

# *The Silver Lining*



*But as he which hath called you is holy,  
so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;  
Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.*

*1 Peter 1:15-16*

*April 2008*

Sermon by Dave Steffen, Elgin, IL

## Psalm 19:1-14 and Acts 7:20-43

What a beautiful message that David was inspired to write down so many years ago (Psalm 19). We can hardly imagine how different life was back then as far as technology and what they had and didn't have compared to what we have today. But yet when it comes down to the Word of God and what we need for the salvation of our souls, it's the same, isn't it?

He started by declaring the greatness of God, and showing how God displays Himself in His creation all around. "Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge." Psalm 19:2. We can just see all the things that are happening and taking place as we sometimes take a minute. Just last night I stepped outside, and it's not completely dark sometimes in the city, but just to take a minute and look up at the stars. Just to see the sky, to see these heavens that declare the glory of God. I'm sure you do it, in some way or another too, whether it's looking at some other portion of God's creation, whatever it is. God is just faithful. This cycle just continues to happen day in and day out and we know some day God is going to bring it to an end. But for now, it's for here. It's here for us to enjoy, and to really remind us as the Psalmist was reminded that our God is perfect, when it says, "The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul..." Psalm 19:7. It's beautiful to think that we can have complete confidence in the Creator that we worship, that when we, as we heard this morning, yield unto God - I think Bro. Chuck's closing words were: Yield unto God and He'll take care of the rest.

Right here, to anyone who's in this room who is unconverted, verse 7 and 8, it just lays it right out. "The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple." Psalm 19:7. He will provide for us in a perfect way. It's been evident. Over time, each one of us who are His children can attest to that. That God is God. If you see any imperfection in our life, it's not because of God. It's because of ourselves and our lack of faith or failure to obey God's commandment or we might have these errors that it talks about here in the Scripture. But we're thankful that we can go to the God and the Creator of heaven and earth, and He gives us the perfect way - the gospel message. The message of salvation through His Son Jesus Christ.

There's so many other things we can turn to in this life that, before we purchase it, we want to prove it out, we want to understand what it is, we want to get a testimony from someone else, and we find that there's flaws and there's bad reports on something. Nothing's perfect. But the Word of God is perfect. There's no revision column in this Book. It's perfect just the way it was written and you and I better take heed to it. We better take it seriously and allow it to work in our lives and allow the Word of God to wash us and to cleanse us each day.

Again to our friends, there's no more beautiful way. Every day you delay is one more day that you're going to have to repent for. It's one more day that you're going to regret. Just go interview. Talk to somebody who started repenting when they were 60, 70, 80 years old, or on their death bed. They would tell you: I wished I would have turned to the Lord earlier in my life. There's a lot of scars. The Lord can heal and He can forgive, even at that age - don't get me wrong. But the joy of not only being forgiven of our sins, but then being able to worship the Lord, live for the Lord as we walk through our life and enjoy the blessings that He wants to bestow upon us, that He does bestow on us.

There's no greater way than to follow the Lord and the Psalmist just laid out these beautiful thoughts. "The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether." Psalm 19:9.

This man Moses (Acts 7), how do we relate him to our lives? The first verse tells us that he was learned in the wisdom of the Egyptians (Acts 7:22). How about you? How about me? Would it be said of us: He or she is learned in the schooling of the United States of America? Are you and I so filled with the knowledge of this world, that it can become a detriment to us? I'm thankful that I look at my brothers and sisters, and I see the wisdom and the ability that God gives each of you to carry out your task and your talent in life, and I'm thankful for that.

I think of the time of Daniel. God blessed them with knowledge and cunning in the wisdom of this world to be able to make a difference, too (Daniel 1:17). But in that case it was so that Daniel and his friends could be promoted. So that they could, in turn be

able to show to that king and to those people, their God - the God of Israel. The God of the Jewish people and to be able to exalt His name before them. It had an effect, didn't it? So when we think of ourselves, we want to make sure that whatever we're doing is for the glory of God, not trying to make a difference just in the physical aspect of life, but spiritually. That's where the blessings are going to come as we worship our Lord.

Because there's some sections of Mo-

*Sermon continued on page 43*

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"...love one another, as I  
have loved you"  
(John 15:12)

# Light From The Word



Writings based  
on God's Word

April 2008

## Loving As God Loves Us

We often speak of love, but many of us might struggle to define it. God's Word both defines and demonstrates love, but before considering how, let's consider the nature of the word itself.

