting. Different positions were filled as brothers completed their terms. Bros. Daryl Knobloch, Fred Hausmann, and Robert Kieser were re-

placed by Bros. Nate Stoller Jr., David Klumpp, and Weston Stahl as Trustees; Bro. Philip Nenadov replaced Bro. Troy Pyles as Usher, and Bro. Jerry Kieser remained as the church treasurer. We wish God's grace upon these brothers as they assume new responsibilities and thank the brothers whose terms expired for their efforts and labors of love.

"Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy that it cannot hear..."

Isaiah 59:1

God be with you 'til we meet again.

**ILLINOIS, CHICAGO
Rachel Meyer**

Greetings from Chicago. We praised God for sending a Savior as we met Christmas Day, December 25. It really is true, isn't it, that the story of Jesus never grows old? New Year's Eve found us at home, instead of at services, due to severe weather. However, we were able to meet on Wednesday, January 2, to begin the New Year's worship. We pray each one had a safe and blessed holiday, wherever you found yourself.

We extend sincere thanks to Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) and Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL) for ministering to us this past month. These brothers and their families are a tremendous blessing to us. Praise God for His faithfulness.

Our dear Sis. Marge Young is in much pain and needs us to pray for her. Sis. Marge ruptured a disk in her back. Let's take the opportunity to rally around our brothers and sisters who are in need.

We anticipate testimonies and baptisms, respectively, the weekend of February 9-10. We rejoice in the peace of our friends, Julie Herold and Ryan Eisenmann, along with their families. May they feel the Lord's nearness and

our love, sincere support and prayers. Each one is a blessing.

Note of Thanks:

My sincere thanks for all the prayers, cards and other acts of kindness shown me during my hip surgery, rehab, and since returning home. It is all deeply appreciated. When we arise in the morning we do not know what the day holds for us, but we do know Who holds the day in His hands.

Sis. Gladys Fisher

I have the privilege of working with children on a daily basis. The average age is about 8 years old. During any given week, I will hear many different languages spoken. English is what we speak during school lesson time, but it is not uncommon to hear a parent, grandparent or other family member speak in their native tongue as they drop their child at school and give instructions, reminders, encouragement, etc. Whether I hear Polish, Hebrew, Bengali, Russian or Spanish, they all have one thing in common. The families speak and teach these languages to their children because it reflects their heritage - who they are and where they came from. They want the next generation to understand just how precious and important is their inheritance.

According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, the word heritage means, "something transmitted [sent] by or acquired from a predecessor." While the above languages and cultures are diverse in nature, it occurs to me there is a universal heritage that was transmitted to all humankind - the day Jesus Christ was nailed to a cross. Jesus is the ultimate predecessor. By Him and through Him every human being has the opportunity to inherit eternal life, and find a life worth living while still on earth.

"The Lord is the portion of mine inheritance...the lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly

heritage.”

Psalm 16:5-6

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN

Jackie Eisenmann

Greetings from Champaign-Urbana! We were blessed on Christmas day with Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA) and Bro. John Wiegand (Silverton, OR) sharing the good news of Christ's birth. It is always good to see them and their families when they return home for a visit. May God bless them for their efforts in spreading the Gospel.

Our congregation has been listening to the recordings from the Brotherhood Conference on Wednesday evenings over the students' winter break. It is always good to listen to their exhortations and encouragements. May God grant wisdom to each one of our Elder brothers.

We have some students who graduated from the University of Illinois with Bachelor degrees at the end of the fall semester. Sis. Natalie Martin (Elgin) received a degree in Animal Science; Sis. Alyssa Leuthold (Peoria) – Children and Family Science; Brett Steffen (Champaign) – Elementary Education; and Bro. Jeremy Hodel (Roanoke) – Mechanical Engineering. Congratulations to each one and may God bless you with His guidance as you seek out His will for your futures.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Vickie Maul Janie Waldbeser

“For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.”

Gal. 5:5

At our Christmas program on December 19, we were blessed by the precious young people singing the beautiful hymns that tell of Christ's birth. May God bless the students and teachers for their efforts.

Our annual church business meeting was held January 9. We extend a thank you to the brothers and sisters who have diligently served and devoted their time to our church. We lend our support to the brothers and sisters who have been chosen to fulfill their new duties. New Sunday School teachers elected are Bro. Anthony Kaufmann, Bro. Walt Laubscher, Sis. Bonnie Frank and Sis. Denise Kaeb. Bro. Bill Maul was elected as Trustee and Bro. Nathan Walder for Fellowship Hall committee.

Grandchildren are a special blessing. Bro. Fred and Sis. Joann Maul welcome a new granddaughter, Allison Lee Fehr. Allison is the daughter of Bro. Lee and Sis. Alicia Fehr (West Bend, IA). Bro. Dennis and Sis. Sharon Walder also welcome a new granddaughter. Janae Lin Walder was born to Bro. Josh and Sis. Tina Walder (Congerville, IL). May God bless these families as they raise their children.

Our hospital patients this month were Sis. Mary Lou (Bro. Elmer) Kaeb, Sis. Janie (Bro. Mark) Waldbeser, and Sis. Marilyn Knapp. Sis. Mary Lou and Sis. Marilyn are recovering at Heartland Nursing Home in Paxton. We pray God's healing hand will be upon each one of them.

Our church has benefited from the visits of Bro. Tom Waldbeser (Atlanta, GA) and Bro. Dan Moser (Elgin, IL). We want to uphold the ministering brothers often in our prayers.

We rejoice in the news of the engagement of Sis. Rebekah Laubscher (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Gloria) to Bro. Jason Stoller (Bro. Bill and Sis. Kathy) of Princeville. We wish them God's richest blessings as they plan to become united as one in the Lord.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Vernon (Joanne) Clauss and his family over the loss of his brother-in-law, Bro. Wayne (Sis. Erma) Wieland, of Peoria.

A special thank you to Sis. Pam Walder for her three years of writing the Silver Lining.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank each one who sent a card in remembrance of my 80th birthday. God bless you for thinking of me.

Sis. Vi Greiner

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Holly Zobrist

“How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace...”

Romans 10:15

We thank the visiting ministers for allowing the Spirit to use them to bring to us the Word this past month. Bro. Mark Zimmerman (Sis. Cheryl, Eureka) was with us on Christmas Day and Bro. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville) was with us on New Year's Eve. Bro. Brent Kellenberger (Sis. Beth, Kansas City) also brought forth God's Word to us this past month. May God richly bless these brothers.

The home of Bro. Josh and Sis. Tina Walder has recently been blessed with Janae Lin. Older siblings, Hannah and Isaac, welcomed her home with lots of love. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet Knobloch (Lester) and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Sharon Walder (Cissna Park).

Our congregation is thankful that two couples have felt the Spirit's leading to move to the Congerville area. Bro. Derrick and Sis. Rebecca Rassi from Fairbury have made the decision to move to Congerville because it's closer to Bro. Derrick's job. Also, Bro. Ben and Sis. Kristan Craig will be moving to Congerville from Lester. We feel blessed to have the opportunity to have these couples fellowship with us and welcome them both with open arms.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank the friends and family for the love, prayers, phone calls, cards, food, memorials and the many deeds of kindness shown to us during the passing of our loved one.

May God richly bless each one of you.

The Family of Bro. Walter Miller

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Amy Gasser

Miriam Gasser

We were grateful for the ministry of our visitors on December 23: Bros. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL), Alan Schambach (Remington, IN), and Ted Schock (Belvidere, IL).

On December 29, Jay and Jen Cox announced the birth of a baby girl, Emma Katherine. She is welcomed by her grandparents, Bro. Bob and Sis. DeAnne Cox, and by Jen's other children, Meghan, Marcus, and Hannah.

We sang a farewell hymn on December 30 for Bro. Ryan and Sis. Becky Weiss and family, who have relocated to Singapore for an assignment of two and a half years. Bro. Ryan is the son of Bro. Roger and Sis. Karen. May they feel our love and the Lord's nearness, while we are apart.

A brief singing at the Fellowship Center on January 13 was followed by the Senior Choir's presentation of their year-end work trip to Biloxi (Pass Christian), MS. It was interesting to hear each student express what was gained from the experience.

Our annual business meeting was held January 16, during which were three elections. Bro. Bob Buckheister was chosen to replace Bro. Matt Schambach as Treasurer, Bro. Eric Weiss will assume Bro. Eric Humbracht's position of Trustee, and Bro. David Kellenberger will replace Bro. Ken Kellenberger as trustee of the Fellowship Center. At an earlier election, Bro. Dick Kilgus was chosen to serve on the Resthaven Board, replacing Bro. Bob Cox. We join Bro. Ron in thanking the outgoing brothers for their years of faithful service.

Bro. Daryle and Sonia Kellenberger announced the engagement of their daughter, Nicole, to Garrett Johnson of Marengo, IL. The couple is planning a Fall wedding.

Bro. Ken Lindoerfer and Bro. Bill and Sis. Marge Wewetzer spent time in the hospital, in recent weeks. May the Lord, who knows each need, provide for them in His own way.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Cindy Stoller

Dee Baer

We are thankful for the arrival of Nigel Jakob, newborn son of Bro. Trent and Sis. Lucy Meiss. He is welcomed home by Amelia, Serena, Cade, Natalie, and Kianna. Grandparents are Ed and Sis. Barb Meiss (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Lee and Sis. Janet Kuenzi (Silverton, OR). Also, first time parents, Bro. Brian and Sis. Wendy Cottrell, welcome Lily Marie into their hearts and home. Lily's grandparents are Bill Cottrell, Sis. Judy Cottrell (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Mike and Sis. Pat Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL).

Bro. Michael Blunier (Bro. Myron and Sis. Elaine) and Sis. Jodi Wuethrich (Bro. Rick and Sis. Brenda) were united in holy matrimony on January 13. We wish this couple God's blessings in their new life together.

We share sorrow with Bro. Alf Grusy and Sis. Ruby Grusy in the death of their sister and sister-in-law, Viola White, of Florida. May the Lord comfort them in this time of sadness.

We appreciated the visits and services of ministering Bros. John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN), and Tony Manz (Junction, OH).

Our prayers are with Sis. Kay Hackenjoos (Bro. Glenn), Bro. Ed Gramm (Sis. Lucille), Bro. Jerome Fehr (Bro. Dan and Sis. Diane), Sis. Becky Bauman (Glen), and Sis. Madeline Rothgeb as they have had recent health adversities. We remember Bro. Sid Leman (Sis. Ann) and Sis. Helen Wiegand (Bro. Bob) as they continue with health struggles. We also share the concerns of Bro. Bob and Sis. Jean Knapp as their daughters cope with serious health problems.

It has been a couple months since their move, but we still want to warmly welcome home Bro. Jason, Sis. Jill and Reuben Carr. Bro. Jason accepted a job near Eureka and we are thankful to have them assemble and worship with us.

If you need to be added or removed from the Silver Lining list, or if you've had an address change, please notify Sis. Cindy Stoller or Sis. Dee Baer.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Elizabeth Fehr

Anna Schmidgall

The holidays have blessed our congregation with a number of visiting Elders and ministers, including: Elder Bros. Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA), and Bros. Marvin Leman (Sis. Jane, Bradford, IL), Alan Schambach (Sis. Sarah, Remington, IN), Brian Waibel (Sis. Wendy, Champaign, IL), Jerry Wagenbach (Sis. Bonnie, Oakville, IA), Kerwin Edelman (Sis. Sara, Athens, AL), Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis, MN), Nate Wieland (Sis. Suzanne, Goodfield, IL), and DeWayne Dill (Sis. LaRae, Minneapolis, MN). We appreciate their willingness to be used. May God be their rich rewarder.

Bro. Dallas Steidinger and Sis. Beth Hill were united in the Lord on December 30. We wish them God's blessings as they begin their life together. Parents of the couple are Bro. Randy and Sis. Dawn Steidinger and Bro. Bryce and Sis. Sieda Hill (Mansfield, OH).

Kevin Stoller of East Peoria and Autumn Tackett of Metamora have announced their engagement. Bro. Dale and Sis. Sandy Stoller and Bonnie and Val Boucher of Roanoke, IL, are their parents.

Abram Lloyd joined the family of Bro. Jeff and Sis. Sara Moser on December 19. Welcoming him home are his siblings: Myrna, Martha, Esther, Corbin, Owen, and Rudy. Bro. Greg

and Sis. Jill Stoller (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Martha Moser (Washington, IL) are thankful grandparents. Great-grandparents are Bro. Elmer and Sis. Rosetta Stoller (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Dave and Sis. Beulah Ehnlé (Princeville, IL).

Jeremy and Valerie Stoller are first-time parents of Tucker Duane born December 15. Bro. Randy and Sis. Ronda Stoller and Ralph and Martha Fehr are the thankful grandparents. Bro. Duane and Sis. Arlene Kilgus, Bro. Elmer and Sis. Rosetta Stoller (Forrest, IL) and Martha Fehr of Fairbury are great-grandparents.

Teagan Benjamin born December 15 is the first child of Chris and Abby Kafer. Bro. Ben and Sis. Carol Kafer and Marvin and Cindy Schmid of Cissna Park are thankful grandparents. Great-grandparents are Bro. Bud and Sis. Sharon Kelson and Pat Kafer.

We pray for God's comforting arms for Jenny Steffen (Bro. Clint) in the sudden loss of her brother, Robin Masuda of Pearl City, HI. Sis. Lucille Steffen is also remembered in our prayers in the loss of her sister, Clara Kaufman of Cissna Park.

Bro. Tom Steidinger (Sis. Dianne) and Ardella Zimmerman (Melvin) spent time in the hospital. We pray for God's healing hand on both of these loved ones.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Jill Wenger

Lori Leman

Our willing servants this month that preached the Word of God to us were Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Bro. Kerwin Edelman (Athens, AL) and Bro. Bill Masters (North Ft. Myers, FL). We thank them for visiting us at Forrest.

We want to wish God's blessings on the engagement of Andrew Gerber and Carlee McCulloh. Their parents are Randy and Jill McCulloh of Chenoa, IL, and Bro. Alan and Sis. Marcia Gerber. This happy couple is planning a June

wedding.

Not now, but in the coming years,
It may be in the better land,
We'll read the meaning of our tears,
And there, sometime, we'll understand.

Our hearts go out to Bro. Mark and Sis. Erika Mueller on the loss of their infant stillborn son, Drew David. Grieving grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Lucy Slagel and Charles and Sis. Connie Mueller. Our deepest sympathy also is extended to Sis. Ruth (Bro. Lester) Roth and Sis. Donna (the late Bro. Robert) Leman in the passing of their sister, Sis. Verna (Bro. Anton) Schaefer of Morris, MN. Also our love and sympathy is given to Sis. Sally (Bro. Bob) Rinkenberger as she bids her sister-in-law, Sis. Sandy (Larry) Kupferschmid, of the Bloomington, IL, congregation a fond farewell on this earth.

Then trust in God thro' all the days;
Fear not, for He doth hold thy hand;
Tho' dark thy way, still sing and
praise,
Some time, some time, we'll understand.

Hymns of Zion pg. 165

Our thanks goes to Bro. Jeff (Sis. Stephanie) Zimmerman and Bro. Kevin (Sis. Martha) Schaffer as they have completed their ten year teaching term in Sunday School. May the Lord bless them for their willing service on behalf of our precious children. May the Lord also grant wisdom and understanding to Bro. Jay (Sis. Jolene) Mueller and Bro. Michael (Sis. Jodi) Stoller as they assume their new duties in teaching our youth in Sunday School.

Sis. Lavonne (Bro. Elmer) Lanz is in our thoughts and prayers as she is in the hospital.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Amber Grimm

Rita Bauman

Once again our congregation was blessed with visiting ministering brothers. We were privileged this past month to have Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL), Bros. Tom Bolliger (Sis. Jane, Tremont, IL), Tim Hohulin (Sis. Cathy, Roanoke, IL), and John Bradle (Sis. Jill, Roanoke, IL). May God richly bless these brothers for their willingness to stand before us.

Those who were hospitalized and underwent surgery or had an illness this past month need our prayers. They include Sis. Irene Rinkenberger (Bro. Joe) and Kody Post (Bro. Greg and Sis. Missy). We are thankful Sis. Irene and Kody are home and have been able to assemble with us again. We pray God's healing hand will continue to be with each one.

January 13 was a special day for Sis. Marti Hinrichsen and Bro. Marty Rumbold as they were united in Holy Matrimony. Their parents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Gerri Hinrichsen and Bro. Roland and Sis. Carol Rumbold (Roanoke, IL). May God's blessings be upon them as they walk the path of life together.

Bro. Adam and Sis. Maribeth Roche were thankful for the safe arrival of their first child, Fiona Rose. She was born on January 18, and welcoming her home are her grandparents, Mark and Connie Roche and Mike and Peggy Moens. May all parents look to God for His direction as they raise these little ones entrusted to them.

Then He shall come gently,
Lead us by His hand,
From our weary journey
To the Fatherland.
There where strife is over,
Praise to God we'll bring,
With the righteous chorus
"Hallelujah" sing.

Zions Harp #149

Sis. Lena Knapp passed away on

January 18. May God comfort her family in their time of grief.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry Klopfenstein

On a recent Sunday morning we were exhorted, powerfully, on what is important in life and what is not important. All earthly pleasures and comforts pale in comparison to the salvation of our souls, and our thence participating in efforts to uphold the gospel, with the intent of helping draw lost souls to a hope of heaven, through Christ Jesus.

Sis. Natalie Stoller was married to Bro. Tommy Hoerr, III, of Peoria. Her parents are Bro. Lynn and Sis. Elaine Stoller. He is the son of Tom Hoerr II, Peoria, and Becky Feucht Hoerr, Peoria. We wish them many blessings in their married life as they dwell at 3004 Clearwater Street, Apt. 9, Normal, IL 61761.

Visiting ministers have been Bro. Mike Rieker and Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Peoria, IL). They were here for the Stoller-Hoerr wedding.

We extend our best wishes, and prayers, for Bro. Scott Wettstein, who has resided in Italy during a special assignment.

Sis. Lucile Stoller observed her 90th birthday on February 26. We wish her God's blessings, and thank God for her many services in cooking and hosting meals for church activities over the years.

Sis. Winifred Schlipf has been ill, and has been taken from the hospital to the Eureka home for awhile. Also, Bro. Elmer Witzig is home from his surgery and is slowly recovering. Truly, we pray for them and ask God to heal according to His will.

