

The Silver Lining



*Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established.
Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil.*

Proverbs 4:26-27

March 2008

Sermon by Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker, Forrest, IL

Proverbs 8:32-36 and St. John 19:1-37

If I'm not in error - it's always a little risky for someone like myself, not that well versed, to come in the middle - I believe the 'me' here is wisdom (Proverbs 8:32,34-36). And really it could be God. God is wisdom. But as we read through this - and I think as we read other places in Scripture - wisdom is such a blessed thing.

The opposite, the antithesis of wisdom would be folly, foolishness. I think over and over in Scripture, both Old and New, pretty simply comes down to this. He that's likened unto one that's foolish is one that just doesn't see his need of God and God in his life. On the other side, the one that truly is wise according to God's Word and I believe God's view, is that soul that recognizes his total and desperate need of God.

The beautiful thing of being here this evening, in a day of grace in the church age, in a setting such as we are, with those of like faith and mind, I think commonly among us we would say and confess our need of God. But the good news and the beautiful part of it is, it pleases God to come into our midst and to fill our needs. For that we're so thankful as we gather together to praise and worship His high name this evening.

It's open here to St. John Chapter 19. You probably catch it pretty quick, it has to do with the crucifixion of our Lord, the very basic reason why we're here. Those of us that have peace with God and are a possessor of eternal life, this is the reason. It is well known, but it is always good to read it, isn't it? In season and out, because there is no out of season for what God did through Christ on our behalf.

I don't know about you but I just know I can't comprehend even - well, I shouldn't say a little bit, I think we can a little bit - but to any depth at all what really happened here. Sure we can read it. We've read it enough times. We pretty well know what it says. We can compare the one gospel's account to the other. Physically we can picture it in our mind. We've probably all read some further accounts of just what happens when such a cruel thing as crucifixion takes place, all of that.

That's a part, but that isn't really, that isn't really where it's at, is it. So much more was going on here. So many lessons. The whole course of the world was turned about right here and in the following three days as He was buried and rose again.

Everything that happened in Genesis 3 really was the great breach that was caused when sin entered the world. The effect that it had as we read throughout Scripture, not just upon you and I as humans - that of course is primary - but upon the whole creation. The curse that followed. The nature of man that was changed from one of innocence to a sinful nature. And all that happened through the course of history. It does us good just to go back and re-read, pretty often, the first twelve chapters of Genesis and how it is laid out. How God created the world and us. How sin entered the world. How quickly it just dominated everything. Where God even said the imaginations or thoughts of man's heart are continually evil. Something like that, you know what I mean. All the sorrow, all the sickness, all the death, everything we don't like to face or to talk about really is a result of sin, isn't it? God never intended that for man.

We see - I think often - when it got so bad so quick, that God was going to destroy all of mankind. But we read Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord (Genesis 6:8). So the great flood came and there were only, in the entire world - and by then it was fairly populated, I understand only eight souls were saved. What an experience that was! You would have thought that Noah and his family, coming through that, the preparation of the ark, the flood, seeing all of this happen, the year they spent in the ark, or whatever it was, coming out to quite a different world - wouldn't you have thought that really would have cured the problem? But it didn't. Very quickly after that, a lot of things happened, and Noah got drunk and one of his sons committed sin (Genesis 9:21-24). It just proves to us the cleansing of the flood, the wiping out of basically all evil except what was left in man, just wouldn't do it. Then the sad record throughout the Old

Testament and throughout world history.

I mention the first twelve chapters of Genesis. I always do that because it ends with God putting His finger on one man: Abram. Calling him out. From him God is working to provide a people that will make a way for this Savior of the world to come into the

Sermon continued on page 44

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"...by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God." (2 Cor. 4:2)

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

March 2008

Self-examination

Most of us perform self-examination every day when we look in the mirror and make sure we have our hair combed or arrange some other detail of our appearance. If we didn't, it is likely that we would go out looking unkempt. Even after looking in the mirror, we will sometimes ask someone close to us, "How do I look? Is everything in place?" We understand the need to examine ourselves physically. The spiritual need for self-examination is even greater. God has given us His Word as a mirror in which to examine ourselves spiritually and brethren to double-check us and see what we may have missed (Jam. 1:23-24).

When we look in the mirror, we are comparing what we see with the mental image we have of ourselves. If we hope to make improvement in our spirit, we look in the mirror of God's Word and compare ourselves to the ideal image of Jesus Christ. *"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord"* (2 Cor. 3:18). This principle pertains not only to an individual, but also to congregations. In the letters to the seven churches, they are encouraged to *"Watch ... and strengthen those things which remain,"* and again to, *"anoint thine eyes with eyesalve that thou mayest see"* (Rev. 3:2, 18). Jesus exhorted the churches to examine themselves and correct that which was not sound. As a body of believers in Jesus Christ, we will prosper if we examine ourselves and make appropriate changes that bring us closer to the Word.

We also have an occasional need for more thorough examination. Some people undergo an annual physical. Others wait until symptoms of a disease become evident. Some, out of fear of what they may find, refuse to see a doctor, even when symptoms are serious. The Apostle Paul was a spiritual doctor to many of the early churches. He corrected errors, evaluated practices, and settled disputes. As individuals, we practice this deeper self-examination prior to partaking of Holy Communion. If we take this examination to heart, it inevitably

leads to change. If it doesn't result in changes, we have either achieved perfection, or we are like the man mentioned by James who, *"beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was"* (Jam. 1:24). Change resulting in a walk of life closer to God's Word is growth and is necessary in our walk with Christ.

As a Body, we have always had a desire for the Spirit of the Lord to examine and purify us. As a result, in recent years we have acknowledged that we have not been fulfilling the God-inspired mandate to draw closer together in the unity of the Spirit as well as we should. Like a patient receiving a diagnosis of disease from his doctor, this is neither reason to panic, nor is it a symptom that we can afford to ignore in the hope that it will go away. It is vital that we understand that as long as we remain human, the entire Body of Christ is subject to imperfection and needs to respond positively to self-examination in order to remain healthy and in order. As members of the Body of Christ, we each have complementing abilities to aid in this self-examination (1 Cor. 12). Just as we use our various capabilities to assess our physical condition: reviewing with the eye, checking for lumps with the hand, or taking our temperature with a thermometer, we are called to use our God-given abilities and tools to examine ourselves as the Body of Christ.

In order to fulfill our Spirit-directed mandate to be an example to the flock, the Elder Body has begun a thorough self-examination in light of God's Word (Jer. 23:4; 1 Pet. 5:3). In addition to the mirror of His Word, God has given us various resources to perform this spiritual self-examination. Just as the apostles delegated certain duties to the seven deacons (Acts 6:3), the Elder Planning Committee has been given the responsibility to lead this effort. These brothers, with the Elder Body, have prayerfully considered how to accurately and honestly assess our condition, and to implement steps for needed biblical change. The Elder Body has participated in small group meetings to enable discussion with a level of participation and depth that is not possible when all of us are together. Such dis-

ussion permits all of us to help each other see more clearly what may be out of place or need correcting.

Another resource that is available to help in this process is a survey designed to help our elders and ministers take our own temperature. This tool, like a thermometer, allows us to hear the voice of the flock and gives valuable information about our labors. In utilizing this tool, or perhaps other effective feedback methods, we, like the Apostle Paul, are attempting to submit ourselves to the Holy Spirit speaking through the Body of Christ: *"we ... have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty ... commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God"* (2 Cor. 4:2). It is a clear biblical principle dating back to the first century church, that we as under-shepherds are accountable to the flock, and that the "report" of the congregation is imperative if we are to be accountable to one another and to God. In John's third letter he comments about brothers who apparently were in positions of leadership, noting that Diotrephes desired to have preeminence, but that, *"Demetrius hath good report of all men, and of the truth itself..."* (3 John 1:12). Even Jesus, as He walked along the road with his disciples desired feedback, asking, *"Whom do men say that I am?"* (Mark 8:27). Feedback is critical if we, as servants of the church, are to hope for an accurate diagnosis. Accountability is necessary in every portion of the Body if we hope to be healthy.

We are grateful to our Father that He has given us His Word and Spirit, as well as brethren to faithfully watch for one another's souls. If we ignore the diagnosis, we are at risk of deterioration that leads to death. If we as a Body are willing to honestly examine ourselves, acknowledge the facts without fear, and take appropriate steps toward improvement, we will be a strong and vital witness to a sin-sick world. *"Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ"* (Ephesians 4:13).

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

Mission Update

Information is published on this page to keep our Brotherhood informed of the mission activities of our church. The Mission Committee meets four times each year. This article reports the highlights of meetings held in October, 2007 and January, 2008.

Spiritual support

One of our important responsibilities is to provide spiritual support to those who have been sent for various mission-related assignments. The Apostle Paul was diligent in nurturing the believers in the various locations where groups had formed as a result of his missionary journeys: "Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith... they commended them to the Lord upon whom they believed" (Acts 14:22-23).

There were extensive discussions in these meetings regarding provision for the spiritual nurturing of brethren sent to Haiti and Jamaica for purposes of providing humanitarian as well as spiritual service. The purposes as well as circumstances of these projects differ from each other and appropriate arrangements are being developed to meet the respective needs. Visits by US brethren and opportunities to participate in services when work teams are present, as well as to listen to US services remotely, are all part of this plan for spiritual support.

Servant Fund

One of the ways that all of us can help in sharing the sacrifice and cost of giving a significant portion of one's life into full time service for the Lord is by supporting the Servant Fund. This fund provides modest support for brethren who are

sent by Mission or World Relief on long term missionary or humanitarian assignments. This spares such individuals from spending time and effort raising their own funds and allows them to dedicate their time and efforts fully to their calling. A report was given on the status of the fund, which indicates good support to date, as well as a substantial need for ongoing contributions.

Annual expenses are approximately \$435 thousand. May the Lord continue to move hearts to share resources in furthering His work here on this earth. For a current listing of those supported by the Servant Fund, and how you can contribute, check the World Relief website: www.acworldrelief.org

Allocations

There are many opportunities for our church to provide support for programs and projects both in the US and abroad which have a mission element as part of their purpose. Care is taken to distribute funds in a manner which can be blessed of the Lord by helping souls hear the truth and experience the joy of salvation through Jesus Christ and His Word.

Allocations were approved for the following: adoption facilitating organizations, Bible societies in Japan, China, India and USA (including Braille Bibles), Christian Aid Ministries, India missions (RGMMI), prison ministries, printed sermons, National Good Will Fund, European Church Building Fund, Athens Preschool, Servant Fund, ACCFS, and our mission programs in Mexico.

Reports

Detailed reports were presented on the activities of the Outreach Com-

mittee. They are moving forward with fulfilling the charge given them by the Mission Committee. Their focus is on sending, selection and a preparation/training process for brethren who are being considered for long term service. They are also developing approaches for communicating more effectively with our Brotherhood regarding the many aspects of mission work. The purpose is to foster understanding and encourage support of efforts to fulfill this important, biblically-based pillar of our church mission: "to present to the lost the Gospel message of salvation based on faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ and a true repentance and conversion (Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 3:19; Eph. 2:8).

Reports were also given on the various mission efforts in Mexico. There are dear souls who are answering the call of the Lord and being added to the fold. Work is progressing well on the school in Ixtlan and the new church in Magdalena. The work in India continues to be blessed and the Lord provided for fruitful visits by various elder brothers to provide spiritual support and encouragement to those engaged in this important work for the Lord.

The churches in Japan are rejoicing over three new converts and are doing well, by God's grace. The European Board report included plans for remodeling six church buildings in Serbia, Croatia and Slovakia. The Building Advisory Committee continues to provide assistance to small churches with various building projects.

May we all take an interest in the Lord's work and make it a priority to be prayerful for the Lord to add His increase to our weak efforts to plant and water the seeds of truth in the fields of men's hearts (1 Cor. 3: 6).



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

International Grants

In 2007 the partnerships between World Relief and International Christian Relief organizations have enabled our brotherhood to provide assistance to the needy in eleven countries scattered around the globe.

Central & South America

On August 15th a large earthquake devastated a significant area of the central coast of Peru. Over 500 lives were lost and more than 58,000 homes were destroyed. World Relief provided grants to four international relief organizations to help with the immediate needs of the survivors.

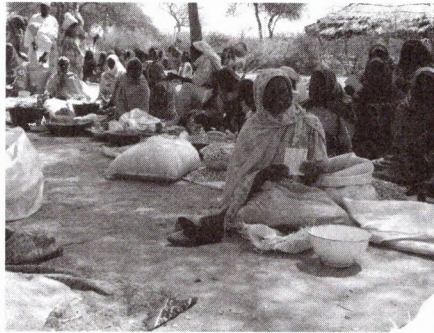
In early November severe flooding on the Southeast coast of Mexico resulted in over 900,000 persons being displaced from their homes. Grants were given to ship emergency medical supplies to this region. Also, earlier in the year, a grant was provided to help establish a program to provide medical care and food for children in Mexico City.

In Brazil, World Relief has provided funding for the construction and distribution of family water filters. To date over 1,200 water filters have been funded through grants. Recently a grant was provided to support a project which provides vocational training for poor and abandoned mothers, giving them skills by which they can help to support themselves and their children. This project also provides the mothers with packages of materials to begin making products to sell.

Africa

There is great need for assistance for those fleeing persecution in Sudan

and Uganda. Grants were provided to two organizations to provide medical assistance as well as food and clean water. Also, in Uganda a grant was given to help with the construction of an orphanage.



Food Distribution in Darfur, Sudan

In Ethiopia we have a continuing relationship with an organization which provides a wide variety of services in a small community. We have continued our partnership by providing funds to assist with the feeding of school children and for the construction of an orphanage.

In Kenya a grant was given to assist with the construction of two classrooms in the Trans Mara region. Recent political unrest will generate a need to provide further assistance in Kenya.

South East Asia

Grants have been sent to continue to support the hospital which was built with World Relief Disaster funds on Tellos Island, Indonesia. Our partner there has expressed an interest in working with World Relief to send a work team of Apostolic Christian medical professionals to help in this region. Funding has been provided to send the initial team of five persons to Indonesia in April of 2008. They will be providing medical care and training for the

local medical team and will also be working with them in the clinics which have been established on local islands. Working with another organization in Thailand, funds were provided to build and equip a kitchen at an orphanage. This orphanage serves children whose parents are in prisons.

Other world regions

In the Kurdistan area of Northern Iraq, a grant was provided to support the shipment of medical supplies to a hospital. In Ukraine, orphans are housed in homes provided by the government. When the children reach their mid-teens they are no longer eligible to live in the orphanage and are forced out on their own. The result of this displacement is that a large percentage of these children end up supporting themselves through illegal means and many others commit suicide.

A Christian organization operated by Apostolic Christian brethren has established a home for these older orphans, giving them not only a place to live, but also providing them with living skills in a Christian environment. World Relief has been providing help with a portion of the expenses for building two of these homes. Also in the Ukraine we have granted support to another organization for the construction of an orphanage.

If you have any questions about these projects or the work of the International Grants Committee, contact the World Relief office or the committee chairman:

Virgil Graf
6118 Primrose Ave.
Temple City, CA 91780
(626) 287-1611
vmgraf@sbcglobal.net

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

In every environment, whether at home, at church, at work, or in the community, every person's contribution should be considered significant. Several instances in the Bible indicate the power of community, or working together, to accomplish tasks. Exodus 36:1-2 states: "We wrought Bezaleel and Aholiab, and every wise hearted man, in whom the Lord put wisdom and understanding to know how to work all manner of work for the service of the sanctuary, according to all that the Lord commanded. And Moses called Bezaleel and Aholiab, and every wise hearted man, in whose heart the Lord had put wisdom, even every one whose heart had stirred him up to come unto the work to do it."

The scriptures, and the actions of others around us, often inspire us to service, and appreciation of these contributions. Here at our homes in Morton, we often receive calls from individuals or groups who desire to volunteer service and time for our residents. The range of types of services and number of participants vary, but each contribution is sincerely appreciated. This last Saturday was not an exception to the rule. A large group of volunteer Bible Class students and their teachers from our Eureka church came to Timber Ridge and tore off all the old wallpaper from the walls in our halls. This was a huge job, and covered a great deal of wall space. Our Maintenance Department is now free to prepare the walls and begin painting. Some of this wallpaper had been hung for many years, so the new look will be a fresh and welcome sight.

We have residents who have lived here at Timber Ridge for many years. In fact, the first resident moved to Timber Ridge on October 1, 1971. She is still living here at Timber Ridge. Can you imagine how refreshing it would be to periodically have your

home atmosphere updated?

When all of God's servants work together to use unique gifts, talents or energies, the group benefits greatly. More work is accomplished through unified efforts, than single handed workers can do.

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME Jeff Waibel

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. But let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."

Gal. 6:7-10

Several times over the years I have had people inquire about what I do at Gateway Woods. When I tell them, a common response goes something like this, "I don't think I could ever do what you do." I have come to believe that what they mean is that they don't believe they could handle the stress and pressure of working with young people with behavioral, social, and emotional problems. But in a larger sense, each of us is called to "do good unto all men" as Paul put it. We are called to sow and reap no matter what stage of life we are in, no matter what people we interact with. Paul is saying, as the opportunity arises; use it to do good to all men. The opportunity will arise; the question is what will we sow?

And let us not forget Paul's other warning. He warns that well doing can bring about weariness and that weariness can affect our ability to sow and

reap. Anyone who has ever witnessed to an unbeliever, or tried to raise Godly children, or tried to counsel someone going through difficult times knows what it means to "weary in well doing." It can be exhausting work that never seems to pay off. Paul, I believe, realized this and so he added the words "In due season we shall reap if we faint not." We won't necessarily reap right away, but rather we will reap in due season. This truth is very evident in the ministry of Gateway Woods. Many times our residents will leave our campus and we are unsure if anything we have tried to instill in them has sunk in. But time after time we have these residents contact us (sometimes years later) to tell us how we affected their lives and have inspired them to try to live Godly lives.

Over the next month, will you pray for the residents here at Gateway Woods? Pray that God will soften their hearts so that they can be receptive to the message of salvation. Also, pray that the staff members here do not become weary in well doing, but that they use the opportunity God has given them to do good to all men. May God bless you and give you opportunities as well.

NEWS:

- 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 held our annual Representative's Meeting on Saturday, March 8. This year, we introduced a brand new Rep 101 class, which offered our Representatives an in-depth perspective of their specific roles and responsibilities. Our Representatives also had the opportunity during the course of the morning to listen to life-changing testimonies and stories from Staff, residents, and the families we serve. It was a very blessed day! We are very grateful for our Representatives' active support in promoting God's work at Gateway Woods!

- We are pleased to announce the hiring of Sis. Kristi Reinhard (Leo, IN) as our new Secretary. Sis. Patsy Stoller will be moving from a Secretary position into an Administrative Assistant position. Please pray for both Sisters as they transition into their new job positions and that God would bless their efforts.

- We are also thankful to announce the hiring of Bro. Joe and Sis. Heather Beer (Bradford, IL) as Alternate Houseparents. The Beers will appreciate your prayers for their transition and the sale of their home. Because of their home sale, and other previous local commitments, the earliest they anticipate starting is the first of May. They also see that their arrival would be no later than the middle of June.

- Gateway Woods is very pleased to introduce to you a totally redesigned website found at gatewaywoods.org! The site is modified for several different audiences and it includes a section specifically dedicated for Church Family and Friends. The new website features testimonies from adoptive parents, foster parents, residents, and others served by Gateway Woods. There is way too much information to even begin to list, so please check out the site as soon as possible. You will also notice our new online donations component, which makes it easier for you to assist with the financial needs of Gateway Woods. The site will con-

tinue to be an ongoing project and will eventually include videos, prayer requests, and much more!

- 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.

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

Getting along with others seems to be a daily challenge we have here with our children. It's just hard for a child to think of others first and to talk and work things out. I was settling yet another little dispute between two frustrated little boys one day. One of them had this big scowl on his face and he said "He's mean, he doesn't have Dod in his heart! He must has the Debil." Hiding my smile, I told him that yes he does have God in his heart but sometimes we all just make bad choices. He suddenly got this perplexed look and said "Well I know that I have Dod in my heart, so how can he have Dod in his heart? Is there two Dods?" It was so cute and such a great opportunity to explain that no there aren't two Gods, but our God is just that big and powerful that He can be everywhere all at the same time. Being a little boy who is pretty impressed with strong, tough things, he was pretty excited that the God living inside of him was bigger and tougher than any superhero or monster truck!

I think all the children and teachers would agree with me that the biggest highlight here at the preschool in the past month has been the addition of three pet fish! It has been a great experience for the kids to feed them and watch them. So far they are all still living which we all consider quite a great miracle! Despite the little hands that constantly bang on their tank and the little faces plastered up against the

side, the little fish seem pretty happy. It's been a lot of fun and the kids are loving it!

**ALABAMA, ATHENS
Louise Hall**

There have been several in our congregation who have had surgery over the past month. Our prayers for continued healing go out to Sis. Naomi Hall, Bro. Milton Ray (Sis. Joyce) and Sis. Louise Hall (Bro. JR).

We want to thank Bro. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pamela, Latty, OH) for traveling down and bringing God's message to us. May God bless you for your willingness.

We also would like to thank Bro. Sam and Sis. Linda Schlatter for coming down from Junction, OH, to spend a few weeks with us. We always enjoy them coming and may God bless them for all that they do for us.

Bro. Don Ross has been residing in the nursing home. His new address is:

Sunbridge Care & Rehab
25385 Main St.
Ardmore, TN 38449

We would like to remind everyone about our annual Memorial Day weekend. Time goes by quickly, so mark your calendars! There will be more details to come.

**ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Ron and Ev Hoerr**

Behold, God is mighty, and despiseth not any: he is mighty in strength and wisdom."

Job 36:5

We all rejoice when God's love abounds. On January 20, the engagement of Bro. Sam Sutton and Sis. Danielle Mojic was announced. Their parents are Bro. Tim and Sis. Verene Sutton and Laza and Sis. Ranka Mojic

(Detroit).

Bro. Mike and Sis. Angie Ringger became parents again on January 24 when their daughter, Violet Ann, was born.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Dan Dubach (Prescott), Bro. Ron Joos (Bloomfield), Bro. Bill Schick (Magdalena), and Elder Bros. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis), Jim Plattner (Princeville), John Laukhuf (Latty), Rick Plattner (Fairbury), Jon Schmidgall (Oakville), and Dale Eisenmann (Chicago). We thank you and praise God for the loving, inspired messages.