I Corinthians 13:4-8 lists thirteen attributes of love, and each of these is an action. People often treat love primarily as a feeling and then question its virtue when the feeling is gone. The Bible, however, describes love as an action – a commitment – enduring forever regardless of circumstances. To understand this contrast, consider the marriage relationship. If a man and woman marry based only on having "fallen in love," they have no foundation in those inevitable moments when they don't feel love for each other. However, if they enter marriage with faith that God has led them together, they choose to love with total commitment. When in stressful moments they don't feel love toward each other, they remember God's will for their union, and based on that understanding, they recommit themselves to loving each other. From this commitment and by God's grace, flows the true feeling of love in all its beauty and wonder. In any relationship, Christ-like love is an action before it is a feeling. (Luke 12:34).

By definition, "God is love" (1 Jn. 4:16). His Word is the story of His enduring love for mankind. In creating the universe, He expressed His love. In creating our immortal souls, He expressed His love. Even the existence of evil is evidence of God's love, for He chose to give us free will, without which love could not be expressed. His plan of salvation embodies His love, for having rejected Him, we don't deserve the redemption He mercifully offers us. Even secular society recognizes love by the "golden rule" – Christ's commandment to "love thy neighbor as thyself" (Matt. 22:37-40).

The Bible is full of instruction and wisdom, but Paul summarizes it all in one word: love. "...he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law... and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

*Love worketh no ill to his neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law*" (Rom. 13:8-10). Since God is love, we must first love Him, submitting unconditionally to His will, which is to love and serve our fellow man. In doing so, we fulfill the law of God.

Our best earthly example of love is Jesus Christ, who said, "As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you. Continue ye in my love... This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you" (Jn. 15:9, 12). We are to love all men, and the Word teaches us how to love both our brothers and our enemies.

To understand how to love our brother, consider the following verses sequentially: "...love one another with a pure heart fervently" (1 Pet. 1:22). "But take heed lest by any means this liberty of your's become a stumblingblock to them that are weak...but when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ" (1 Cor. 8:9, 12). "Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another" (Rom. 14:19). "Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word or our epistle" (2 Thes. 2:15).

Love "doth not behave itself unseemly and seeketh not her own" (1 Cor. 13:5) and desires the best for the beloved. Within the church, we share practical applications of the Word designed to remove potential "stumbling blocks" from our Christian walk. While these applications are not means of salvation, when done in the right spirit, they are very important and intended to help us apply Titus 2:11-14. They also are in keeping with the higher calling of love. The Apostle Paul entreats us to consider the needs and spiritual well-being of others before our own (Rom. 12:3, Phil. 2:3). Sometimes, this willing submission requires actions we might otherwise deem unnecessary. Other times, it provides the discipline to examine our own shortfalls before accusing a brother (Math. 7:3-5). Again, love is God's law, and "Great peace have they which love thy law, and nothing shall offend them" (Ps. 119:165).

To love our enemies, we must rely on

God's grace to rise above the carnal nature. "But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you" (Matt. 5:44). Even when we don't feel love toward someone, we are called to love him anyway, remembering that love is an action before a feeling. We often find that choosing to love an enemy and praying for him is followed by the good feelings of love.

We have no more powerful example of love than God sending His only Son to die for our sins on the cross. "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins" (1 Jn. 4:7-10).

Reviewing the various facets of love in 1 Corinthians 13, one finds that Christ's supreme sacrifice reflects each of these attributes. Our charge, therefore, is given in 1 John 3:16: "Hereby perceive we the love of God, because He laid down His life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man" (Ecc. 12:13). Jesus and Paul taught that love fulfills all of God's commandments, so we can conclude that love itself is the "whole duty of man." (Matt. 22:36-39) Are you fulfilling your duty to love God and one another as Christ has loved us? This kind of love calls us to obedience: "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous" (1 John 5:3). In loving God and one another, and in keeping His commandments, you will fulfill His purpose for your life.

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](mailto: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

## Casa Vida y Esperanza House of Life and Hope

**P**raise be to the Lord our God for His faithfulness in answering the many prayers that have been offered up on behalf of CVE, the Magdalena Church, and the many lives that pass through our gates on a yearly basis. Thank you for your faithfulness in prayer.

*"And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting."* (Matt. 17:20-21)

It is God's grace and answered prayers that sustain and strengthen us, and we give thanks that the Lord has prospered His work at CVE these past few years. The orphanage is now home to twenty-five children who range in age from 2 to 14 years.