Drew Edelman (Bro. Kyle and Sis. Monica) has been diagnosed with Crohn's Disease. Darci Poppin is home again after a lengthy illness. Tracy Brown is recovering from surgery.

Bro. Tom Miller is still taking treatments for his skin cancer. Bro. Ed

Gramm (Eureka), who is formerly from Gridley, has a serious illness, and we surely pray for his recovery.

Sis. Vicki Hodel of Washington (a Gridley church native), who has a cancer condition and has undergone surgery, has expressed her thanks for the prayers of the congregation, saying, "The love and prayers are a tangible blessing to me and I have rested upon them."

ILLINOIS, MACOMB Norm and Janis Rechkemmer

The holidays have quickly passed and school is back in session. With that brings our Wednesday evening church services. What a blessing to be able to gather again with the students and loved ones who travel to support these services. The weather may be freezing but the love and fellowship shown during these evenings certainly warms the soul.

Bro. Dave Marquart (Taylor, MO) was our ministering brother on Wednesday, January 16. His message was a wonderful reminder to us that God loves ALL His children and we must be willing to share His message with all people – not just the ones we feel comfortable with. Thank you to everyone who traveled to be here and support Bro. Dave.

Lord willing, we will be in Tucson for the remainder of the school semester. We look forward to seeing our Tucson church family. Bro. Kevin and Sis. Lindsay Frank will be living in our home and scheduling the services. Services for February are planned for the 6th - Oakville, IA; and the 27th - Peoria, IL.

ILLINOIS, MORTON Annette Tanner Julie Bahr

We came to minister not to be ministered to. Thanks be to God for the faithful servants who minister the Word. Bro. Ted Witzig Jr. (Sis. Donna) spoke to us for Family Worship night.

His topic was "Dealing with Change". Why is it that we think we are so in control of our routines of daily living that we find it impossible to think that God may have some other direction in mind for us? Search our hearts and help us to be yielding.

Bro. Glenn Dill (Sis. Marilyn, Tremont, IL), Elder Bro. Chuck Sauder (Sis. Miriam, Tremont, IL) and Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL) willingly ministered to us also. We are thankful!

Morton has been so very blessed by God, with many engagement announcements. On December 30, Sis. Julie Neukomm's engagement was announced to Bro. Chad Herman (Peoria, IL). Sis. Julie is the precious daughter of Bro. Jan and Sis. Glenda Neukomm. Bro. Chad is the son of Bro. Greg and Sis. Beth Herman.

On January 20, Sis. Staci Stoller's engagement was made known to Bro. Brent Rocke from Roanoke. Sis. Staci is the daughter of Bro. Linn and Sis. Brenda Stoller of Atlanta. Bro. Brent is the son of Bro. Dennis and Sis. Eva Rocke.

We ask God's blessings on the January 6 marriage of Bro. Dane Zeller and Sis. Kim Dill. Bro. Will and Sis. Danelle are the parents of Bro. Dane. Bro. Dave and Sis. Ann are the parents of Sis. Kim (Tremont, IL).

Our church gathered together for a retirement thank you dinner and singing in behalf of our retiring minister, Bro. Ralph Garber. Bro. Ralph and Sis. Lynn have served faithfully on the pulpit and behind the scenes for many years. We ask God for His traveling mercies on this wonderful couple as they continue to serve in other ministering capacities.

We need to be prayerful for those families who have lost loved ones. Sis. Oleda Menold (late Bro. Herman) lost her sister, Sis. Verna Schaefer (Bro. Anton, Morris, MN).

Sis. Nathalia Pflederer passed away at the servant's age of 103! She is survived by three sisters, Sis. Alice

Hirstein, Sis. Alma Wittmer (Bro. Walt) and Eloise "Babe" Carey.

On January 16, Sis. Edith Meiss went to her Heavenly home. She is survived by two daughters, Jayne Meiss and Sis. Sharon Martin; and three sons, Bro. Robert Meiss, Steven Meiss and Gregg Meiss. Sister-in-law, Katie Meiss (late Bro. Raymond), of Morton also survives.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA
Carissa Klopfenstein
Kristin Menold

The all-church Christmas Caroling was held on Sunday, December 16. Though the weather outside was frightful, the joy of singing the familiar carols, the delightful company, and the happiness of those we visited made it a very enjoyable evening. Following the caroling, everyone met back at church for a time of eating and fellowship.

January 5-6 is now a significant date for Sis. Whitney Stickling (Bro. Craig and Sis. Jacki), Sis. Leah Ramseyer (Bro. Dean and Sis. Holly) and Bro. Rob Getz (Bro. Mel and Sis. Margaret) as it marks the day of their testimony and baptism. Elder Bro. Ron Messner and Elder Bro. Tim Funk held the testimonies and baptisms on Sunday. We rejoice with you and wish you God's grace as you continue your journey through life with Him.

Following the baptismal service was the monthly Hymn Sing. We thank the 1st and 2nd grade Sunday school children for singing and the Klopfenstein Sisters, minus Sis. Carissa, plus Bro. Wayne, for sharing your music with us.

We were privileged to have several visiting ministers with us this month. Bro. Dewayne and Sis. LaRae Dill (Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Erik and Sis. Deb Givens (Princeville, IL), Bro. Darren and Sis. Sue Plattner (Champaign, IL), Elder Bro. Ron and Sis. Pam Messner (Washington, IL), Bro. Mark and Sis. Cheryl Zimmerman (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Bob and Sis. Eleanor

Pflederer (Morton, IL). Thank you for being with us and for your message to our congregation. God be with you as you continue to serve in your home church.

We pray for our missionaries, Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard and family. They have been visited by several teams and family members. All say they are doing well and are continuing to help the people in Haiti. It was good to see Bro. Jonathan Aupperle in Peoria over the Christmas holiday. We are glad that he has successfully completed his language studies and will be praying for him as he joins the mission crew in Magdalena. Bro. Dave Sceggel is also making contributions at the orphanage in Magdalena, using his gift for singing and his outgoing personality to connect with the orphans. We are thankful for his willingness to work for the Lord.

We wish to congratulate Bro. Mark and Sis. Aubrey Triplett on the birth of their baby boy, Gibson. Bro. Mark is the son of Sis. Shirley Triplett of Peoria, while they attend the church in Chicago.

Congratulations to our newlyweds, Bro. Ryan and Sis. Alyssa Funk, who were married on December 30, 2007. Bro. Ryan is the son of Elder Bro. Tim and Sis. Debi Funk and Sis. Alyssa is the daughter of Bro. Steve and Sis. Lois Leuthold of Peoria. They were married by Ryan's father, Elder Bro. Tim Funk. We rejoice with you and wish you the Lord's blessings.

Congratulations to Bro. Tommy and Sis. Natalie Hoerr who were married in Gridley on January 6. Bro. Tommy is the son of Tom and Becky Hoerr, and Sis. Natalie is the daughter of Bro. Lynn and Sis. Elaine Stoller of Gridley. Officiating ministers for the wedding ceremony were Bro. Clark Stoller and Elder Bro. Tim Funk, with Elder Bro. Earl Ringger marrying them. We are so happy for you and wish you God's blessings as you begin your lives together.

Four young men have begun their

repentance this month: Daniel Kummer (Bro. Chris and Sis. Patty), Jesse Rieker (Bro. Jim and Sis. Jane), BJ Elsasser (Bro. Brian and Mary Beth), and Jason Grassi (Bro. John and Sis. Cheryl). We rejoice with you and pray that you will grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

We are happy to announce the engagement of Bro. Chad Herman to Sis. Julie Neukomm from Morton, IL. Bro. Chad is the son of Bro. Greg and Sis. Beth Herman. Sis. Julie is the daughter and Bro. Jan and Sis. Glenda Neukomm from Morton. God be with you during this time of engagement.

Our prayers are with Bro. Jim and Sis. Diane Gerst in the passing of Jim's father, Bro. Dick Gerst from Oakville, IL. Also, please pray for Sis. Erma Wieland in the passing of her husband, Bro. Wayne. Bro. Wayne was a good friend and a pillar and welcoming beacon in our congregation and his courage and strength in the face of his debilitating condition was an inspiration to everyone. He will be greatly missed but we are thankful that he is now in a place free of pain and sorrow.

Your prayers for Sis. Evelyn Hoerr, Bro. Dick Haefli, Bro. Dave Dunbar, Sis. Diane Gerst, Bro. Rich Guingrich and Bro. Lou Lonteen are appreciated as they experience various health issues.

We wish you all a happy new year, full of grace and peace.

A thought for consideration:

"The Lord pursues us in our restlessness, receives us in our sinfulness, and holds us in our brokenness."

Steve Smart (Devotional)

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Linda Joos
Connie Christ

On the weekend of January 19-20, we were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of three dear lambs and welcome them into the

fold. They are our new Sis. Brittany Martin (Bro. Larry and Sis. Tiffany), Sis. Whitney Menold (Bro. Fred and Sis. Nancy), and Bro. Seth Kieser (Bro. Tim and Sis. Denise). "A Christian, now baptized, To me much grace is given." May God's grace be with these precious lambs as well as all of His sheep.

We appreciate the love and labors of Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) as he assisted our Elder Bro. Jim with the testimonies and baptisms. We are also thankful for the rest of our visiting ministers this past month. They included Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN), and Bros. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), John Grimm (Columbus, OH), and Ed Sauder (Roanoke, IL).

We rejoice with our Bro. Jason Stoller (Bro. Bill and Sis. Kathy) as his engagement was announced to Sis. Rebekah Laubscher from Washington, IL (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Gloria, Cissna Park, IL) on January 6. We pray that God will continue to lead and guide them as they begin to plan for their life as one in the Lord.

We have had several loved ones who have had struggles with the illnesses of this earthly body. They include our Sis. Elsie Mueller, Sis. Virginia (Harry) King, Bro. Harry (Sis. Bertha Jean) Herrmann, and Sis. Janet Martin-Joos. We need the prayers of those we love. May we continue to remember all those who suffer these bodily afflictions.

On Wednesday evening, January 9, we held our annual business meeting. We truly appreciate the labor of all who have served in many ways in our church in the past and pray for God's blessings on each brother and sister as they strive to fulfill their responsibilities now. What a blessing in a family when each one cheerfully does their small part.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE Dee Fehr Judy Sauder

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."

Psalms 116:15

Our congregation was deeply saddened to lay to rest Bro. Richard (Dick) Hoffman who passed away December 28. Left to mourn his passing are his wife, Sis. Ann, daughters, Sis. Cheryl (Jim) Wacker and Sis. Kristy (Bro. Chad) Kaeb, sons, Bro. Eric (Sis. Jodi) and Matt Hoffman, and nine grandchildren. Other survivors include brothers, Elder Bro. Tom (Sis. Kathy) and Bro. Mike (Sis. Nancy) Hoffman, sisters, Sis. Annie (Bro. Jim) Leman, Sis. Linda Harris, and Julie (Jim) Tibbs and a sister-in-law, Sis. Jeanni Hoffman, all of Roanoke. We pray for God's peace and comfort for this dear family.

"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized:"

Acts 2:41

We rejoice with Sis. Sara Maher (Bro. Dan and Sis. Kim) as she gave her testimony of faith and was baptized on December 29-30. Bro. Erik Givens (Princeville) offered a prayer on Saturday night. We pray for God's blessings upon Sis. Sara as she continues her walk of faith.

Our congregation was blessed to have several marriage engagements in the last month. On December 23, the marriage engagement of Bro. Paul Hangartner (Bro. Gene and Sis. Evelyn) of Indianapolis to Sis. Dee Mandaza, also of Indianapolis, was made known. Then on January 6, the engagement of Bro. Joshua Lindberg (Bro. Rich and Sis. Julie of Atlanta) to Sis. Bethany Fischer (Bro. Paul and Sis. LeAnn of Leo) was announced. Also, Sam Fischer (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Debbie) is engaged to Erica Martino. She is the daughter of Tom Martino of

Michigan and Jill Martino of Roanoke. May God bless each of these couples as they prepare for marriage, that theirs would be a marriage that honors the Lord.

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife;"

St. Mark 10:7

On January 12, Ashley Zimmerman (Raylene Getz of Roanoke and Rick Zimmerman of Peoria) became the wife of Greg Peterson (Bob and Phyllis) of Roanoke. Then on January 13, Bro. Martin Rumbold (Bro. Rol and Sis. Carol) married Sis. Marti Hinrichsen (Bro. Mike and Sis. Gerri) in Goodfield. May God richly bless and guide these couples as they begin their lives together.

Bro. Cody Maher (Bro. Dan and Sis. Kim) and Sis. Doris Hodel (Bro. Jim) have been hospitalized and Rachel Braman (Greg) of Germantown Hills (daughter of Sis. Martha Braker) is awaiting surgery. We pray for God's healing hand upon these dear ones.

On January 9, Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley) assisted Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman in the reading of the Memorandum. We were encouraged to "...earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." (Jude 3), and also to "...follow after the things which make for peace, and the things wherewith one may edify another." (Romans 14:19). We thank these brothers for their loving and timely exhortations.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank all who remembered me on my 89th birthday and at Christmas. The cards and gifts were very much appreciated.

Sis. Doris Bowald

ILLINOIS, TREMONT
Teresa Rowell
Sheri Allen

Our saving hope is all in vain,
 If here our love should cease,
 For in the man of Galilee,
 We find the gift of peace.
 'Tis not the babe, but Christ, the
 man

Who walked in Galilee;
 'Tis not the manger, but the cross,
 That sets the spirit free.

Hymns of Zion #36, vs. 2

We had the opportunity to celebrate Christmas. We were able to gather together at church to hear the familiar story of Jesus' birth. This song is a wonderful reminder that the miracle did not stop at His birth. As we enter into the new year, may we remember not only His birth, but also His death. He came to earth to save each of us from our sins. What a gift!

Bro. John and Sis. Heather Rassi are celebrating the birth of Hannah Joy. She joins Jacob, Grace, Elisabeth and Silas. Her excited grandparents are Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy Rassi and Bro. Todd and Sis. Beth Stuber. Bro. Todd and Sis. Beth are thankful to welcome another new grandchild as Bro. Doug and Sis. Amber Nohl (Morris, MN) gave birth to Allison Joy. Little Allison is welcomed home by Crystal, Lewis and Archie. May God bless these families and their precious little ones.

Sis. Kathy Rocke and her family were able to celebrate the marriage of her son, Bro. Dean Rocke (Elgin, IA) to Sis. Maria Butikofer (Elgin, IA). Sis. Kim Dill (Bro. Dave and Sis. Ann) was married to Bro. Dane Zeller (Morton, IL). We continue to pray for God's blessings for each of these couples.

Also in our prayers are some loved ones that have spent time in the hospital. They include Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Sis. Marian), Laura Herrmann (Brett), Bro. Wayne Miller (Ruby) and Sis. Nancy Sauder (Bro. Merle). May they continue to look to

God for strength and healing. Bro. Glenn (Sis. Dorothy) Stuber and Sis. Nola Koch are mourning the loss of their brother, Eugene Stuber. Our prayers are with them as they go through this difficult time.

We said farewell to Bro. Jeff and Sis. Carrie Rocke and their children, Christina, Kaia and Remington. They moved to Taylor, MO, this past month. While they will be missed here, we know that they will be a blessing to the congregation in Taylor. We love them and wish them the very best.

Note of Thanks:

Greetings dear brethren and friends,

I wish to thank each one for your love and kindness to me with the many beautiful cards. The sympathy cards in the passing of my dear one, the birthday cards, and the cards of our Saviour's birth. May God bless you all with His love, peace and contentment.

With love,

Sis. Lydia Rassi

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON
Elizabeth Heinold
Nancy Knepp

"To trust is not to worry. To worry is not to trust."

Trust – it takes trust to stand before the congregation and proclaim the gospel with prepared hearts but unprepared words. We are thankful for the visits and sermons of Bros. Andrew Klaus (Sis. Jana, Tokyo), John Lehman (Sis. Ruth Ann, Wolcott, IN) and Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Francesville, IN). Our prayers are also with Bro. Matt Gerber (Bro. Neil and Sis. Leesa) who has been called into the ministry in Ixtlan, Mexico.

Trust – it takes trust to bring a new child into your home. Bro. Jeff and Sis. Chelby Sauder and big brother Chase welcome Aubrey Nicole. Happy grandparents are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Becky

Sauder (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Dave and Sis. Brenda Kaeb (Bloomington, IL).

Trust – it takes trust to enter into marriage by faith. The engagement of Sis. Rebekah Laubscher and Bro. Jason Stoller was announced. Sis. Rebekah is the daughter of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Gloria of Cissna Park and Bro. Jason is the son of Bro. Bill and Sis. Kathy of Princeville.

Trust – it takes trust when our loved ones pass on, especially when it's Mom. Two of our sisters lost their mothers. Sis. Iola Knobloch of Lester is the mother of Sis. Marvella Steffen (Bro. Scott) and Sis. Edith Meiss of Morton is the mother of Sis. Sharon Martin (Bro. Harvey). What a comfort to know they are only away, and that we will see them again someday!

Trust – it takes trust to plan a work day of projects for the Magdalena home. We were thrilled to make enough pajamas for fifty children and knot enough comforters for seven families who attend church services in Magdalena, Mexico. It was a work of love and a blessing to all who participated.

Trust – it takes trust to undergo surgery, no matter how skillful the surgeon. We are thankful Sis. Vicki Hodel's surgery was successful and that she is always in the care of the Great Physician.

Trust – it takes trust to answer a 911 call and rush to the side of your husband whose foot is caught in an auger! Bro. Tom Schick had the presence of mind to call for help on his cell phone and release the belt with a shovel when his foot got caught. Sis. Carol was notified by the ambulance that Tom was hurt! Although he lost part of his foot, we are thankful his life was spared and recovery is going well.

Trust – it takes trust when you've gone through chemotherapy four times and the cancer returns again! Our prayers are holding up our dear Sis. Ellen (Bro. John) Cox and her family for God's mercy.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Stefanie Dailey
Jan Schwartz

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

Romans 10:9-10

We rejoice with five converts announced for baptism. Jacob Gerber (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Rhonda), Grace Gerber (Bro. Doug and Sis. Ruby), Clayton Tonner (Bro. Dean and Sis. Julie), Jenna Runion (Wendy Runion), and Leah Gerber (Bro. Nathan and Sis. LeAnn) have peace with God and man and are eagerly awaiting baptism.

We also rejoice with our new converts this month. Joel Reinhard (Bro. John and Sis. Pam), Katie Coolman (John and Sue Coolman), Matt Kaehr (Bro. Sam and Sis. Connie) and Josh Fiechter (Bro. Brad and Sis. Lynn) have all made a beginning trusting Jesus as their Savior.