We extend our sympathy to our dear friend Bill Fehr in the recent passing of his father.

Sis. Marie Beery has been hospitalized with a torn muscle in her shoulder. May our dear Lord heal and comfort you.

We extend a loving welcome to Hank and Joyce (Minger) Cardoza who are now living at the Villas.

Our dear Jr. and Sr. Bible classes went to Tucson the weekend of February 16. Oh, what precious memories to build on.

Our new fellowship building was ready for our Elder Conference on February 13-15. Dear readers, what a blessed time for our Phoenix congregation. Thanks to the entire Phoenix congregation for their prayers and every deed of loving service to our Elders, and their wives. Also, a word of thanks to our Elders and their wives for coming to Phoenix, and being used of the Lord in the service of our beloved church.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT **Jane Hodges**

Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich and Deacon Bro. Herb Knochel, Jr., both of Phoenix, shared the Memorandum with us on January 27.

On February 8, Mariah Jade was born to Sis. Janon and Bro. Tim

Furrer. Sisters, Alexa and Sienna, and grandparents, Jim and Rowena Furrer and Bro. Don and Susie Fiechter (Bluffton, IN), also welcomed her arrival. With Mariah's arrival, we now have ten girls and two boys in our congregation under 10 years old. What a blessing!

Our annual business meeting was held on February 9. Four brothers will continue the positions they carried before: Wayne Koehl as trustee secretary and sound room coordinator; Tim Furrer as song leader; Rolf Kaeppler as usher; and Tyler Scott as Sunday School teacher of the older class (over 6th grade). Sis. Stacy (Koehl) Fehr will be the new teacher for the younger class. Sis. Kim Wackerle is the World Relief coordinator and Sis. Jane Hodges, the kitchen coordinator.

Our congregation reaped many blessings from the mid-year Elder Conference held in Phoenix on February 12-15. On February 10 we were blessed with the presence of Elder Bros. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN), Ben Walder (Sis. Juanita, Congerville, IL), Dave Graf (Sis. Barb, Akron, OH), Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis, OH), and Ron Schambach (Sis. Nancy, Elgin, IL). On February 17, we had Elder Bros. Ed Schwartz (Sis. Jeni, Bluffton, IN), Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA), Merle Hartzler (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH), Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH), retired Elder Bros. Roy Grimm (Sis. Dona, Taylor, MO) and Art Bahler (Sis. Suzanne, Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Warren Zahner (Sis. Bonnie, Rockville, CT). We wish to thank all of them for including Prescott in their travels and lending their service, support and love. May the Lord bless all of you richly.

Other ministers helping Bro. Dan Dubach were Bros. Paul Schmidgall (Sis. Shawn, Morris, MN) and Jim Meiss (Sis. Candy, Phoenix, AZ).

ARIZONA, TUCSON **Lisa Knapp**

We were blessed over the past few weeks to have many visiting Elders and ministers due to the Elder Conference in Phoenix. Elder Bros. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT), Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA), Tim Funk (Peoria, IL), Ted Witzig, Sr. (Morton, IL) and Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL) assembled with us along with ministering Bros. Ted Witzig, Jr. (Morton, IL), Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL) and Jim Meiss (Phoenix, AZ). We thoroughly enjoyed hearing their words of love and encouragement over the pulpit and fellowshiping with them; many thanks to them all for their efforts to be with us.

Our activities this past month also included our annual Pancake Supper, hosting the Altadena and Phoenix Bible Classes for the ACYF Sunday School weekend and hosting a work team traveling through this past Sunday. That much fellowship can be a little overwhelming to a small church, but seeing the familiar, smiling faces definitely makes it worthwhile!

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Sis. Jana Knapp, the daughter of Bro. Bob and Sis. Jean Knapp, who spend time here with us in the winter. We are holding them up in our prayers and asking God to hold them in His almighty arms as they journey through their grief.

Our Sis. Carole Haas had knee replacement surgery recently and is recovering nicely. We are praying for continued healing and hoping to see her assemble with us again soon.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA **Tina Jackson**

This month marks the beginning of the remodeling project for our church kitchen. There was significant

repair work needed to the sub-flooring under the kitchen area due to water and termite damage. Therefore a decision was made to remodel the rather outdated kitchen as well. The demolition and reconstruction has been dirty, dusty and generally bothersome, as we work around it each week to serve lunch on Sundays. Over the last few weeks, with the majority of the remodeling finished, the "new and improved kitchen" is taking shape, giving us renewed hope to persevere and exercise continued patience until its completion.

This is a vivid reminder of the spiritual "remodeling" that God continues to work out in our lives as well. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (II Corinthians 5:17).

We are enjoying Bible Study on Wednesday evenings during the month of February. Bro. Joe Klotzle is leading us in the study of the "Psalms of Degrees". These Psalms take us from Psalm 120 - a Pilgrim's BEGINNING all the way to Psalm 134 - a Pilgrim's PRAISE. We appreciate Bro. Joe's willingness to lead a study once again!

Richard Hecker had successful glaucoma surgery and we continue to pray for a speedy recovery for him. Bro. Bill Witzig (Sis. Mary) was hospitalized this month for a short time and we are thankful to have him and the Heckers back worshipping with us.

Our youth traveled to Tucson, AZ, this past weekend for the semi-annual Apostolic Christian Youth Fellowship weekend. A special thanks to Bro. Dave and Sis. Janelle Klotzle for their willingness to transport and chaperone the weekend!

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO Peggy Jevremov

Greetings one and all! We are thankful once more for all our visitors.

This past month we have been blessed to have among them the following ministers: Bro. Mike Rieker (Sis. Carol, Peoria, IL), Bro. Ed Sauder (Sis. Bonnie, Roanoke, IL), Elder Bro. Phillip Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Neil Ramseyer (Sis. Sharon, Bay City, MI). We pray the Lord will reward them for their willing service to us.

We warmly welcome Bro. Phillip, Sis. Tasha, Ashlyn and Brandon Petrovic back into our little congregation. We are thankful they have been led to move back here from the Silverton area.

As the Easter season approaches, may our hearts dwell even more on what our dear Saviour was willing to bear for us, that our souls might live with Him forever.

Low in the grave He lay
Jesus, my Saviour!
Waiting the coming day
Jesus, my Lord!
Vainly they watch His bed
Jesus, my Saviour!
Vainly they seal the dead
Jesus, my Lord!
Death cannot keep his prey
Jesus, my Saviour!
He tore the bars away
Jesus, my Lord!
Up from the grave He arose,
With a mighty triumph o'er His
foes;
He arose a Victor from the dark domain,
And He lives forever with His saints
to reign;
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah!
Christ arose!
Gospel Hymns #32

KITCHENER, ONTARIO CANADA Kim Leman

"For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish."

Psalms 1:6

We thank the visiting brothers who willingly came to share God's Word with us. They were Bros. Tim Gerber (Sis. Wendy, Mansfield, OH), Allen Stoller (Sis. Susan, Bluffton, IN), and Dale Stoller (Sis. Sandra, Fairbury, IL).

Once again we were able to minister in song to a homeless shelter in Kitchener. We can always be thankful for the many blessings we enjoy in our lives, while others struggle for daily living.

COLORADO, DENVER Ann Gonglach

"Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father: To whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."

Galatians 1:3-5

At our annual business meeting we elected new officers: secretary, Bro. Rod Schmidt; treasurer, Bro. Benjamin Martin; and Sunday School, Bro. Doug Hohulin. Sis. Lanette Meyer is teaching our youngest Sunday school class since the last teacher moved away. We are so thankful for those who serve us. May God give them the grace to do their jobs faithfully.

Elder Bro. Mike Leman spent several days encouraging a small group of believers in Barra Vieja, Mexico, and having Bible studies with them. He also attended the Regional Elders' meeting in Kansas City and the Winter Elder Conference in Phoenix. With so much to keep our Elder Brothers busy, let's remember to lift them up in prayer.

We were blessed to have Bro. Tim Ramsier (Rittman, OH), with us at a

mid-week Bible study. We appreciate the encouragement our small group receives by having visitors and visiting ministers.

**CONNECTICUT
ROCKVILLE
Laura Virkler
Amber Rocke**

What joy I feel, what peace is mine
As I my all to thee resign...

Zion's Harp #259

Often it seems that life takes twists and turns that we don't anticipate. However, it is such a comfort to know that the peace of God will remain with us as long we submit our will to Him. It was spiritually edifying and such a comfort to be read the Memorandum this past month. We are humbled by the efforts of our Elder brothers as they seek to uphold the truths and doctrine of God's Word. Our prayers continue to be with them. We greatly appreciate Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara) for making the effort to be with us and serve us throughout this blessed weekend.

We rejoice with Bro. Philip and Sis. Sarah Wagenbach as they gave birth to their first child, Gabrielle Marie. May the Lord provide them much grace and strength as they adjust to parenthood. We are thankful that both mother and child are well. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Marie Wagenbach (Washington, IL), and the maternal grandparents are Bro. Sherman and Sis. Joanne Lanz.

We also rejoice with Ashley Reutter (Bro. Duane and Sis. Kay) as she announced several months ago her engagement to Tabor Dizon (Judy Murphy). We pray that the Lord will guide this couple as they become one on March 15.

Often we are reminded of the fragilities of life. However, as the psalmist wrote, "My flesh and my heart

faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion forever" (Psalm 73:26). This undoubtedly has been a comfort to our Sis. Shirley Luginbuhl and Bro. Paul Foote (Sis. Roberta) as they both underwent recent hospitalizations. May they feel our prayers as they recuperate and gain strength.

After a long battle with poor health, Keith Baumgartner, the brother of Sis. Kay Reutter (Bro. Duane), has finally taken his last breath. His expression of peace before he passed away was a comfort to his family. He will be buried in Cissna Park, IL, where he was born. Our prayers are with his loved ones.

We are so thankful for the many who have traveled our way throughout the winter months. It has been such a blessing to assemble with you, and we encourage you to come again!

A Note of Correction: Adrienne Frieda was born to Bro. Ben and Sis. Carla Lanz (not Virkler!).

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

We'll never say good-bye in heav'n
We'll never say good-bye,
For in that land of joy and song
We'll never say good-bye.

Hymns of Zion #122 (chorus)

This song came to me Sunday afternoon after we said good-bye to our most recent caretakers, Bro. Richard and Sis. Janet Knecht of Eureka. Though our caretakers are here for a month or less, they become an important part of our congregation.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Jerry Isch (Sis. Linda, Philadelphia, PA), Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judy, Silverton, OR), Bro. Mark Zimmerman (Sis. Cheryl, Eureka, IL) and Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Sis. Karen, Croghan-Naumberg, NY). The

weekend Bro. Ben and Bro. Ed Knecht were here we had a potluck dinner and Bible Study. What an extra blessing that weekend.

Other visitors this month were from Eureka, IL.

Directions in the new Ministers' Book are good for those coming from the north or west. For those coming up I-95 from south of DC or from the eastern part of the area, you need to take I-95/495 to Exit 28A (New Hampshire Ave) for approx. 2 miles to Rt. 29 North. Go about 3 miles to Fairland Road and follow the directions in the Ministers' Book. 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 are thankful for our visitors and ministers that have shared with us this month. Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL), retired Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Sis. Shirley, Morton, IL), and Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North, IN). Bro. Earl shared the Memorandum with us on a Wednesday evening.

Ben and Amy Gress were married in Houston, TX, in November. He is the son of Bro. Rodney and Sis. Sally Gress.

Our friend, Tara Hohulin, who is attending college in Normal, IL, is go-

ing through the repenting and conversion process and we look forward to welcoming her into our fellowship as a sister in faith.

Sis. Renee Mangold and Sis. Ruth Schneider are recovering from surgical procedures, and we pray for God's healing.

FLORIDA NORTH FORT MYERS

Naomi Vogel

As usual, February finds us 'bulging at the seams' here in N. Ft. Myers. We use our outdoor picnic pavilion and set up a table under the covered front entrance to accommodate the lunch crowd. It is truly a blessed time for us—a foretaste of Glory!

On February 13 we had our monthly church potluck. Afterwards, we sang songs about love for Valentine's Day and Bro. Bill Masters had an inspirational message.

Visiting ministers have been Bro. Todd Stoller (Latty, OH), Bro. Bob Pflederer (Morton, IL), Bro. Doug Wagenbach (San Diego, CA) and Bro. John Rowell (Burlington, IA). Bro. Bob also did a short presentation about the Counseling Service that has its headquarters in Morton. May God bless you all richly for your willing service to us on His behalf.

Get well wishes go to Sis. Carolyn Siegle and Bro. Mel Baum. May the Great Physician help you heal quickly!

If anyone wants to escape the cold weather up north, you will surely find a warm welcome in the Ft. Myers area!

FLORIDA, SARASOTA DiAnne Brown

"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For

with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."

St. Luke 6:38

We must fully rely upon God's promise to return the blessings we receive unto those that give so generously and faithfully, for it is certainly beyond our earthly ability to repay the blessings we have received by having our northern brethren with us for a season.

Our church potluck and singing on February 3 was a true blessing as over 110 gathered to share a wonderful meal and praise in song. Thank you to those who provided so bountifully to make this event special. It was amazing to see our Fellowship Hall full from wall to wall, a rare sight in Sarasota.

On February 9, we held the Annual Sunday School Auction to raise funds for the children's ministry for the coming year. Donated items included certificates for gourmet dinner parties, handyman help and child care; lovely quilts and needlework; stunning cut glass from some very special people, and a boat...complete with motor! There was a Chili & Pie lunch and silent auction, also. The Lord blessed the day with beautiful weather and very generous bidders. Heartfelt thanks to all who made the auction a success.

Wednesday, February 20, was a very special worship service. We were treated to the glorious ministry of 'Hands In Praise' - a group of 5 deaf students from the CCCD School in Knockpatrick, Jamaica. Their love for Jesus is absolutely contagious. They 'sang' several songs using sign language and movement and shared a short program about the work being done and the important role A.C. World Relief plays.

Several from Sarasota travel to Kingston, Jamaica, with the ACWR trip next month. Those that had been

there before were even more eager to go, and those going for the first time were inspired about the importance of the work they are about to do. Sunday School members going include three brother/sister (sibling) teams; Gideon and Olivia Kiefer, Stephen and Julia Roscher and Lindsay and Schuyler Brown. The entire team would covet your prayers for safe travel and that their work will have a positive and lasting impact.

Sunday, March 2, is set for the Annual Appreciation and Jamaica Informational Dinner. A goodwill offering will be taken to support sending students on future missions. This support gives students the opportunity to take part in this valuable work without a financial barrier. The impact it can have on the students is beyond measure.

Medical patients this month include Sis. Betty (Bro. George) Siladie, Bro. Todd (Sis. Kelly) Hebert, Bro. Tom Miller and Ken Rocke (son of Sis. Doris Rocke). We wish them God's mercy, healing and a strong faith to endure these trials. Let us all remember how much comfort a kind word or note can bring.

Much appreciation to those visiting ministers from the past month including Elder Bros. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI), Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) and Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL) and Bros. Bernie Messner (Morris, MN), Bill Masters (Ft. Meyers, FL), John Rowell (Burlington, IA), Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), Ron Steiner (Rittman, OH), and Nile Bucher (Bluffton North, IN). We thank these brothers for their faithful feeding of our flock.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA Melinda Gramm

We thank Bro. Kim Sutter (Sis. Vonette, Taylor, MO) and Bro. John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Burlington, IA) for

ministering to us this month.

Our annual business meeting was held in February. We so appreciate the faithfulness of our stewards in the execution of their duties. We all are stewards of the money and possessions that God, our Master, has given us. As a steward we should constantly have this thought in mind: What would my Master do in this situation, or how would He handle it? Obviously the steward is expected to do that which the master desires in each and every case. Do we live our life as a steward by these rules, do we seek our Master's will in the way we handle His money and possessions? As stewards we do not give that which belongs to us—we distribute that which belongs to the Master.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

**Doreen Moser
Sheila McCoy**

Why is it so hard to ask for help? Who do we seek to help us? Whose door should we knock on first for help?

“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.”

Matthew 8:7

A simple verse it would seem, but asking for help, seeking out that help seems to be a difficult thing for us here on earth. We seem to think we can do it ourselves but we soon find out without asking for the Lord's help, seeking His direction and knocking on His door, all our efforts are in vain.

Hoping that our loved ones who have health issues, Bro. Brian Anliker, Jeff Waibel and Sis. Alice Thompson, will seek strength and help from the Lord. As a brotherhood we add our prayers to our Heavenly Father so “we may bear one another's burdens”.

Seeking to console loved ones who have laid a brother, Keith Baumgart-

ner, to rest, we lift Dave and Sis Sheila McCoy, and Bro. Art and Sis. Marlene Mueller and their families to the Lord above. As they ask for the Lord's comfort, He has promised to provide it and as a brotherhood may we remember to pray for them.

Bro. Art Mueller had our Bible study in Belvidere this month and Bro. Shannon led the Bible study in Madison. Truly the Spirit did knock on our hearts doors as we learned more about the Lord's plan as it started in Genesis and follows all the way through to Revelation.

Bro. Rod Anliker and Bro. Chad Wettstein have been put into the Sunday school as teachers to guide our children. As our children seek out their salvation, may they look to spiritual leaders for help and direction.

“For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth, and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.”

Matthew 8:8

ILLINOIS BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

**Betsy Zimmerman
Alissa Kieser**

As the calendar pages keep on turning, we continue to look to our Heavenly Father to lead us through each stage of our lives.

We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign) serve our congregation this month.

We were each reminded of our own coming to Christ while listening to the testimonies and witnessing the baptisms of three souls this month. We rejoice with Sis. Sarah Maurer (Bro. John and Sis. Emily) and Sis. Lisette and Sis. Kimberly Brosman (Debbie Brosman) as they made a public covenant with Christ.

Our congregation also rejoices as God continues to bless us with new life. Bro. Rob and Sis. Marla Leman

welcomed home twin boys, Kyle William and Brock Martin, on February 8. Their happy grandparents are Gerald “Pooch” and Louise Martin (Princeville) and Sis. Helen and the late Bro. William Leman (Roanoke).

Bro. Dave and Sis. Barb Young have a new grandson, Brennar Richard Schlipf. He is the son of Bro. Rob and Sis. Kim Schlipf (Milford, IN). Bro. Dave and Sis. Brenda Kaeb have also added to their growing family, a new granddaughter, Aubrey Nicole Sauder. She is the daughter of Bro. Jeff and Sis. Chelby Sauder (Washington). Aubrey is also the great-granddaughter of our Sis. Helen Hoffman. Sis. Helen also has a new great-grandson, Emmitt Hoffman Fiechter, son of Bro. Clint and Sis. Sarah Fiechter (Bluffton, IN).

We grieve with the loss of our dear Sis. Jana Knapp. She will be greatly missed in our congregation. We continue to keep her daughter, Emily, in our hearts and prayers. We also extend our love and sympathy to Sis. Julie Rabe (Bro. Derek) at the passing of her brother, Keith Baumgartner (Kingman, AZ).

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Philip and Donna Nenadov

“O Sing unto the Lord a new song: Sing unto the Lord, all the earth.”

Psalms 96:1

Many from our congregation traveled to Oakville, IA, to witness the marriage ceremony of Bro. Steve Endress to Sis. Betsy Schulz. Parents of the couple are Bro. Larry and Sis. Becky Endress and Bro. Roger and Sis. June Schulz (Oakville). It is amazing how God can mold together the lives of two people who hardly know each other and then to see them grow to become one. What a blessing!

Our prayers are with those who suffer the ailments of the flesh. Bro.

Keith Kellenberger (Sis. Ida) suffered a fall this month and is recovering at home.

We welcome Sis. Joy Nenadov who has moved here from the Eureka congregation. May God be with her as she adapts to her new surroundings.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jacki, Francesville, IN) and Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IN). May these brothers continue to be blessed for their labors.

We rejoice with Sis. Charlotte Stahl whose daughter, Sis. Deann, was engaged to Bro. Dan Plattner (Bro. Russ and Sis. Marge, Roanoke). Bro. Dan is originally from Roanoke; however, both attend the Chicago congregation.

God be with you 'til we meet again.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Rachel Meyer

Greetings from Chicago. We were blessed in the past month to have Elder Bros. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) and Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL). We also sincerely thank ministering Bros. Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL) and Scott Wegman (Taylor, MO) for sharing God's Word as well. May God bless each one.

Two dear families in Chicago have lost loved ones recently. Bro. Randy Knapp (Sis. Heather) said farewell to his sister, Sis. Jana Knapp, from Bloomington, IL. Also, Bro. Al Montgomery (Sis. Jaron) laid to rest his mother, Sis. Barbara Ann Meiss, from Fairbury, IL. Words do not always come easily at these times, but we assure these families of our love and prayers. Praise God these two sisters wisely made preparation for their eternal home while still on Earth.

A new little bundle has joined Sis. Katrina and Aridio Cordero. Arriving February 11 was Yoshanny Cordero. She is welcomed with open arms by her brother and sisters as well as

grandparents, Bro. Jim and Sis. Kathy Schlatter. Each little one is a blessing. Congratulations!

On January 22 and 23 we were privileged to host an Elder forum. Thank you, Brothers, for your presence. Thank you, as well, to everyone involved in helping prepare food, accommodations, transportation and anything else that was needed. It is a blessing to work together in harmony.

The evening of January 23 found Elder Bro. Ron Messner giving us a presentation on The Home for the Handicapped in Morton, IL. It was a joy to hear Sis. Judy Eisenmann and Bro. Glen Pfeiffer share how their families have been positively impacted by the Home for the Handicapped. Truly this labor of love is meeting the needs of many families and needs our continued joyful support.

On January 30 our Annual Business Meeting was held. The brothers and sisters who serve put much time and energy into taking care of our church business. Thank you, each one. Your work is appreciated.

We rejoiced to hear the engagement of two Chicago natives! Sis. Deanne Stahl and Bro. Dan Plattner have felt God drawing them together and we praise God. Parents of these dear ones are Dean Stahl and Sis. Charlotte Stahl (Bradford, IL), and Bro. Russ and Sis. Marge Plattner (Roanoke, IL). We pray they will continue to feel God's nearness as they plan for their life together.