Many of these children have lived at CVE for over 3 years, and our desire is that they will become strong Christian men and women. Two of the girls that live here have begun their walk of faith and repentance. Please pray for them and all the children here that they can truly learn to know their Father through His Son, Jesus Christ.

*"I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye."* (Psalm 32:8)

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

we can see them learning, searching, and finding the love that their Father in heaven has for them. Although there are trying times, we know that the Lord is faithful and will lead us to give our all in loving and raising these children to follow Him. We believe that the "least of these" (who may never know their dad) can know their Father who loves them more than any earthly dad could. Pray that our children can find healing and life in the arms of Jesus.

As our children get older, we seek God's direction for providing a wholesome schooling environment. We have begun teaching a few of our children here at CVE, and we are waiting on the Lord's direction in moving forward with plans for a fully accredited Christian school. May God provide wisdom and grace regarding future opportunities and plans.

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

We are also thankful for the opportunity to be a part of the lives of children and adults outside of CVE. We were privileged to host our VBS program again this past year and are thankful for the many children (over 400) who attended during that week. We are overwhelmed by the trust that the parents of these children placed in CVE, in that they allowed their children to attend, even though most of them do not know us personally.

We consider those that attend church every week as our extended family. We give thanks for the Mexican men and women who have

begun a new life in Christ, and who challenge us daily to keep searching out the truth in His Word. We pray that one day they will be the spiritual examples in our congregation. We ask for your continued prayers as we make the transition from the CVE dining room to a new building, and that the Mexican families will feel that this is truly their Church.

*"Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ"* (Ephesians 5:20)

As we are completing our first group home, we are thankful that the Lord has provided that our first house parents will be arriving this summer. Continue to pray for godly couples to help meet these needs, as we desire to provide a family environment for all of our children.

God is also moving our staff in many directions, and we ask that those individuals interested in serving in various roles, including house parents, would prayerfully consider this calling to the mission field.

We have been blessed to have the support of many work teams, and are thankful for the work that has been accomplished with the help of willing hands. The group home and the church, as well as our refurbished buildings are a direct result of this help, and we thank those who have given their gifts of time and effort unselfishly.

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



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
**World Relief**

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men,  
especially unto them who are of the household of faith. Galatians 6:10

## Lifeline in Haiti

**L**ifeline is an organization in Croix-des-Bouquets, near Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Its mission is to care for children and provide aid to the people in the surrounding community. The Lifeline compound consists of an orphanage (currently home to about seventy children) and a school, which is attended by the children of the orphanage as well as children from the village.

As a result of a long-standing relationship with brethren from Fairbury, work teams have been going to Lifeline for eight to ten years. Also, shipments of food, clothing, and other humanitarian aid have been sent to provide for the orphanage as well as for distribution to the community. The work teams have erected needed buildings, such as a warehouse which is especially useful for storage and distribution of shipments that have been sent, and renovated existing buildings, such as the dormitories for the children and the guesthouse/clinic/office building.

Work teams, along with hired local Haitian workers, built a cement block wall around the field area so that crops could be grown and harvested for use at the orphanage and to be sold at the market. In addition, work teams installed an irrigation system, both above-ground for the production of crops and underground for pasture for the goats. The agricultural program has also been a good opportunity for the children to work and to learn. Medical teams have gone to help with clinics both at Lifeline and in surrounding villages. New sewing machines have been provided and sewing classes started to help children learn skills that can be used

life-long. There is a good well on the property, providing clean fresh water for the orphanage and the irrigation system, as well as a good water source for the community.

There is always a need to help the older children obtain trade-school training, or higher education, or productive employment opportunities. Also, there is a concern to provide for the young people when they reach an age to be more on their own but in a continued spiritually-nurturing environment. There have been some adoptions from Lifeline to the United States, but these can be very time-consuming due to obstacles of the Haitian government.



This relationship with Lifeline has also included the Bethel Church of Haiti, whose leadership has always provided spiritual guidance and direction to Lifeline; and the children of the orphanage attend the Bethel Church on Sundays. The wife of one of the pastors is the director of the orphanage. Bethel Church of Haiti began in the early 1960s with a small group of believers in Croix-des-Bouquets and has spread to include approximately 125 congregations across Haiti as well as a few in the Dominican Republic. Many of these congregations are

small and their people are quite poor. Therefore, they have many needs, particularly food, clothing, schools and other buildings, and medical care. Some projects have already been completed for these congregations, with the opportunity for many more as God opens the way.