With heavy hearts our Bluffton congregation said goodbye to our Bro. Jimmy Vanden Top who was laid to rest on December 23. Bro. Jimmy was an inspiration to us all and we will miss him. Our prayers are with his wife, Rhonda; his daughters, Hannah and Andrea; his parents, Albert and Marilyn Vanden Top; and his brother, Thomas (Heather) Vanden Top.

In addition, December 23 was the date for the funeral of Mary Mae Pulver, daughter-in-law of Sis. Aldula Pulver (Bluffton North) and sister-in-law of Bro. Chris Pulver (Sis. Kara). We offer Sis. Aldula and Bro. Chris and their families our heartfelt sympathy.

Likewise we offer Bro. Nick and Sis. Jessica Fiechter our deepest sympa-

thy. Jessica's mother, Teresa Harris, was killed in an automobile accident on December 24. Our prayers are with Sis. Jessica and her siblings, Jackie and Jeremy Williams and Corey Harris; as well as her step-dad, Steve Harris, as they all grieve the loss of their dear mother and wife.

Our congregation has also been prayerful for those in the hospital. Bro. Ervin Moser and Bro. John Fiechter (Sis. Shirley) have been hospitalized and have both faced major struggles this month. Also Bro. Jesse Terhune was hospitalized with pneumonia. Bro. Steve Reinhard (Sis. Renee) has been in the hospital this past month and our prayers have been with him. We've also been prayerful for Bro. Brent Hackenjoes (Bro. Carl and Sis. Evelyn) who has also been in the hospital with complications from diabetes.

Our prayers have also been with Bro. Rich and Sis. Amber Pfister who are in India for two weeks with RGMMI. We pray for their safety in travel and in their service to our Lord.

On December 30, we were thankful to have Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North) visit our congregation. We are grateful for his willingness to be used of God by ministering to us.

Our congregation was blessed with one little addition this month. Bro. Klint and Sis. Sarah Fiechter became first-time parents on January 2. They were blessed with a son, Emmitt Hoffman. Excited grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Jenny Fiechter and Bro. Mark and Sis. Barb Gerber.

And finally, on December 30, we were reminded of the birth of our dear Savior, as we listened to our Sunday school children singing praises to our Lord in our Christmas program. The program was such a blessing to us all.

INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Sherry Pfister
Darren Drayer

“Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee.”

Psalm 63:3

The Lord has been so good to bring us to another new year after an uplifting Christmas program by our young people.

The New Year also brought about our annual business meeting, the beginning of Crown Financial Bible Studies and a prayer time on Monday evenings at our church.

We rejoice that Blake Fiechter (Bro. Tony and Sis. Peg) as well as Taryn Gerber (Bro. Blake and Sis. Fawn) have made a beginning in the Lord.

Bro. Jadon and Sis. Tundy Rauch welcomed a new son, Benton, on January 13. Grandparents are Bro. Janos and Sis. Irma Namenyi of Budapest, Hungary, and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy Rauch. Little Benton has a big brother, Jamin, age 3, at home.

Bro. Phillip and Sis. Aimee Stoller also have a new addition. Aira Anne was born on January 13 and joins a brother, Adin, and a sister, Avia. Grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Ann Meyer and Bro. Alan and Sis. Susan Stoller.

Bro. Alan Stoller (Sis. Susan, Bluffton) came to share in our service and minister the Word.

INDIANA
FRANCESVILLE
Barbara Huber
Jessica Murray

Another year is dawning! Dear Father, let it be,
 In working or in waiting, another year with Thee;
 Another year of progress, another year of praise,
 Another year of proving Thy pres-

ence all the days.

Another year of service, of witness
for Thy love,
Another year of training for holier
work above;
Another year is dawning! Dear Fa-
ther, let it be,
On earth, or else in heaven; another
year for Thee.

Frances Havergal 1874

As 2008 has now commenced, let us consider the words above and consecrate ourselves anew to the service of our Lord. Our new year began blessedly by gathering for an evening worship service followed by a New Year's program.

"Teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts into wisdom"
Psalms 90:12

Our beloved Sis. Valera Culp followed the gentle hand of her Savior as He led her on to Heaven on December 22. She lived a life of loving service. She is survived by her children, James (Diana) Culp of Francesville, and her daughter, Sis. Shelby Beer (ministering Bro. Nelson, Milford). Many grandchildren and great grandchildren also live on to treasure her memory. Her husband, Bro. Walter Culp, preceded her in death. We pray God's comfort to her family circle as well as our fellowship as we will all miss her bright, cheerful personality and Christian example.

Bro. Doug and Sis. Margaret Leman are pleased to announce the engagement of their son, Tom, to Heather Koebecke, who is the daughter of David and Debra Koebecke of Francesville. Tom and Heather are planning an August 1 wedding. We send our hearty congratulations and pray for God's blessings on this special time of their lives.

Again this month we have cause to pray for those who are sick in our brotherhood. Paul and Wilma Clauss

were hospitalized with the flu and are now recovering at their home.

Sis. Carol Bucher had a knee replacement and is thankful to be doing as well as can be expected. We will be thankful to have her at church with us again.

Sis. Evelyn Pelsy, Bro. Wally Bucher and Sis. Lois Yaggie are valiantly dealing with serious illness. We are privileged to pray for their grace and comfort and also to lovingly remember their spouses who are caring for them. It is our hope that they can feel the continual, corporate prayers of their church fellowship.

"Casting all your care upon Him;
for He careth for you."

I Peter 5:7

Even though we may not know what our brothers, sisters and friends are experiencing with health or life issues, we should always be mindful to pray for one another.

Bro. Phil and Sis. Carol Gutwein thankfully welcomed a new grandchild with the birth of Ruth Marie Gutwein on January 5. Ruth's parents are Bro. Sam and Sis. Carrie Gutwein of Indianapolis and she has a big brother, Alex.

Bro. Chad, Sis. Pam, Paul, Anna, Timmy, Emma and Dylan Huber left the USA for Jamaica on January 6 to serve as missionaries affiliated with the Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf. They were lovingly sent off with a precious service by Bros. Steve Gutwein and Chris Huber based on Hebrews 11 and John 16:13. We, the home members, were exhorted to serve as senders not only for Bro. Chad and Sis. Pam; but for the others from our congregation who are serving on foreign fields.

In his remarks after the service, Bro. Chad earnestly requested our prayers based on II Thessalonians 3:1. He expressed thankfulness for the love and support which he, Pam and their family have been shown and truly realize that these are gifts of the Holy

Spirit of God. "Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you."

**INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS
Sandy Lichtle
Penny Schroder**

Bro. Paul Hangartner and Sis. Dee Mandaza announced their wedding engagement on December 23, 2007. We are prayerful for them as they begin to build this relationship and look forward to having them continue to fellowship with us as a married couple.

We rejoice with Bro. Sam, Sis. Carrie Gutwein and big brother Alek on the birth of Ruth Marie, born January 5. Thankful grandparents include: Bro. Phil and Sis. Carol Gutwein (Francesville, IN), Bob and Belva Lucas (Indianapolis, IN), and Terence and Deborah Lankford (Bloomington, IN).

We are thankful for the recovery and health of little Issac Guzulaitis (Darius and Stephanie), as he spent a short time in the hospital recently.

Our annual church business meeting was held on January 16. It was encouraging to review God's faithfulness throughout the past year and exciting to anticipate His work for the coming year. We appreciate all the efforts of those who completed a term and are prayerful for those who continue on or were given new roles for the coming year. We know that each person is vital to the church, irrespective of the role.

It was a great blessing to have Bro. Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Bob Meyer (Sis. Ann, Bluffton North, IN) share the Word with us in the past month. May God bless them for their willingness to serve.

**INDIANA, LACROSSE
Bethany Johnson
Julie Rocke**

A little girl asked her parents, "How

was God made?" The reply, "God was not made. He always has been, is now and always will be! The Bible tells us that He is called the great I AM. God just is!" What an incredible thought to wrap our minds around and what a comfort to know that amid a changing world, God does not change. "For I am the Lord, I change not;" (Malachi 3:6).

We have had plenty of changes in our lives and congregation this month. Some of them are "but for a season" and some of them are more permanent.

We bid farewell to Bro. Ned Troxel (Bro. Tom and Sis. LuAnn) who has traveled overseas to Germany to study and work for several months as well as to his grandmother, Sis. Mary Ann Feller, who has gone to Florida for the remainder of the winter. We look forward with joy to their return in God's due time.

A more permanent farewell was to ministering Bro. Chris and Sis. Carla Wuethrich and their children, Sis. Meagan, Landon, Marissa and Cambria, as they have relocated to the St. Louis area for employment. Their son, Bro. Levi, has moved the other direction to Chicago as he has graduated from Purdue and has taken employment there. We appreciate their service and their love to our congregation over the past 6 years. They will be sorely missed. We were encouraged at a farewell singing for them, that the Christian ties that bind our hearts together are not being broken, merely stretched across the miles. May they feel God's nearness as they settle in and His love and guidance as they follow His leading in their lives.

Several hospital patients this month are Sis. Martha Cadawalder, Bro. Ed Frank, and Rachel Feller (Bro. Joe and Sis. Jackie). We are thankful that Bro. Ed has returned home and is able to join us in worship again. Our prayers continue to be with Rachel as she faces surgery in the future. May God ever hold her in His Almighty hands and grant her comfort and com-

plete healing.

We are thankful to Bros. Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynell, Akron, OH) and Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI) for their service to us when they visited our congregation. May God grant them blessings here and in heaven for their labors in His vineyard.

May each of you be blessed this month with the joy and peace of knowing an unchanging God – One who hears our pleas and blesses us with His love.

INDIANA, LEO
Elizabeth Schrenk
Abigail Schrenk

"...for he was a faithful man, and feared God above many."

Nehemiah 7:2

To be found faithful! What a challenge to follow! The year 2007 is behind us. We look expectantly for God's guidance and mercy as we live our lives before Him in 2008. May the prayer on our hearts be one of faithfulness to the Lord.

The holidays always bring a large number of visitors to us. Among them were several ministering brothers. Bros. Justin Koch (Washington, IL), Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), Greg Stieglitz (Indianapolis, IN), and Nate Lehman (Denver, CO) shared from God's Word. We thank them for sharing the same old story in a fresh and meaningful way. We pray God will continue to bless them and their families for the service they offer for His Kingdom.

Sis. Emma Jean Stieglitz (Bro. Oliver) arrived home from the hospital this past month. We praise God for her good recovery and continue to pray for healing in her body.

Andre Sauder (Bro. Tim and Sis. Jenny) underwent surgery. He has been in and out of the hospital a couple times. We pray Andre will sense the presence of the Great Healer as he con-

tinues his long recovery at home. May God give wisdom and strength to his parents as they continue to seek the doctor's advice.

The first Sunday of the year brought news of the engagement of Sis. Bethany Fischer (Bro. Paul and Sis. Leann) to Bro. Joshua Lindberg (Bro. Richard and Sis. Julie) of Atlanta, GA. We pray God will continue to unite the hearts of this couple as they look forward to a May 25 wedding. Sis. Bethany and Bro. Joshua are both worshipping with the Roanoke, IL, congregation while they finish this semester of schooling.

Our annual Business Meeting was held on January 13. We held elections for various church offices. We thank those finishing their years of service. Often we fail to express our gratitude for the unseen tasks. We are grateful for brothers and sisters who have hearts of service for our congregation.

January 19, Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz read the 2007 Memorandum. Bro. Lynn also responded to the Leadership Surveys that were completed several months ago. We thank Bro. Lynn for his service and commitment to our congregation.

We gathered for a singing shower on January 20 for Bro. Jon Gerst and Sis. Amy Fiechter. We were delighted to have their parents, Bro. Wally and Donna Gerst (Alto, MI) and Bro. Mike and Sis. Shari Fiechter (Bluffton, IN) join us for this special occasion. We look forward to their upcoming wedding on February 24. May God bless this couple abundantly as they seek to serve Him.

INDIANA, MILFORD
Pam Beer
Carol Hurd

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; A time to kill,

and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; A time to mend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace."

Eccles. 3:1-8

This fitting scripture was read to the Milford congregation on New Year's Eve.

The following have been in the hospital: Bro. Glen (Kate) Price, Bro. Don (Ruth) Beer and Everett (the late Leona) Price. We are thankful that Bros. Glen and Don have returned home and Bro. Don is able to join us in church again. We keep Everett in our prayers as after a time in the nursing home he has returned to the hospital.

Our sincere sympathy is with Sis. Shelby (Nelson) Beer in the death of her mother, Sis. Valera Culp (Francesville). Even though we grieve, we know she has gained her heavenly reward and is in a better place.

We rejoice with Bro. Robert and Sis. Kimberly Schlipf in the birth of their first child, Brenner Richard Schlipf. Brenner's grandparents are Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy Schlipf and Bro. Dave and Sis. Barb Young. His great-grandparents are Bro. Jesse and Sis. Shirley Beer, Sis. Lola Schlipf, Marie Young and Otto and Edith Stadel.

Even though many activities had to be canceled or rescheduled this month because of snow, the Milford members were able to meet on January 3 to elect members to fill needs of the church. Those elected are: Bro. Alvin Haab, Trustee; Bro. Lee Beer, Bible Class teacher; Bro. Rich Schlipf and Bro. Dean Lehman, Sunday School teachers; Bro. Stan Wuthrich, Speaker system; Bro. Jeff Beer, Usher; Sis. Pam

Beer, Silver Lining reporter; Sis. Sandy Beer, food committee; Sis. Judy Longcor, World Relief sewing; Sis. Deb Beer and Sis. Jane Price, Sunday School teachers.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Jenni Honegger
Marcella Tyler**

Greetings of Christian love to you all! As this article is written, the town of Remington is in "crisis mode" after a storm which brought over 5 inches of rain within just a few hours caused flooding over a good portion of the town early in the morning of January 8. It is during times like these, when we have truly seen the awesome hand of God upon the earth, that we cling to the promise Jesus gave to those who place their trust in Him: "And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock." (Matthew 7:25) Relief efforts are currently underway to help salvage and clean up the many homes which were damaged, and we appreciate your prayers for those affected.

The Bible Class, along with a few others, joined many volunteers from Wolcott in a work trip to Biloxi during the Christmas holidays. As they were returning, we then said "farewell for now" to Bro. Ken and Sis. Bernice Schneider, as they are also traveling to Biloxi to participate in the ongoing relief efforts there for several months. We will miss the newlyweds and look forward to seeing them again soon!

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Gina Getz (Bro. Andy) for the death of her grandmother, Nadine Rinkemberger of Gridley, IL. And we are thankful that Bro. Andy Zickmund (Sis. Mary) is recovering well from his recent surgery.

We recently held our annual business meeting and elections, and we want to thank all those who have served so faithfully over the past year. Whether big or small, each contribu-

tion is appreciated and necessary for the church body to function as God intended it to. Here are the results of our recent elections: Sis. Sara Getz (Bro. Jason) will begin teaching in the Beginner Sunday School class, Sis. Alisia Kilgus (Elder Bro. Dan and Sis. Jenna) in the Primary class, Bro. Loren Honegger (Sis. Jenni) in the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade class, and Bro. Bruce Waibel (Sis. Jody) in the Bible Class. Many other positions were filled as well, and we are thankful that we have so many brothers and sisters willing to serve in each capacity. We sincerely thank all those who have completed their terms for their service, and we wish all of the newly elected God's grace as you fulfill your duties.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**Becky Langhofer
Natalie Virkler**

"A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:"

Proverbs 1:5

We are thankful to our Elder Bro. Curt Frank for coming to share the Memorandum with us. This verse in Proverbs tells us that if we listen and learn, we will be wise. We are thankful for the counsel of those wiser and more experienced than us.

January 6 was a blessed celebration for our church family as our Sis. Kara Beebe was united in marriage to Bro. Corey Laukhuf. They plan to make their home in the Milford congregation. We wish them God's rich blessings as they begin their new walk as husband and wife. Thank you to all who joined us for the wedding! Especially our visiting ministers: Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse), Elder Bro. John Laukhuf (Latty), Bro. Ron Koehl (Sarasota), Bro. Joe Gerst (Iowa City), and Bro. Nelson Beer (Milford). Thank you for sharing God's precious Word

with us.

We are so blessed with a vibrant, growing church and we rejoice with Bro. Brad and Sis. Becky Langhofer in the birth of their son, Elijah James. Elijah is welcomed into this world by his older brothers, Jesse and Daniel, and grandparents, Bro. Fred and Sis. MaryEllen Zimmerman (Congerville) and Bro. Marty and Sis. Lavilla Langhofer.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO **Marguerite Hoerr**

The inspiring Christmas program that was given by our Sunday school children was truly beautiful. It was held later than usual because of inclement weather, but it seemed to mean more to us than ever. It was obvious to us that each of the participants was moved by the story they were telling because they told it so seriously. Having been Sunday school teachers we know the work and concentration it takes to help prepare such a program. We want to voice our heartfelt thanks to Bro. Tim Bucher, our Sunday School Superintendent, and all the teachers who made this event so meaningful for all of us. To make it even more special we had visitors who came with their families to visit grandparents on the Sunday the program was eventually held. Their children caught the spirit, took part in the program, and added depth to our numbers, and more meaning to the message.

It dawned on me as we entered church this first Sunday in January, 2008, how each person I saw was such an intricate part of our little assembly. In a smaller church there is time to greet each and every person who is there and that makes it special in itself. One has time to visit a bit and to find out how each other's week went. It makes our meeting seem more personal.

During the week we often get a phone call from one or the other of our

membership. Sometimes it's just to chat and sometimes it's to pass along information that we need. It's another way to keep us all close to each other and we value that so much. One unexpected phone call we got was from our wonderful friend, Millie Williams, who with her husband have moved to California to be with her daughters. Too, Bro. Garry brought greetings from our dear Sis. Marie Heinold. We think of both of these women as part of our church family. We miss them and pray for them.

On New Year's Eve, Bob and I were given a most thoughtful and beautiful gift by Sis. Tricia and Bro. Ed Lester, Jr. They brought a bountiful treat for us; a delicious meal fixed and served by both of them. We enjoyed it to the fullest and how we enjoyed their company until they left for home; thankfully just before another big snow made traveling difficult. This is the kind of love we can't buy and which we cherish so much.