On February 9 and 10 we had the privilege to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of our beloved Julie Herold and Ryan Eisenmann (Bro. Brad and Sis. Cindy). The church was full and the singing was beautiful. The rite of baptism took many of us back to the day we experienced our new birth in Christ. We welcome Sis. Julie and Bro. Ryan. They are an asset to our Chicago congrega-

tion.

I am privileged to teach a dear little girl who has autism. We work together in a private school that gives the students the opportunity to go ice-skating once a week during the winter months. Each Monday finds a very excited group of children on a bus, riding to the ice rink. My young student enjoys my help on the ice, so I gladly lace up skates to join her. If anyone reading this has ever ice-skated, he/she knows that along with blissfully gliding on the ice comes the reality of meeting the ice in a less graceful way – namely, that of falling onto the ice. Recently, it was my turn to take a tumble. As I got to my feet I saw my little student laughing with all she had within her. To the amusement and surprise of everyone around her, she proceeded to tell me to “fall again!”

I thank God for that laughter and those words. They are not come by easily in children who have autism and I found myself not minding so much my aching body and icy hands. God teaches us in so many ways, does He not? Have you ever considered that we have much spiritual “on-the-job training” as we go about simply living through each day? Our church is a safe place, a haven, where we go to rejuvenate and fortify ourselves with Bible learning and fellowship with our brothers, sisters and friends. The reality is that when Sunday turns into Monday, we each leave our place of safety for another - a place that is Satan's domain. And thus our “on-the-job training” begins. It does not matter where you may find yourself. God takes the time to teach us where we're at.

“Teach me thy way, O Lord; I will walk in thy truth...”

Psalms 86:11

**ILLINOIS
CHAMPAIGN
Jackie Eisenmann**

"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

Romans 6:4

Our congregation was blessed the weekend of January 19-20 to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of our new Sister in Christ, Sydney Eisenmann (Bro. David and Sis. Jackie). We were blessed with many visitors sharing in our joy that weekend. Among the guests were Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann and Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Bro. Kenny Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), and Bro. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL). We ask that the Lord would bless them all for being willing to be used on the pulpit.

Wednesday, January 23, Bro. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington, IL) was here to present a topical Bible study on finances. He also took the opportunity to introduce the Crown Financial Bible Study to our congregation. Many of our congregation are now taking part in small group Bible studies, using the Crown Financial materials. We thank Bro. Ron for his willingness to come and speak to our church about what the Bible has to say about finances and how we can use them for God's glory. May God bless Bro. Ron for his service!

Other visitors on the pulpit this month were Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL). We always appreciate their willingness to be used by God for our blessing.

**ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK
Vickie Maul
Janie Waldbeser**

Rejoicing over the birth of another granddaughter is Bro. Dennis and Sis. Sharon Walder. Mallory Alyse was born to Bro. Curt and Sis. Amber Wiegand (Congerville, IL).

We look forward to the day when we will never have to say goodbye to those we love. We bid our earthly farewell to Bro. Clarence Maul. We pray for his loved ones left behind: Lester and Sis. Marilyn Maul, Bro. Fred and Sis. Joann Maul, and Bro. Stanley Maul. He had three grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren who will also miss their grandpa. Bro. Kenneth (Sis. Edith) Plattner of Peoria has gone to his reward. Bro. Kenneth was a brother to our Sis. Grace Bauer. Also, Bro. Henry (Sis. Wilma) Blunier of Eureka has passed away. He was the brother-in-law of Sis. Marj Rinkenberger, Sis. Dorothy Walder, Sis. Carol Waldbeser, Sis. Grace Bauer and Pete Bauer. Keith Baumgartner of Kingman, AZ, has also passed away. He was the son of our Sis. Loretta and the late Alvin Baumgartner. Keith is also survived by seven sisters, Sharon (Jim) Moran of Antioch, IL, Sis. Kay (Bro. Duane) Reutter of Rockville, CT, Nada (Wayne) Shaw of Champaign, IL, Sis. Marlene (Bro. Art) Mueller and Sis. Sheila (Dave) McCoy, both of our Belvidere, IL, church, Sis. Dinah (Mark) Wilkening of Cissna Park, and Sis. Julie (Bro. Derek) Rabe of our Bloomington church. May each one feel God's nearness and comfort in their time of need.

We were thankful for our visiting ministers, Bro. Art Mueller (Sis. Marlene, Belvidere, IL), and Bro. Duane Reutter (Sis. Kay, Rockville, CT).

The angels in heaven rejoice over every sinner that repents. We are so thankful that Mindy Stock (Elder Bro. Tom and Sis. Karol), and Amber Kaeb

(Bro. Todd and Sis. Val) have turned their hearts to God. May they feel God's nearness and His peace as they seek Him with all their heart.

Our hospital patient this month was Seth Walder (Bro. Nathan and Sis. Denise). We are thankful for his quick recovery.

A group from our congregation traveled to Magdalena, Mexico, to help out at the orphanage and church there. Also, several brothers went to Haiti to help with the S.E.E.D. program. Each one received a blessing from helping those in need.

We appreciated the efforts of Bro. Bruce Frank as he brought to us the January topical Bible presentation on Love. May God bless him for his labors.

As I was looking through a magazine, I came upon this saying and thought it was a good one to keep in mind ... "Don't worry about tomorrow, God is already there." May we keep this in our thoughts as we live one day at a time and let God be our Guide.

**ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE
Holly Zobrist**

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary, Fairbury) with us to assist Elder Bro. Ben Walder with the Memorandum. We were inspired as many encouraging thoughts were shared. Our other visiting minister this past month was Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Sis. Sandra, Eureka).

The home of Bro. Curt and Sis. Amber Wiegand was recently blessed with a new daughter, Mallory Alyce. She is welcomed home by her sister, Olivia, and brother, Braden. Thankful grandparents include Bro. Rick and Sis. Sue Wiegand and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Sharon Walder (Cissna Park).

This past month, three brothers and two sisters have accepted the responsibility of becoming Sunday

School teachers. They include Sis. Gayle Virkler, Sis. Stephanie Steffen, Bro. Curt Wiegand, Bro. Jake Rinkenberger, and Bro. Tim Dietrich. Bro. Jim Schrock has agreed to become an usher, and Bro. John Virkler was willing to accept the position of being the church secretary. A special thanks to these brothers and sisters for allowing God to use them.

Our prayers are with Sis. Mary Lou Ott as she was in the hospital for surgery. We are thankful that her recovery is going well.

Note of Thanks:

A special thanks to all of you who remembered me with cards, gifts, and visits before and after my surgery. I am blessed with a negative lymph node report. Your love and prayers are appreciated. God bless you all.

Sis. Mary Lou Ott

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Amy Gasser
Miriam Gasser

There is a green hill far away,
 Without a city wall,
 Where the dear Lord was crucified,
 Who died to save us all.
 Oh, dearly, dearly has He loved,
 And we must love Him, too;
 And trust in His redeeming blood,
 And try His works to do.

Worship and Service
Hymnal, #71

On the evening of January 26, Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) assisted Bro. Ron with the reading of the Memorandum. Bro. Jim also had both services on Sunday. For his labors, we thank him — as well as the other visiting ministers who served us recently: Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Croghan- Naumburg, NY) and Bros. Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL), Todd Stoller (Latty, OH), and Chris Wuethrich (St. Louis, MO).

We extend a welcome to Bro. Levi

Wuethrich (Bro. Chris and Sis. Carla), who has been assembling with us. He relocated to northern Illinois for a temporary assignment at Abbott Labs.

Sis. Kay Cargill (Bro. Jerry) had knee surgery, for which she is receiving therapy. Bro. Bryan Kellenberger (Sis. Jessica) is enduring a painful loss to his right hand. Parts of three fingers were severed in a shop accident. "And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it;..." (I Cor. 12:26)

We pray God will make each one's lot bearable and eventually grant healing.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA
Cindy Stoller
Dee Baer

"A time to be born..." We've been blessed with many births in our congregation this month. Franz Christian Wiegand (Bro. Nate and Sis. Cheryl) joins Reuben and Trina. Grandparents are Dale and Sis. Freidora Wiegand and Bro. Stan and Sis. Lola Stoller. Alayna Renee Bradle (Bro. Dan and Sis. Holly) joins Jesse, Jordan, Amber, and Amanda. Grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Ila Bradle and Bro. Wally and Sis. Diane Feuchtenberger (Morris, MN). Twin girls, Emersyn Elynn and Ashlyn Arynn were born to first time parents Dan and Ann Ledergerber. Grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Carole Ehnle and Roman and Cathy Ledergerber. Mia Mae Knapp is the first child of Bro. Chance and Sis. Shelly. Her grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Lori Knapp and Bruce Hinrichsen and Cathy Appleyard. Jesse Dale Schumacher (Bro. Dale and Sis. Lavonne) joins Seth, Brooke, Larae, Lane, Olivia and Callie. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Charlene Schumacher and Bro. Larry and Sis. Becky Endress (Bradford, IL). May God bless these families and our

growing church.

Bro. Duane and Sis. Eileen Blunier welcomed a new grandson, Samuel Dennis Hoffman (Becky and Caleb). He joins his sister, Elle.

"...And a time to die..." We sorrow with Bro. Terry and Sis. Shirley Leman in the death of their infant granddaughter, Alayna Gerst (Sis. Jill and Bro. Tad, Goodfield, IL) and with Bro. Bob and Sis. Jean Knapp in the death of their daughter, Sis. Jana Knapp (Bloomington, IL). "Jesus knows thy sorrow." Bro. Bob and Sis. Jean are staying in Bloomington with Sis. Jana's daughter until the school year is completed.

We bid farewell to our Bro. Hank Blunier (Sis. Wilma) as he peacefully passed from life. Grieving daughters are Sis. Nancy Knepp (Washington, IL), Sis. Evelyn Mogler (Bro. Randy, Washington, IL), Sis. Dori, Sis. Edie Stoller (Bro. Tom), Marjorie Parmenter (Adam, Kalamazoo, MI), and Karen (Morton, IL). Bro. Hank's surviving siblings include Bro. Ben (Sis. Wilma), Bro. Homer (Sis. Virginia, Forrest, IL), Sis. Pearl Leman (Roanoke, IL), and sister-in-laws, Sis. Elizabeth Blunier, Sis. ClaraLou Blunier, and Sis. Katherine Blunier (Minneapolis, MN).

In addition, Dallas "Cy" Cawley has taken his last breath, leaving behind his wife, Sis. Madeline; sister-in-law, Sis. Helen Belsley; and many children. We share in their grief and trust the Holy Spirit to comfort the sorrowful.

A precious jewel touched the lives of Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Marla Wiegand when their tiny son, Tyler Ray, was quietly taken from them prior to his birth. Grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Jane Wiegand and Bro. Mikel and Sis. Dianne Schmidgall. Graveside services reminded us that "When He cometh...He will gather the gems for His kingdom; all the pure ones, all the bright ones, His loved and His own."

We hold them up in prayer.

We are thankful God has rescued another soul as our friend, Julie Streitmatter, has answered the call to repentance. God's grace is sufficient for all our needs.

Our prayers are with those who are experiencing infirmities of the body, including Sis. Gerry Leman (Bro. Milton) and Bro. Brent Blunier (Sis. Trudy).

We thank visiting ministers, Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH) and Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL) for their recent visits and labors in our behalf.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

**Elizabeth Fehr
Anna Schmidgall**

Our congregation is rejoicing, along with the angels in heaven, over two souls who have answered God's tender call to repentance. Our prayers are with Billy Mashburn (Sis. Barb) and Martha Roth. May they feel the presence of His Holy Spirit as they begin their walk with Him.

Life and death are part of God's plan as we have experienced both in this past month. Bryson William was born to Jaythan and Kyra Gadberry. He is welcomed by his sister, Makayla, and grandparents, Robert and Cherie Kaisner and Gloria Gadberry. Also, big brothers Nathan and Jonathan are happy to have a new addition, Benjamin Daniel, born to Bro. Derek and Sis. Joslyn Steidinger. Thankful grandparents are Dave and Deann Steidinger and Dan and Marcie Grosshans.

Several families have lost loved ones. Our prayers arise for the families of Ardella Zimmerman (Melvin) and Mildred Skrobonak. Sis. Dorothy Wenger resided in Fairbury many years and more recently made her home in Arizona and Texas. She is survived by a sister at Fairview Haven, Sis. Esther Kiefer. Sis. Barbara

Meiss (Bro. Marion) passed away unexpectedly leaving behind her husband and three children, Bro. Alan (Sis. Jaron) Montgomery, Peggy Whitson (Marty), and Jack Montgomery. May these loved ones find comfort in our Heavenly Father's love.

Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont) brought the wonderful message of life to us this month. May God bless him always.

We are happy to hear of the engagement of Dan Herr (Sis. Cindy) and Teanna Johnson (Bro. Harry and Sis. Til, Forrest, IL). We wish them God's blessings and nearness.

There is sadness in farewell as Bro. Derek, Sis. Rebekah, Bonnie, and Emily Rassi have moved to Congerville and will worship with the brethren there. We look forward to their visits.

Those who have spent time in the hospital this past month were Bros. Tom Steidinger, Willis Bachtold, Ben Lorch, and Martha Roth. We are thankful for God's healing hand upon them.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Jill Wenger
Lori Leman**

"Our love shall not diminish, nor fade nor wane away..." February 3 was the wedding day of our Bro. Corbin Anliker and Sis. Heidi Hartter (Sabetha, KS). Their parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda Anliker and Bro. Tim and Sis. Charlene Hartter of Sabetha. We wish them God's continued blessings and guidance on their marriage and welcome Sis. Heidi to our Forrest congregation.

There have also been several engagements announced in our congregation this month. Sis. Leah Knapp and Bro. Craig Steidinger feel God's direction to join their lives as one. Their parents are Bro. Harlan and Sis. Jean Knapp and Bro. Glen and Sis. Holly Steidinger. Planning a June 21 wedding are Brian Knapp (Dale and Barb) and Erinn Alderson (Dana and

Patty) of Rankin, IL. Also preparing for their lives together are TeAnna Johnson (Bro. Harry and Sis. Til) and Daniel Herr (Sis. Cindy) of Fairbury, IL. We wish all of these couples God's blessings and guidance as they plan for their approaching marriages.

Our hearts were also saddened this month as we laid our dear Blake Hall to rest. He was 17 years old and had battled cancer for the past 5 years. We are thankful that He could seek God in the past months and could feel ready to meet Him. We especially remember his parents, Bro. Don and Barb; siblings, Shelby, Dakota, Skyler, and Keegan; and grandparents, Bro. Dean and Sis. Robin Kupferschmid, in prayer as they adjust to this loss in their lives. We also extend our sympathy to Sis. Bernice Cox, Sis. Velda Huette, Bro. Leroy (Sis. Janita) Koehl, and Maurice (Carol) Koehl as they said farewell to their sister, Sis. Edith Meiss of Peoria. Bro. Henry Blunier (Eureka, IL), the brother of our Bro. Homer Blunier (Sis. Virginia), also passed away. May God be near each of these families.

Our only visiting minister this month was Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL), and we thank him for taking the time to speak God's Holy Word to us. May God continue to provide for all of His servants the grace needed to speak the true doctrine.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

**Rita Bauman
Amber Grimm**

When He cometh, when He cometh
to make up His jewels,
all His jewels precious jewels
His loved and His own.
He will gather, He will gather
the gems for His kingdom;
all the pure ones, all the bright ones,
His loved and His own.
Little children, little children
who love their Redeemer,

are the jewels, precious jewels
His loved and His own.

The Children's Harp #24

Laynie Gerst passed away early this month. Her fight for life here on earth is over and she can now be a jewel in His crown. Our prayers continue for her parents, Bro. Tadd and Sis. Jill Gerst, grandparents Bro. Steve and Sis. Bonnie Gerst and Bro. Terry and Sis. Shirley Leman (Eureka, IL), and many other family members and friends.

Our prayers are also with Sis. Pearl Nohl who was hospitalized this month.

God's blessings on Tyler Getz (Bro. Tim and Sis. Kim) and Abbie Rocke (Mark and Connie) as they were united in marriage on February 9.

We thank Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL) and Bro. Matt Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville, IL) for bringing the Word to us this month. We always appreciate visiting ministers and their willingness to serve God.

Bro. Fred Rokey was baptized on February 24. He is the son of Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Phyllis. May God continue to work in his life and bless him.

"For the body is not one member, but many."

I Corinthians 12:14

We had our annual business meeting on February 27 and were reminded and in turn thankful for the talents and spiritual gifts given to many members in our congregation. God was able to use many brothers and sisters in various jobs throughout the year. We thank Bro. Brian Rieke (Sis. Lisa), Bro. Scott Rinkenberger (Sis. Heidi), Bro. Daryl Blunier (Sis. Lucy), Bro. Rod Hinrichsen (Sis. Linda), Bro. Luke Rocke (Sis. Jill), Sis. Holly Bauman (Bro. Dan), and Sis. Beth Wiegand (Bro. Steve and Sis. Mary Ellen) for their service in

Sunday school. Taking their place in Sunday school this next year will be Bro. Andy Bauman (Sis. Rita), Bro. Bob Schieler (Sis. Ashley), Bro. Dwight Wiegand (Sis. Deb), Bro. Joe Wiegand (Sis. Myra), Bro. Ron Wiegand (Sis. Barb, dec.), Sis. Lisa Rieke (Bro. Brian), and Sis. Kenda Taufer (Bro. Ted). Our prayers are with these brothers and sisters as God uses them to teach our children. We also thank Bro. Russ Descarpentrie (Sis. Jane) for his service as trustee. Taking his place this year will be Bro. Kris Swords (Sis. Heather).

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry A. Klopfenstein

Prayer Without Words

"Sometimes I do not pray in words
I take my heart in my own hands
And hold it up before the Lord
I am so glad He understands

Sometimes I do not pray in words.
My spirit bows before His feet
And with His hands upon my Head
We hold communion silent, sweet

Sometimes I do not pray in words
For I am tired and long for rest.
My weary heart finds all it needs
Upon the Saviour's gentle breast."

—*Martha Snell Nicholson*

Often the vexations and concerns of life weigh on the hearts of believers, and praying can (at times) be difficult. Yet, our weak groanings find a receptive response in the heart of God, and He hears, understands and answers our prayers.

On Wednesday evening, February 27, the annual letter to the churches (from the Elder Body) was read here in Gridley. Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) was here to help in this work. It is encouraging to note that our brotherhood continues to model the practice of reading a letter

to the churches as recorded in the book of Acts. Surely, as these conclusions (from the Elder meetings) are conveyed to the outlying congregations, it accrues to a more positive sense of unity, and following the Scriptures in a more common, uniform way, by the grace of God. The pursuit of holiness and separation from the world are worthy, Bible-based patterns. May the faith of our fathers live on among us.

Haze Welsch was born January 3 to Hadley and Heidi Schlipf Welsch. Siblings are Saylor, 6, and Creed, 3. Grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Vicki Schlipf, and Harold and Marjorie Welsch, El Paso. A great-grandparent is Berniece Grebner, Peoria. We wish this couple much joy as they raise their little newborn child.

Sis. Winifred Schlipf remains quite ill, and our prayers are offered on her behalf to God in heaven. Bro. Bernie Ferneau underwent thyroid surgery in late February, and is doing well. Amanda Vercler was injured in a fall on the ice which required facial surgery, and we surely pray for her. God is the great Physician! We should thank God for all the wonderful caregivers and hospital personnel who attend to those with medical needs.

I have learned that even Silver Lining reporters have accidents and need hospital attention. On February 11, I fell on the ice and broke my ankle and lower leg bone. Surgery was performed on February 12. I thank God for His help, and also for the wonderful support of the brethren during this setback.

ILLINOIS, MACOMB Kevin and Lindsay Frank

"For where your treasure is there will your heart be also."

Matthew 6:21

We are always thankful for all

those who come and support our Wednesday evening services. Our first service was February 6, but was cancelled due to bad weather. The next upcoming service will be, Lord willing, on March 19 (Bloomfield/Pulaski).

Bro. Norm and Sis. Jan Rechkemmer are in Tucson, AZ, for the winter. We pray that the Lord blesses them while they are enjoying the warmth and sunshine. While they are away, Bro. Kevin and Sis. Lindsay Frank are house sitting their home and continuing the services here at Macomb. We would welcome all who are willing to come and support our small gathering. Please contact Bro. Kevin at (319)759-1884 or KR-Frank@wiu.edu with any questions or directions.

ILLINOIS, MORTON
Annette Tanner
Julie Bahr

We are thankful for visiting ministers from Peoria, namely Bro. Tim Roecker (Sis. Diane) and Bro. Ken Hoerr (Sis. Darlene) who shared the Word of God with us on the same weekend as Bro. Grant Zimmerman's testimony and baptism. Bro. Grant is the son of Bro. Joe and Sis. Barb Zimmerman. How refreshing to hear of the working of the Holy Spirit in Bro. Grant's life.

On March 21-29 the Morton Bible Class is fortunate enough to utilize the gracious funds from their Benefit dinner last November, to fund a mission trip to Knockpatrick, Jamaica. Please be prayerful for the group to have their hearts prepared as well as for safe travels.

Two more wedding engagements were made known on February 17. Sis. Laura Braker's engagement was announced to Bro. Ryan Luginbuhl, Roanoke. Sis. Laura is the daughter of Bro. Brad and Sis. Debbie Braker. Bro. Ryan is the son of Bro. Rob and Sis.

Gina Luginbuhl of Roanoke. Sis. Penny Zaugg was also announced to Bro. Zach Maher from Roanoke. Sis. Penny, from Morton, is the daughter of Bro. Norm and Sis. Polly Zaugg from West Bend. Bro. Zach is the son of Bro. Dan and Sis. Kim Maher from Roanoke.

Our sympathy we extend to Bro. Joe Braker (Sis. Shirley) and Sis. Emma Knapp (Bro. Chris) in the loss of their sister, Linda Greiner, from Morris, MN. Christian sympathy is also extended to our Bro. Jim Ritthaler (Sis. Kathy) in the loss of his dear mother, Patricia Ritthaler.