Recently, the Bethel church leadership made a request to the Apostolic Christian Church of America for some in-depth spiritual guidance in specific areas of the Christian life. This request was approved by the Mission Committee. In February 2008, an elder and three ministering brothers went to the Dominican Republic to speak on the requested topics during a two-day conference. Approximately twenty-five pastors from Haiti and several from the Dominican Republic attended. They showed genuine interest and had many questions and comments for discussion. They expressed extreme gratitude for the teachings they received as well as the Christian love and concern shared with them. The unity of the Holy Spirit was evident, even across language and cultural differences.

We pray that God will bless everyone who has been involved in any way with the work at Lifeline. Please continue to pray for Lifeline, for Haiti and the Dominican Republic, and for all oppressed people world-wide. Other ways you can help are financial aid, donations of specific needed items, participation on work teams and help at local World Relief centers to sort and prepare items for shipment. Our prayer is that God will continue to provide opportunities and bless the efforts to provide spiritual and humanitarian help to those in need.

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

Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped began providing services in October of 1971. At that time there were very few services for people with developmental disabilities aside from state hospitals. It was very innovative to provide a home in the community and there were few existing services to model after. Our services started with a large home. Initially there were 52 beds and then it was expanded to 104.

Like all services and businesses, change is a constant thing. Over time it became clear that some people could do better in smaller settings. It also became clear that there were people with higher needs who were not being served. Our services began to change to adjust to these needs. Over time smaller homes were developed and the population at Timber Ridge evolved to individuals with intense medical needs and individuals who required much higher levels of personal care. At one time there were 12 wheelchairs at Timber Ridge and now there are about 65 wheelchairs.

These changes have gradually occurred over a period of time. During this time several things have become clear. One is that because of the high needs of people living at Timber Ridge and the equipment associated with these needs, Timber Ridge is over crowded and needs to serve a smaller number of people. The other thing which has become clear is there are additional people who can be served in smaller settings than the ones they are currently living in.

Because of these factors, we are once again making some changes in how we deliver services. Over the next couple of years we plan to decrease the number of people served at Timber Ridge by 24. This will leave 72 people. This will help with the overcrowding. We plan to offer these 24 people the opportunity to live at one of our 16 bed homes. As a part of this plan we will offer 24 people currently living at Oakwood and Linden an opportunity to live in a house in the community.

We will need to develop a plan and

have it approved by the state of Illinois. They are very supportive of these types of changes. This project will require a great deal of planning, including how to staff the new arrangement of services, how to provide supplies most efficiently, how to provide transportation from scattered sites and how to deliver and supervise professional services.

We are pleased that we have Elder support and that the Board of Directors has not only supported this plan but was instrumental in initiating the plan. There will be a significant cost to obtaining the six additional houses that are needed to make the moves. There will also be costs associated with furnishing and supplying the homes and staff costs involved in the transition.

We are thankful for the generous donations we receive each year. We continue to need these donations to cover our normal operating costs.

We hope to be able to raise most and maybe all of the \$1.3 million in capital funds needed for this project so that we do not need to use existing funds which are needed for operations. We want to make people aware of this project and trust God will work in the hearts of those He chooses to support the project. If you feel moved to help provide assistance, we would welcome your participation by contacting administration or sending donations to the home and noting that they are for the "Right Sizing Project". Most of all, we covet your prayers at this time as always. We feel very strongly that "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it." (Psalm 127:1)

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

Do we thank God for all things? It seems we often have questions for God about different situations in our lives that don't seem to make sense to us. Sometimes we even convince ourselves that God owes us an explanation. But when situations confront us, either a

temptation or trial, do we take time to thank God for it? Do we trust God to bring about good from seemingly terrible situations? Do we look for ways to honor God through our actions when everything in our life seems to be going crazy? Romans 8:28 & 29 records the promise that we often forget at these times, or it can get so overused that we bristle at the words when we are struggling.

In verse 28 we read, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose". The beautiful thing in this verse is that the scripture says ALL things, not just those that make sense to us or the good things, but even the difficult things (if we allow God the opportunity) can bring about good. God's ability is not limited by our humanness, only we are.