This Sunday, the 13th, was our turn to serve the Fellowship lunch. It occurred to us that Bob and I have been able to do this for the past 61 years. I don't think I ever mentioned before what a blessing it is to be able to serve our fellow believers. In a small church the opportunity comes around oftener, and in a large church one's opportunity might come around every few years; however it's done it still remains to us to be a very blest part of our service. Serving is one blessing, the help we receive is another; and when we're able to just sit and partake we have such wonderful and close visits with the persons beside us. An added blessing is to share what's left with those who are kind enough to receive it.

Today is the 20th of January and time to send my report to the wonderful people at the Silver Lining. It was snow and blowing snow and bitter cold here in New Buffalo, MI. It looked like not so good traveling the 38 miles to church. I told Bob he had my permission to turn around and go back home

but he thought things were getting better. How right he was. The farther we went the better the roads were. When we arrived at our Valpo church, the sky was blue, and the sun was shining. It was still bitter cold but we found all kinds of warmth inside as we entered, and how good it was to be there to worship our God; to hear our ministers proclaim God's Word to us and to meet and greet those we love so much.

It's always good to hear that our son-in-law, Dick Pelath, had a better than average week and we always thank God when we hear the cheer in his voice.

Bro. Brady Moser had another down time and was treated at an Indianapolis hospital for pneumonia. We're so glad to say that he's back home again and improving.

Remember us if you're traveling close by; if you're traveling across country on Interstate 94, the IN Toll Road or U.S. 30, our church is located 2 ¾ miles south of U.S. 30 on State Road 49. A warm welcome awaits you.

INDIANA **WEST LAFAYETTE** **Hollie Meister** **Darlene Walder**

We had our all church potluck (Family Praise Night) this month. We sang songs and several performed skits.

God blessed us with a wonderful evening of fellowship and fun.

This month we were blessed with several visiting ministers: Bros. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), John Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Alan Schambach (Remington, IN), Randy Gudeman (Francesville, IN), and Tom Waldbeser (Atlanta, GA). We would like to thank you for visiting and sharing God's Word with us.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT**Lynell Blume****Erica Blume**

Sis. Mary Beth Lehman (Bro. Greg) and Sis. Colleen Jacoby were surgical patients this month; Sis. Nancy Kyburz (Bro. Jerry) also spent some time in the hospital. We are thankful for the Lord's healing hand in each of their special circumstances.

Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandra; Alto, MI) recently spent a Sunday with us. We're grateful for his willingness to be used in the Lord's service.

Several from our congregation traveled to Biloxi, Mississippi, to help with the ongoing efforts to rebuild homes after Hurricane Katrina. Thanks be to God for their safe travels and for watching over them!

Our area received heavy rains on January 7-8 which resulted in flooding and other damage. The clean-up has begun and we have had abundant opportunities to give of our time and physical blessings to help the victims. Many prayers have been offered on their behalf; we know they appreciate the helping hands and willing workers.

We enjoyed a blessed weekend as Brett Schwab (Bro. Jon and Sis. Wendy) received the priceless gift of salvation following his testimony and baptism. Assisting our Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna; Remington, IN) for the weekend was Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda) and retired Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Sis. Marcella), both of Francesville, IN. We were also thankful to have Bro. Randy Gudeman (Sis. Becky; Francesville, IN) and Bro. Neal Widmer (Sis. Kris; West Lafayette, IN) share this time with us.

IOWA, BLOOMFIELD**Barbara Schock**

Oh, what is more delightful
And in what blessed state,
When we our souls and bodies
To God do consecrate?

Zions Harp # 139, vs. 1

Greetings to each and every one! It is truly a blessed state that we live in when we give the Lord our souls and bodies and let Him do His will with us. A new year is upon us, another year to serve Him. May we continue to strive for the Heavenly Home, and may we each be set aside for the Lord to do His work.

We are thankful that there are those who are willing to come and do the Lord's work. On January 12-13, Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar) was willing to come and assist our Elder Bro. Doug in the reading of the Memorandum. Part of us felt the void left when Sis. Sandra was called Home last June, yet the other part of us realized to a greater part our own mortality, and how this will be part of each of our lives. There is a crown awaiting and there is a great commission we each have been called to. May we each be willing to take this to heart and do our part. Also here that weekend was Bro. Roy Koehl (Sis. Jenell, Morris). We thank each of these brothers for sharing the Word with us, and pray that the Lord will bless them and their families for their efforts.

IOWA, BURLINGTON**Laurie Schulz**

What a joyous occasion to witness the wedding of Bro. Seth Hartter and Sis. Brenda Schulz on January 6. Parents of the couple are Bro. Tim and Sis. Charleen (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Gary and Sis. Melody (and the late Sis. Karen) Schulz. It was such a blessing to have the church filled. We're thankful for the visiting ministers who shared the Word with us. May God richly bless Bros. Dave Hartter (Sabetha, KS), Myron Knobloch (Lester, IA) and our Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) for their efforts. We wish this couple God's richest blessings.

We rejoice with first-time parents, Clay and Jessica Buster, at the birth of their little son, Aidyn John. Grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Ingrid

Buster and Scott and Janel Heater. Aden arrived a couple weeks early and required extra hospitalization. We are thankful that he's doing well. We pray that God will grant this couple wisdom as they raise their son.

IOWA, ELGIN**Gloria Frieden**

When pure and upright hearts,
By flames of love ignited,
Are by the bond of faith
More firmly yet united,
The light of hope beams forth
In radiance far and nigh,
Invites us to partake
The blessings from on high.

This union of our hearts
Shall stand through grace in Jesus,
We walk the path of life,
While cheer and trust increases,
Where God in truth abides,
Where two join hand and heart,
We find a three-fold cord,
Not lightly rent apart.

On December 23, Sis. Maria Butikofer (Bro. Lon and Sis. Sandy) and Bro. Dean Rocke (Sis. Kathy and the late Bro. Nelson) vowed their faithfulness to each other and were united in Holy Matrimony. Poor weather conditions prevented many from being able to come, but we were thankful to have visiting ministers, Bro. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City), Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane, Silverton, OR) and our Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA) with us for this special weekend. May God richly bless this dear couple as they seek to serve the Lord together.

All the way my Saviour leads me ...

Trusting in God's leading, Sis. Lisa Strahm (Sis. Shelby and the late Bro. Dale, Sabetha, KS) has moved to Elgin and we warmly welcome her into our midst. May she continue to feel God's nearness and direction.

Take the task He gives you gladly
Let His work your pleasure be ...

Bro. Phil Waldbeser (Sis. Charlotte) has been given the duty of trustee to replace Bro. Tim Butikofer (Sis. Kathy) who rotates out. While we thank Bro. Tim for his labors, we also give Bro. Phil our prayerful support.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE **Willa Clark**

The past year has brought many blessings to our little congregation and also some temporary separation.

Three of God's richest blessings, yet greatest responsibilities, were born into the homes of believers. Reagan Rae was born to converts Sara and Duane Lester. She joined two sisters, Anna and Willa, and a brother, Matthew. Sis. Nancy and Bro. Jeremy Leman were blessed with the birth of their first son, Wyatt. Sis. Rhoda and Bro. Brandon Plattner became second-time parents when Misha arrived to join her brother, Mason. We rejoice as we watch the little ones grow up in loving and God-fearing families.

We are definitely missing the presence of Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Nancy Leman since they have moved to the central Illinois area, where Jeremy's work took them. We wish them God's continued blessing and presence in their home, and know our separation is only temporary. Wherever our earthly home might be, at some future time we will be together in God's presence for eternity.

We are blessed by the addition to our congregation of Sis. Barbara Schock, formerly of Bloomfield. She has taken a position in a local hospital and is making her home here.

And we continue to be blessed by the visits of ministering brothers and their families, and other visitors. What a joy it is to gather with fellow believers and know where ever on this earth we might be traveling, we are following

the same path to Heaven.

May 2008 be for each one a year of walking even closer to God and feeling the presence of His guiding hand.

IOWA, IOWA CITY **Diana Butikofer**

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord"

Luke 2:11

We enjoyed the Christmas Program the children presented, reminding us that as fun as the Christmas season can be, the number one reason we celebrate Christmas is Jesus. We were also able to carol on two evenings to nursing home residents and others.

Ron and Audrey Landherr welcomed their first grandchild December 23. Adelaide Lynn's parents are Josh and Heidi Hydeman (Kansas City). Larissa Kay was born January 10 to Bro. Jim and Sis. Diana Butikofer. Kyla, Garrett and Wyatt are very excited about their new sister. Grandparents are Bro. Al and Sis. Laverne Butikofer (Elgin, IA) and Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie Heinold (LaCrosse, IN). We wish both couples God's grace as they raise their children to know Him.

We thank Bro. Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonita, Cissna Park, IL) for his willingness to serve on the pulpit and pray the Lord will bless him for it.

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

Our congregation is rejoicing with several families who have welcomed babies into their homes. Gretchen Louise was born on November 3 to Catherine Ver Steeg. Bro. Chuck and Sis. Vicki Leuthold are her loving grandparents. Bro. Brian and Sis. Angie Metzger welcomed Carter Gregory into their family on December 21. Cade and Claire are delighted with a

new brother. Bro. Tom and Sis. Deb Metzger are the thankful grandparents. Bro. Troy and Sis. Gwen Metzger are the parents of Maria Louise born on January 5. Big sister Chloe is happy for a little sister. Grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Charlotte Metzger and Bro. Doug and Sis. Jeryl Grimm (Sabetha, KS). Kayla Marie was born to Bro. Trent and Sis. Heather Knoblock on January 9. She was welcomed home by big brothers, Kerrick and Korey. Grandparents are Bro. Harvey and Sis. Mary Metzger and Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet Knoblock.

Strive Aright when God in mercy
His compassion turns to you,
That your soul so long o'er-burdened

Freed from sin might live anew.

Zion's Harp #47

We are so thankful Jeff and Betty Popkes have answered the call of God and have begun their repentance. Our prayers are with them as they begin their walk of faith.

Several loved ones from our congregation have spent time in the hospital. They include: Sis. Amelia Roemen, Tessa Moser (Bro. Wes and Sis. Esther), Janae Mogler (Bro. Dwight and Sis. Donna), Tad Meyer (Bro. Denis and Sis. Jill), Betty Popkes (Jeff), Sis. Becky Ver Beek (Tim), Marae Gerber (Bro. Monte and Sis. Karla), Sis. Cari Knapp (Bro. Kevin), and Aubrey Metzger (Bro. Jerome and Sis. Jana). We pray that they will feel God's healing touch each day.

We appreciate our visiting ministers who were with us over the Christmas season. They were: Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA), Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Bro. Roy Koehl (Morris, MN), Bro. Randy Mogler (Washington, IL), Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Bro. Larry Bahr (Ft. Scott, KS), Bro. Bruce Frank (Cissna Park, IL), Bro. James Knapp (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Phil Schulz (Burlington, IA). May God bless

them as they share the Gospel of salvation.

We bid farewell to Bro. Ben and Sis. Kristen Craig and their daughter Liberty as they have returned to Congerville, IL. At the same time, we welcome Emily Knapp from Congerville. May God provide for them as they make the transition.

"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself: that where I am, there ye may be also."

St. John 14:2-3

On January 15, our congregation bid a final farewell to our Sis. Iola Knobloch who passed into eternity at the age of 87. Being a widow for many, many years, Sis. Iola raised her family alone and left a wonderful legacy of steadfastness and love. Sis. Iola is survived by three sons, Bro. Larry (Sis. Sherryl), Bro. Delbert (Sis. June) and Bro. Dan (Sis. Rejean); and three daughters, Sis. Nancy Baumgartner (Bro. Leon, Phoenix, AZ), Sis. Jean Heyer (Bro. Gary) and Sis. Marvella Steffen (Bro. Scott, Washington, IL). We also extend our sympathy to Sis. Zelma Knobloch, Clara Knobloch, Elsie Leuthold and Bro. Ezra and Sis. Marie Knobloch on the loss of a dear sister and sister-in-law. Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Gene Metzger conducted the funeral service. Bro. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA) had the prayer at the cemetery.

Another Year is dawning,
Dear Master let it be.
In working or in waiting,
Another year for Thee
Hymns of Zion #150

At our New Year's Eve church services, we heard the statistics for 2007. In our Lester congregation, we had 1 death, 3 baptisms and 21 births.

So many changes take place in a year; yet we are thankful for an unchanging God who will lovingly guide us each step of our journey.

IOWA, OAKVILLE Sharla Wiegand

We rejoice as Bro. Kevin Frank (Bro. Dale and Sis. Tina) and Sis. Lindsay Wagenbach (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Monti) were united as one in the Lord on December 16. Visiting ministers were Bros. Michael Wagenbach (Wolcott, IN), Bruce Frank (Cissna Park, IL), Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA) and Phil Schulz (Burlington, IA). All of these ministers were raised in Oakville. We are always thankful when they come "home".

Our hearts were saddened with the passing of Bro. Dick Gerst on December 19. We sympathize with his dear wife of 70 years, Sis. Cleo. How thankful we are that he was able to witness the conversion of his wife in recent years.

Bro. Phil Schulz (Burlington, IA) was with us for our Christmas Day service.

On Sunday, December 30, we were blessed with visiting ministers, Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL). On Monday, December 31, we had New Year's Eve services by Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) and Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Wolcott, IN).

IOWA, WEST BEND Sue Schneider Janet Fehr

December 8, 2007, was the wedding day for Joe Tyrrell and Karla Nelson (Cheryl Marrow). We pray this young couple will feel God's blessings in their marriage.

The miracle of life is so precious. Allison Lee was born to Bro. Lee and Sis. Alicia Fehr on December 19. Sisters Aubrey and Ashley welcomed her

home as well as grandparents, Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon Fehr and Bro. Fred and Sis. Joann Maul (Cissna Park, IL).

Several loved ones from our West Bend congregation have experienced accidents and/or medical problems, and most of them have been able to recover at home. However, our prayers went out to Sis. Marie Metzger as she was hospitalized for a number of days in January. We are thankful she is doing better, and is back home at the care center. We trust each ailing individual has felt God's healing touch.

On December 30, we were privileged to have Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN) here to worship with us. Then on the weekend of January 12-13 several came to share the pulpit. Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Oakville, IA), Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Sis. Sandy, Morris, MN), Bro. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN), Bro. Brandon Emch (Sis. Maria, Kansas City, MO), Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO) and Bro. Brent Kellenberger (Sis. Beth, Kansas City, MO) were all present to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of three friends. We welcomed Bruce Banwart (the late Bro. Vic and Sis. Marilyn), Derek Knapp (Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorna, Burlington, IA) and Josh Banwart (Brad and Julie) into the fold with open arms. We pray for God's grace in their lives as they walk with Him in the paths of truth and righteousness.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Sis. Darlene Metzger, Sis. Marie Metzger, Bro. Arnold Metzger, Sis. Della Metzger, and Nettie (Ervin) Banwart at the loss of their sister and sister-in-law, Sis. Iola Knobloch. Sis. Iola passed away on January 15 and was from the Lester, IA, congregation.

With the coming of Spring, also arrives the coming of Good Friday and Easter. It is a time of rebirth and remembrance. May we always realize and appreciate the importance of the resurrection and of The Old Rugged Cross in our Christian lives.

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suffering and shame;
And I love that old cross where the
dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

Oh, that old rugged cross so despised by the world,
Has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God left His
glory above,
To bear it to dark Calvary.

In the old rugged cross, stained with
blood so divine,
A wondrous beauty I see;
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus
suffered and died,
To pardon and sanctify me.

Chorus: So I'll cherish the old rugged cross
'till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it someday for a
crown.

Tabernacle Hymns #135, vs. 1-3

JAPAN, SHIODA

Carrie Ito

Our Christmas Sunday service was blessed with a few extra people this year. Please pray that these newcomers will continue to come to church and that they can understand that every Sunday is a special day to worship our Savior and every day is a day to serve Him.

Our New Year's Day service was pretty slim, but special all the same. Because of the small turnout, the brother was able to pray for each individual person who was in attendance. After church we sat around the table talking about our accomplishments of the past year and our hopes for the year to come—everything from learning to jump rope to memorizing Bible verses! It was a blessed day. Our hope and prayer for the new year is that God will fortify our existing members and draw

many more to serve Him here in Japan and throughout the world.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Marie Inoue

Greetings in the Lord, wishing all readers and their loved ones the rich blessings of the Lord in this New Year of 2008. January 1-3 are the official New Year holidays that are extended if a weekend is involved, so there is much visiting, traveling, and resting during this time.

The first Sunday of the new year was a bright, sunny, and not such a cold day here in Tokyo. The message given by our Elder brother that day was taken from Proverbs 30:7-9... "give me neither poverty or riches... "We as humans find it difficult to handle wealth — tending to forget the Lord... and even poverty as we become downcast — tempted to steal as was mentioned in these verses. The Lord is sensitive to our needs, and we must listen to His voice for guidance. As a boy, the brother mentioned how he would notice the trainman tapping the wheels of the train at the train stop near his home, knowing by the sound whether or not the wheel was strong. So the Lord also tests us from time to time, always knowing our strength and what joys and trials He can allow us to bear. We know His grace is sufficient and He always provides a way out for us to continue on in His love in spite of difficulties. As another sister and I shared thoughts about the above words at a later time, we marveled at the way God uses us in many ways which are not always easy, but keeps us in His love and grace in all of life's experiences.

Our dear friend, Yoko Suzurikawa, is experiencing the above as she has begun in faith and repentance toward our dear Lord and God. She is a young mother of 3, and it is a joy to see their family gather with us each Lord's day. They live not far from our church and knew very little of Christianity until they started gathering with us. We

know she would appreciate your prayers as she experiences joys and many struggles to change her life and walk in the ways of the Lord.

Last but not least, we extend a warm and loving welcome to Bro. Ryan and Sis. Becky Weiss and 3 children (twins included!) to the Far East, as they were transferred to Singapore (job related) from Kansas City, MO. It is about a 6 hour flight from Tokyo, and we look forward to the time we can meet them and anyone who visits them. Until then we enjoy their correspondence and wish them God's love and blessings as they adjust to a new land.

KANSAS, BERN

Sheri Edelman

Rita Menold

We rejoice with Duane Kaeb (Bro. Paul and Sis. Joan) as he begins his repentance! May God be with him and direct him.

Our Sunday School Christmas program was presented a week late due to weather related issues. It's such an encouragement to see those shining faces and know they are the future of our church!

We thank Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS) for preaching God's Word to us this month! May God bless you!

Sis. Marie Grimm (the late Bro. Harvey) entered into eternity just before Christmas. Our sympathy goes to her children, Bro. Gordon and Shari Grimm as well as Gregory.