Bro. George Koehl from Peoria passed away. His sisters are Sis. Aldeine Witzig and Sis. Til Kaiser, and his sister-in-law is Sis. Ellen Koehl, all of Morton.

In God's perfect plan the new Apostolic Christian Restmor Long Term Care facility is completed and waiting for a move-in date. The new facility is built with a wonderful accredited Memory Support Unit, previously labeled as an Alzheimer's unit. A well attended open house was held for the new facility. Praise God for His faithfulness.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to express our sincere thanks for the many beautiful cards we received for our 65th wedding anniversary. May God richly bless you for your love.

Bro. Orman and Sis. Kathryn Kaiser

ILLINOIS, PEORIA
Carissa Klopfenstein
Kristin Menold

The annual Pancake and Sausage Supper was held on January 19 at the Peoria Fellowship Hall. This fundraiser is the Bible class's only opportunity to raise money for trips or other activities. Donations collected from this event will go toward the Bi-

ble class's upcoming mission trip to Magdalena, Mexico. The Bible class teachers and students wish to thank everyone who attended this event and are very grateful for your overwhelming support.

Our annual business meeting was held on January 20. Five new Sunday School teachers were elected: three Brothers, Bro. Don (Sis. Jackie) Hoerr, Bro. Rodney (Sis. Kristin) Menold, and Bro. Breck (Sis. Janie) Nelson, and two Sisters, Sis. Kristen (Bro. Benji) Hodel, and Sis. Carissa Klopfenstein. We wish to thank the Sunday School teachers who are retiring: Bro. Mark (Sis. Jan) Hohulin, Bro. Russ (Sis. Peg) Hoerr, Bro. Ron (Sis. Lori) Streitmatter, Sis. Judy (Bro. Merlyn) Metzger, and Sis. Stephanie (Bro. Dave) Wieland.

Elder Bro. Tim Funk and Deacon, Bro. Ken Hoerr, went over the Memorandum with our congregation on Wednesday, January 23.

We thank Bro. Tim Hohulin from Roanoke for bringing his message to us for our monthly Family Night on February 15. We appreciate the effort you made to come and be with us. May God bless you in your work with your congregation and ministry to the believers in Roanoke. We also wish to thank Bro. Scott and Sis. Dawn Wegman, who visited our congregation January 20. We wish you God's blessings with your ministry in Taylor.

We are happy to have two new babies born this month. Bro. Hans and Sis. Mandy Schmidgall are the proud parents of their son, Creed Douglas, born January 8. Creed's brother, Caden, is pleased to have a baby brother. So are Creed's grandparents, Bro. Steve and Sis. Chris Schmidgall, and Sis. Myrna Schwenk of Goodfield.

Congratulations to Bro. Gabe and Sis. Molly Stickling on the birth of their baby girl, Eden Rose, who was born February 15. Eden's older brother, Josiah, is happy to have a lit-

tle sister. Eden's grandparents are Bro. Spark and Sis. Rhonda Meister, and Ben Stickling and Sharon Wykoff.

Please continue to lift up Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard and their family in Haiti, and Bro. Dave Sceggel and Bro. Jon Aupperle in Magdalena, Mexico.

Our prayer requests this month are for the recovered health and strength of Sis. Martha Schaeffer, Bro. Art Pfister, Bro. Richard Guingrich, Sis. Ruth Huthmann, Bro. Ted Stoller, Bro. Wayne Unsicker, Sis. Mabel Weber, and Bro. Lou Lonteen.

Our sympathy goes to the Plattner family in the passing of Bro. Kenneth (Sis. Edith), Bro. Loris Knobloch in the passing of his mother, Sis. Lucille Knobloch (Princeville), Bro. Dave (Sis. Karen) Dunbar's family, the family of Sis. Edith Meiss, and the Koehl family in the passing of Bro. George Koehl.

"For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater. So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

Isaiah 55:10-11

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Connie Christ

Linda Joos

"To everything there is a season", and so we bid farewell to our Sis. Lucille Knobloch (late Bro. Ed, Sr.), who passed from this life on February 13. Her children are Bro. Ed, Jr. (Sis. Frances), Bro. Jack (Sis. Nancy, Bradford, IL), Sis. Donna (Bro. Kenny) Gehrig, and Bro. Loris (Sis. Pat, Peoria, IL). Sis. Roma (Russ)

Rumbold lost a brother-in-law, Bro. Kenneth Plattner (Sis. Edith), Peoria, IL. Bro. Matt Steffen (Sis. Deanna) lost his grandmother, Sis. Leora Bocka (Mansfield, OH). May God's comforting Spirit be with each one.

Our prayers are with Bro. Fred Christ (Sis. Tina), Bro. Nate Martin (Sis. Esther), Sis. Geraldine Streitmatter, and Bro. Ike Martin who were hospital patients recently. May God bless and strengthen them daily.

Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL) shared God's Word with us February 3. Our Bible Class invited Belvidere, IL, Bloomfield, IA, and Tremont, IL, Bible classes on February 9-10. Bro. Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Fred Funk (Morton, IL) were here that day to share God's Word with us, and they also spoke to the Bible Class. We thank all these ministering brothers for visiting us.

First-time grandparents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Lavonne Herrmann welcoming little Brice David, son of Brett and Laura Herrmann (Tremont, IL). Bro. Kenny and Sis. Donna Gehrig welcome a new grandson, Philip James, son of Karsten and Janna Bourwieg, and big sister Elisabeth, who reside in Germany. Gerald and Louise Martin have been doubly-blessed with the arrival of their first grandchildren, Brock Martin and Kyle William, twin sons of Bro. Robert and Sis. Marla (Martin) Lemans (Bloomington, IL).

Bro. Walter and Sis. Doris Christ have been blessed with 50 years of married life. We rejoice with them at this special time.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Judy Sauder

Dee Fehr

A two-part Bible study was conducted by our ministering brothers on January 23 and 30. Topics covered included spiritual headship, family wor-

ship and developing spiritual accountability. The Brothers of the congregation were encouraged to allow the Holy Spirit to work within them as each strives to be the spiritual head of his family. "Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household?" (Matthew 24:45)

On February 3, we gathered for our all-church supper and family sing. The evening was shortened by a sudden snowstorm complete with thunder and lightening. There was still time, however, for the 3-year-olds through second-graders to present a "journey through the Bible" in songs they have learned in Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. Thank you to the children and their directors for their diligence and effort in preparing for this program.

As we have had flurries of snow from time to time this winter, so we have had a flurry of engagements in our congregation. Bro. Brent Rocke and Sis. Stacy Stoller (Morton) announced their engagement on January 20. Their parents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Eva Rocke and Bro. Lynn and Sis. Brenda Stoller (Atlanta). The engagement of Bro. Dan Plattner and Sis. Deanne Stahl (both of Chicago) was made known on January 27. Their parents are Bro. Russ and Sis. Marge Plattner and Dean Stahl and Sis. Charlotte Stahl (Bradford). On February 17, two couples made their intentions of marriage known. Bro. Ryan Luginbuhl (Bro. Rob and Sis. Gina) was announced to Sis. Laura Braker (Indianapolis). She is the daughter of Bro. Brad and Sis. Debbie Braker (Morton). Bro. Zach Maher (Bro. Dan and Sis. Kim) was announced to Sis. Penny Zaugg (Morton). Her parents are Bro. Norm and Sis. Polly Zaugg (West Bend). We rejoice with these young people as they prayerfully seek God's guidance in their wedding plans and preparations.

Our annual comforter marathon

was once again a successful event. Over the course of three days, 36 comforters were knotted and sent to those who suffered loss in the recent tornadoes in Tennessee.

We appreciate the ministering Brothers who visited and brought God's Word to us, including Bro. Lenny Meyer (Chicago) and Bro. John Lehman (Wolcott).

Owen Matthew was born on January 21 to Bro. Matt and Sis. Sarah Stoller. Big sister, Hayden, welcomes him home as well as grandparents, Bro. Tim and Sis. Peg Stoller and Bro. Keith and Sis. Dort Leman (Goodfield). Bro. Larry and Sis. Sharon Neukomm have had a new grandchild added to their family. Kolin Mark arrived on December 31 to Mark and Michelle Simpson. Sis. Helen Leman is blessed to be grandmother to twins born on February 8. Brock Martin and Kyle William's parents are Bro. Rob and Sis. Marla Leman (Bloomington).

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Bro. Norm and Sis. Kathy Knapp at the passing of Bro. Norm's sister, Sis. Jana Knapp (Bloomington). Also to Sis. Val Wuthrich, who lost her father, Bro. Wally Bucher (Francesville). Bro. Russ (Sis. Marge) Plattner's brother, Bro. Kenny Plattner (Peoria), passed away on February 13. And on February 16, Sis. Pearl Leman's brother, Bro. Hank Blunier (Eureka), slipped from this life into eternity. May God comfort each of these loved ones who have suffered the loss of a dear family member.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT
Teresa Rowell
Sheri Allen

"... but the greatest of these is charity."

I Cor. 13:13

As we listened to our dear Elder brothers read the Memorandum to us, this verse kept running through my head. What loving service they do for us day after day, loving us, encouraging us, chastening us, and giving of themselves more than any of us ever know. We appreciated Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH) for lending himself to help our Elder Bro. Charles read the Memorandum to us, and then preaching God's Word to us on Sunday. Also, Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL) gave us a topical lesson on "Parenting from the book of Mark" on a Wednesday night. We thank him for his efforts.

"My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother."

Proverbs 1:8

There are two families that have experienced the joy of children. Chad and Sarah Hooley and Michael are excited to welcome Olivia Wynne into their family. Bro. Ken and Sis. Amy Koch are her grandparents. Bryce David was a welcome addition to Brett and Laura Hermann's family. He is their first child. Bro. Howard and Sis. Janice Sauder are his grandparents.

Jesus knows thy sorrow,
 Knows thine every care;
 Knows thy deep contrition,
 Hears thy feeblest pray'rs;
 Do not fear to trust Him,
 Tell Him all thy grief;
 Cast on Him thy burden,
 He will bring relief.

Hymns of Zion #74

We have several in our congregation who have lost loved ones in recent days. Our hearts go out to the family of our Sis. Amy Koch (the late Bro. Jess) who passed away February 15. She had been diagnosed with a serious illness not long ago, and it took her

swiftly. We pray that her family will find comfort in the strength of the Lord and through the prayers of the church. Also, Sis. Nola Koch lost her brother-in-law, Lloyd Lindenfelser; Bro. Jerry Hangartner (Sis. Melba) lost his sister, Shirley Henderson; and Bro. Gene Koch lost his brother-in-law, Bro. Kenneth Plattner. May the Lord comfort those who are left behind.

"And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people."

Matthew 4:23

This is our petition to the Lord for those who are suffering from illness and disease. Bro. Wayne Miller (Ruby) has been in the hospital, and our Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Sis. Miriam) has had some procedures done relating to his cancer. We pray God's healing hand upon them.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON
Nancy Knepp
Elizabeth Heinold

When Jesus sent out His twelve disciples, He said this: "Take nothing for your journey, neither staves, nor scrip, neither bread, neither money; neither have two coats a piece." (Luke 9:3)

They went out in the power of Jesus Christ and in total dependence on God. Can we even relate to that level of dependence on God in our lives full of material things and resources? I am challenged to remind myself that my life is truly in His Hands.

We were blessed to have Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Francesville, IN) minister to us. As brothers stand to preach, we are reminded of the power of the Holy Spirit.

We were happy to hear the engage-

ment of Bro. Chad Hoerr to Sis. Heather Furrer of Lafayette, IN. Parents of the couple are Bro. Doug and Sis. Peg Hoerr and Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorene Furrer (Lafayette, IN).

Our prayers are with Bro. Harold and Sis. Ann Meiss as they both recover from surgery. They certainly could testify to dependence on God at this time.

We rejoice with Bro. Jason and Sis. Angie Schrock as they have been blessed with a beautiful baby girl, Addison Grace. Addison's grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Gerri Schrock (Congerville), Bruce Knapp (Eureka) and Sis. Mary Knapp (Congerville).

Our sympathy goes to the family of Bro. Henry (Hank) Blunier (Sis. Wilma, Eureka) as he has gone home to be with the Lord. Our prayers are with his daughters, Sis. Nancy Knepp, Sis. Evie Mogler (Bro. Randy), Karen Blunier, and grandson, Bro. Keith Knepp (Sis. Michelle).

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Stefanie Dailey
Jan Schwartz

"Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."

Luke 12:34

The Bluffton church has many reasons to rejoice this month with two Sundays of baptisms, and three converts. On January 20, Grace Gerber (daughter of Bro. Doug and Sis. Ruby), Jacob Gerber (son of Bro. Jeff and Sis. Rhonda), Jena Runion (daughter of Wendy Runion), and Clayton Tonner (son of Bro. Dean and Sis. Julie) were able to give a testimony of their faith in the baptismal waters. Then just three weeks later, Leah Gerber (daughter of Bro. Nathan and Sis. LeAnn) and Audrey Stucky (daughter of Bro. Cris and Sis. Becky) joined us as sisters in faith with their baptism.

Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North) joined our congregation for these weekends.

As a church, we are also excited to rejoice with Bro. Brad and Sis. Lynn Fiechter as their son, Josh, decided to give his heart to the Lord. Bro. Sam and Sis. Connie Kaehr rejoiced as their son, Matt, also decided to turn his life around. Katie Coolman, daughter of Bob and Sue Coolman, gave her future and life to the Lord in repentance that week as well. The Lord is truly good in His calling of His people. We rejoice with these babes in Christ as well as their families.

On February 10, Bro. Kyle Schwartz (son of Bro. Scott and Sis. Patti) was announced for marriage to Sis. Kyann Kershner (daughter of Bro. Dan and Sis. Jacki, Bluffton North). We wish them God's richest blessings as they begin a new journey of faith together.

Also beginning new journeys are Nathan and Erin Heyerly as they brought little Luke Daniel into their family on January 17. Grandparents of Luke are Bro. Von and Sis. Diane Heyerly.

Aira Anne joined the family of Bro. Phillip and Sis. Aimee Stoller on January 18. Aira's older siblings are Adin and Avia. Bro. Allen and Sis. Susan Stoller and Bro. Bob and Sis. Anne Meyer (Bluffton North) are Aira's grandparents.

Ron and Jen Fosnaugh brought Asher James into the world on January 22. Bro. Mike and Sis. Carmon Bertsch are Asher's delighted grandparents.

Bro. Tom and Sis. Marilyn Baumgartner are grandparents to Violet Mae, daughter of Mark and Grace Baumgartner. Violet was born on January 28.

On January 30, Bro. Nick and Sis. Jessica Fiechter birthed Mason Charles. Mason and his big brother, Carter, are grandchildren to Bro. Dave Fiechter.

Bro. Brady and Sis. Kristen Kaehr gave birth to Myles D. on February 10. He is the grandson of Bro. Lyle and Sis. Connie Kaehr and Bro. Ken Dubach. Myles has a brother, Max, anxiously awaiting him at home.

On February 12, Bro. Bryce and Sis. April Isch became first time parents to Brody Alan. Bro. Les and Sis. Ann Isch and Bro. Ron and Sis. Linda Kipfer are the proud grandparents of Brody. We wish all of these families the very best!

The Bluffton church also grieved the loss of Bro. Russell (Butch) Gerber. Butch is survived by his wife, Sis. Susie, and Bro. Corey and Sis. Erika Gerber of West Lafayette and Bro. Chad and Sis. Jami Gerber of our Bluffton congregation. Also mourning his loss are his sister, Sis. Maxine (Bro. Charles); and brothers, Bro. Luther (Sis. Sharon), Herb (Betty), and Glenn. Our hearts were saddened by the sudden death of our brother in faith and our prayers go out to Butch's family.

We also mourned the loss of Sis. Marie Steffen. Her children, Bro. Ed and Sis. Denise Steffen, Bro. Bob and Sis. Marcia Steffen, Ray and Debra Steffen, Rose and Tom Rohr and Kent and Terri Steffen, are all in our prayers as they deal with the loss of their mother.

The Bluffton church has also had the opportunity to pray for Sis. Sue Kipfer (Bro. John) as she has dealt with some health issues over the last month. We hope and pray that God's hand can be felt in her life.

The power of prayer was definitely demonstrated as Bro. Rich and Sis. Amber Pfister had the opportunity to spend two weeks in India. Bro. Rich was able to work on water purification techniques while Sis. Amber was able to use some of her nursing skills. God paved the way for them several times and they saw His hand at work in their lives and the lives of their children that stayed in Bluffton.

We were also very excited to welcome Esther Dirckzi from Budapest, Hungary. She will be in Bluffton for the next two months to further some of her English skills. We're thankful for the opportunity to get to know her better and welcome her for a short time into our church family.

We truly rejoiced as we had the privilege of welcoming home for a short sabbatical Bro. Seth Gerber from Magdalena, Mexico. Bro. Seth brought God's Word to us on Sunday, February 10.

Through God's mercy and love, we are able to rejoice in the unity of a church family. This month, we had the opportunity to laugh with joy and weep in tears, but ultimately, God has blessed our lives unboundlessly.

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH**

**Sherry Pfister
Darren Drayer**

We are thrilled to announce the engagement of Sis. Kyann Kershner and Bro. Kyle Schwarz (Bluffton). Kyann's parents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Jacki. Kyle's parents are Bro. Scott and Sis. Patti (Bluffton).

Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene Frauhiger welcomed their grandson, Devin William, into the world on January 13. His parents are Bro. Kent and Sis. Jodi Reinhard (Bluffton). At home he was greeted by brothers, Darin and Daylin, and sisters, Desiah, Deena, and Deidra.

Bro. Steve and Sis. Myra Ringger are the joyful grandparents of Violet Ann, born January 24 to Bro. Mike and Sis. Angie Ringger of Phoenix, AZ. Little Violet is named after her great-grandmother.

On January 27 we enjoyed a special presentation featuring Sisters Erin Knobloch and Kim Kaiser from Isaiah 55 Ministries in Reynosa, Mexico. It was a wonderful evening.

Bro. Bill Schick (Sis. Joan) from

our church and orphanage in Magdalena, Mexico, gave a very interesting presentation: sharing – explaining – informing us of the blessings gained from serving orphans, homeless children and the less fortunate young people. "Jesus died for all the children of the world ... they are precious in His sight."

**INDIANA
FRANCESVILLE**

**Jessica Murray
Barb Huber**

Greetings, loved ones, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

"And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples."

Luke 11:1

This was the title of our most recent topical Bible study, "Lord, Teach Us To Pray" shared by our Bro. Chris Huber. Effectual prayer is founded on our relationship with Christ, and they that worship must worship in spirit and in truth. If we teach others how to pray by the examples we are, they are going to be filled with more valuable knowledge than any school can ever teach them. Prayer between ourselves and the Lord is the best conversation we can ever have.

Speaking of prayer, we have several reasons to pray this month for families in our church and community. We pray for God's healing for those who are going through many physical trials: Bro. Vernon and Sis. Evelyn Pelsy, Bro. Jim Bogart (Sis. Eleanor), Sis. Lois Yaggie (Bro. Irvin) and John and Violet Wuethrich, who are now residing at Parkview Haven.

May God lift up Sis. Rosella Bucher and her family, as her dear husband, Bro. Wally Bucher, went to be with the Lord on February 4. We love and con-

tinue to support her in prayer as she seeks the Lord's guidance daily.

We express our thanks to Bro. Brian Putt and Bro. Dale Pelsy as they traveled to Biloxi, MS, to help rebuild after their disaster. Thanks also to all those who have traveled to Remington and Wolcott to help with the flood clean up and clothing distribution. All your reward is awaiting in heaven.

What an exciting answer we received to fervent prayer as Bro. Les Kaeb (Sis. Christine) was selected to serve as one of our Francesville ministers. May the Lord continue to guide, direct, and give you the words to speak as you take on a God appointed duty. Our prayers will continue to be with you and your family.

We continue in prayer for all our missionaries as they each have their own trials daily. We pray that they continue looking to Him for the patience and guidance they need.

Many young hearts are seeking the Lord's guidance along with a new convert, Steve Young (Sis. April). May each convert feel God's abundant grace and the Holy Spirit's direction, as the prayers of the Church lift them up.

**INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS**

**Sandy Lichtle
Penny Schroder**

At the end of January, we shared an evening together learning more about some of the work our church supports in Reynosa, Mexico and Taylor, MO. Sisters Erin Knobloch and Kim Kaiser shared about their involvement in the Isaiah 55 Ministries which focuses primarily on deaf children in Mexico. Bro. Shannon and Sis. Susan Haerr presented an update on "His Ranch", a ministry outreach to disadvantaged youth in Taylor, MO.

Sis. Edye Mayer recently suffered injuries from a fall. We pray that she will make a full recovery and soon be

able to assemble with us. Her presence is missed in our congregation.

Many couples gathered for our annual Valentine's Day dinner on February 16. It was a blessed time to fellowship and focus on our love for God and our spouses. May God bless those whose efforts made the evening so special.

We rejoice with Sis. Laura Braker on her engagement to Bro. Ryan Luginbuhl (Roanoke, IL). Their parents are Bro. Brad and Sis. Debbie Braker (Morton, IL) and Bro. Rob and Sis. Gina Luginbuhl (Roanoke, IL). We wish them God's blessings during this engagement season.

It is always a joy to have visitors and visiting ministers. The visiting ministers this month included: Bro. Kerwin Edelman (Sis. Sara, Athens, AL), Bro. Rustin Meister (Sis. Amanda, West Lafayette, IN), Bro. Chris Huber (Sis. Sharon, Francesville, IN) and Bro. Wayne Leman (Sis. Julie, Roanoke, IL).

INDIANA, LACROSSE

**Bethany Johnson
Julie Rocke**

When Satan appears,
Obstructing our path
And fills us with fears,
We conquer by faith;
He cannot take from us,
Though oft he has tried,
The heart-cheering promise:
"The Lord will provide!"
Zion's Harp #86

It seems that this topic has come up quite a bit lately in our sermons. We have been hearing about sin and how Satan is trying to get us in any way that he can. God promises us that He "will provide" if we just lean on Him and let Him carry us through.

Our Annual Meeting was held on January 25. We would like to send out a hearty "Thank You" to those who have finished their terms and offices

and to those who are replacing them.