God is gracious to provide the purpose found in the first half of verse 29 where it says, "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son..." The goal of all the situations in our life (good or bad) is to teach us how to be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ God's Son. Jesus certainly gave us examples of honoring God in both good and bad situations.

As difficult of an issue as this is for Christians to understand and even harder to practice, imagine trying to teach this to a group of children who do not know the Lord. This is the constant battle being fought by the Houseparents and Foster Parents in each of their homes. They daily have an opportunity to witness to the greatness of our Father in heaven. Please pray that as they face each situation with a child in their homes that they are able to look to the Father for their strength through the Holy Spirit.

### **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 Illi-

nois, 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 rejoice with Bro. Nathan and Sis. Rachel Mueller as they welcomed Halle Rae into the world on March 3. We are also rejoicing with Bro. Andrew and Sis. Natalie Gerber as they welcomed Violet Grace into the world on March 12. Praise God for His blessing of children!

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

- Pine House construction will be underway soon. Please be aware of a special collection in your church for this project. Once the house is built, we will need to furnish it. A handout describing the Pine House Furnish-A-Room project will be sent to your church soon. Please refer to the handout or talk to your Sunday School Superintendent or VBS Coordinator about this opportunity. We are very thankful for your prayers and financial support as God allows us to continue to reach out to more teens in need.

## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL Athens, Alabama Melissa Slagel

I am amazed every year at Easter at how much a child can understand about Jesus' death and resurrection. I find it hard to explain that Jesus died to shed His blood and to cover our sins. It seems like it would not make sense to a child and they wouldn't understand. But it was amazing how each time we talked about it with the children, they knew and just accepted it. The mind and faith of a child is so refreshing and so simple.

In our classes we have been finishing up the last few letters of the alphabet — X, Y & Z. In the weeks to come we will be doing review and soon we will begin preparing for our graduation. The children are growing up so quickly. It is rewarding to look back over the school year and see so much progress in them.

We currently have a need for a teacher with a degree and/or experience in preschool or elementary education. It is an amazing opportunity for a single or married person who would be willing to relocate and teach small children. You can also be a great support to the Athens church. Please prayerfully consider and allow the Lord to work. If you are interested, please contact Bro. Mike Moore by phone (256) 729-0620; email ALM38@aol.com; or his address is 8653 Beechwood Rd., Athens, AL 35611.

## ALABAMA, ATHENS Louise Hall

We enjoyed listening to the Sunday school as they brought us the story of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection through their Easter program. They spent a lot of time practicing and they did a beautiful job!

We appreciate the visiting ministers we had with us in the past month, Bro. Nile Bucher (Sis. Phyllis, Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Lenard Meyer (Sis. Charlotte, Chicago, IL) and Bro. John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Burlington, IA). May God bless each of you!

Our sympathy and prayers are with Mark Klaus and all of his family in the

passing of his father, John Klaus. May God comfort each of them in this time of loss.

We would like to encourage everyone to come to our annual Memorial Day weekend singing. It is a special weekend and we would love for you to share the blessing with us.

## ARIZONA, PHOENIX Ron and Ev Hoerr

"Delight thyself also in the LORD;  
and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart."

*Psalm 37:4*

And we did delight in the Lord as we heard Anneliese Hoerr give her testimony March 8. Her love for our precious Father came forth as she spoke her heart. She is the daughter of Bro. Jacob and Sis. Wanda Hoerr. She was baptized March 9. Many folks, visitors included, enjoyed a church dinner in our new fellowship hall later in the day. Keep living for our Heavenly Father, Sis. Anneliese.

On March 6, a large group joined at church for Bro. Glen Baumgartner's funeral service. God's love was abundant as Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich and Bro. Jim Meiss used Isaiah 55 and 62:4 to comfort us. As Bro. Glen joined Sis. Alice in Heaven, he leaves a son, Bro. Leon (wife Sis. Nancy), and a daughter, Judy, and four grandchildren. Our sympathy and prayers go out to the Baumgartner family.

Our sympathy to Sis. Joyce Yackley (Bro. Aldo) in the passing of her father.

Visiting ministers were: Bro. Neil Ramseyer (Bay City) and Bro. John Lehman (Wolcott). Thank you for allowing yourselves to be used of our Heavenly Father in the service of our church.

We welcome Sis. Maggie Schrenk to our congregation as she is here for a few months on a work assignment.