Our hospital patient this month was and is Bro. Waymer Esslinger. At this writing he is still in the hospital and in need of our prayers. We pray for God's healing hand to touch him.

Sis. Lisa Strahm has moved to the Elgin, IA, congregation. We pray for God's blessings on her move and hope she visits us often. Our congregation will miss her smiling face!

Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. presented a seminar to the Bern and Sabetha con-

gregations regarding our spiritual union and also anxiety, worry and stress. Thank you for instructing us, Bro. Ted!

Our annual business meeting was held January 15. We pray for each brother and sister who was elected to a position.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT
Karen Kellenberger

Ring the bells of heaven! There is joy today.
For the wanderer now is reconciled.
Gospel Hymns #622

We have reason to rejoice with the angels in heaven as Dave Sinn (John and Sis. Carol) has turned his heart to the Lord in repentance.

We very much appreciated our visiting ministers. They were Bro. Mark Zimmerman (Sis. Cheryl, Eureka, IL) and Bro. Gary Anliker (Sis. Edith, Elgin, IL). May God bless them for their fellowship and sharing God's Word.

On December 29, Alyssa Banwart (Bro. Don and Sis. Aleta) and Levi Arnold (Phil and Susan) were united in holy matrimony. We wish them God's richest blessings.

The Memorandum letter was read and expounded on by Fort Scott's Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) and Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS) on Wednesday, January 9. There was much Spirit inspired food for thought.

The following Wednesday evening, our annual business meeting was held. We give our prayers and support to all who were elected to serve in areas needed, as well as gratitude to those who already served and finished their terms.

On a personal note, this reporter has counted it a blessing and privilege to share Fort Scott's news. My term is completed and I am willing that another should take on the rewarding task and enjoy the blessings. May God

bless each of you.

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might."

Ephesians 6:10

KANSAS, KIOWA
Jenny Stewart
Janice Bahr

This is a special month for sweethearts. Let us not forget our one true love, Jesus Christ!

True love can never die, Tho' in the tomb.
We all may silent lie, wrapped in its gloom;
Tho' mortal flesh decay, there comes a glorious day,
when dust shall soar away to Christ above.

True love can never die, never die,
never die;
True love can never die, no, never die.

Hymns of Zion # 163, verse 3

Our prayers are with our hospital patients this month. Sis. Mildred Farney was hospitalized this month for sickness. Staci Stewart (Bro. Kelly and Sis. Jenny) was in the hospital for a serious infection. She is recovering slowly. Matt Schupbach (Bro. Kent and Sis. Darcy Kisling) had surgery on his leg. He is healing nicely and doing intense therapy for several months.

The love of God is greater far than tongue or pen can ever tell;
It goes beyond the highest star,
and reaches to the lowest hell.
The guilty pair bowed down with care.

God gave his Son to win;
His erring child He reconciled,
and pardoned from his sin.
Oh, love of God, how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure
the saints and angels' song.

Hymns of Zion # 289

KANSAS
LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Ester Knobloch

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Jeff Bahr (Kiowa, KS) and Cory Metzger (Wichita, KS). We thank them for sharing God's Word with us.

Note of Thanks:

I want to humbly thank all who remembered me in your prayers and for all your cards and letters since my accident and hip surgery. May God continue to richly bless each of you for your love and concern.

In Christian love,
Bro. Lloyd Kraft

KANSAS, SABETHA
Rebekah Beyer
Dawn Strahm

As a result of a large ice storm in our area, many of us were without power for up to a week or more. The Bern congregation joined us for Sunday services. Ministering Bros. John Lehman, Darrel Stoller, Galen Rokey and Ed Strahm were with us that Sunday. We were also thankful for a visit from Bro. Greg Braker (Sis. Wendy, Lamar, MO) as he shared God's Word with us.

Christmas Day Services and New Year's Eve Services were well attended as we remembered our Savior's birth and the dawning of a new year.

Bro. Ted Witzig from Apostolic Christian Counseling Services recently presented seminars on Strengthening the Spiritual Union and Dealing with Worry, Stress, and Anxiety.

At our annual church business meeting held on January 15, we elected Brothers and Sisters from our congregation to fill positions within the church. We are thankful to those who lend their time to the operation of our church and the teaching of our chil-

dren.

As we begin this new year may we remember: "Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him." (Proverbs 30:5)

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

Bro. Howard Warner was hospitalized for a week during the Christmas season. Praise the Lord, Bro. Howard was able to assemble with us the second Sunday in January.

Bro. Art Kellenberger is on a twelve week work assignment in nearby Hutchison. We are happy to have Bro. Art and Sis. Kathy worship with us in Wichita during this time.

One card I received during the past holiday season contained these words — "*Jesus is the gift that perfectly fits the size of every heart.*"

MEXICO, IXTLAN

Matt Gerber

"I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas...that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,) that ye submit yourselves unto such, and to every one that helpeth with us, and laboureth."

I Cor. 16:15-16

In January, Sis. Cheryl Herrmann (Princeville, IL) brought a medical team for a busy week of training the local Red Cross and police. At the beginning of February we received great encouragement from a visit by retired Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Sis. Marcella, Francesville), ministering Bro. Randy Gudeman (Sis. Becky, Francesville), and Bro. Jon Schwab (Sis. Wendy).

Meet Sis. Issa Sibaja

Greetings! My name is Issa Sibaja Leon and I want to share with you how Jesus called me.

When I was a child, we were invited

to VBS and my three older sisters (Areli Reutter, Lorenia Schmidgall, and Elsa Cabrera) took us. I was about six years old and I liked it very much. My sisters continued to attend church activities and took us on Sundays. They also invited my mother and she, too, liked it. Time passed and my sisters and mother were baptized. I didn't understand what this all meant but I knew that some day I would do the same.

Time passed and I had to leave childhood and become a young lady. At first everything was like always, but little by little I distanced myself from the church because I was ashamed when people made fun of me. They also did this when I was in grade school, but now that I was in junior high school, I began to be concerned about what people said about me. Little by little, I withdrew myself until I knew nothing about God and began to feel that no one loved me. Everything I did seemed to go wrong. My parents and teachers noticed this attitude since I answered back to them and was very defensive. I began to identify myself with music artists that dressed in black even though I didn't understand what they were singing. My mother and sisters corrected me many times but I didn't listen to them. I told them they didn't understand how things are today. My sisters that do not live in Mexico sent me letters but I knew they were telling me about God and I didn't read them. Some I even tore up. Nonetheless, I promised my mother that I would attend church once I got out of junior high school.

One day as part of a school field trip we went to a water park. There was a wave pool, and even though I didn't know how to swim I got up the courage to get in. A huge wave came and knocked me over. I couldn't get out and couldn't breathe. In that moment I could only ask God for forgiveness. Finally, a friend pulled me out, but after a short time everything continued just like before.

Time passed and I finished junior high. I had to enter a high school where none of my friends went. It was also a junior high and my younger sister was going to go there with me. I was so mad because I wasn't going to be able to be with my friends, but during that time without them and not knowing anybody I became closer to my younger sister and my family. I began to go to church. I went to the Sunday evening hymn sings, but I didn't sing; I was there only because of the promise I had made to my mother. Little by little I began to attend the Bible studies on Sundays. I didn't wear a skirt and I would look around before entering church because I was embarrassed that people would see me. During the studies I would almost fall asleep, just waiting for the moment when I could go home.

One day at school I hurt somebody with strong words. That night I felt so bad, and without knowing why I grabbed my Bible that I had been given when I was a girl, and I asked God to help me. I opened the Bible to Ecclesiastes 12:1—"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them." I felt heavy guilt and knew I wasn't ok. I felt I needed to correct it and I said to myself, "If only I had read this verse before." Then I read chapter ten and understood that I was foolish, and I had the desire to be wise.

Later my sister and I switched schools, but I had to wait six months to reenter because it was a different plan of studies. During those months I spent more time with my mother and sisters. I began to go to church with a real interest to listen, and every study spoke to me just exactly what I needed. That filled me with the desire to know more of God—a desire I always want to have.

I was no longer embarrassed to dress in long skirts or to be seen entering the church or carrying the Bible, the most precious thing I could have. I

began to know Jesus and to feel that He loved me. I no longer felt like nobody loved me. I wanted to surrender my life to Him but I was afraid that when I returned to school I wouldn't be able to carry it through. When I first returned to school, my friends didn't understand me and asked lots of questions. But they accepted me, and even though my relationship with them is different now, they respect me.

One day I got sick and fainted. When I woke up without knowing what had happened I said to myself, "I could die any moment and I still haven't surrendered my life to Christ." I remembered then what happened that day in the wave pool, and I didn't want to wait a minute longer, knowing I could die at anytime and I hadn't surrendered my life to Christ.

Now I'm baptized, and I know that tests will come. It will not be easy to follow Jesus, but I know that if I trust in Him with all my heart He will help me. Life with Him is better than anything else.

MEXICO, MAGDALENA

**Gloria Gonzalez
Carissa Schlipf**

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

In the months of December and January we hosted work teams from Purdue University, Fairbury, IL, Forrest, IL, and Cissna Park, IL. May God bless each team member for their time, hard work, fellowship, and energy as they worked on the church, new house and various other projects.

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

Mark 16:15

May God bless the willing heart of ministering Bro. Marshall Heinold (Ixtilan, Mexico) as he shared the Word

with us one Wednesday night in December.

Sunday, December 23, we had our annual Christmas program. It was a joy to hear the children sharing the story of Christ's birth through song and verse. We were also reminded that at Christmas we celebrate not only the birth of Jesus as a baby, but more importantly, as a Savior!

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

Luke 2:11

At the end of December, we welcomed Bro. Jonathan Aupperle (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Cindy, Peoria, IL) who has come to help with work teams and construction work. Praise God for his willingness to follow God's call!

"Then saith he unto his disciples, 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

January 10, we here at Casa Vida y Esperanza welcomed Tania (9), the younger sister of Karla J. We pray that she can quickly adjust to life here and are thankful for the added blessing of her sister's presence to comfort her during these changes in her life.

We rejoice with Brianda Martínez, who has made known her desire to repent and serve Christ. Brianda has been attending church here with her sisters for over a year. It is a joy to see her make this step of faith and we pray that God will give her the grace and strength to continue on in this new way.

As we begin a new year and reflect on the past year, we praise God for His provision and faithfulness through the many joys, trials, and changes we have experienced. May He be glorified in all that we do in the year 2008.

"It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness."

Lamentations 3:22-23

MICHIGAN, ALTO

**Terri Huber
Rose Watson**

It was a blessed event to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of Jim McCormick this month. His parents are Tim and Laurie of Lowell, MI. It is always encouraging to witness children of God's kingdom being added. Our thanks to Elder Bro. John Jackson (Bay City, MI) to come and assist Bro. Ted Steffen in the services.

We had the reading of the Memorandum as well this month, and thankful for Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN) coming for that and also serving us Sunday.

We are thankful to God that Bro. Aaron Steffen is home recovering from illness and hospitalization, as well as Dennis Koehl recovering from an outpatient procedure that he underwent.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

**Sarah Knochel
Janelle Ramseyer**

Ministering Bro. Dave Steffen (Sis. Linda, Elgin, IL), Bro. Steve Stieglitz (Sis. Jane, Leo, IN) and Bro. Nate Wieland (Sis. Suzanne, Goodfield, IL) were in Bay City on December 30 and we appreciated their efforts.

Several from our congregation traveled to Altadena, CA, for the wedding of Sis. Amy Jackson (Bro. Don and Sis. Tina) and Bro. John Klotzle (Elder Bro. Tom and Sis. Jodi) on January 6. We rejoice with them and wish them God's richest blessings as they begin their life together and worship with the Detroit congregation.

Our Annual Business Meeting was held on Wednesday, January 9. We are thankful for the past year of service by several of our congregation. Sis. Kay

Knochel (Bro. Jim) has been added to the Cooking Committee and Bro. Mike Ruegsegger (Sis. Nancy) was selected for a three-year term as Trustee.

Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with our dear brothers and sisters in faith who have spent time in the hospital recently. Bro. Robert Knochel and Sis. Marlene Mosher have spent time in the hospital. We pray that the Lord will continue to heal them and provide their families with the strength to support them.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Florence Wieland and Bro. Merle (Sis. Elaine) Wieland in the passing of their brother, Bro. Wayne Wieland (Peoria, IL).

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

**Kay Rauhe
Manuela Denes**

We were blessed to gather on a Saturday evening to hear the Conference Letter. Assisting Elder Bro. Mark Bahr were Elder Bros. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and John Laukhuf (Latty, OH). How very fortunate we are that our Elder brethren can meet in unity to do this important work and to share it with us. What an opportune time to be able to take a good look at one's life and begin the New Year with a renewed strength of purpose! We are also grateful to Bro. Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, Lacrosse, IN) for coming to minister to us earlier in the month.

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

Psalms 23:4

While we mourn the loss of loved ones, we can always be assured of support from family and our brothers and sisters in Christ. More importantly, however, is the knowledge that we won't have to walk through that valley alone. Our sympathy and love go to Sis. Eloise Bahr (Bro. Willard) at the loss of

her sister, Sis. Marie Grimm (the late Bro. Harvey) of Bern, KS; Bro. Ben (Sis. Lorene) Maibach at the passing of his sister-in-law, Ilene Horn of Livonia, MI; and to Sis. Dawn Bahr (Bro. Phil) at the loss of her uncle, Bro. Wayne Wieland (Sis. Irma) of Peoria, IL.

Prayers are extended to those who have had to deal with illness and hospitalization: Sis. Anna Sabados, Sis. Eloise Bahr, Bro. Willard Bahr, Sis. Ann Tachar, and Sis. Lorene Maibach (Bro. Ben). All are now at home and we hope for speedy recoveries. A special prayer goes out to Sis. Linda Reardon (John) and their children as their son Michael continues to struggle with his health as he has been hospitalized for quite some time. May the power of prayer grant them peace and comfort during this difficult time in their lives.

"And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him."

Genesis 2:18

It was a joyful announcement for Sis. Ranka Mojic (Laza) to share with the congregation as their daughter, Sis. Danielle, formerly of Detroit, was engaged to Bro. Sam Sutton of Phoenix, AZ. They are planning for a May wedding and we wish them God's richest blessings during this special time.

We would like to extend a welcome to Bro. John and Sis. Amy Klotzle as they make their home in Detroit. They are originally from the Altadena, CA, congregation where they were recently married. Their parents, Bro. Don and Sis. Tina Jackson, and Sis. Jodi and Bro. Tom Klotzle, will surely miss them but we hope that despite our cold weather in Michigan, they will be able to feel the love and warmth of Christ as they worship with us!

MINNESOTA MINNEAPOLIS Mary Mogler

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth"

Romans 1:16

It was uplifting for our congregation to have Bro. Jeff Bahr (Sis. Janice, Kiowa, KS) assemble with us on a recent Sunday. His inspired message was an encouragement to all and their presence was indeed appreciated and enjoyed.

We extend our congratulations and loving wishes to Wendi Bajema and Lance Crawford as they were united in marriage in Lester, IA. We are happy they plan to continue living in the Twin Cities and being a part of our fellowship.

We continue to pray for those in our church family who have health concerns and those who can no longer worship in presence with us. It was a blessing to have Sis. Vera Schmidt among us again after being unable to assemble with us for a number of Sundays.

"For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the Lord..."

Jeremiah 30:17

As the long cold days of winter linger, seemingly with no immediate end in sight, still we cannot miss the beauty of His majestic creation. From the glistening snow to the bright blue sky, we can behold and know He is God. Truly a sense of awe comes over us as we behold what He has created! "Honor and majesty are before Him: strength and beauty are in His sanctuary." (Psalm 96:6)

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

**Sheila Reuter
Heidi Nohl**

Our prayers are with our loved ones who have suffered loss at this time. Bro. Leo Dogotch passed from this life leaving behind his wife, Sis. Thelma, and his children, Margie (Jeff) Hunter, Sis. Pam (Bro. Steve) Schaefer, Tom (Colleen), Sis. Nancy (Bro. Tony) Messner, Debbie (Fred) Callum, Kathy (Scott) Strahm, Jan (Randy) Pederson and Sara (Steve) Wevley. Also, Sis. Verna Schaefer (Bro. Anton) went onto her reward. She is missed by her children, Luanne Horning, Bro. Stan (Sis. Bev) and Bro. Rodney (Sis. Denise). We pray God will comfort each one in His time.

Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm visited our congregation this month. We pray God will bless him for his willing service.

Hospitalized this month were Sis. Margery Koehl and Bro. Anton Schaefer. We pray God will continue to grant them healing.

Allison Joy was born to Bro. Doug and Sis. Amber Nohl. Welcoming her home are grandparents, Bro. Todd and Sis. Beth Stuber (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Larry and Sis. Bonnie Nohl, and her siblings, Crystal, Lewis and Archie. Also joining the family of Bro. Kevin and Sis. Julie Koehl is little Karina Ann. Big brothers, Nathan, Kaleb and Jackson, welcome her as well as her grandparents, Bro. Bernie and Sis. Joyce Messner and Bro. Harv and Sis. Wilda Koehl. We wish them God's blessings as they raise their children.

The engagement of Brad Feuchtenberger (Bro. Bob and Sis. Gwen) and Jamie Keiffer (Robert and Mary) was announced. We pray God will be near each of these couples as they plan to become one.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

**Rachel Steiner
Julie Schmidt**

Another year is dawning, Dear Master let it be,
In working or in waiting, another year with Thee.
Another year of mercies, of faithfulness and grace
Another year of gladness in the shining of Thy face
Another year of progress, another year of praise
Another year of proving Thy presence all the days.
Another year of service, of witness for Thy love;
Another year of training for holier work above
Another year is dawning Dear Master, let it be
On earth, or else in heaven, another year for Thee. Amen.
Hymns of Zion #150

As each new year dawns, may we strive to grow closer to our heavenly Father.

Our thoughts and prayers are with retired Elder Bro. LeRoy Messner (Sis. JoAnn) and Sis. Geri Messner (Bro. Marvin) for improved health and healing as they return home from a stay in the hospital this past month.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to thank each one for the prayers, cards, food, visits and calls while I was home recuperating from the hospital after tests. May God bless.

In His love and ours,
Bro. Marvin and Sis. Geri Messner

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Brittany Fehr

We have recently been blessed to have another brother added to our congregation. On the weekend of January 12-13, many of us were privileged to travel to West Bend to witness the proving and baptism of our dear convert, Bruce Banwart. It was truly a

blessed weekend. May God continue to be near Bro. Bruce as he continues in his walk with the Lord.