Rachel Feller (Bro. Joe and Sis. Jackie) has undergone more surgery and is recovering nicely. She will continue to be in our prayers as we are unsure of what the future holds for her.

God called Sis. Martha Cadwalader home January 19 after a full life of serving Him. She was preceded in death by her husband, Bro. Enos Cadwalader. She is survived by her daughter, Bonnie Buchle.

Bro. Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynell, Akron, OH) ministered to us this month and we pray that God will richly bless him for his efforts.

As the weather warms up for a day or two at a time and then goes back to the 20's and 30's (or colder), we are all anxiously awaiting Spring and the warmer weather that will come with it!

INDIANA, LEO Elizabeth Schrenk Abigail Schrenk

"This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

John 15:12-13

Love in the purest example is that love which follows Christ. May our desire and focus be to follow Christ's example as we love those in our family and around us.

We thank Bro. Greg Stieglitz (Sis. Lisa, Indianapolis) for his visit this month. We appreciate his faithfulness in bringing us God's Word.

We thank our Heavenly Father for His care and protection. A beautiful little girl, Damariana, was born to Camaria of the Oak House. We pray God will guide her in raising her little girl.

We had the privilege of hearing the testimonies and witnessing the bap-

tisms of Sis. Hannah Schrenk (Bro. Steve and Sis. Linda) and Bro. Philip Fischer (Bro. Paul and Sis. Leanne). Elder Bro. John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia, Latty) assisted Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz with testimonies. Words cannot express our gratitude to both of these Elders for their faithfulness to the ministry.

Pete Garman (Sis. Ruth) spent some time in the hospital this month. Our prayers go out to this couple as Pete continues to recover at home.

Our congregation has experienced many who have suffered from the flu and minor illnesses. We continue to thank God for His healing hand and protection during these long winter months.

INDIANA, MILFORD

**Carol Hurd
Pam Beer**

Our Milford congregation appreciated having Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. (Morton, IL) with us on the weekend of January 19-20. On Saturday evening he spoke to us about Communication and then ministered to us on Sunday. We wish to thank him and his wife, Sis. Donna, for being willing to drive to Milford and share their weekend with us.

With friends on earth we meet in
gladness,
While swift the moments fly,
Yet ever comes the tho't of sadness,
That we must say, "Good-bye".

How joyful is the hope that lingers,
When loved ones cross death's sea,
That we, when all earth's toils are
ended,
With them shall ever be!

No parting words shall e'er be spoken,
In yonder home so fair,
But songs of joy, and peace, and
gladness,
We'll sing forever there.

We'll never say good-bye in heav'n,
We'll never say good-bye,
For in that land of joy and song,
We'll never say good-bye.

On January 17, at the age of 93, Everett Price passed away. He was preceded in death by his wife, Sis. Leona. We express our sympathy and comfort to his children, Bro. Tom Price (Becky) and Sis. Anne Troup (Bro. Bill). A brother, Bro. Glenn Price (Sis. Kate) is also saddened by his loss.

We pray that God will bless Sis. Pam Lehman (Bro. John) with a speedy recovery after her recent surgery. We look forward to having her back assembling with us again.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Jenni Honegger
Marcella Tyler**

Greetings of Christian love to you all! Remington has enjoyed several visiting ministers this past month, and we wish to thank Bro. Brian Waibel (Sis. Wendy, Champaign, IL) and Bro. Ed Fritz (Sis. Sally, Washington, IL) for their efforts on our behalf. Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Francesville, IN) presented a topical Bible presentation for us on the subject of "Peace" this month as well. We were encouraged to understand that the concept of having peace with God is not just for converts, but a tool for each believer to use in his daily decision making and Christian walk. Many heartfelt thanks to these brothers and their wives for making the effort to travel to Remington and share the Word with us.

Sis. Miranda Virkler (Bro. Paul) was recently in a car accident. We praise God that he spared her any serious injury. Retired ministering Bro. Ed Bahler (Sis. Lois) was in the hospital recently to be treated for pneumonia. He and Sis. Lois are temporarily staying in an assisted living apart-

ment while he continues to recover. We covet your prayers for Bro. Ed's continued improvement and for their ability to return home soon.

As the Elder Body has recently returned from the Mid-Winter Conference, we continue to be thankful that the Lord has blessed us with faithful men who are willing to be used as His instruments to keep our churches walking closely with the Lord according to His Word. And as we look forward to another Easter season approaching, may we each one again experience the joy of the resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ, and the hope of His second coming.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**Becky Langhofer
Natalie Virkler**

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

I John 2:15-17

"For we are laborers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's

work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward."

I Corinthians 3:9-14

We are thankful for God's traveling mercies and bringing Bro. Bob Beebe safely home from a recent mission trip to Haiti.

We would like to announce the birth of little Hanna Marie Clyde on February 9. She was welcomed by her parents, Joshua and Jessica, and her older sister, Hailee. Josh and Jessica have been bringing their small family to our church for several months now and we are very thankful to have them attending!

INDIANA VALPARAISO

Marguerite Hoerr

We don't usually start writing our Valpo news just two days before it's due, but circumstances have kept us from doing it earlier. I had carpal tunnel surgery and doing things one handed has been a challenge. Things are going very well and I'm typing easily again.

Our little Valpo church continues to give us love and support and a lot of joy. Bro. Garry Bucher and Bro. Mike Thomas have joined as one on the pulpit and give us spiritual help each Sunday to help us during the week. We can't be grateful enough for this.

Bro. Garry and Sis. Lois, plus Bro. Mike and Sis. Claudia joined together and invited the entire church to an Appreciation Dinner, which they hosted at our Fellowship Hall on February 16. The theme was "Love" and it seemed so appropriate as it describes the feelings that bond us in our membership.

Sis. Sheryl Bucher drove from the El Paso, IL, area to assist her Mom, Lois, with the cooking. We extend our thanks to her; as we do to LaToya and Isaiah Thomas who served the delicious meal and to them and their

Mom, Claudia, who decorated the hall with love. Following the meal we were treated to an inspiring program. Tasia Weiss, daughter of Bro. Dennis and Sis. Marsha of our congregation, inspired us with the song, "Shall We Gather at the River?" Tasia had entered this song as a solo in the State vocal contest that day and received a first place rating. Bro. Mark Weuthrich and his daughter, Sis. Annie, treated us to two duets in keeping with the theme of the evening; and Bro. Nicholas, his son, played a touching solo on the piano. We thank Bro. Mark and Sis. Lynne for bringing their family to minister to us in song.

To complete the evening, Bro. Chris Huber from the Francesville congregation read from I Corinthians, 13; known as the love chapter in the Bible. "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three: but the greatest of these is charity." Bro. Chris applied this chapter to our present day lives and inspired us all to love more fully, and to never fail in this as we live with our fellowmen. The smile of joy on Bro. Chris's face made us want to do just that.

Our prayers are with Bro. Ed Lester, Sr., who is undergoing tests. Bro. Ed has suffered lots of pain in his life but is the most cheerful of brothers as we meet him on Sundays. We pray these tests reveal ways to help him with his pain.

We're looking forward this coming Sunday, February 24, after church to meet with the World Relief committee in LaCrosse at Bro. Bill and Sis. Jo Frank's home. LaCrosse and Valpo congregations plan to jointly host the Eastern World Relief meeting in November of this year.

At our yearly business meeting Bro. Dennis Weiss was elected as Trustee. Bro. Mike Thomas was asked to stay in this position for another year. Women selected for the Dinner Committee were Sis. Gwen Bucher and Sis. Caroline Lester. Bro. Merle

Bucher was elected to take care of Fellowship Hall rentals; and Bro. Bob Hoerr was asked to remain as World Relief Representative. We offer our sincere thanks to those who have served in these positions before.

For those of you who are traveling, we would remind you that we are at the "Crossroads of America": on State Road 49 S., just 2¾ miles South of U.S. 30. Our services are 10:30 and 12:30 each Sunday. We promise you a warm welcome if you visit us.

**INDIANA
WEST LAFAYETTE
Darlene Walder
Hollie Meister**

"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..." We want to offer our deepest condolences on behalf of Bro. Corey and Sis. Erika Gerber and their family at the loss of Corey's father, Bro. Butch Gerber (Bluffton). Our prayers are with you at this time of great loss.

"And a time to speak..." We are happy to welcome Bro. Nick Gutwein to our pulpit as he was chosen by our congregation to serve in the ministry. We prayerfully support he and Sis. Suzanne in this responsibility. Helping make this all possible were Elder Bros. Curt Frank, Steve Gutwein, and Dan Kilgus. Other ministers to serve us this month were Bros. Chris Huber (Francesville), Gene Lehman (Wolcott), Fred Witzig and Ron Bollier (Indianapolis). Thank you, brothers, for your kind words of inspiration and service to us.

"A time to love..." Our congratulations are extended to Bro. Chad Hoerr of W. Lafayette (Bro. Doug and Sis. Peg, Washington, IL) and Sis. Heather Furrer of W. Lafayette (Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorene) at the announcement of their engagement. We wish them God's richest blessings in

their plans for a beautiful wedding and upcoming marriage in the Lord.

"...He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end." Eccl. 3:1,2,7, & 8

**INDIANA, WOLCOTT
Lynell Blume
Erica Blume**

Prayers of healing have been uttered for Sis. Arlene Schwab (Bro. Vernon) as she has experienced some health problems. We wish her the Lord's nearness, along with strength and courage during her recovery.

Bro. Kip and Sis. Donita Edelman are rejoicing with the angels in Heaven as their daughter, Samantha, has decided to give her life to Jesus. May God grant her grace and understanding as she seeks out her soul's salvation.

Love from Heaven came down and blessed the home of Rodney and Jennifer Ross on February 14 with the birth of Evalynn Marie. Welcoming Evalynn at home are Autumn, Connor and Olivia. Maternal grandparents are Tom Gudeman and Elaine Gudeman. Paternal grandparents are Rodney and Sally Ross. We extend our congratulations to them all!

Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue; Francesville, IN) blessed us with exhortations on peace at our recent topical Bible Study. May we take to heart the words that were spoken. We thank Bro. Jeff for his efforts in sharing God's Word with us.

**IOWA, BLOOMFIELD
Barbara Schock**

The time flies on
And death draws nigh
Unite us, Lord,
With Thee on high.
Prepare us now

To live with Thee
Forever in Eternity.

ZH #188 vs. 1

"The time flies on..." Greetings to each and every one in our Savior's name! The time does fly on. It seems like that we were just going through the Christmas season and now Easter is almost here. As Easter approaches, may we take the time to think and to dwell on the real reason of Easter. For if Christ had not died, there would be no Easter, and then where would we as believers be?

"And death draws nigh..." We wish to extend our sympathy and prayers to Bro. Ron and Sis. Christy Joos and their family at the loss of her father. May they feel the Lord's comforting hand during this time of sorrow.

"Unite us, Lord, with Thee on high." "Prepare us now, to live with Thee..." We wish to thank Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar) for coming and assisting our Elder in the reading of the Memorandum on January 12-13. Also here for the weekend was Bro. Roy Koehl (Sis. Jenell, Morris). Then on the last weekend of January, Bro. Kim Sutter (Sis. Vonette, Taylor) was here for the weekend. We thank each of these Brothers for taking the time to come and share the Living Word with us. May the Lord richly bless them.

"Forever in Eternity."

May the Lord be with you all.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

**Karla Gerst
Dixie Messner**

Isaiah 1:18 says our sins are like scarlet but they shall be as white as snow. There is nothing more beautiful than to look out the window in the morning with the sun shining bright on the new, clean, white, glistening snow. It is hard to imagine our sins being washed that clean.

We are thankful Sis. Rosie

Obermann is back in church after having knee surgery.

We appreciated the visits of ministering Bros. Gary and Bruce Endress (Bradford) and Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall and Bro. Dale Frank (Oakville).

At our annual meeting Sis. Ingrid Buster was elected to serve on our women's committee. Bro. Lee Esslinger will be our new trustee and Sis. Karla Gerst and Sis. Dixie Messner will be our new Silver Lining reporters. A special thank you to those who have fulfilled their terms.

IOWA, ELGIN Gloria Frieden

"He is not here: for he is risen, as he said."

Matthew 28:6

I know that my Redeemer lives!
What comfort this sweet message
gives!

He lives who once was dead,
He lives, all glorious in the sky;
He lives exalted there on high,
My everlasting Head.

He lives, triumphant from the grave,
He lives, eternally to save;
And while He lives I'll sing;
He lives, my ever faithful friend;
He lives, and loves me to the end,
My Prophet, Priest and King!

Because He lives, Christ's followers can also look forward to a new life after death.

As I write this we, in northeast Iowa, continue to enjoy to beauty of fresh white snow on the landscape. It reminds me of the words of David, "Wash me and I shall be whiter than snow." (Psalm 51:7). As I look at the snow, I can't imagine anything being whiter.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE

Willa Clark

We are thankful for Bro. Glen Funk (Sis. Sally, Wichita, KS) who visited and shared God's Word with us this month.

Britany Moser and Kristopher Braun of Denver, CO, have announced their engagement and plan to be married in May. We share their happiness with Britany's parents, Bro. Tom and Sis. Dawn Moser of our congregation, and wish Britany and Kris God's richest blessings as they plan their life together.

Like much of the midwest and the country, Garden Grove this year has experienced the most "wintry" weather we have had in recent years. It seems as soon as we dig out from one storm, roads are drifted or icy again. As spring warmth arrives, the grass peeks through, and is then hit with a blast of cold temperatures and covered with another layer of snow. Yet we know as the sun's rays come more directly overhead, the sun will eventually be victorious and summer will be here.

It reminds me of our spiritual lives. We can allow ourselves to be frozen in the grip of Satan. An inspiring Sunday service or an evening's sweet fellowship warms the heart and the soul begins to thaw, only to go out into the workweek and, without care, lose that warmth and begin to chill. Yet, if we only allow the direct rays of the Son into our hearts, we will receive the complete warmth and blessings of the Son of God. Let the Son shine, and remove the chill from hearts everywhere!

IOWA, IOWA CITY

Diana Butikofer

Bro. Larry, Sis. Emily and granddaughter Lily Peterson are rejoicing in the safe January 5 arrival of Lily's new brother, Alexander Mark. Alex's parents are Mark and Karin Hewitt of

England.

"Then he took unto him the twelve, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of man shall be accomplished. For he shall be delivered unto the Gentiles, and shall be mocked, and spitefully entreated, and spitted on: And they shall scourge him, and put him to death: And the third day he shall rise again."

Luke 18:31-33

At Christmas we were reminded of Jesus' birth; now let us remember His death and the magnificent sacrifice God gave in the form of His Son.

IOWA, LESTER
Gloria Moser
Polly Metzger

When Jesus has found you,
Tell others the story,
That my loving Saviour
is your Saviour, too;
Then pray that your Saviour
may bring them to glory,
And prayer will be answered,
'twas answered for you!

Hymns of Zion #31

We are so thankful that three young souls have turned their lives to the Lord. Whitney Metzger (Bro. Blair and Sis. Julie) and Kyla and Maura Knobloch (Bro. Stan and Sis. Dawn) have made a beginning in their repentance, and we pray that God will grant them the grace they need for each step along the way.

On February 2, Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA) was here to assist Elder Bro. Dennis with the reading of the Memorandum. Other visiting ministers who shared the Word of God with us this past month were Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN), Bro. Darrel Stoller (Bern, KS), Bro. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA),

Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Dave Hartter (Sabetha, KS). May God bless and encourage each one of them, and our thanks to them for all their efforts.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have been in the hospital or had surgery. Bro. Gary Metzger (Sis. Beth), Laura Metzger (Bro. Jared and Sis. Carla), Clayton Kellenberger (Bro. Benji and Sis. Leah), Bro. Jerome Hartter (Sis. Gail) and Sis. Zelma Knobloch are all home now and we pray God's healing hand will rest upon them.

Our best wishes go with Wendi (Bro. Rod and Sis. Twyla Bajema) and Lance Crawford of Minneapolis, as they were married January 18; and Sis. JoAnn (Bro. Pat and Sis. Twyla Meyer) and Bro. Willis Nester (Bro. Gene and Sis. Shirley) whose wedding was January 20. May God bless these two dear couples as they establish their homes and begin their lives together.

Julie Popkes (Bro. Greg and Sis. Lori) and Dustin Timmerman have announced their engagement. May God bless them in the plans they make for their special day.

Just a reminder that the annual summer church service at Clyde Park, MT, will be held the weekend of June 21-22, 2008. This date is a week later than in previous years. Please contact ministering Bros. Gene Metzger (712-472-2187) or Wes Moser (712-478-4622) with any questions.

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Sharla Wiegand

We are always thankful for visiting ministers. On January 20, Bro. Jedd Rocke and Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL) came to share the Word.

Our annual business meeting was held on January 27. Elected for new terms are: Church trustee – Bro. Walt Gerst; Fellowship Center trustee –

Bro. Dave Wagenbach; Cemetery committee – Bro. Kent Schmidgall; Ushers – Bro. Dan Lanz and Bro. Troy Massner; Kitchen Committee – Sis. Nola Gerst and Sis. Connie Hay; World Relief – Sis. Mary Lanz. We are thankful for their willingness to serve in these capacities.

Bro. Randy and Sis. Shayla Steiner welcome a baby girl into their family as Paige Breann was born on January 30. She joins her big sister, Larae. Grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. JoAnn Steiner and Sis. Teresa Marti.

It is a blessing when a new Christian home is formed. On February 3, Bro. Steve Endress and Sis. Betsy Schulz were united in holy matrimony. Their parents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Becky Endress of Bradford, IL and Bro. Roger and Sis. June Schulz. Grandparents of the couple are Bro. Myron and Sis. Dorothy Schulz; Bro. Phil and Sis. Donna Mogler of Lester, IA, and Sis. Mildred Endress of Washington, IL. We had many visiting ministers for the occasion, including Bro. John Hartman and Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL); Bro. Brad Gudeman and Bro. Bruce Endress (Bradford, IL); Bro. Beirne Messner (Morris, MN); Bro. Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Paul Eisenmann and Bro. Phil Schulz (Burlington, IA). May the Lord richly bless them for their labors on our behalf.

IOWA, WEST BEND
Janet Fehr
Sue Schneider

We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Rick Plattner and his wife, Sis. Mary Ann (Fairbury, IL) visit our congregation the weekend of January 26-27. On Saturday eve, Bro. Rick assisted our Elder Bro. Wayne in reading and expounding on the Memorandum, and on Sunday, he brought forth the Spirit-inspired Word for us all to hear and benefit from.

Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, Port-

land, OR) paid us an unexpected visit on the following Sunday and also shared God's Word with us. We are very thankful to all our ministering brothers and our Elders for their ongoing efforts to further the Gospel.

Anthony Fehr (Jeff and Beth) was married to Jill Johnson on January 19. Our congratulations and best wishes to them as they make their home in Whittemore, IA. Joel and Teresa Kellenberger announced the marriage of their son, Lee, to Carly Adams. Carly's parents are John and Dena Adams. The newlyweds reside in Overland Park, KS. May God bless the years this couple shares together.

The engagement of Jesse Leman (Bro. Dale and Sis. Lezlee) to Molly Hefty (Dave and Becky) was made known. We pray for God's nearness as they plan for a June wedding.

The safe arrival of Mason Trey brought great joy to Bro. Jordan and Sis. Heidi Knapp on February 6. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorna Knapp (Oakville, IA) and Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon Fehr.

Also on February 6, Rodger Fehr (67) passed away. He was the son of Ernest and Sis. Jessie Fehr, lived in West Bend and attended church here for a time. Survivors include his wife, Janet, of Shawnee, KS; and sons, Ron, Bill and Don. May God's presence be felt in the grieving hearts of his family.

Bro. Albert Banwart and Sis. Darlene Metzger were both hospitalized for medical treatment during the past month. Sis. Sharon (Bro. Jim) Fehr is again recuperating following surgery, and our Bro. Clifford (Sis. Rosene) Grimm is facing some serious health issues. Our thoughts and prayers are often with each of these loved ones and their families, and we know there is power in prayer.

Prayer makes the darkened clouds
withdraw;
Prayer climbs the ladder Jacob saw;
Gives exercise to faith and love;

Brings ev'ry blessing from above.

Restraining prayer, we cease to
fight;
Prayer makes the Christian's armor
bright;
And Satan trembles when he sees
The weakest saint upon his knees.

Were half the breath oft vainly
spent,
To heaven in supplication sent,
Our cheerful song would oft'ner be,
"Hear what the Lord has done for
me."

Hymns of Zion #202, vs. 2-4

JAPAN, SHIODA Carrie Ito

Though we have enjoyed some beautiful snowy weather lately, it did hinder some of our congregation from coming to church a few Sundays. Thankfully, though, we are able to use technology and many church people could listen to the services via telephone. On one snowy day after church, the children (and a few adults too!) enjoyed playing in the snow behind the church (the old kindergarten playground).

Last month we said farewell to our dear friend, Chi-san (wife of our Chinese friend, Li-san), as her three-month stay in Japan is over, and she must return to China because of her work. Even though language barriers hindered us, we could still share our love with her and her with us. Please pray for this dear couple as they must live separated from each other for this time. We are thankful for a wide variety of nationalities attending our church. Recently a Chinese family visited our church and we pray they will continue to come. Also, we have a Malaysian woman who worships with us fairly frequently recently. That makes four different nationalities in our small group!

Also prayers are requested for Bro. Willis Ehnle as he undergoes cancer

treatment and for Sis. Lois as she also continues to battle pain and health issues. We pray for comfort and healing if it could be God's will.

JAPAN, TOKYO Jana Klaus

Our prayers have been with Elder Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie Inoue as they took a two week trip to the U.S. to attend the winter Elder Conference and visit relatives.

Sis. Haruyo Onoda also has been in our prayers as her father passed away at the age of 88. We believe the Lord is extending mercy to Sis. Shizuko Urushino as she is feeling more stable on her feet and is able to get out a little each day. She is looking forward to coming to church for Holy Communion on March 8. Bro. Yoshio Yamazaki got a new motorized wheel chair several months back which makes his commute to church just 7 minutes compared to around 45 minutes with his manual wheelchair. He has been looking happy and feeling pretty good.

Our prayers and love have also been with retired Elder Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois Ehnle (Shioda) as Willis is going through his radiation treatment for nearly two months. We are so thankful we serve a living God who hears our prayers all over the whole earth (which is not so large in His eyes) and thank each of you for your prayers and support for our churches here.

KANSAS, BERN Jill Meyer Rita Menold

Our congratulations go to Bro. Richard and Sis. Edie Strahm at the arrival of a new granddaughter. Naomi Anne was born to Bro. Brent and Sis. Brianna Strahm of Portland, OR.

Jim and Ann Moser are also thankful for the arrival of their first grandchild, Anya Elizabeth. Little Anya

was born to Nick and Hillary Moser, of Boston, MA.

Bro. Joe Dotterer (Sis. Rose; Bloomfield, IA) worshipped with us on January 20, and Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Janet; Winthrop, MN) was with us the weekend of January 26-27 for the reading of the Memorandum. We thank both of these Brothers for lending of themselves to proclaim God's Holy Word!

Our prayers are with Sis. Jill Meyer (Bro. Larry) as she underwent surgery this past month. Bro. Waymer Esslinger has moved to our Apostolic Christian Nursing Home for the time being. Our prayers are with Bro. Waymer, as he would, Lord willing, try to regain health and strength.

As I was listening to our 5-year old son whisper his bedtime prayer one night, I heard him say "Thank you, Jesus, for saving us!" What a charge we as parents have to teach our children about salvation from little on up! We hope and pray that we can be Godly examples, and that they will always hold their bedtime prayers close at heart, as they grow older!

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT Martin Hohulin

Our beloved Sis. Lucille Schurter reached her 90th birthday anniversary. She and her sister (late Mabel Hartman) were baptized at the yard pump of the Fairbury, IL, south side church in July of 1933 by Elder Bro. Pete Bach. Few people remember him.

Little Kathryn Ann Williams (Daniel and Taira) came into the world to bring joy and expand our church family. Excited brothers are Alex and Eli.

Visiting ministers to our congregation were Bro. Paul Kilgus (Sis. Carmen, Fairbury, IL), Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL) and Elder Bro. Ben Walder (Sis. Juanita, Congerville, IL). Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie) was here for Communion exhortation. We appreci-

ate these brothers driving long distances to serve us.

Our sympathies go to Bro. Chris Wuthrich (Sis. Janelle) in the passing of his grandfather, Bro. Wally Bucher (Francesville, IN), and also to Bro. Gene Banwart whose aunt, Sylvia Miller Burket of Oklahoma City, OK, passed away.

On a personal note, my stepmother, Sis. Marie Rinkenberger Anliker Hohulin ended her earthly race March 1 at Fairview Haven (Fairbury, IL). She is survived by three daughters, Karel Righter (Spring, TX), Earlene Hamilton and Elaine Mueller (Fairbury, IL) and Daryl Anliker (Bisco, NC). My father, the late Bro. Silas Hohulin, was blessed with three Christian wives, Sis. Lydia Marti (Lamar, MO), Sis. Lydia Steiner (Sabetha, KS) and Sis. Marie. She provided my father with 18 years of happiness. Her funeral was March 5 at Forrest, IL.

KANSAS, KIOWA Jenny Stewart Janice Bahr

Low in the grave He lay,
Jesus my Saviour.
Waiting the coming day,
Jesus my Lord.
Vainly they watch His bed,
Jesus my Saviour.
Vainly they seal the dead
Jesus my Lord.
Death cannot keep his prey,
Jesus my Saviour.
He tore the bars away,
Jesus my Lord.
Up from the grave He arose,
With a mighty triumph o'er His
foes;

He arose a victor from the dark domain,
And He lives forever with His saints
to reign.

He arose! He arose!
Hallelujah! Christ arose!

Tabernacle Hymns #205

This is one of the favorite hymns of many of our young people here in the Kiowa Sunday school because of the power of the music, and when the power of the words is added, it becomes even more special, because when Jesus overcame death and the grave, He gave us the greatest gift the world has ever known – the power through repentance and a converted heart to overcome death and the grave, and to have eternal life with Him. What joy and what a hope for us to look forward to. Thank Thee, Lord Jesus, for loving us so much that Thou did suffer and die to set us free.

It was our turn to hold services at the Kiowa Manor this month, and we had the added privilege of having our youth read some poems and sing some special songs. We always appreciate all who come, and the residents do too.

We had our annual business meeting one evening this month, and enjoyed a potluck supper before as well as a hymn singing afterwards. It was a special evening and may God bless each one who give of their time to work in the Lord's vineyard.

Bro. Jeff Bahr had a surgical procedure done this month and we are happy to report that he is doing very well. Sis. Jenny Stewart also had some wisdom teeth removed, and we hope she will be able to be in our midst again soon. Shawn Johnson (Sis. Lynn) had surgery on a shoulder, but we hope he will be out and about soon. May we never fail to hold each other up in prayer, for though we don't always know each other's problems and ailments, God does and will help in our times of need.

KANSAS LAMONT-GRIDLEY Ester Knobloch

Ministering Bro. Bill Dotterer (Lamar, MO) and Bro. Gary Brown (Forrest, IL) were with us this past

month. We thank them for sharing God's Holy Word in truth and sincerity.

We enjoyed the fellowship of several who came to visit us for a Single Group weekend. We appreciate the efforts of all those who come to our congregation to worship with us and give thanks to the Lord for His traveling mercies.

KANSAS, SABETHA
Rebekah Beyer
Carrie Grimm

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Sis. Judy, Forrest, IL), Bro. Gary Brown (Sis. Jane, Forrest, IL), Bro. Galen Rokey (Sis. Nancy, Bern, KS), and Bro. Brandon Emch (Sis. Maria, Kansas City, MO) as visiting ministers this past month. May God richly bless them for their labors.

We rejoice with Bro. Seth Hartter (Bro. Tim and Sis. Charlene) and Sis. Brenda Schultz (Bro. Gary and Sis. Melody Schultz, and the late Sis. Karen, Burlington, IA) as they were united in marriage on January 6. We had a singing shower locally for Bro. Seth and Sis. Brenda. We also rejoice with Sis. Heidi Hartter (Bro. Tim and Sis. Charlene) and Bro. Corbin Anliker (Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda, Forrest, IL) as they were united in marriage on February 3. We wish both couples many blessings as they begin life's journey together as one in the Lord.

Our prayers are with Sis. Erma Wenger (LaVon) and Sis. Ruby Grimm (Bro. Gerald) as they have recently undergone surgery. We pray they have a speedy recovery.

We were thankful for the opportunity to receive the reading of the Memorandum at Bern, KS, on January 26. Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan, Winthrop, MN) helped with this work.

We continue to thank the Lord for

bringing lost souls to the foot of the cross with repentant hearts. We pray that these babes in the Lord will feel God's nearness as they make this beginning.

KANSAS, WICHITA
Emma Miller

Our thoughts of sympathy are with Bro. Max and Bro. Roger Reimschisel. Their brother, John, died in early February. John lived in Sims, Arkansas, and is survived by his wife, Jane, and a son, Michael.

Several from our congregation attended the MCC work day in Newton on February 5. The work planned for that day consisted of checking canned goods for shipment. With the physical help of the sisters who were able, the task was accomplished. My mother often quoted, "Many hands make light work" and I think that describes the attitude of those involved. We are thankful to all who helped in any way that day.

Problems caused by weather and illness have taken toll on church attendance. The last time I was in church, many were absent when morning services started. So many, in fact, that we all sat on one side of the assembly room for the benefit of singing. By the time the final morning prayer was uttered, I turned around to see benches filled. What a blessing! The following Sunday I was absent but those who were present enjoyed the opportunity to greet retired Elder Bro. Ed Lanz and his wife as well as retired Elder Bro. Roy Grimm and his wife. Several told me how much they appreciated the opportunity to renew their acquaintance with these dear brothers and sisters.

Derek Funk has been called to duty as a civilian worker in Baghdad. Our prayer is not only for his safety and wise counsel, but for his wife and children who are presently living in Lees Summit, MO.

The following often appears on my e-mail:

"A good thing to remember,
 a better thing to do.
 Work with the construction gang,
 not with the wrecking crew."

I believe that advice is heeded by the brothers from our congregation. Bro. Charlie Grimm and his wife, Sis. Gail, have worked at Greensburg and just recently returned from a work assignment in Biloxi, MI. Bro. Charlie and the Reimschisel brothers made many trips to Greensburg to help with the project the Apostolic Church started.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON
Barb Huber

"...Fear not ye; for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for He is risen, as He said..."

Matthew 28:5,6

This month we remember Easter and the awesome sacrifice that our Heavenly Father made in allowing His most precious Son, Jesus Christ, to go to the cross and die for our sins. What a comfort those words must have been to the followers of Jesus to learn that their crucified Lord had risen from the dead. We can also find that same comfort that Jesus arose, that He is alive, and living as our Savior and Lord.

We were comforted through God's Holy Word as the following ministers came to lend themselves in the Lord's service: Bros. Ron Bollier (Sis. Edie, Indianapolis, IN), John Bradle (Sis. Jill, Roanoke, IL), Arthur Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH), Mike Baumann (Sis. Florine, Mansfield, OH), and Gary Sinn (Sis. Paulette, Latty, OH). May the Lord bless each one for their many efforts and labors of love.

May the Lord comfort our dear Sis. Rebecca Germann (Bro. Doug) and her family in the loss of her only sister, Sis. Jana Knapp (Bloomington, IL).

“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.”

Psalm 116:15

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

MEXICO, IXTLÁN **Matt Gerber**

“And Jesus stood still, and called them, and said, What will ye that I shall do unto you? They say unto him, Lord, that our eyes may be opened. So Jesus had compassion on them, and touched their eyes: and immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed him.”

Matt 20:32-34

In February, we were blessed by a short visit from Bro. John and Sis. Cheryl Knobloch (Morton) and Bro. Mark and Sis. Cheryl Wuthrich (Morton), representatives of the World Relief Child Sponsorship Committee. A week later, eye doctor Bro. Brian and Sis. Kara Stoller (Fairbury) and ministering Bro. John and Sis. Julie Grimm (Columbus) and their children came for a three-day eye clinic. They were able to help over 200 people improve their vision by glasses. Sis. Berenice Navarro Cervantes (Morelia) went to Magdalena to serve for an indefinite period of time at Casa Vida y Esperanza. Pray the Lord would strengthen Berenice and provide wisdom for her new role.

Meet Bro. Armando Cervantes

I am 37 years old and single. When I was 18 years old I immigrated to the

United States searching for a better lifestyle. For some years I kept myself away from new friends, since my main goal was to learn English and to work in order to help my family in Mexico.

A few years later, my life had made a terrible change. I started to drink alcohol, to party around with friends, drinking up to three or four days in a row. After a short while, I saw myself involved in the drug world and illegal activities. I believed I was doing the right thing, but I was wrong. Even though I had a friend and my oldest brother who were Christians, I never listened to them. They used to invite me to church, but my rebelliousness was even stronger.

As a result of my drinking and drugs, I ended up in jail, where I had time to realize my life was full of sin. In jail I met a previous friend who was in jail for murder. He started to talk to me about the gospel, and invited me to meet with him before bedtime. We did some individual prayers and read the Bible for about one hour every night. I made a habit of personal Bible reading. The Holy Spirit was using the Word of God to convict me of my sin and show me my need to repent and become converted. In my cell I became broken and repented, turning in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ. I believed He died and shed His precious blood for me to cleanse me from my sin, and that He had the power to convert me and make me a new person. I surrendered to him and promised to serve Him the rest of my life.

A few weeks later I was released. The world around me was strange. I still felt its temptations, but my mind was resolved to stay faithful to my covenant with God. My old friends came to visit me one day, bringing beer and wanting me to drink. I refused to do it. They tried to convince me and showed me some drugs, but again I said no. They became surprised at my refusal and looked at each other, and started to leave one by one.

One day while I was reading my Bible at home, the presence of God spoke peace to me. I knew He had forgiven me and accepted me as His child because of the perfect sacrifice of Christ, who shed His precious blood for me. I was overwhelmed by His mercy and grace. That was a special day that gave me peace because of the conversion my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ did in my heart.

I attended the Altadena church for about a year and a half, where I was encouraged and taught in my new walk with the Lord. I came back to Ixtlan in September 2007 and was baptized on December 9. I pray my Lord for guidance, wisdom, and strength to keep my promise of serving Him with all my heart and with all my soul.

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

We are thankful for Bro. Bill (Sis. Carol) Waibel for visiting and serving this month. We had our annual business meeting with the following positions filled: Bro. Ron Erissman, Sunday School Superintendent, Sis. Gina Blough and Bro. Aaron Kaeb come on board to serve on World Relief, Bro. Jim Blough for Trustee, Sis. Liz Blough and Sis. Kim Koehl for the Kitchen committee, Bro. Andy Oesch as our new Usher.

Sharon Wingeier-Zimmerman was laid to rest this past month, and our thoughts and prayers go out to her surviving spouse, Terry, children, brothers, and many other relatives and friends. She was the daughter of the late Bro. Dave and Sis. Bertha Wingeier. Her family had served many years as missionaries in Brazil, all for the love of the Lord.

We are thankful Sis. Tasha (Bro. Ted and Sis. Sandy) Steffen for she is home recovering from an outpatient surgery. Also, we would like to ask for

prayers for Sis. Jane Grawburg who will undergo surgery in the near future in Southfield, MI, and Sis. Kate Wheeler who is currently hospitalized for illness.

Through the sadness and cares of life there is always light as we look to our Saviour Jesus Christ.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

**Sarah Knochel
Janelle Ramseyer**

Greetings of love in our Saviour's name! It is only February and already the winter is growing long. We are experiencing heavy snowfalls this year. We can be so thankful that our Heavenly Father provides for us in all conditions.

We sincerely pray for those who have been sick or spent time in the hospital in the past month. They include: Lori Bateson (Bill), Bro. Vic Knochel (Sis. Eleanor), and Sis. Alice Wieland. We also are thankful that Bro. Robert Knochel was able to return to his own home after spending time in a nursing home.

We rejoice with several from our congregation who have announced engagements in their family. Carissa Munsel (Bro. Greg and Sis. Lynette) to Allan Terbush; Nicholas Ruegsegger (Bro. Mike and Sis. Nancy) to Denise Zeilinger; and Aaron Wackerle (Kip and Patty) to Shannon Gerard. We pray the Lord will lead, guide, and direct these young couples as they prepare for marriage.

Several from our congregation will be leaving on work teams in the next few weeks. We pray God will protect each with traveling mercies.

May God grant each one abundant grace in the days ahead.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

**Tami Coughlin
Manuela Denes**

"He hath made every thing beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end."

Ecclesiastes 3:11

Why are we always in such a hurry? So many of us are talking about how much we can't wait for spring. Here we are at the end of February and today we've been hit with another healthy dose of snow. I can't help but think that it's God's way of telling us not to rush our time away. We need to enjoy each season He has given us and realize that "He hath made every thing beautiful in his time".

It was a blessing to be able to gather and enjoy a welcome reception for Bro. John and Sis. Amy Klotzle. We all hope that they will soon feel as much at home here in Detroit as they were in Altadena (even the snow!)

The power of prayer was once again known as our Elder Bro. Mark Bahr returned from the Elder conference in Phoenix, AZ. There is so much to be grateful for and we thank the Lord for the strength that is found in our leadership.

Once again let us be prayerful for those who have been hospitalized. Let's remember Sis. Kathryn Losiewicz, Bro. Willard Bahr (Sis. Eloise), and Bro. John Rauhe in our prayers. We look forward to seeing them in church again, Lord willing.

A note of thanks also goes to ministering Bro. Howard Plattner (Sis. Kristen) from our Alto, MI, church. We are always thankful to our brothers for coming to visit and share the Word with us.

It was announced that Melinda Lanski will share her testimony with us April 12. Our prayers are with her and her family at this important time

in all their lives. Elder Bro. Mark Bahr also announced that we would share Communion April 26, Lord willing. We have the opportunity to use this time wisely in self-examination and remember the Supreme Sacrifice that was made for each and every one of us.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

**Sheila Reuter
Heidi Nohl**

We have several families that are rejoicing over the birth of a new child. Bro. Kevin and Sis. Julie Koehl welcome home Karina Ann. Her big brothers are Nathan, Kaleb and Jackson. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Beirne and Sis. Joyce Messner and Bro. Harv and Sis. Wilda Koehl. Nathan Ryan was born to Bro. Ryan and Sis. Joan Kellenberger. Excited to welcome him home were John, Brandon and Levi and grandparents, Bro. Sid and Sis. Cheryl Messner and Sis. Dianne Kellenberger. Bro. Ryan and Sis. Heidi Messner were thankful for the arrival of Vivian Rose. Her siblings are Clint, Valerie and Toby and her grandparents are Bro. Wally and Sis. Diane Feuchtenberger and Bro. Sid and Sis. Cheryl Messner. Thankful for the arrival of their first child, Halle Lois, are Bro. Lyle and Sis. Amanda Grimm. Her grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Sandy Fehr and Bro. Rod and Sis. Arlene Grimm (Sabetha, KS). We rejoice with these families and trust God will bless them.

Announcing their engagement are Todd Nohl and Jamie Dahlen. Their parents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Bonnie Nohl and Joel and Rosalee Dahlen of Thief River Falls. Also announcing their engagement are Heather Moser and David Quiram. Their parents are Bro. Todd and Kim Moser and Terrell and Dawn Quiram of Wasica, MN. May God be with them as they plan to become one.

Our hearts rejoice with Todd Nohl and Jaime Dahlen as they have turned

their hearts to the Lord in repentance. We pray the Lord will bless them and help them to build a firm foundation.

Our sympathies and prayers go out to Bro. Bob and Sis. Gwen Feuchtenberger in the loss of her father, Marvin Vantries. Also we think of Bro. Todd and Kim Moser on the loss of her mother, Sis. Jerri Messner (Winthrop, MN). May the Lord put His loving arms around them and comfort them.

Our prayers go out to Bro. Richard Schmidgall as he was hospitalized this month. May the Lord be with him and heal as it is His will.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

**Rachel Steiner
Julie Schmidt**

Our Sis. Geraldine Messner (Bro. Marvin) has finished her earthly race and passed on to eternity on February 2. Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Marvin, Bro. Todd, Kim and Heather Moser (Morris, MN) as they bid farewell to their wife, mother and grandmother. Sis. Geri will be missed greatly by her church family.

God has blessed our small congregation as another family will be relocating to our area and worshipping with us. We extend a warm welcome to Bro. Michael and Sis. Rachel Messner and their children, Micah, Abigail and Paul. Our prayers are with them as they make this transition in their lives.

Many prayers were offered for our Elder Brethren as they gathered in Phoenix, AZ, for the mid-winter Conference. May God grant our faithful shepherds grace and wisdom as they strive to lead their flocks according to His will. May God grant us grace to heed the words of exhortation.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to all who shared in supporting us during this difficult time in

our lives. Your love, prayers and gifts are greatly appreciated. We will miss mom tremendously.

*The family of Geraldine Messner,
Marvin Messner, Todd & Kim
Moser, Heather Moser & David
Quiram*

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Brittany Fehr

On the evening of Saturday, February 2, our congregation gathered for a church supper and the reading of the Memorandum. It was a very blessed evening. Many thanks to Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL) for joining our Elder Bro. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen) in this work. May God also bless the other ministering brothers that labored in our midst this past month: Bro. Virgil Metzger (Sis. Mary, Chicago, IL), Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL), Bro. John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Burlington, IA), Bro. Tim Zimmerman (Sis. Barbara, Lamont-Gridley, KS), and Bro. Bruce Endress (Sis. Elizabeth, Bradford, IL).

I am sorry to have neglected to mention the birth of little Ashtyn Leigh! Her parents are Bro. Galen and Sis. Shannon Kellenberger, and Raegan is her older sister. Ashtyn's grandparents are Gary and Sis. Tami Dettwyler (Silverton, OR) and Bro. Randy and Sis. Karen Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO). May God give much wisdom to Bro. Galen and Sis. Shannon as they raise their daughters.

The 2008 business meeting was recently held in Kansas City. Replacing Bro. Scott Aberle (Sis. Dorine) and Bro. Ryan Weiss (Sis. Becky) as trustees are Bro. Quinton Snyder (Sis. Heather) and Bro. DeVere Meyer (Sis. Michelle). Sis. Elizabeth Conzo, Sis. Anna Donahue, and Sis. Tina Fehr were all elected to serve on one of our two food committees, replacing Sis. Kim Kellenberger (Bro. Neal) and Sis.

Jamie Marti. Bro. Galen Kellenberger (Sis. Shannon) was elected to take Bro. Scott Aberle's (Sis. Dorine) position as Sunday School teacher; Bro. Alan Banwart was supported to be our World Relief Representative. A special thank-you to those completing their terms and God's blessings to those just beginning!

MISSOURI, LAMAR

**Becky Marti
Dana Braker**

Baptized into thy name most holy,
O Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
I claim a place, though weak and
lowly,
Among Thy seed, Thy chosen host.
Immersed with Christ, I'm dead to
sin;
Thy spirit now shall live within.
Zion's Harp #41

We are so thankful two more souls could be added to the body of Christ. On February 3, we welcomed Sis. Amanda Schmidgall (Bro. Larry and Sis. Marcy) and Bro. Christopher Marti (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Kathy) into this precious brotherhood. May God grant them the grace to continue in a life of true obedience and humility. Along with the many visitors here for this special time, we were thankful to have Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Sis. Sandra, Morris, MN) here to assist our Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi in this work. Also here to bring forth the Word was Bro. Larry Bahr (Sis. Julie, Fort Scott, KS). May God bless them for their efforts as He knows best and may the truth always continue to be brought forth.

Reminder: March is Lamar's month for Silver Lining collection.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Betsy Schrenk

We have been blessed with many visitors this winter, in spite of the very

cold and snowy weather we have had. Our visiting ministers were Elder Bros. Ervin Knecht (Sis. Sandy, Eureka) and Tom Stock (Sis. Karol, Cissna Park), and Bro. Greg Braker (Sis. Wendy, Lamar). We thank each one for coming.

We enjoyed our bi-monthly evening of fellowship on February 23 at a pizza restaurant, followed by ice cream for dessert. An advantage of a small church group is that everyone can be invited to an event, including out of town guests!

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Kathy Eberhardt

February is always a month associated with love, or charity. In I Corinthians 13:1-13, it says that charity is an excellent spiritual gift because it is profitable not only to us, but to others around us.