Our prayers have certainly been with our Elder Bro. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen) as he has recently suffered a broken hip and spent time in the hospital. We are thankful he seems to be doing reasonably well and is recovering.

In December, our congregation gathered for a church supper and singing to bid farewell to Bro. Ryan and Sis. Becky Weiss as they have recently moved to Singapore. We miss them and their children, Kaitlyn, Kenton, and Ethan, but we trust that God will continue to bless them as they follow His perfect leading.

Recent visiting ministers include Bro. Galen Rokey (Sis. Nancy, Bern, KS), Bro. Jeff Bahr (Sis. Janice, Kiowa, KS), Bro. Dave Hartter (Sis. Beth, Sabetha, KS), and Bro. Glen Funk (Sis. Sally, Wichita, KS). May God richly bless them for their labors.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

**Dana Braker
Becky Marti**

We appreciated the visit of Bro. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA) and his willingness to minister the Word. May the Lord continue to provide Spiritual manna through faithful servants.

Bro. David and Sis. Laura Braker are thankful for the birth of Alyssa Leigh on January 17. Her grandparents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill Stoller (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Roy and Sis. Judy Braker of our congregation.

Emily Huber (Bro. Michael and Sis. Kristi) was hospitalized briefly. We are thankful for God's healing hand.

MISSOURI, ST LOUIS

Betsy Schrenk

Due to weather conditions, we have had some cancellations of visitors this past month. We are appreciative of Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington) and Bro. Lenny Meyer (Sis. Charlotte,

Chicago) for coming to lend themselves to God's work.

The St. Louis church welcomes Bro. Chris and Sis. Carla Wuethrich and their family who have been led by God to relocate to our area. We wish them God's blessings and peace as they adjust to their new home.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Kathy Eberhardt

As 2007 comes to a close, do you have a golden nugget to take into 2008? Our final sermon of 2007 was finished with a nugget to take into the New Year. Elder Bro. Kent Heimer closed the evening with a thought of many choices for 2008. Do we want to be more peaceful, more joyful, more faithful, have more wisdom, and be more loving? The choice is ours.

We are thankful that Bro. Norman Haerr escaped serious injury in a grain truck accident. We love him and appreciate all the words of encouragement he always has for our congregation.

On January 6 we witnessed the wedding of Sis. Lindsey Yackley (Bro. Elwood and Sis. Trudie) and Bro. Joe Knochel (Bro. Eric and Sis. Penny), all from Taylor. We pray for God's blessings upon this dear couple as they build their marriage upon the Lord. "...and a threefold cord is not quickly broken." Ecclesiastes 4:12.

Our heartfelt thanks goes out to all our visiting ministers during the past month: Bro. Douglas Wagenbach (Sis. Lillian, San Diego, CA), Bro. Dennis Kaufman (Sis. Bonnie, Bloomington, IL), Bro. Neal Widmer (Sis. Kristine, West Lafayette, IN), and Bro. Stephen Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley, IL). How thankful we are for our visitors and we appreciate their service to the Lord.

We had our annual business meeting on January 9. We thank our brothers and sisters for all their services and wish them God's richest blessings as they fulfill their duties. Sis. Peg Haerr will be joining the food committee, and

Bro. Joe Knochel will be our new trustee. Thanks to Sis. Sally Haerr for her years as Silver Lining correspondent. She did an awesome job. She has decided to pass the baton on to Sis. Kathy Eberhardt.

On January 12, the Memorandum was shared with us by Elder Bro. John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia, Latty, OH). The exhortations were shared to us out of love and concern.

Our work team is headed to Biloxi to help rebuild homes that were destroyed over two years ago.

Our congregation has started the Crown Financial Bible Study. It is a Biblical guide to earning, spending, saving, investing, giving, and getting out of debt.

We rejoice with our converts, Parker and Travis Haerr (Bro. Shon and Sis. Peggy), and Clinton Sutter (Bro. Steve and Sis. Deb). Our prayers are with them as they begin this exciting journey.

NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Hope Graves

We brought in the year 2008 with a potluck and singing at church on New Year's eve. It was a blessing to be able to fellowship that evening with two couples visiting from Rockville, CT. As we look forward to this new year, may we remember to keep Christ in the center of our lives and follow His direction each day.

He leadeth me! O blessed thought!
O words with heavenly comfort
fraught!

Whate'er I do, where're I be,
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

Hymns of Zion #162

We are so excited to announce the new arrival of baby Isaiah Nolan. Isaiah was born on January 18 to Noel and Kendra Virkler. Happy grandparents are Bro. Ted and Sis. Mae Virkler and Nevin and Donna Lehman. May the

Lord watch over this precious new life.

Our prayers continue with Bro. Fred Ebersol, Joe Bush and Tim Virkler who have all been hospitalized recently. May the Lord grant them healing and comfort.

OHIO, AKRON Mara Henico Rachel Pamer

Dearest Savior, let me ever
In Thy service here abide
N'er would I from Thee be severed
Walking daily by Thy side...

We were thankful to hear the testimonies of our friends, Rachael Indermuhle (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Carol) and Rebecca Pamer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Arliss). What a joy it is to have two new sisters in the Lord! Our prayers continue for our many converts, who have begun their walk with the Lord, as well as those who have not yet found grace to admit their need for redemption.

We appreciate the willingness of Bros. Merle Hartzler (Sis. Bonnie) and Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha) of our Rittman church to visit our congregation and serve us the Bread of Life. We trust that God will continue to bless their labors of love. How much we need to be reminded of our Father's love and His standard for our pilgrimage here!

We rejoice with Bro. John and Sis. Joyce Schambach as they recently welcomed two new grandchildren to their family. Bro. Dan and Sis. Jennifer Hartzler (Rittman) were blessed with little Rebecca Sue and Ryder Douglas was added to Bro. Doug and Sis. Joanna Ingold's (Rittman) family.

We are thankful for the safe return of our Bro. Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynell) and Bro. Jacob Rufener as they recently returned from their trip to Haiti. Our prayers are with Bro. Jacob's brother, Jared, as he contracted malaria on the trip and has been hospitalized while recovering. We trust that God will fully

restore health as He wills. Also we are thankful that Bro. Matthew Pamer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Arliss), Arthur Greenbank (Bro. Glen and Sis. Joan), and Christopher Indermuhle (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Carol) were able to return safely from their recent travels to help in Biloxi.

Our prayers are with Bro. Ben and Sis. Joanne Henico and all of the rest of the family of our dear Sis. Brenda Zollinger, as we recently paid our last respects. What a blessing that we know that God is able to provide comfort for those who are left behind as another's time is finished here below!

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Nancy Banks

We appreciate the efforts of several visiting ministers who have shared the Word with us recently. May God richly bless Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH), Bro. Gary Sinn (Sis. Paulette, Latty, OH), and Elder Bros. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO) and Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH) for serving us.

On January 19, we had the reading of the Memorandum with Elder Bros. Kent Heimer and Mark Masters. We are so thankful for their concern for their flock and our prayers go with them. The following day, our congregation held our annual business meeting. We appreciate the willingness of the brothers and sisters to carry out various duties. Bro. Corbin Schlatter was selected as the Sunday School superintendent. Bro. Larry Banks was chosen to be the substitute for the older class. Sis. Nancy Banks will serve as the substitute for the younger class. Bro. Scott Schambach will be a trustee and Sis. Julie Grimm will serve on the Kitchen Committee. Other appointments were Bro. John Grimm as the World Relief Representative, Bro. Larry Banks as the Gateway Woods Representative and our new Silver Lining correspondent will be Sis. Sarah Rufener. Our sincere appreciation goes to those who

have finished their terms and we wish to offer our prayerful support for the newly-elected officers.

Bro. Josh and Sis. Jenna Boliantz were blessed with the birth of their second daughter, Julianna Nicole, on December 27. Little Aubrey is thankful for her sister's safe arrival. Grandparents are Bro. Doug and Sis. Connie Boliantz (Mansfield, OH) and Bill Older and Joyce Older.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Cindy Schlatter

December 23 was a special day for Bro. David and Sis. Kathy Manz when Troy Matthew joined their family circle. Troy's parents are Bro. Matt and Sis. Deanna Manz of the Toledo, OH, congregation.

"Peace! Peace! Wonderful peace,
Coming down from the Father
above;

Sweep over my spirit forever, I pray,
In fathomless billows of love. . ."

Gospel Hymns #746

Once again our prayers were answered when we heard our convert Beth Manz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen) has received this wonderful gift of peace that the hymn writer speaks of. We look forward to a weekend in the future to hear Beth's testimony of the miracle that has taken place in her life.

April Manz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen) recently had knee surgery, and Sis. Carolyn Manz (Bro. Ben) recently spent time in the hospital. We are thankful for the healing hand of our Heavenly Father that He can heal each one according to His good and Holy Will.

We gathered together for our Annual Business Meeting and certainly are grateful to all those who so willingly take care of the physical needs of our church. Our support goes to Bro. Les Manz (Sis. Karen) and Bro. Ken Manz (Sis. Gwen) as they were given another term as our Secretary/Trea-

surer and Cemetery Clerk respectively.

OHIO, LATTY

Amanda Wenninger Carmen Eisenmann

Our congregation was pleased to hear that our convert, Brent Schlatter (Bro. Tim and Sis. Becky), has confessed that he has peace with God and man. He is looking forward to baptism in the future.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Sis. Pat, Congerville, IL) and Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL). God be with these brothers for their efforts.

Bro. Corey Laukhuf and Sis. Kara Beebe (Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue, South Bend, IN) were married on January 6 in South Bend, IN. Bro. Corey's parents are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Vickie Laukhuf. May God bless this union and new family that has been established.

Sis. Sally Stoller was a surgery patient this past month. May she feel a quick recovery and God's nearness in her time of healing.

With a new year brings new responsibilities on which to vote in our congregation. Bro. Mark Sinn, Sis. Lisa Laukhuf and Sis. Carrie Stoller are new Sunday School teachers; Bro. Dale Stoller is the new church trustee; Bro. Reid Stoller is the new Fellowship Hall trustee; Sisters Karen Steffen and Denise Plummer are on the Kitchen Committee; Bro. Don Stoller is the new Secretary/Treasurer; and Bro. Donn Steffen is the Gateway Woods representative. May God grant these members grace in their new or recurring positions.

To finish this article, I will close with the statistics for 2007. In Latty, we experienced 5 weddings, 1 funeral, 5 baptisms, 9 births, and we had 17 converts at the close of the year.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Esther Baumann

A precious little miracle, Kaitlyn Joy, was adopted into the hearts and lives of Bro. Chad and Sis. Tami Griffey. Kaitlyn was born on November 6, 2007. Also, welcoming her home are excited grandparents, Dan and Sis. Barb Tucker and Paul and Bernie Griffey.

Joining hearts in marriage on December 30 were Sis. Beth Hill (Bro. Chip and Sis. Sieda) and Bro. Dallas Steidinger (Bro. Randy and Sis. Dawn) of Fairbury, IL. We were thankful for the many visitors who came to share in our joy on this weekend including Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI) and Bro. Paul Kilgus (Sis. Carmen, Fairbury, IL) who served us in the ministry.

On January 13, we heard the joyful news that Archie Tucker (Amber) has received God's perfect peace. He has our continued prayers as he grows in the way of the Lord.

We thank Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta, Alto, MI) for his willingness to be used of God in the ministry to us this past month.

Our prayers are with Bro. Phil Keiper (Sis. Teresa) as his brother, Jacob 'Bob' Keiper, passed away.

Sis. Dorothy Durkin was hospitalized and continues to appreciate your prayers.

OHIO, RITTMAN **Linda Zollinger** **Laurie Beery**

We are thankful for the safe arrival of Rebecca Sue born to Bro. Dan and Sis. Jennifer Hartzler on December 19. Welcoming her to the family are siblings, Wendy, Tresa, Rachel, Troy, Joel, and grandparents, Elder Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie Hartzler and Bro. John and Sis. Joyce Schamback (Akron, OH).

Arriving on January 8 was Ryder Douglas to the family of Bro. Doug and Sis. Joanna Ingold. Ryder's siblings, Tori, Tagen and Reese, are excited for a new little brother. Bro. Arthur and Sis.

Bonnie Ingold and Bro. John and Sis. Joyce Schamback (Akron, OH) are Ryder's grandparents.

We rejoice that Rachel Stoller (Bro. Greg and Sis. Joy) and Matt Maibach (Bro. Alph and Sis. Denise) have turned their hearts to the Lord in repentance. May they feel God's nearness as they seek to do His will.

Thoughts and prayers have been with Gary Murray (Sis. Susan), Bro. Art Maibach (Sis. Janet), Roger Hessidence (Evelyn), Bro. Andy Winkler (Sis. MaryJane) and Bro. Fred Stoller (Sis. Joyce) who have spent time in the hospital recently.

Several visiting ministers served us this month. They were Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO), Bro. Matthew Rassi (Chicago, IL), Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), Bro. Steve Pamer (Akron, OH), Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH), Bro. Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL), Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH), Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH) and Bro. Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH). We are thankful for each one of our dear brothers that are willing to be used of God to serve us.

Sis. Brenda Zollinger was called to her Heavenly home on January 6. We pray that her husband, Bro. Rudy, and children, Steve (Sue), Deanna Brown (Brian), Sis. Denise Maibach (Bro. Alph), Sis. Sandy, Sis. Tanya Zierau (Bro. Heinz), Tony (Julie), and Bob (Traci) will feel the comfort of the Holy Spirit in the days ahead.

Helen Emch (the late Everett) passed away on December 23 and Sis. Renee Lanz's grandmother, Sis. Valera Culp (Francesville, IN), passed away recently. We extend our love and sympathy to these families during this difficult time.

Bro. Jon Zollinger and Sis. Kelly Ramsier promised their lives to one another on December 30. Their parents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Becky Zollinger (Smithville, OH) and Bro. Tim and Sis. Joni Ramsier. Bro. Dean Stoller and Sis. Breanna Indermuhle and Bro.

Isaac Steiner and Sis. Brittany Indermuhle were united in holy matrimony during a double wedding service in Smithville on January 6. We welcome Sis. Breanna and Sis. Brittany to our congregation. Parents of these couples are Bro. Joe and Sis. Mim Stoller, Bro. Dave and Sis. Lynn Steiner and Bro. Brian and Sis. Bev Indermuhle (Smithville, OH). We witnessed the wedding vows of Bro. Andrew Steiner and Sis. Julie Stoller on January 13. Parents of this couple are Bro. Matt and Sis. Gail Steiner and Bro. Ken and Sis. Lori Stoller. May all of these couples look to God to be the center of their marriages.

OHIO, SARDIS **Faith Beard**

Ring the bells of heaven! there is joy today,
For a soul, returning from the wild;
See! the Father meets him out upon the way,
Welcoming His weary, wandering child.

Ring the bells of heaven! there is joy today,
For the wanderer now is reconciled;
Yes, a soul is rescued from his sinful way,
And is born anew a ransomed child.

Ring the bells of heaven! spread the feast today,
Angels, swell the glad triumphant strain!
Tell the joyful tidings! bear it far away!
For a precious soul is born again.

Glory! Glory! how the angels sing;
Glory! Glory! how the loud harps ring;
'Tis the ransomed army, like a mighty sea,
Pealing forth the anthem of the free.
Gospel Hymns #622

This exultant hymn seems to well describe our emotions when souls

umble themselves and bow themselves in repentance before our Lord and King. We pray for Dave and Val Fisher as they have together begun this new walk in their lives. We also remember their three wonderful children: Kelly, Daniel and Justin. Val is the daughter of Bro. Denny and Sis. Floris Miller, and Dave's parents are Ed and Sandy Thomas of Cayahoga Falls, OH.

We thank and so appreciate Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago, IL) for his indefatigable efforts in ministering God's Word to us again.

Those from our congregation who have dealt with some afflictions of the flesh are Bro. Bill (Sis. Miriam) Brake, Sis. Karen (Bro. Bob) Indermuhle and Bro. Gary (Sis. Terry) Zollinger.

We extend our loving sympathies to Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry Zollinger and their family as they recently watched their sister-in-law and aunt reach her eternal reward, Sis. Brenda (Bro. Rudy) Zollinger, of Rittman, OH.

Just like that Story That Never Grows Old, the news of a newborn baby never tires or loses its excitement! On January 22, Kyla Joelle Dotterer blessed her family with her arrival. Her parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Laura and excited siblings are Kara, Caitlyn (who shares her birthday!) and Colton.

"The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise child shall have joy of him."

Proverbs 23:24

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Ruth Gasser
Edith Miller**

We appreciate the efforts of a number of visiting ministers who have shared the Word with us during the past month. May God richly bless Bros. Lucas Frank (Detroit, MI), Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), Joe Dotterer (Bloomfield, IA), Steve Pamer (Akron, OH), Todd Stoller (Latty, OH) and Ron

Steiner (Rittman, OH).

We have four weddings to report this month. On December 30, Bro. Jon Zollinger and Sis. Kelly Ramsier (Rittman, OH) were joined together at Rittman. Parents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Becky Zollinger and Bro. Tim and Sis. Joni Ramsier (Rittman, OH). On January 5, Brad Klotzle was united with Nicole Wagner. Brad's parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley Klotzle. On January 6, a double wedding took place at Smithville for two daughters of Bro. Brian and Sis. Beverly Indermuhle. Sis. Brienna became the wife of Bro. Dean Stoller, whose parents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Marian Stoller (Rittman, OH). Sis. Brittany became Bro. Isaac Steiner's wife, who is the son of Bro. Dave and Sis. Lynn Steiner (Rittman, OH). For all four couples we wish God's rich blessings and trust all of them will keep God as the center of their lives and homes.

Bro. Steve and Sis. Jollene Hofacre became grandparents on January 4 to a little girl named Zipporah, whose parents are Bob and Stephanie Sax. Zipporah joins two sisters, Sarah and Hadassah. Our best wishes and God's blessings to this family.

Bro. Steve Bauman (Sis. Connie) recently underwent surgery for a knee replacement. We trust in the Great Physician to grant healing and restored health again.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Vera Indermuhle, as her sister-in-law, Sis. Brenda Zollinger (Bro. Rudy), of Rittman passed away unexpectedly. May God comfort all who mourn.

OHIO, TOLEDO

**Teresa Rywalski
Rebecca Beard**

We wish to thank our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) for spending a Thursday evening with us. May he always feel our prayers of support for his willingness to serve.

Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is

old, he will not depart from it."

Troy Matthew was born on December 23 to Bro. Matt and Sis. Deanna Manz. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Jeannine Masters (Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy Manz (Junction, OH). Sharon Harris also rejoices in the safe arrival of her grandson, Lance Allen Harris, Jr., on December 30. Lance's parents are Lance Harris and Ashley Lancaster.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Brianna Strahm

Greetings in our Lord's name from the Northwest. On December 16, our congregation enjoyed listening to the Christmas story presented through song and verse by our Sunday School children. We appreciate the labors put forth by the teachers and the children. Following the program, we enjoyed a light meal together and a blessed time of fellowship.

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty), Bro. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie), and Bro. Chris Kuenzi (Sis. Mary), all of our Silverton congregation. May the Lord richly reward them for their labors on our behalf.

OREGON, SILVERTON

**Melissa Kuenzi
Cindy Metzger**

We recently celebrated the observation of Christ's birth and the introduction of a new year. Elder Bro. Art Metz gave the statistics from last year at the New Year's Eve service. In 2007, there were 19 babies born, 2 baptisms, 4 marriages, and 1 funeral service.

Our sympathy is with Sis. RosaLee Kuenzi (Bro. Richard) and her family at the loss of her mother, Floris Lundberg, on December 19.

Alice Gehring has been in and out of the hospital, and she stays in our prayers.

Bro. Chuck Walter (Sis. Karen) has been under medical care and is starting

new treatment.

A son, Gabriel James, was born to Bro. Brian and Sis. Amanda Dietrich on December 21. His sisters, Johanna and Jennifer, welcome him into their home. His grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan Dietrich and Bro. Don and Sis. Linda Sinn.

Grace Angela was born to Bro. Ryan and Sis. Regina Hari on December 23. His sister Carissa and brother David welcome him. His grandparents are Bro. Harold and Sis. Linda Hari and Bro. Don and Sis. Linda Sinn.

A daughter, Jayna Laura, was born on December 25 to Bro. Joel and Sis. Laura Metz. Her brother Josiah and sister Lanah welcome her home. Her grandparents are Elder Bro. Art and Sis. Betty Metz and Bro. Gary and Sis. Beth Metzger (Lester, IA).

Wyatt Wayne was born to Bro. Rick and Sis. Ruth Metzger on December 28. His brother Lee and sister Trisha welcome him. His grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Chris Metzger (Lester, IA) and Bro. Myron and Sis. Diane Kuenzi.

We are thankful to welcome two new brothers in faith, Bro. Josh Hansen (Bro. Tim and Carol) and Bro. Kevin Dietrich (Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan). We thank Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sabetha, KS) and his wife, Sis. Ellen, for being here for their baptism services on January 13. We are also thankful to Bros. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy) and Ron Jones (Sis. Liz) of Portland, OR, for sharing in the ministry to us.

PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

We have enjoyed visitors this month from Tucson and Phoenix, AZ, and from Rockville, CT. We thank each one for your visit. It is so important to us in the strengthening of our faith to fellowship with loved ones of like mind.

The holidays are past; we have celebrated the birth of our Lord and Savior, we have heralded the start of a new

year. Let us praise God for His goodness.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

Mike and Monica Fritz

We rejoice in the Lord's blessings that we have experienced as we have begun the New Year with much encouragement from God's Word, brought to us by our visiting ministering brothers. Our recent visitors have included Bros. Chuck Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie; Elgin, IL), Ed Fritz (Sis. Sally; Washington, IL), Dan Beer (Sis. Deb; Milford, IN), and Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda; Smithville, OH), as well as Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna; Remington, IN). We have also greatly appreciated the fellowship of brethren and friends visiting from Rockville, CT; Bradford, Champaign, Chicago, Congerville, Elgin, Eureka, Princeville, Roanoke, and Washington, IL; Bluffton, Milford, and Remington, IN; Oakville, IA; Kansas City, MO; and Latty and Smithville, 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: Princeville, IL (2/24); Chicago, IL (3/2); Leo, IN (3/9); Burlington, IA (3/16); and Elgin, IL (3/30). We do not have a visiting minister scheduled for Easter Sunday, March 23, but if local brethren are in the area we will gather for tape or call-in services. If you are planning to worship with us, please call ahead to confirm our schedule. Often we gather on Saturday evenings for fellowship. We also meet on Wednesday evenings for a song service at 7:15 p.m. and would welcome any midweek visitors. Contacts are Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz (615) 866-5543; and Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 356-5755.

TEXAS, AUSTIN

Amy Ringger Serenity Ringger

We are thankful for the ministers who were willing to travel to Austin in

the past month: Elder Bro. Pete Petrovic (San Diego), Bros. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend), Jim Meiss (Sis. Candace, Phoenix), Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Fairbury), Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata) and Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandy, Alto). We also enjoyed our visitors from Eureka, Morris and Rockville.

On January 14, we had our annual business meeting, and Memorandum reading by Bros. Peter and Leland.

The following is the minister schedule for March: (2) Bern, (9) Akron, (16) Tremont, and (30) Forrest. March 2: (Easter) services will be determined later. Please call if you will be in the area.

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 W. Highway 71, Bastrop, TX 78602. It is a one-story building with limestone siding and the church sign in the front.

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

TEXAS, McALLEN**Sandy Kipfer**

Greetings to all in the name of ouravior, Jesus Christ. We thank our visiting

Minister, Bro. Clint Schmidt (Sis. Magdalena, and children Tristan, Sierra and Cheyenne, of Winthrop, MN) for taking their time and effort in exounding to us the written Word of the ord. May our dear Father in Heaven continue to richly bless them as they ave enriched us.

Also we are thankful to have retired lder Bro. Robert and Sis. Gloria Valder (Congerville, IL) in our congregation the next three months.

We would like to encourage those who plan to come south for a spring or summer vacation to consider visiting the valley for a Sunday of worship and/or staying here for your stay. We are small in number and are happy to have visitors come and spend some time with us.

The following churches are scheduled for services: (March 9, Morris, IN), (March 30, Sabetha, KS), (April 3, Detroit, MI), (April 27, Roanoke, VA), (May 11, Washington, IL) and (May 25, Bradford, IL).

Our address is: Holiday Inn Express, (formerly the Country Suites Inn), 1921 South 10th Street. Turn 1½ blocks off the Expressway on 10th Street. Services will be held at 10:30 and 12:30. Please see ministers' directory for local contact information.

TEXAS, ZAPATA**Mary Plattner**

We are thankful for the many visi-

tors that have included Zapata in their winter travels. Four young brothers from Bloomfield, IA, spent time in our area helping those that had special projects. The youthful energy and Christian fellowship was a blessing to all of us.

Bro. Clint Schmidt (Winthrop, MN) and his wife, Sis Magdalena, and family were with us on a Wednesday evening. We appreciate his coming to share the Word with us.

Those coming to South Texas are most welcome to worship with us on Sundays as well as Wednesday evening. During the winter season we have services on Wednesday evening at 7 p.m.

**VERMONT
CLARENDON/NORWICH
Nathan and Miriam Reutter**

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

Zion's Harp # 112

Once again we thank those who come and proclaim the message of Christ! Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Warren Zahner (Sis. Bonnie) and Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Diane), of Rockville, CT. We missed Sis. Bonnie on Sunday. She made it to Vermont but could not attend church because of the flu.

We say a sad farewell to Jerry and Sis. Cindy Hann and their family as

they relocate to the Chicago, IL, area for new jobs. They will be missed, and we pray that God will provide for them in this time of new adjustments. They plan on making Elgin, IL, their new church.

If you are interested in fellowshiping with us here in Vermont, and would like information about service locations, and dates, please contact Bro. Chad and Sis. Jenny Virkler (802-325-2724). 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 10:10 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).

2008 Athens/Tennessee Memorial Day Weekend
scheduled May 24-25

Everyone is invited to attend the 2008 Athens/Tennessee Memorial Day Weekend scheduled for Saturday, May 24 and Sunday, May 25. A weekend of fellowship, singing and worshipping the Lord is again being planned and include an auction on Saturday afternoon and Sunday services at the Athens Alabama Apostolic Christian Church. Other weekend activities are currently being finalized, and more details will be forthcoming.

Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services

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Loneliness III

Thoughts from "Loneliness I and II"

In the first article of this series, we learned that loneliness is an uncomfortable feeling of isolation – a painful awareness that we are lacking close and meaningful contact with others. We saw that many biblical "heroes of faith" experienced times of loneliness, feeling separated from others or from God. We were reminded that God made the human race to seek and to enjoy communion with Him and with others.

In the second of this series, we learned to recognize the "loneliness cycle" – a tool that Satan uses to make us feel as if no one understands our feelings or has ever faced the challenges we're facing. This causes us to feel even more isolated and to withdraw even more from our close relationships. We can break out of that cycle by understanding that Satan can be defeated and his lies exposed by God's power through His Word and prayer.

Dealing with loneliness

In this third and final article, we present a number of very practical ways in which we can deal with loneliness and reduce its disabling effect on our lives.

1. Seek support from God and His Word. Particularly in times of struggle, we should seek passages of Scripture that will bring us comfort and encouragement. Through prayer we can acknowledge God's presence and express confidence that He can support and encourage us in times of need. During these times with God, we can thank Him for who He is, we can pour out our needs before Him, and we can sit quietly and listen as the Holy Spirit speaks comfort to us.

"Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." (Romans 8:26)

2. Find common ground. Often only a small amount of effort is needed to find common ground on which to build a meaningful relationship. Instead of fo-

cusing on differences that cause separation and isolation, try being purposeful in finding similarities and common ground from which a deeper friendship can grow.

"A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother." (Proverbs 18:24)

3. Build your resiliency through relationships. Realize that in the midst of struggles with loneliness, we need to reach out and interact with both God and people.

Identify trustworthy individuals to whom we can turn in times of struggle, and who will look out for us when we have difficulty reaching out. Have those relationships established before we face a trial or struggle. Remember that time is needed to build relationships. Expecting them to deepen quickly or failing to nurture them over time will lead to disappointment.

"Two are better than one; . . . for if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up." (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10)

4. Invest in meaningful activities. Take time to pursue an activity that brings joy and gives glory to God. This will both bring fulfillment to our lives and help fill the void created by loneliness. We can explore our God-given talents and interests. Take an inventory of spiritual gifts in order to help identify the ways God has equipped us to serve the Body of Christ. Identifying and then using our spiritual gifts is an important component of the Christian walk.

"Wherefore he . . . gave gifts unto men. . . . For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." (Ephesians 4:8, 12)

5. Find your true worth. Our "identity" and "self-worth" must be based on God rather than "self." In order to understand our true worth and form an accurate identity, we must "put off" the thoughts and feelings that are not based on truth, and "put on" those that are. Many people mistakenly define their

identity by what they do. Others, especially married people, inaccurately put their worth and identity in another person. But since a job or a marital status is subject to change, we need to base our identity on something more stable and enduring. An accurate self-worth must be based on our creation in God's image and placement in His family. "Put on" this truth – each individual is fully complete and whole in Christ, and who we are in Christ is steady and constant.

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness unto his marvellous light." (1 Peter 2:9)

6. Seek counsel. Many barriers can keep us from reaching out for help from others and thus keep us trapped in the cycle of loneliness. Identify and deal with those barriers so that we can reach out for help from a mentor, minister, or counselor when we start to feel lonely. Often, the longer we wait to reach out for help, the more difficult the task becomes.

"Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established." (Proverbs 15:22)

Summary

In summary, remember that loneliness is a common experience: we are not alone in feeling lonely! God is near us even when we don't feel that He is. Review the list of things we can do to help work through times of loneliness, and get started today. Finally, hold onto this promise from Hebrews:

"For he hath said, I will never leave thee nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me." (Hebrews 13:5-6)

Our God, Who cannot lie, made this promise for His people, and it will stand unbroken though heaven and earth pass away.

Child Placement Manager 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

U.S.A. BOARD WORK PROJECTS

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

- Kansas:** Paul Kaeb
 Phone: 785-284-3261
 Cell: 785-547-5269
 E-mail: paulkaeb@ksiconveyors.com
- Iowa:** Martin Zaugg
 Phone/Fax: 515-887-7788
 Cell: 515-320-2404
- Indiana:** Tom Neuenschwander
 Phone/Fax: 260-824-4773
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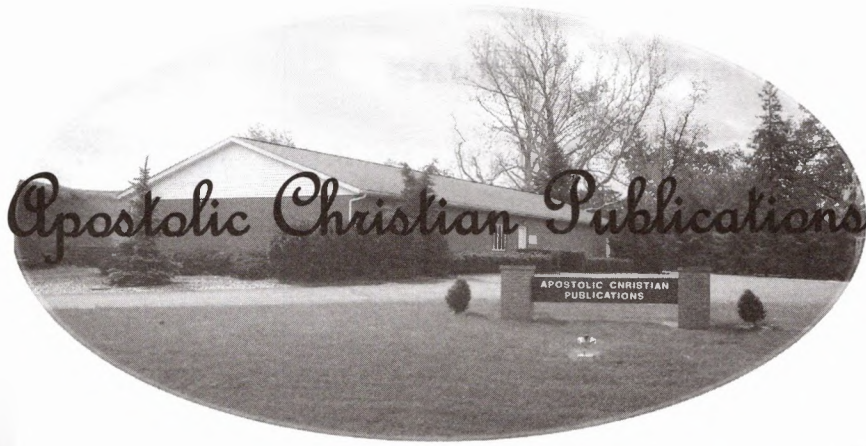
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 but he that keepeth the law, happy is he."
 Proverbs 29:18*

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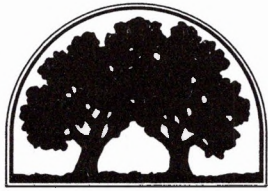
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Counselor Needed

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

Interested in Houseparenting?

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

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

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"We have always considered our position a ministry for our entire family not just a job for us. Relationships built during this time can last for a lifetime."

- Bro. Jason & Sis. Joy Kilgus,
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Volunteer Caretaker Opportunity

The Washington, DC congregation would welcome your help. They purchased a house in Silver Spring, Maryland, and are 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 live in the house and perform routine household and yard maintenance chores. Caretakers should plan to stay 3-4 weeks.

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

For more information, please contact Barry and Doreen Steffen at 410/569-3635 or bdsteff@yahoo.com.

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

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Due to upcoming retirement the Home is looking for a D.O.N. to replace our current manager. If interested please contact:

David Maletich
330-927-1010

The potential applicant should have previous management experience.

Sermon continued from page 2

one - I had it all? But my soul was lost. Death is the great equalizer. We have to recognize that at that time, it is all left behind. So Jesus was trying to focus them on what was really important in life.

Last night we heard the testimony of three people that have done something concerning their soul. It was lost. They admitted: we were separated from God by sin. There is absolutely nothing that we can pay to redeem our soul, to put it in a safe place. We buy insurance to protect our house against fires and floods. We buy life insurance in case we would possibly die and have a debt that needs to be covered. We have all of this insurance, but what about our soul? Have we prepared for that? Do we have an insurance for that? There is only one policy that's great enough. It's faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ. That is the only thing sufficient to redeem our soul. That there can come a time that we don't have to ask ourselves, what would I give in exchange for my soul. Because we have already found this security and this peace in the hands of Jesus Christ.

If we are a soul that we could say, my name is not written in the Book of Life, the Bible is so clear. It says here - I am going to read it. If we want to follow Jesus, it says, "...If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it." St. Matthew 16:24,25. So now He gives us the solution to finding. He says we have to lose our life. If we want to save our life, we are going to lose it. What did He mean by that?

Again, as we heard the testimonies last night, birth determines nature. When we were born the first time, our nature is sinful. Our parents; Adam and Eve. If we stay in that state, we are going to lose our soul. But there has to be a losing of that life and there has to be a rebirth. There has to be a - as it says here - to lose his life for my sake, he'll find it. That's a rebirth. So birth determines nature through repentance.

This is the message I believe is being lost in the world. I am so thankful that I heard it. I think you are thankful that you heard it. But there needs to be a time of repentance where we can lose that first birth that was under the dominion of sin. Our parents were Adam and Eve. That's through repentance. A

sorrow for sin and a turning from that sin.

As Solomon read to the people, if they were willing to confess their sin and to admit their sin, take a responsibility for it. Did it ever dawn on us, did it ever dawn on us - for me, again, I say this out of shame - when I was unconverted, it never once dawned on me that my sins put Jesus on the cross and He suffered and His hurt was a bit greater because of me. When I had the opportunity to repent, it hit me! What an opportunity to say I am sorry and mean it.

Because we are all going to come to the point in time we will repent. But we are not all going to be forgiven. Can you imagine repenting forever and ever in hell and never being able to be forgiven? But we can repent today and find forgiveness and we can lose that life through a true repentance and faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Then He converts us and we are born of the Holy Spirit. He says we are baptized of the Holy Spirit. We are immersed in the Holy Spirit. He begins now to have the control and the preeminence in our life. Until we come to that point that Christ is in us, we don't have life.

I know that last evening there were those that realized they were sinners. I believe there are those with us this morning that realize that they're sinners. But they made excuses. They had reasons why they couldn't. If we are too young, maybe Satan says we're too young. I think a lot of times, we just have something, we think that I've got to do one more thing. For this reason I can't repent. We just put it off another day. Put it off another day. Put it off another day. Those days turn into weeks and months and years. We say, yes I do want to repent but it is going to be tomorrow. Well, how many tomorrows are we going to have?

I have said this before, but I think of a sign that I saw in O'Hare airport in front of a restaurant. It said 'free food tomorrow'. I ate there. I said, how much free food have you given away? Satan says, repent tomorrow. What if you don't have a tomorrow?

I want to say something, if there are those here that are older. Can I say something in kindness and love to you? I mean this from my heart. In about a week and a half, we are going to baptize an eighty two year old man in Burlington. If anyone thinks that the unconverted life is the good life, I just wish you could visit with him. He just

weeps when he says, why did I wait long? He said, I've never been happier in my life! What was it that I waited for? What was I looking for? I just want my friends to know about it. Why can't they see it? He just weeps and he weeps. But the peace that God put in his heart, that He gave him an opportunity to repent at eighty two years old - I am giving that expression from him. If he were here this morning, he would stand here and he would just weep! He said I found something that I never knew existed. Why can't a person see it? We say from the mouth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Yes, this peace of God is something that is precious and it is beautiful. I believe for those of us who are converted we need to go back to remember what was like when we walked in sin and through misery and the insecurity that we had. What if we were to die? We knew that we were separated from God. Go back and think about that, lest we lose our thankful attitude for salvation.