We are rejoicing this month with four new converts. God has answered our prayers again for our dear souls, Christina Rocke (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Carrie), Chad and Lisa Massner, and Seth Pflum (Bro. Keith and Sis. Tami).

Jody Meyers (Danny) and Bro. Jacob Heimer were hospitalized this month. We pray for God's healing hand on them.

We are looking forward to hosting the second Apostolic Christian Medical Fellowship (ACMF) on March 15.

Our visiting minister this month was Bro. Tom Bollinger (Sis. Jane, Tremont, IL). We are thankful for his willingness and efforts to bring us the Word.

NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Hope Graves

We were blessed to have ministering Bro. Duane Reutter (Rockville, CT) with us for the weekend of February 9-10. It is always a blessing for us

to fellowship with brethren from our other churches.

Our prayers are with Sis. Polly Farney who was hospitalized this past month and Alice Farney who is recovering from a fall. May the Lord continue with each one who has met with sorrow, sickness or faced difficulties the past few weeks.

We look forward to the approach of spring as we watch the snow fall around us. May we pray for God's nearness in each season of our lives.

He sends His Word and melts the snow,
The fields no longer mourn.
He calls the warmer gales to blow,
And bids the spring return.

Hymns of Zion #283

NEW YORK CITY Secaucus, New Jersey

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

Matthew 28:20

We are thankful for the Lord's presence with us, no matter where we are at in life. Even in New York City, with all of the people, places and different ideas, it is always encouraging to know that He will never leave us nor forsake us.

We have been blessed over the last three years by the number of visitors, as well as those who are in NYC just for a season who have come and worshipped with us in Secaucus. We would like to report the 2008 Secaucus schedule as follows. Lord willing, we plan on having services on March 16th, May 18th, July 13th, September 14th, and November 9th. Our services are held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Secaucus, New Jersey. As always, if you are in the area on other Sundays, you are always welcome to worship with us in Philadelphia, PA, which is not that far away.

If you are planning to visit the New York City area for vacation or business, please call Bro. Ben Wiegand at (215) 295-4526 for assistance and to let us know how many to expect for Sunday services. We would be glad to provide directions on how to get to the hotel, or you can contact them directly at (201) 864-1400.

OHIO, AKRON Rachel Pamer Mara Henico

As we once again changed our calendars, our church offices were filled by willing workers. We thank all those who fulfilled their duties in the past years.

On February 1 our congregation gathered for a World Relief Work Day and Family Night. We're glad for all who came and participated in the activities. May God bless the work done.

We rejoice with our convert, Christopher Indermuhle (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Carol), who has found peace. We look forward to hearing his testimony.

Our thoughts and prayers were with our Elders as they were at the Midwinter Conference. We thank them for their labors on our behalf.

Little Conner Joseph Steidl was welcomed into the home of Bro. Mark and Sis. Megan. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Nan Steidl and Bro. Ken and Sis. Carol Rupp (Rittman). We continue to pray that God can add His healing touch to Bro. Mark who underwent surgery recently.

The engagement of Bro. Adam Henico (Bro. Greg and Sis. Sarah) to Sis. Jeni Klotzle (Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley, Smithville) was announced and we pray for God's blessings upon this couple as they prepare for a marriage in the Lord. Bro. Tom Bako and Sis. Laura Stoller were united in marriage; we welcome Sis. Laura into our congregation. Parents of the couple are Bro. Eugene and Sis. Diana Bako

and Bro. Gregory and Sis. Joy Stoller (Rittman).

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Sarah Rufener

We are so thankful for the following ministering brothers who have traveled to our small flock to share His precious Word this past month: Bro. Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynell, Akron) and Bro. Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville). "How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" (Romans 10:15)

Our congregation bid a sad farewell to Bro. Matt and Sis. Wendy Miller and their daughter Claire this month as they moved back to Latty, OH, where Matt has taken a position in Paulding County. Sis. Heidi Schlatter has also moved back to her home congregation, Latty, after being in the Columbus area for the past nine months on a traveling nursing rotation. They will be greatly missed; we trust that the Lord will continue to bless and provide for them, as we are assured in His Word.

Convert Cheryl Gehres underwent another hip-replacement surgery this month (her other hip was replaced back in September 07). We pray that she may feel God's healing touch as she begins her rehabilitation.

On February 10-11 it was Invite-A-Friend weekend for our congregation. We are so grateful for all those who were able to come and worship with us. How blessed we are that we live in a nation in which we can travel freely to encourage each other in Christian love and fellowship! I pray that we may never take this blessing for granted.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Vicki Boroff

We enjoyed the baptism of Bro. Alan Manz on February 3. His parents

are Bro. Paul and Sis. Sandra Manz. Helping our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter on the pulpit was Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield). Also joining us that weekend were ministering Bros. Mark Ramsier (Sis. Alice, Sardis), and Tim Ramsier (Sis. Joni, Rittman).

We were thankful to hear that our convert Jim Manz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen) has received the wonderful gift of peace. We look forward to a weekend in the future to hear Jim's testimony.

Our congregation was saddened to hear of the loss of Bro. Randy Miller's (Shirley) mother. Our prayer is that the Lord will bring comfort during this time of sorrow.

We also would like to thank Bro. Dwight Stoller (Sis. Lori, Latty) for bringing the Word to us. We appreciate the efforts of our home and visiting ministers.

OHIO, LATTY

Amanda Wenninger

Carmen Eisenmann

God has blessed our congregation with two new babies this month. January 23 was the birth date for Clay Christopher, born to Bro. Reid and Sis. Amanda Stoller. His older brothers are Nyle and Jude. Happy grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Barb Stoller and John and Penny LaBounty. Caden Kurtis was born to Bro. Kurt and Sis. Lisa Sinn on January 24. He was welcomed home by his siblings, Chelsea, Tiffany, Cameron, and Tianna. His thankful grandparents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann Sinn and Bro. Dale and Sis. Becky Wulf (Lester, IA). We pray God's richest blessings on these families as they continue raising their children.

We appreciate Bro. Dale Wulf's (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA) willingness to minister the Word to us this month. May God bless him for his efforts.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Esther Baumann

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."

II Timothy 4:7

Sis. Leora Bocka passed away on February 9. We pray for her family and find comfort in knowing she diligently kept the faith. She is survived by six children: Sis. Loretta Steffen (Elder Bro. Aaron, Alto, MI), Bro. Larry, Michael (Karen), Elaine Tuttle (Dave), Joyce Young (Lonny), and Elise Baldrige (Kenny); and one sister, Sis. Aldine Gasser (Bro. Nelson, Rittman, OH).

We bid farewell to Bro. Wayne and Sis. Nina Rufener as they have made their new home in Rittman, OH. We have many precious memories of this dear couple and pray they will return often to visit.

Little Michael Thomas Sabo was born on January 29 to Bro. Jason and Sis. Nora. He is also joyfully welcomed home by siblings, Sophie, Joseph, and Anna; and grandparents Bro. Greg and Sis. Sharon Sabo and Carl and Lila Schuster.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Laurie Beery

Linda Zollinger

In days of youth seek ye the Lord,
His love and truth with one accord,
Go offer Him thy youthful days
And walk within the Saviour's ways.

Hymns of Zion #135

We are so thankful and rejoice with Roxanne Gerber (Bro. Joe and Sis. Ann), Caleb Beery (Bro. Earl and Sis. Suzie), Andrew Raifsnider (Sis. Diana) and Mary Jenkins (Bro. Tom and Sis. Debra) as they surrender to the Lord in humble repentance. May they feel God's nearness and direction as they go forth to build a firm founda-

tion.

January 20 was the wedding of Bro. Tom Bako (Bro. Eugene and Sis. Dianna) of Akron, OH, and Sis. Laura Stoller (Bro. Greg and Sis. Joy). We wish them God's richest blessings, guidance and direction as they walk this life together. Sis. Laura will be missed in our Rittman congregation, but we know she will be a blessing to the Akron congregation.

This past month we have once again been blessed with several visiting Elders and ministers. We thank Elder Bros. Dave Graf (Akron, OH), Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) and Kenneth Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) and ministering Bros. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Todd Graf (Akron, OH), Don Steidl (Akron, OH), Mike Ursu (Kitchener, Ontario), Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), Steve Pamer (Akron, OH) and Jesse Bedolla (Detroit, MI). We are thankful for their visits and labors of love.

Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) and Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) assisted our Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler in reading the Elder Conference Memorandum letter. They shared many kind exhortations to each of us. Our dear Elders love each one of us and put forth much effort to help us in our daily walk. May we strive to take heed to their words so we can all meet in Heaven some day!

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

Psalms 127:3

Four families have welcomed babies into their homes. Bro. Brett and Sis. Renee Lanz and children, Brendan and Breanne, welcome Brooklyn Marie born January 20. Her grandparents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Diane Lanz and Bro. Nelson and Sis. Shelby Beer (Milford, IN). Bro. David and Sis. Anne Widmer and brother, Jude, along with grandparents, Bro. Virgil and Sis. Lois Gasser and Bro.

Darrell and Sis. Alice Widmer welcome Aysha Marie born January 23. First-time parents, Bro. Mark and Sis. Megan Steidl (Akron, OH), welcome Conner Joseph born January 25. His grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Nan Steidl (Akron, OH) and Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Carol Rupp. Merrit John was born February 5 to Tom and Joy Fortner. Brothers, Mason and Myles, along with grandparents, Deanna Thompson and Millard and Sandra Fortner, and great-grandmother, Sis. Rowene Howell, welcome Merrit. May God be with these parents as they raise their dear children to know the Lord.

Hospital patients this past month have been Sis. Marjorie Weber, Sis. Mary Ellen (Bro. William) Saylor, and Sis. Esther Saurer. May they feel the love and prayers from the dear brethren.

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to the dear family in the loss of Sis. Leora Bocka (Mansfield, OH) and to her sister, Sis. Aldene (Bro. Nelson) Ramsier; sister-in-laws, Sis. Lucy (the late Bro. Bert) Gasser and Sis. Marie (the late Bro. Emmett) Gasser, and her brother-in-law, Bro. Kenneth (the late Sis. Wilma) Ramsier. May God be their Comforter.

January 27 we were blessed to use the new kitchen and dining room addition and on February 3 we were able to use the new Sunday School addition. All thanks goes unto the Lord but we appreciate all the many efforts and countless hours put forth by each dear one. May God be their rich Rewarder.

OHIO, SARDIS Faith Beard

"Thou hast set all the borders of the earth: Thou hast made summer and winter."

Psalms 74:17

This winter seems determined to

have a day for everyone. Warm, sunny spring-like days in the 60's, icy cold subzero days, and everything in between. We also seem to be having quite the extraordinary flu season this past month as a large number from our congregation have been unable to attend services at some point due to flu and/or cold symptoms.

"But I will make them keepers of the charge of the house, for all the service thereof, and for all that shall be done therein."

Ezekiel 44:14

Our annual business meeting was held near the end of January, and the results of the elections were recently made known. Bro. Bob Indermuhle (Sis. Karen) has completed his term as usher, and Bro. Mark Nenadov (Sis. Brenda) was voted in to replace him. Bro. Ed Beard (Sis. Dee) also completed his term as trustee, and Bro. Seth Beard (Sis. Faith) was elected to start a new term. We recognize there is much "behind-the-scenes" work that goes into helping our church to run smoothly, and we thank those who willingly have and will put forth these efforts.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE Edith Miller Ruth Gasser

"...The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest."

We thank Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH) as he has lent himself again to serve us with the Word.

Three more souls have answered God's call to repentance and felt His peace, hoping to give their testimonies at the appropriate time. Leah Gasser (Bro. Ken and Sis. Sue Ellen Maibach

and the late Bro. Greg Gasser), Jana Widmer (Bro. Jim and Sis. Karen) and Jackie Hartzler (Dwight and Bev) have been announced to the church. We pray they continue to grow in faith and grace in walking in the paths of the Lord's leading.

The engagement of Sis. Jeni Klotzle (Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley) and Bro. Adam Henico (Bro. Gregory and Sis. Sarah, Akron, OH) was made known to the church on January 27. We wish them the Lord's blessing as they prepare for marriage and a lifetime serving Him as one.

Sis. Florence Hartzler and Sis. Laura Oppliger have required hospital care this past month. We hope they will continue on the path to recovery and feel strengthened by the Lord.

OHIO, TOLEDO
Teresa Rywalski
Rebecca Beard

"Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised)"

Hebrews 10:23

We spent a quiet Saturday evening together as Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) and Bro. Walt shared with us the Memorandum. May we take to heart the instructions provided for our spiritual well being.

It was nice to have Bro. Art Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH) with us on Sunday. May he always feel welcome when assembling with us.

Sis. Sharon Rager (Bro. Walt) had knee surgery and spent a few days in the hospital. We pray God will provide for her healing.

Our love and prayers are with Sis. Freda Rekhlaui as her sister, Sis. Marie Steffen (Bluffton, IN), has gone to her Heavenly home.

OREGON, PORTLAND
Brianna Strahm

We were thankful to have the following visiting ministers with us this past month: Bro. Wes Moser (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA), Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty), Bro. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie) and Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane), all of Silverton. May the Lord richly bless these brothers for their labors in the Word on our behalf.

Our congregation held our annual business meeting on February 3. Bro. Andy Angstrom was voted into the trustee position and Bro. Allen Knecht will assist with the sound system. We give these brothers our support and are thankful for their willingness to serve us in these areas.

Bro. Brent and Sis. Brianna Strahm are thankful for the safe arrival of Naomi Anne born on January 22. Welcoming her home are siblings, Kathryn, Carolyn and Isaac. Grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Edie Strahm (Bern, KS) and Tim Miller and Carol Wilson.

OREGON, SILVERTON
Melissa Kuenzi
Cindy Metzger

In our annual business meeting this year, Bro. Jim Roth was selected to serve as a trustee, Bro. Joel Metz for the sound system, Bro. Terry Young as an usher, and Sis. Joan Dietrich for the dinner committee. At times we forget to thank those who work on our behalf to help keep order in our church, so thank you to those who are currently serving in these various positions as well as those who have served in the past.

We appreciate Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH) traveling here to help Elder Bro. Art in reading the Memorandum to our congregation on February 9.

On February 10, Sutton James was born to Bro. Nelson and Sis. Lisa Kuenzi. Grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Barb Kuenzi and Bro. Bill and

Sis. Charlotte Metzger (Lester, IA). Preston James was born on February 11 to Bro. Aden and Sis. Becky Kuenzi. Preston's siblings are Kaitlin, Holly and Luke. His grandparents are Bro. Terry and Sis. Ann Kuenzi and Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan Dietrich.

We said our farewells to Bro. Phillip and Sis. Tasha Petrovic and their family who recently moved to the San Diego area. We will miss them greatly, but are thankful they are following the Lord's guiding hand.

A special thank you to the following visiting ministers who have willingly served us this past month: Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH), Bro. Wes Moser (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA), Bros. Ron Jones (Sis. Liz) and Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy), both of Portland, OR.

PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA

"But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

Isaiah 40:31

May we continue to wait upon our LORD, neither weary nor faint. Whether we shall run or walk, may we be renewed in strength. We are thankful here in Philadelphia for good health and the peace of God that bears us up with wings as eagles.

We appreciate each visitor. Keep us in mind if you travel to the east coast.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE
Gwen Leuthold

"Trust and obey,
For there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus,
But to trust and obey."

Hymns of Zion #186

"Trust and Obey" will be the theme for the 2008 Athens/Tennessee Memorial Day Weekend scheduled on May 24-25 at the Tennessee Fellowship area and at the Athens, Ala. Apostolic Christian Church. Everyone is invited to join us for this weekend of fellowship, singing, and worshipping the Lord.

As in past years, an auction will begin the weekend activities on Saturday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. at the Tennessee Fellowship Area with registration starting at 12:00 noon. For the auction, donations will be appreciated. Supper will be served at 6 p.m. followed by the evening events commencing at 7:00 with singing and then Ministering Brother Curt Rassi (Tremont, Ill.) speaking on "Trust and Obey" at 7:30 p.m.

On Sunday, regular church services will be held at 10:00 a.m. at the Athens, Ala. Apostolic Christian Church. Lunch will be on your own with fellowship resuming at the Tennessee Fellowship Area at 3:30 p.m. and singing starting at 4:00 p.m. The second speaker, Ministering Brother Frank Sauder (Roanoke, Ill.) will begin at 5:00 p.m. with supper at 5:30 and singing resuming afterward.

Directions: For those who have never been to the Tennessee Fellowship Area, it is located in Southern Tennessee off of Interstate 65 at Exit 14 (Pulaski). If you are coming from the North, you will be turning left onto Hwy 64 after exiting. Travel approximately 1/2 mile and turn left again immediately before the bridge onto Old Hwy 64. The Fellowship Area is located on the left. If you are traveling from the South, take Exit 14 (Pulaski) and turn right onto Hwy 64. Resume following the directions above.

Motel Accommodations: Tennessee Fellowship Area in Pulaski, Tenn.—Super 8 (800)800-8000 or (931)363-4501 Athens, Alabama Area --Best Western (256) 233-4030; Comfort Inn (800) 228-5150 or (256)

232-2704; Country Hearth Inn & Suites (256) 232-1520; Days Inn (800) 329-7466 or (256)233-7500; Quality Inn (800)424-6423 or (256) 232-0030; Holiday Inn Express (800) 465-4329 or (256) 232-7931; Sleep Inn (256) 232-4700; Super 8 (800) 800-8000 or (256)233-1446.

Bus from Central Illinois: For those of you who are located in the Central Illinois area, a bus will be going to the Tennessee Fellowship Area from Morton, Ill. for the weekend. To learn more details, contact Ed Kaiser at (309)263-8944 or e-mail him at edkaiser@dtmspeed.net

Contact Information: For planning purposes, we ask that you please notify one of the following contacts if you plan to join us for the weekend. Additionally, communication has been sent to each church, and you may also opt to notify your church's contact, who will in turn let us know of the numbers planning to attend from your congregation. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact Tennessee Fellowship Secretary Sis. Gwen Leuthold at (615)356-5755 or leutholdg@aol.com, Tennessee Fellowship Chariman Bro. Don Sauder (615)373-8928 or don.sauder@juno.com or Tennessee Fellowship Treasurer Bro. Mike Moore (256) 729-0620 or alm38@aol.com.

TEXAS, AUSTIN Amy Ringger Serenity Ringger

In a sermon recently, a passage was read about the children of Israel going through the wilderness. We were reminded that for virtually all of us after we're converted, God does not immediately take us to paradise, but we travel through this wilderness in preparation for the Promised Land.

Sis. Dorothy Wenger spent many years traveling through this life, but her time is now past. She died on February 5. We appreciate the times she could spend with us attending church

with her daughter, Joy Pipkin. In recent years, Sis. Dorothy's health did not allow her to come often. Our sympathy goes out to her family.

We are thankful for the ministers who were willing to travel to Austin in the past month: Bros. Gene Lehman (Sis. Verna, Wolcott), Fred Funk (Sis. Diane, Morton), Bruce Endress (Sis. Elizabeth, Bradford), and John Reinhard (Sis. Pam, Bluffton). We also enjoyed our visitors from Bern, Smithville, Eureka, West Bend, and Oakville.

The following is the minister schedule for April: (6) La Crosse, (13) West Bend, (20) Minneapolis and (27) Mansfield. 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 our Savior, Jesus Christ. We thank our visiting ministers, Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane, Silverton, OR) and Bro. Earl Beery (Sis. Suzanne, Rittman, OH), for taking their time and effort in expounding to us the written Word of the Lord. May our dear Father in Heaven continue to richly bless them as they have enriched us.

We are thankful for the visiting brethren from Bloomfield, IA; Silverton, OR; Bern, KS; Winthrop, MN; Zapata, TX; and Mansfield, OH.

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: (April 13, Detroit, MI), (April 27, Roanoke, IL), (May 11, Washington, IL), (May 25, Bluffton North, IN), (June 8, Gridley, IL), and (June 22, Princeville, 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

God shows us the beauty of His creation during each season. Spring is evident in South Texas and the desert is blooming with wild flowers and fragrant trees. Zapata is also a haven for many different species of birds and many visitors travel just to see the wonders of His creation.

We are most thankful for those who visited Zapata the past month. Ministering brothers have been Elder

Bro. Art Nohl (Sis. Sandra, Morris, MN), Bro. Nelson Beer (Sis. Shelby, Milford, IN) and Bro. Eugene Metzger (Sis. Delores, Lester, IA).

Each winter season we have our annual meeting to select brethren to perform specific duties in our church. Bro. Dan Anliker was selected as trustee, Bro. Harold and Sis. Mary Jane Knapp will serve on the dinner committee; Bro. Harvey Walter will be in charge in the speaker system and usher is Bro. Marlyn Messner.

We certainly thank those who served so faithfully the past several years including Bro. Norman Frank as trustee, Dan and Delores Anliker on the dinner committee, Usher Roland Messner and working with the speaker system was Bro. Wayne Rufener. Bro. Wayne and his wife, Sis. Nina, are no longer residing in Zapata for the winter season and we certainly appreciate all their labors for years they were here. They updated our church directory for several years.

Anyone wishing to visit us is most welcome. Most of our winter visitors and residents are preparing to leave for their homes in the North. Anyone coming to South Texas this spring and summer is encouraged to contact us prior to coming.

VERMONT CLARENDON/NORWICH Nathan and Miriam Reutter

"Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift."

II Corinthians 9:15

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Duane Reutter (Sis. Kay), Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl), and Bro. Tom Bahler (Sis. LaNae), all of Rockville, CT. We thank each one who so faithfully serves us over the pulpit and in many other ways that are not as noticed.

"Therefore if any man be in Christ,

he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

II Corinthians 5:17

We rejoice with Adam Stevenson (Chris and children, Kaylo and Zenon) and Melanie Wood (Christopher and children, Cait, Graelen and Abram) who have both made their spiritual beginnings known, and have turned their backs to this sinful world, wanting to serve their Lord and Savior. We are so thankful that God is still working in the hearts of man! Our prayers will be with these two dear souls and their families as they seek to live their lives for God and experience a full conversion.

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 10:15 AM

Afternoon Service 12:30 PM

Sunday school is held during the morning service.

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



Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services

73 East Queenwood Rd, Morton, IL 61550 309-263-5536 (local#) 309-263-6841 (fax)
877-370-9988 (toll free) www.accounseling.org

Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services To Build a New Facility

In the past few years, since Apostolic Christian Counseling Service and Gateway Woods Family Services were combined, the newly formed Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services (ACCFS) has been growing. Within the past two years two new clinical counselors have been hired as well as a discipleship counselor. As a result, the present facility is no longer large enough to house all of our personnel. Many rooms are crowded with extra cabinets and library materials. Thus the Board of ACCFS has been acutely aware of our need for more space.

At the August, 2007 Elder's Conference, the Elder Body approved ACCFS' going ahead with plans for a building. Before this approval, the ACCFS Board had looked at many properties for a possible site, none of which met our criteria or were available at a reasonable cost. At the September meeting of the ACCFS Board, the Board was made aware of reasonably-priced property, made available by the Village of Morton. As a result of this availability, they agreed to buy the property and to form a fund-raising committee. The ACCFS land, consisting of two acres, is several hundred yards from Main Street; and the site is being developed so that others driving on Highland St. will not be able to see the vehicles of those who come for counseling.

In the ensuing months since the Elder Conference and the land purchase, God's hand has been visibly shown through the generosity of the Apostolic Christian Church brothers and friends.

As of now, we have adequate funds to start the building without incurring a large debt; and plans have been nearly finalized for the building. We are continuing to raise funds to cover as much of the building costs as possible. Bro. Jerry Kaiser will head the construction effort, and Bro. Jerome Witzig has agreed to coordinate the volunteers for the project.

Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services is designed to provide services to all Apostolic Christian Church communities. Since we all stand to gain from this facility, each will be given the opportunity to support the new building project in two ways. First, the cost of land, materials, and hired labor will need to come from our donations. Second, we can cut building cost appreciably if much of the labor is donated. We have organized to allow volunteers to contribute their time to help save the labor cost on the new construction. The following points of interest may help you determine if you can fit into the role of a volunteer:

Timing:

April 1st - (weather permitting) construction of access drive and parking lot

May 1st - plumbing in slab and slab construction

June 1st through August - framing, brick laying, shingling, interior finishing, etc

Specifications:

The building will be a rectangular shape of about 5000 sq. ft. It will be constructed of wood frame with brick exterior. The roof will

be shingled. This construction has proved to be very compatible for our work teams.

Location:

A parcel of ground has been purchased in Morton, Illinois for the site. Take Main Street north to Highland Street (about a block past Courtland Street, which goes past Wal-Mart). Turn left onto Highland Street; the lot is on the right, directly across from FedEx.

Overnight accommodations: Groups wishing to work more than one day because of long travel distances should contact Bro. Jerome and Sis. Mary's Bed and Breakfast. We are only 30 minutes away and will keep groups of volunteers in our house at no cost. Camping is also available to those with campers. Fishing poles suggested!

Contact information for volunteers and lodging:

Bro. Jerome and Sis. Mary Witzig,
phone: 309-744-2347
e-mail: foxrun@mtco.com

Funding:

For those willing to donate toward the building project, a check should be made out to ACCFS, and sent to:

Howard Getz
Apostolic Christian
Counseling and
Family Services
73 Queenwood Road
Morton, IL 61550

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
 E-mail: tsneuen@adamswells.com

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

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 but he that keepeth the law, happy is he."
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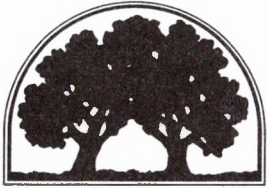
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~*****~

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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

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:

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

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We currently have outlets for Hymns of Zion, Gospel Hymns and Tabernacles. We also have a request for a limited amount of Zion's Harps (1958 Edition). Please call before sending Zion's Harps. Bibles are always in demand.

The U.S. government eliminated foreign surface mail in 2007. The cost of sending used books by air mail is greater than what new books could be purchased for in the foreign countries. We are currently working with organizations (such as Christian Aid Ministries) that send materials to foreign countries by sea container which is a more reasonable price. Some of the books are also used by U.S. churches and missions. Thank you to all who have provided books and those who help repair them.

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

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

Lynn Stieglitz
Counseling Elder
15417 Doty Rd.
New Haven, IN 46774
260-657-1033

"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, Houseparents

Eye Glasses Needed

The Eye Clinic in Ixtlan, Mexico, has been providing eyeglasses and surgical assistance free of charge to the local community for over 10 years now. We are once again in need of donated eye glasses.

Please only send complete pairs of glasses in good condition. We are unable use loose lenses without their original frame.

In addition to all prescription eyewear (adult and children), we are especially in need of over the counter reading glasses.

Please send all donated items to:

Ixtlan Eye Clinic
c/o Bryan Stoller, OD
320 N Ladd St.
Pontiac, IL 61764

Sermon continued from page 2

world. Everything - all the miracles; the wonderful works God did through those people and all their failings; the thousands, millions of animals that were slain; the gallons of blood that were shed; - are a constant reminder of sin and the price of sin. Yet that didn't do it.

It just comes down to the basic truth. There was only one way, really, that God could solve this awful dilemma - that mankind had sinned - that fell upon every man. Everyone was guilty. Not only of the inherited sin of Adam. But because of that nature, they actually, like we, committed sin as they lived here upon the earth. Different degrees, some better, some worse. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). No amount of religiosity, no amount of commandments that the Lord gave, which were good, that only added really, to the condemnation. Because we couldn't live up to the commandments and couldn't keep them, even with the best of intention and effort. God blessed all good efforts. I don't mean to indicate that. But that just proved, over and over and over, that we were lost and there was simply no hope.

But all the while, God held out hope from Genesis 3 (v.15) when the promise was given; there would be one sent that would crush the head of the serpent. Then in a number of figures throughout the Old Testament, God was pointing ahead: the law, and the tabernacle in the wilderness. Every place we read in the Old Testament is designed, not to save us but to look to the one that will save us. That's Jesus Christ. That's what we read here. In the fullness of time God sent His Son, born of a woman, to redeem them that were under the law. That's us.

God was the one that said, the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23), and the soul that sins, it shall die, He wasn't just speaking of physical death - that happened of course. Adam - and I forget right now how old he was, nine hundred and some years, I think. - he sinned. He was told that the day he eats thereof he'll die (Genesis 2:17). He didn't die that day physically. But physical death started that day. But what happened that day was that he died spiritually. He was separated

from God by his sin. So death passed upon all men. There was just simply no way this could be remedied.

God had said, the wages of sin is death. How is He going to remedy this when He really wanted to save us? There had to be a man who would die, both a physical and in some degree I don't understand, a spiritual death in our stead. If this man had any taint of sin on him or a sinful nature, that wouldn't do. That would just pay for his own sin. So God, in His marvelous love and wisdom, devised this wonderful plan of salvation; that He sent His Son to become a man, born of a woman like we said, but not with an earthly father.

So this Son, Jesus Christ, was every bit as much of a human being and a man as you and I. The difference was, He was conceived by the Holy Spirit. So He did not have the sinful nature. But He was tempted in every way. We can read of it in more than one place. But He overcame temptation in looking to His Father in heaven. This proved that man could overcome temptation and sin but first we had to get rid of the sinful nature, didn't we?

Then Christ, as we read here, went to the cross and gave His life as a ransom, as a payment for our sin. The blood we read about here, when the soldier pierced His side, is the blood of atonement that can cover our sin (St. John 19:34). That's different than the blood of all the animals that were slain. They had their place and they had their reason and they taught us many things. But they couldn't, they couldn't pay for the sinful nature. They couldn't take away sin. But the blood of Christ did. His sinless life, His death, the shedding of His blood not only could cover our sin, but can take away our sin, we read in Scripture.

The power of His resurrection, as we read here, He said, it's finished (St. John 19:30), the price was paid. The redemption that's now offered freely to every man, was paid for when He said it's finished. He gave up the ghost, His life. He gave it. They didn't take it from Him! He gave it out of pure love for you and me. So that we don't have to die. We are already dead spiritually with our sinful nature. We are going to die physically because of that. But now we can have life. We no

longer have to be separated from God. This is the way and the only way that mankind can be reconciled to God. The sin that we did and can't undo can be forgiven and atoned for. God is still God because He dealt with sin. That's what we read of here.

We see our self all too clearly in the mob here, don't we? They were a religious mob. Yes, there were the Romans, whatever they would have been. We don't know what all their attitude was. Some of them had a better attitude than the Jews. But primarily we are talking here about people God's people, that should have known better.

Don't we have to hang our head? In our unconverted state we knew better too. But we couldn't do it. We see our self here - at least I do and I really think you do too - and how we look at things and how we value things. Where do we put our priorities? Well they wanted to maintain their system. They wanted to take care of their own self, self interests, and didn't we too. Just the exact opposite of the one that was hung on the cross, that gave up Himself and His self interests for others, namely you and I.

They wanted any hindrance to their own agenda, can I say, taken out of the way. Let's examine our self. Do we fall in that trap sometimes? When something comes along that seemingly stands in the way of our personal agenda, we have to be careful we don't react like this. We just see it all over here, don't we?

We see Pilate, kind of an amazing situation. He revealed himself. He couldn't find any fault in the man (St. John 19:4). He was honest enough to say that. And there was no fault in the man. But again it shows, even when we intellectually know better in a lot of cases, we maybe don't find the courage and grace to do it. Unless we are after the cross, truly converted, born again, a child of God. Then we should by all means, find the grace and the courage to do what's right. If we don't there's really no excuse for that, is there?

Pilate said - like a man does; we like to take a little authority; we like to have a little control over things, don't we - he said, don't you know who you are speaking to here? I have the power

o say you're free or you're executed. Jesus said, you couldn't have that power unless it were given you from above. (St. John 19:10,11) Just kindly, honestly, forthrightly, our Lord just put everything right in the right perspective and order, didn't he.

Don't we find it that way? When we come before our Lord, we may have all kinds of pretense. He sees right through us. He's kind, He's patient, He's gentle. But He isn't changed by our good salesmanship or our emotions. Truth is truth. The truth is He loves us. The truth is He wants us to be in heaven with Him. That's why He came and did what He did. He wants us to live like we are heaven bound.

You know, I don't think anybody gets into heaven unless we take heaven with us. You get what I mean? I really believe we have to be citizens of heaven here and live like heavenly citizens or none of us are going to make it to heaven. Think about it. When we think of what was done here, the enormity of this cost, and the power it has in anybody's life that will love, obey and submit. We often think, well, murderers, adulterers, drunkards, those things, they won't make it to heaven. Well, I agree.

What about just bad attitudes and irritable people? Think about it. I bang my head cause I'm that way sometimes. I'm telling you, it convicts me. I really have to work more and more. How does God view some of the more subtle sins that I am talking about, of just an ill tempered person? Think about it. What would heaven be if it's made up of a lot of those kinds of people? It wouldn't be heaven!

As we said, what we read about here is way deeper than this poor person can explain. But I believe the effects it has on us should be deeper than we really can understand. There is a mystery about the plan of salvation. That really is a mystery of godliness. Brother Froehlich wrote about it. That is this wonderful joy and desire, ability, power to live a godly life. To be heavenly citizens here already.

We've talked a little bit about the mob. Just a word about our Lord. Again, we can't begin to imagine what He was going through. The absolute painful torture physically, mentally, emotionally, that He was going

through. Three hours on the cross.

What's He thinking of? He sees His mother. Apparently His father had already passed away. We don't read too much of His relationship with His mother. I'm not deifying Mary here. But she was a very special woman. The little bit we read of her, you can't help but come to that conclusion. She was human. She was a sinner. She was still a special person that God chose. The Spirit had told her, when Jesus was born, that a sword will pierce through thine own heart also (St. Luke 2:35). I don't think she ever forgot that. She probably didn't know what that really was. Probably several times when she saw the works of her Son and some of the things that were said about Him, when they wanted to stone Him and so forth, she probably thought, this is it. But it wasn't. Isn't it that way sometimes with us?

Here, I believe as she saw this, her Son - mothers, Mary wasn't any different. She bore this child. Saw Him grow up as a man. Knew He was special. There is something about a birth and a mother and child relationship. Once a mother, always a mother. When she stood in this crowd and saw everything that was happening, I believe the sword pierced her heart.

In the midst of all of His agony, He sees her and He says to her, behold thy Son (St. John 19:26). He's looking at John. He's really saying, I'm leaving. John will take my place. Then He looks at John - it says, the disciple He loved, I believe that's John - Behold thy mother (St. John 19:26,27). He said to John, you take care of her. I won't be here. You take care of her. Thinking of others under the deepest duress and distress. That's our Lord. That's the pattern we want to take.

We want to be like John. It says, "...from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home." St. John 19:27. That's obedience. That's not lip service. That's action of a long term. I don't know how long she lived. It doesn't say but I am going to conclude that John took care of her till her dying day.

Just closing, we've talked a little about it. The soldiers, after He died - I remember our old Elder Brothers made a point of this so I will too. Because I believe it in my heart. I also

have a lot of confidence and I am thankful to God for what He has preserved through our fore bearers in faith that we have sitting here tonight. They said, the blood - and I know sweat drops as blood in the garden the night before, the crown of thorns, the scourging, there was a lot of bloodshed. But what we read here is after He died, the "...soldiers with a spear pierced His side, and forthwith came there out blood and water." St. John 19:34. A point is made, a special point. John's the only one that records this. He makes a point. He says, he saw it. He bare record. His record is true. He knows what he says is true. The reason he says that is so we can believe. The blood of Christ was shed for the atonement of our sin. It was shed after He had died, given His life as a ransom for our life.

In the parallel experience of dying to our sinful nature and being born anew with a Christ-like nature, the blood really applies, the old Brothers said, after we have died to sin. We need to repent. That's God's way and process of our dying to our sinful desires and sinful nature. That has to be dead. When God sees that's dead, the blood atones and we're free and we're new. We have at that point - and I am not saying just what moment that happens - but at that point we are a born again child of God. We have eternal life.

That's the pearl of great price. We carry it in an earthen vessel. We are equipped with everything we need to carry it to life's end into heaven. That's God's plan. That's His purpose. He's given us everything we need to accomplish that. However, just like back in Genesis 3, we still are free will agents. We can choose to go back to the world, to the beggarly elements thereof, to walk a compromising life and forfeit by our own doing, eternal life.

We started out this evening with wisdom. Let's end with wisdom. May we all be wise enough to jealously guard the pearl of great price.



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

Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services

73 East Queenwood Rd,

Morton, IL 61550

309-263-5536 (local#) 309-263-6841 (fax)

877-370-9988 (toll free)

www.accounseling.org

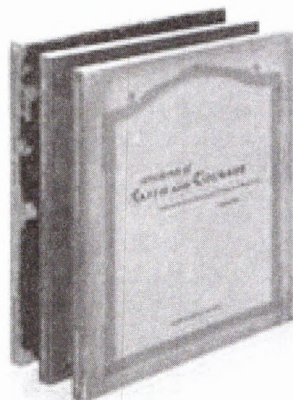
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POSITION AVAILABLE
Assistant to the current Administrator

Parkview Haven Retirement Home of Francesville, Indiana, is seeking an Assistant to our current home Administrator. If you prayerfully feel the Lord's leading and have a desire for this position, please contact Gene Huber Sr. through the following listing:

gbhuber@gmail.com
 Phone: 574-946-3447
 Fax: 574-946-4229



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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. Mik Rassi, Ph. 1-309-359-5240 or E-mail michael_rassi@hotmail.com.

HAITI			
<i>Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of February 9, 2008 - www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/</i>			
Project	Date	Coordinator	Capacity
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			
<i>Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of February 9, 2008 - www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/</i>			
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

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

Summer Worship Services in Colorado

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

July 13 & 20 -

YMCA of the Rockies (Snow Mt. Ranch) – Leggett Bldg.
Located in the Grand Valley between Granby and Winter Park
Office: 970-887-2152 ext. 4127
www.ymcarockies.org

July 27 -

Ponderosa Conference Center (Conference rooms 1& 2 behind the bath house)
Located near Colorado Springs at Larkspur
15235 Furrow Road
Larkspur, CO 80118
(719) 481-2482
www.visitponderosa.com

Morning song service will begin at 10:15 A.M.; worship service at 10:30; followed by lunch and afternoon service. Ministering Brothers from the Denver congregation will be responsible for the services, however we welcome and encourage visiting ministers to support this effort if your travel plans bring you out west this summer. The intent of these services is to alleviate some of the crowding that we tend to experience during the busy summer travel season. (We don't want all our visitors to avoid Aurora!) We welcome all our visitors and deeply appreciate the fellowship that we share in Christ, whether in Aurora, or at the optional locations. For more information, and to help us plan more effectively, please notify Bro. Tom Leman if you will be attending services on any of these dates. Home telephone: (303) 696-1540 E-mail: lemantom@comcast.net

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. For more information regarding the weekend, please refer to the Nashville, TN news located in the news section of this issue of The Silver Lining.



REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

It is always beneficial to re-examine the past, and learn how things began — and in this instance it helps us to re-connect with events of the past and how our American church began. We should remember that in 1846 there were no congregations of our faith here in the United States. Yet, there was a broad mosaic of denominations already present. The fact that a beginning was made, and that subsequently more than 100 congregations were established as time unfolded, should inspire us to thank God for His work as faithful brothers “planted” and nurtured the truth over the many decades, and yet today. We are the beneficiaries!

Although a vast percentage of our members today are aware that a beginning in America (regarding the establishment of our faith), took place in 1847 in upstate New York, it is well to refresh ourselves in the details of that eventful era. Excerpts are taken from *Marching To Zion* that point to that historic time:

“The movement which Samuel Froehlich began in 1831-32 found a presence in America in 1847. It was during this year that twenty-eight-year-old Benedict Weyeneth, having just been ordained as Elder in the Evangelical Baptist Church in Switzerland and personally consecrated by Elder Samuel Froehlich, landed on American soil.

Young Weyeneth, diligent in spirit and obviously feeling led of God because he was ordained (as an Elder) specifically to come to America, patiently checked through customs and soon found the boat that would take

him up the Hudson River to Albany, and then by canal to Utica. From there he may have walked the twenty or so miles to the Black River and then taken some type of water conveyance (or he may have walked) the entire sixty miles to Lewis County, New York.

He was on a mission of profound importance. He was responding to a request from Joseph Virkler, a Lewis County Amish Mennonite farmer, to Samuel Froehlich for help in alleviating some spiritual problems which were besetting his group of believers in that area.”

History tells us that Elder Weyeneth was allowed to speak to this group of Mennonites. He emphasized two main points: (1) Repentance and a new birth are required in one’s quest to truly seek God, and (2) Baptism should be by immersion, which is the Biblical example. One can conjecture as well that his message was sincere, and as he explained other Biblical truths, the Spirit had an impact. The result was that approximately one-half of that Lewis County church followed the teachings promoted (via Scripture) by Elder Weyeneth, and a first church of our faith was established here in America.

In our time, it is very easy to write and speak about this incident. It seemed easy. Yet, in retrospect, if one ponders all the effort(s) made to come to America and endure the travails of travel, and the general hardships of that era, it is a wonderful credit to God that this new young Elder had the grace and physical energy to travel into the unknown, on a

spiritual mission of great importance. Not only did he not know what America was like, he had no idea how he would be received by these Mennonite listeners. Doubtless, he laid all his concerns on the Lord’s bosom, and relied on His guidance. His efforts bore fruit, and a congregation was established. Eventually two churches existed in Naumburg and Croghan, with the former eventually closing after long tenure.

In 1848, a second church was formed at Sardis, Ohio, by Froehlich and his followers, who came to this country from Europe. Sardis, located on the banks of the Ohio River in the southeastern part of Ohio, was a nice stopping off point for European believers who came to America. They would “settle” for awhile at Sardis and eventually take a boat down the Ohio, and thence up the Mississippi, and eventually settle in central Illinois, or at Elgin, Iowa.

Updated History

As mentioned earlier, the updated *Marching To Zion* is being finalized. It will exceed over 800 pages and will include nearly 15 new congregations along with updates per all our congregations. It will also feature the expanded work of World Relief. It is hoped that by late spring, the manuscript can be sent to the printer, Lord willing.

By Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next issue:
General history

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

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“What Do You Think Of Jesus Christ?”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

I'm not asking what you think of the church, nor of the people who attend the church. I'm asking what you think of Jesus Christ. Do you believe that He was and is, more than a prophet? Do you believe that He was and is the Son of the true and living, Creator God? Do you believe that He arose from the grave and if so, what you believe is the significance of that event to you as an individual?

We are taught that we should repent, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, be baptized, and live a holy life, as best we can, by the grace of God. This is all scriptural but this is much more than joining a church. Acts 3:19 teaches us, "Repent therefore, and be converted." In Acts 2:47 we read, "and the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." Both scriptures support what we teach and do.

It is good to encourage our loved ones and others around us to repent and to put their

faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. This is a matter of eternal consequences or blessings, yet it sometimes offends others if they feel we are nagging them about it. They think we are trying to get them to join our church. Temporarily, let's put the church aside and ask, "What do you think of Jesus Christ?" That's the real issue. If they believe that He is the Son of God and that He arose from the dead, common sense tells us that this should revolutionize their lives. We should not say we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and His resurrection and live like we believe in this present world.

The church is nice, the fellowship is nice, and those who feel comfortable in our church, treasure it. However, we are not basically a social organization, we are a spiritual organization. We believe in eternal things and this fact should always show through by our unselfish living.

The resurrection of Jesus

Christ is an historical event which is supported by records and above all, by the fact that the disciples saw the risen Lord. The claim of His resurrection is not something that was added to the record several hundred years after the time it is claimed to have happened. The disciples' willingness to die for the Lord is an added assurance that they did in fact see the risen Lord and talked with Him. People are hardly willing to die for a lie.


What do you think of Jesus Christ? I understand that you think and believe that He was and is the Son of God, that He died for us, and that He arose again. His resurrection is proof of His divinity and of His qualification to be our Saviour. Let's live for Him in a way that our faith is evident, and when the time is ripe, let's ask others, "What do you think of Jesus Christ?" It may be just the opening you need to speak with others about eternal things.

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*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary
the devil, as a roaring lion,
walketh about, seeking whom he may devour*

1 Peter 5:8