May it be that our thankfulness would be shown out of a love and love expressed through obedience. How is that going to happen? It says, if a man will come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. Sometimes we think of a cross as maybe the death of a loved one or a health problem. That's not the cross He is speaking about here. The cross He is speaking about here is a daily cross of denying our self. It is something that has to nail self to.

There's three things that Paul says needs to be nailed to that cross. I'd like to just elaborate for a moment on that cross bearing. Because again, this is another message that is getting lost today. Paul said in Romans 6:6, that first of all we have to nail sin to the cross. In Galatians 2:20, Paul said we have to put self on the cross. In Galatians 6:14, he said we have to crucify the world on the cross. Sin, self and the world.

Why? It's because Jesus wants the focus to be on Him and not on sin, self and the world. When we put sin, self and the world on the cross, we are an open vessel for Him to work and to express Himself, for He is our life. He is a part of our life.

How do we do that? Through faith through prayer, through a close relationship with Christ, we focus on Him and ask Him, could Thou please put self on the cross and nail him solid? Could Thou please put this part of the world

It wants to be a part of my life, nail it to the cross? Is the cross that we carry heavy enough? Today there's materials that are light and easy to carry like Styrofoam. It looks good. It looks like we're walking the right way. But you try to nail something to it and it just falls off. So it has to be the cross of Christ. It's something that is heavy. We have to recognize there is self denial. That there is a cost associated with following Christ. It is putting aside sin, self and the world on a daily basis. But Christ will help us. It is a beautiful thing when God is in control. That's when the peace comes. That's the cross that we come to when we repent.

He spoke here of the temple. That temple was pointing to something farther. That was a beautiful structure that Solomon put up. David, by the fact that he was a man of war, could not put up (I Chronicles 28:2,3). I believe this temple was looking forward to Christ. Because in a temple is where that at the end of the Covenant which they placed the Holiest of Holies in that temple, where Christ once a year would make His presence. This is where people would come and reflect upon God and sacrifice in the incense and the prayers and all of that. There intercession was made.

But you look at the temple today. The temple is in our hearts. This is where we worship God. This is where we make His Presence. This is where we pray. The Bible says, ye are a royal priesthood (I Peter 2:9). We are all rests in the fact that we are all offering the sacrifice of our life. We are all offering the prayer, even as the priest did at that time. We can have the intercession to look to instead of having a man to go to the intercessor. We are all part of that holy priesthood.

So we have something far better in the temple is in our hearts today. When we get to heaven, it says there will be no temple there (Rev. 21:22). Because we are in the presence of God at all times. So this was something to help people focus upon God. I believe the church, Jesus instituted the church that we read about here. He says unto Peter, first of all, who is it? Why did He make that comment about the church? Because He asked, Who am I? I don't believe a person really knows the Lord until we become converted. It says it in Colossians chapter 1, that there was a great mystery. It says there is a mystery that now has been revealed to the Gen-

tiles (Colossians 1:26,27). What was that mystery? Christ in you, the hope of glory (Colossians 1:27). That was the mystery, that Christ would actually come within a person.

That takes place only through the channels of revelation. We can listen to something intellectually. We can understand we need to repent. But until it's revealed by faith, we don't understand who Christ really is. Jesus said, Whom do men say that I am (St. Matthew 16:13)? Simon finally said, "...Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven." St. Matthew 16:16,17. That's where we must all come to be a part of the church.

"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." St. Matthew 16:18. Let's make something very, very clear. This rock is not Jesus Christ. Because Peter was a man. The name Peter, if you look it up in Greek, it means 'little rock'. He was a little rock that was going to focus upon the big rock. So upon this rock will I build my church. The church was built upon Jesus Christ, but He did use men with Christ within them to carry forth the Word.

It says that when there is this body of believers, the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. Our souls can hear the truth! We can gather together. In the church, He says, I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven (St. Matthew 16:19). We could go two chapters forward when there was one who had transgressed and he spoke of the way of brothers going to them. Then taking another witness. Then he finally says, if they won't listen to thee, then take it to the church. (St. Matthew 18:15-17) He gives the church the authority. When there are people moved of the Holy Spirit, He delegates authority and He allows that those decisions, based on the Spirit of God, to be bound on earth and bound in heaven. Because the Spirit of God is both on earth and in heaven, working through the church.

Do we have a respect for the church? Do we recognize that it is the body of Christ and Him working? And there is

accountability here. Can't we be thankful. Again, as I go back to this brother, eighty five years old, he said, there is accountability in the church. It helped me to be accountable to God. That is why whatsoever is bound on earth is bound in heaven.

I think of this afternoon - there's going to be three souls that are going to make the most important promise in their life. That is going to be bound right here upon this earth and the church is going to witness it. But it is also going to be bound in heaven. A covenant to remain true and faithful unto God.

The church is Christ's. I think of the simplicity of it all, where there are brothers and sisters to the Lord that love Him. Who are truly converted. Last night we heard the power of just the good example. Letting Christ work through us to teach our families, our children. If we are called to the Sunday School service, let's be faithful. Let's be faithful in our daily walk of life, for the church is Christ's.

So we just want to encourage each of us. Again, I am going to conclude with this question. What shall a man give in exchange for his soul? For those of us who have found this peace for our soul, it is in good hands. What a joy, isn't it! Are we thankful? Do we express that thanksgiving that others can see we are so thankful? Are we thankful for the church where we heard the truth? You are being fed with manna. We realize we are not eloquent speakers but hopefully we are speaking from our heart. But you heard the truth. You found a peace for your heart.

Then I think of those whose soul is not in the hands of Jesus. It's lost! You don't want to die that way. We say this from the depths of our heart. You don't want to die that way. There is no other way but to lose your life in a true repentance and faith in Jesus Christ and to be born again and find a new life. There is no other way, no matter what you hear. You have to go through the door of Jesus Christ. He's paid the price. Please put your faith in Him and know whatever excuse you have, let me say this. From all of those of us who have experienced this, if you put your faith in Christ, no matter what excuse you have, whatever barrier you have, Christ will help you through it. He will see you to the end. Christ does not quit. He doesn't take you so far and just quit. He will help you all the way to eternal life.

Full Time Service Positions in Haiti

The World Relief Child Sponsorship and Caribbean Committee open staff positions for the work with MEBSH in Les Cayes, Haiti. These positions will be centered on the campus of MEBSH in Cite Lumiere with residences adjacent to or near our Brethren currently residing in Haiti. Both positions (described below) will be full time and require a minimum commitment of three years. Financial support will be provided by the Brotherhood and/or WR through the Servant Fund. Candidates for both positions must be willing to learn Haitian Creole at a minimum and preferably also French.

Child Care Support

A Brother or Sister to work in the Child Care Office of MEBSH.

- 1) Prepare financial reports and reconcile bank statements.
- 2) Prepare information packets for new sponsors.
- 3) Order supplies and school packets (from World Relief Child Sponsorship Committee delivered via sea containers).
- 4) Organize correspondence with sponsors.
- 5) Liason between ACWR Child Sponsorship Committee and MEBSH Child Care Board.

MEBSH Construction Department

A sister to assist in the operation and administration of the construction department.

- 1) Supervise and manage the work team guest house.
- 2) Assist with the maintaining financial records.
- 3) Host women on work teams including rural work sites.

Those interested in considering these positions should contact:

Bro. Ted Hirstein
67 Sapphire Point, Morton, IL 61550
309-266-8769 hirstein@mtco.com

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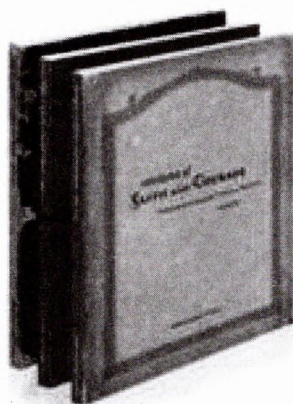
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...This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord.
 Isaiah 54:17

CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 2008

All volunteers should contact the project coordinator. Should you not be able to contact the coordinator, for Haiti direct your inquiry to Bro. Rich Bertschi, Ph. 309-467-6110, E-mail lemangm@mtco.com. For Jamaica, direct your inquiry to Bro. Michael Rassi, Ph. 1-309-359-5240 or E-mail michael_rassi@hotmail.com.

HAITI

Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of February 9, 2008 -www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/

Project	Date	Coordinator	Capacity
Les Cayes, FRW Simone Orphanage	Feb 29-Mar 7, 2008	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 topnotch@home.ffni.com	8
Croix des Bouquets, Lifeline Medical/Dental	Mar 11-18, 2008	Russ Manz 419-399-4053 russ_manz@campbellsoup.com	8
Les Cayes, MEBSH School Roof	Mar 28 Apr 4, 2008	Rich Bertschi 309-467-6110 lemangm@mtco.com	12
Les Cayes, MEBSH Medical/Dental	Apr 18-25, 2008	Keith Knepp 309-467-3468 kknepp@mchsi.com	6
Les Cayes, AWA Water Aid	May 16-23, 2008	Troy Stuber 309-925-2603 tstuber1@peoplepc.com	5
Les Cayes, FRW Vocational School	Jun 20-27, 2008	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 topnotch@home.ffni.com	4

JAMAICA

Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of February 9, 2008 -www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/

Kingston, CCCD	Mar 8-15, 2008	Terry Miller - 309-696-7804 Roger Stoller - 309-747-3228 rstoller@dtnspeed.net	Full
Jamaica Deaf Village, CCCD Bluffton Sunday School	Mar 22-29, 2008	Courtney Pfister 260-824-5151 fizz@parlorcity.com	Bluffton Sunday School Only
Knockpatrick School, CCCD Morton Sunday School	Mar 22-29, 2008	Al Kaiser 309-256-7251 kecinc@kaiserelectrical.com	50
Jamaica Deaf Village, CCCD	May 16-24, 2008	Ted Hirstein 309-266-8769 hirstein@mtco.com	50
Jamaica Deaf Village, CCCD	May 30-Jun 7, 2008	Keith Herrmann 309-639-4349 kgreetings@winco.net	40
Knockpatrick School, CCCD	Jun 28- Jul 5, 2008	Pete Webel 419-756-2587 wpw47@aol.com	40
Knockpatrick School, CCCD Francesville Sunday School	Jul 12-19, 2008	Dave Zeltwanger dakzelt@urhere.net	40

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

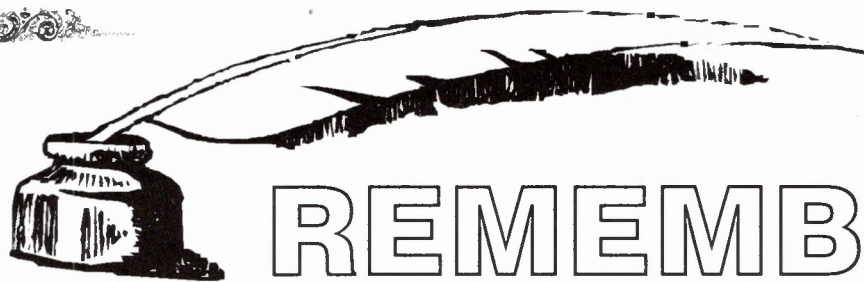
(**) = Spring Break Timeframe

Mexico Work Teams 2008

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

Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of February 9, 2008 - www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-mexico/

Project	Date	Coordinator
Agua Prieta Construction	Mar 8-15, 2008	Kevin Gerber 260-565-3313 kevgerber@yahoo.com
Magdalena Construction	Mar 8-15, 2008	David Prevo - Illinois State University 309-310-8060 daprevo@ilstu.edu
Reynosa Construction	Mar 8-15, 2008	Tristan Herrmann - ICC-Bradley 309-446-3502 ib_yg@yahoo.com
Agua Prieta Construction	Mar 15-22, 2008	Denis Fry 260-824-3055 fry.d@mchsi.com
Magdalena Construction	Mar 15-22, 2008	Matt Wyss/U of I 309-397-5919 mattwyss@yahoo.com
Agua Prieta Construction	Mar 22-29, 2008	Sam Kaehr 260-565-3200 sckaehr@adamswells.com
Magdalena Construction	Mar 22-29, 2008	Curt Hodel/Roanoke Bible Class 309-923-8091 cjhodel@juno.com
Reynosa Construction	Mar 22-29, 2008	Jeff Leman 260-565-3815 jvleman@adamswells.com
Juarez Construction	Mar 22-29, 2008	Jay Grube 260-565-3402 grube@adamswells.com
Juarez Medical/Dental	Mar 26-Apr 2, 2008	Cheryl Herrmann 309-385-1082 cherrmann@verizon.net
Magdalena Construction	Jun 7-14, 2008	Don Hoerr/Peoria Bible Class hoerrfamily7@insightbb.com
Magdalena Construction	June 21-28, 2008	Brad Gehring/Taylor Bible Class 217-228-9849 bradgehring@yahoo.com
Magdalena Construction	June 28-July 5, 2008	Kent Mogler 651-452-8586 kent.mogler@comcast.net
Magdalena Construction	Jul 19-26, 2008	Blake Stahl 630-740-7461 Chicago-Champaign Bible Class bcstahl01@hotmail.com
Juarez Medical/Dental	Sep 17-24, 2008	Cheryl Herrmann 309-385-1082 cherrmann@verizon.net
Magdalena Construction	Nov 22-29, 2008	Rod Schmidt 303-774-7913 rschmidt@Acosta.com



REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

This is the second installment on John Kreinbill, an early forefather of our faith here in America. He was active in the Metamora-Roanoke area of Illinois. He lived in Partridge Township, and was a minister who gave much assistance to the early members. Excerpts are taken from "Marching To Zion."

John Kreinbill was instrumental in forming the Apostolic Christian Church in Pulaski, Iowa. In the winter of 1864-65 he traveled from the Peoria, Illinois, area to Pulaski. Local history records that he traveled by train to Ottumwa, Iowa, and then walked the remaining twenty-five miles to Pulaski.

He went to the Mennonite Church located about two miles southwest of Pulaski where he conducted a series of meetings. The mode of baptism was a major point of discussion. The Mennonites had always baptized by pouring. Kreinbill emphasized this was inadequate and not patterned after the New Testament example. About half the membership of the Mennonite church were convinced he was right and followed him. This was the beginning of the Apostolic Christian Church in Pulaski.

His activity symbolized the willingness of early church fathers to respond when called upon by the Lord to travel far and wide to attend to the duties of the church, even to the extent of going into the midst of a perhaps skeptical crowd and standing up for the truth.

Two years earlier, Kreinbill had traveled to Leo, Indiana, where he preached the first sermon in the Apostolic Christian Church in that area.

In 1877, Kreinbill published a pamphlet concerning the condition of the church entitled, *From the Beginning to the Present as a Voice of Warning and Judgment*. It was written in the German language and is difficult to understand. At the time it was published, he lived at Metamora, Illinois.

In later years he lost his eyesight, but continued preaching. He was well versed in the Scriptures and was able to correctly refer to many passages. Those who followed the Biblical text with their own Bibles would testify that his references or quotations were correct. His grandchildren used to lead him around the barnyard and to the well (to get a drink) after he lost his eyesight.

Yet today, we benefit from his labors and diligence; and his deeds live on in the Father's heart. We can surely be thankful for his example, and his many contributions to the brethren.

Church History Update

Four and one-half years ago work began on updating the 653-page first edition of our church's history entitled *Marching To Zion*. Because the computer disks used in 1984 are obsolete for today's technology, the book had to be completely re-written and re-typeset. The book is now nearing comple-

tion and will total 805 pages. It will update each congregation since 1984, and will include all the new congregations. The expanded work of World Relief, Missions and related endeavors will be included. It is hoped the manuscript can be sent to the printer in May or June of this year, Lord willing. This is an estimate. The book will be printed by Sekan Printing Company, Fort Scott, Kansas, owned by Bros. Leonard and Don Banwart. They are the sons of former Elder Raymond Banwart and his wife, Si Catherine, both of whom are now deceased. This family has been wonderful assistance to the author both in the first and second editions.

From The Zion's Harp

Again, we present outstanding lyrics from this hymnal. This month's verse is taken from "Brotherly Love," page 69, verse three:

*If the Saviour's kingdom
Is to grow and flourish,
With God's richest
blessings nourished.
May our love be burning,
And God's love returning;
Jesus bless our ardent yearning
Though our foes, Should oppose
If we stand united,
They shall be requited.*

By Perry A. Klopfenstein
Next Issue: More history

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

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“I Want To Meet My Saviour Smiling”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

One of two songs which came into my mind while I was driving to Bible Classes in Alabama in the evening about 60 years ago, is titled, “I Want To Meet My Saviour Smiling.” The words to the song are, “I want to meet my Saviour smiling, I want to meet my Lord with joy. I want to do my best for Jesus, I want to do my best for Him. If we will do our best for Jesus, If we will do our best for Him, Then we can meet our Saviour smiling, when we can meet our Lord with joy.”

This song has two aspects: one is about meeting Jesus, and the other is about having joy when we meet Him. A scripture verse about meeting Jesus is found in I Thessalonians 4:17, “When we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, we shall meet the Lord in the air: and we shall be with the Lord.” This refers to the resurrection of the bodies of the saints commonly referred to as the “rapture”. I understand that it is then we are to receive

our new, resurrected body, similar to the resurrected body of the Lord Jesus Christ. I John 3:2 reads, “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”

In the book of Revelation 22:4, it is written, “And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.” There is ample scripture to support the premise that we shall meet the Lord Jesus Christ face to face.

When we meet our Saviour, what will we say? What will be our countenance? Will we only have regrets that we didn't do better on earth, or will we be filled with joy, that, in spite of our insufficiencies in serving Christ, we have entered into eternal bliss. The point I try to make in my song is that we should do our best in serving the Lord now so that we can have a big smile when we meet Him. At that time we cannot

live our lives over again — the time to act is now.

Joy is spoken of very often in the Bible. It is included as a fruit of the Spirit, listed next to love, which is first. See Galatians 5:22, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.”

Peter writes about joy, “Though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.” If we have joy now, by faith, our joy will certainly be multiplied even more when we meet our Saviour face to face.

When we reach the other side by the grace and mercy of the Lord Jesus Christ, we will surely think, “If only I had known what things are like up here. I would have lived a much more faithful and dedicated life. But I didn't know, it was beyond my comprehension.” Let's live so we can meet our Saviour smiling.

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*I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.
But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not,
seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth:
and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth,
because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep.
I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.*

John 10:11-14