## ARIZONA, TUCSON Lisa Knapp

We would like to welcome Sis. Theresa Katanic and her children, Jack-

son, Jed and Annie, to Tucson from Denver. Husband and Dad, Bro. Tom Katanic, will be joining them at a later date, hopefully very soon. We hope they are feeling at home in Tucson and enjoying the lovely spring weather.

We had our annual Communion service on March 3. We were able to enjoy Communion with some of our winter visitors which was very special. We need to thank our Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich and his wife, Sis. Nancy, and our Deacon, Bro. Herbie Knochel, and his wife, Sis. Laurie, for coming to spend the day with us and serve us Holy Communion. We are always happy to see them.

Not much else to report – we are enjoying bright sunshine and a high of 83 today, March 20, after winter made a brief return appearance over the weekend with rain and temperatures in the 50's. We look forward, Lord willing, to Good Friday church tomorrow evening and Easter church on Sunday. Come to think of it, our dark, cloudy weather last weekend followed by the bright sunshine that warms us today was very appropriate heading into Easter!

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

We are enjoying the fact that our typically rainy winter season here, has livened up our often lifeless mountains and foothills, with lush and beautifully greened foliage. When the mountains are viewed at a distance, it actually appears as if they are covered with a green 'carpet'. The glory of God is hard to escape as one views the majesty of the mountains or listens to the roaring of the mighty ocean waves. It is much harder to grasp that same glory in the seemingly endless freeway traffic or the hurried and hectic lifestyle that permeates our culture here. And yet, in ALL these places God is ever present if we but look for Him. Psalm 46:10 "Be still and KNOW that I am God.... I will be exalted in the earth"

Our visitors this month included Bro. Kirby Reutter and his wife, Sis. Areli, from Clarendon/Norwich, Ver-

mont, who spoke to us on Cross Cultural Relationships. Also visiting us was Bro. Brent Kellenberger (Sis. Beth, Kansas City, MO). We appreciate that the Kellenbergers were here over two weekends and for Bro. Brent's willingness to share God's Word with us from the pulpit.

Saturday, March 15, was set aside to share in Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Dave Graf (Sis. Barb, Akron, OH) assisted Elder Bro. Tom Klotzle in this most sacred of occasions. We enjoyed visiting with them as we spent the weekend enjoying rich fellowship and sharing.

Bro. Bill Witzig (Sis. Mary) continues to recover at his home, from surgery he had last month. He is expecting an additional surgery and we continue to pray for his recovery and return to our fellowship, Lord willing, very soon.

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

Our hills are blooming with vibrant colors of spring. Oranges, purples and shades of green cover our vegetation, creating the most beautiful scenic sites! You can no longer see the charred remains from our fire storm. It's simply amazing and demonstrates a new life in Christ. First we are cloaked with the soot of sin, then Christ covers us with His grace and the beauties of a true converted heart shines through. Everywhere we look, we can be reminded of God's amazing love for us all. Please come, visit and experience spring time in San Diego with weather in the 70's-80's for yourself. Our congregation enjoys and thoroughly appreciates our visitors!

We've been blessed having Bro. Doug and Sis. Janelle Brewer (originally from Peoria, IL) as a part of our congregation. We always look forward to each Wednesday night, Sunday and any other occasion between that we have together to be able to fellowship and encourage one another towards our heavenly home. We appreciate their support! Many of us who have never met

Sis. Janelle's parents, Bro. Gary and Sis. Evelyn Endress (Bradford, IL), were anxiously looking forward to their visit. We were thankful to be able to greet and visit with them this month. We also appreciated Bro. Gary serving us from the pulpit. We pray the Lord's blessings upon his service and look forward to many more visits, Lord willing.

We were especially blessed on "Good Friday" with the presence of ministering Bro. Justin Moser, his wife, Sis. Robin, and their boys from Altadena, CA. Our church was packed and we were so grateful for Bro. Justin's willingness to take time from his vacation with his family to gather with our congregation and to labor upon our behalf. Our cups were overflowing as we were reminded of God's greatest sacrifice for us all. May our risen Lord and Savior richly bless Bro. Justin and his family as they give of themselves in the service of others.

We have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know Sis. Shara Dotterer (daughter of Sis. Kathy Dotterer, Forrest, IL) and are thankful for the times we've shared together in the last year. But now the time comes for us to say farewell. The moment is bittersweet as we rejoice that the Lord is directing her path and is now intertwining hers with Bro. Jeremy Leman (son of Bro. Ernie and Sis. Carol, Forrest, IL) as their recent engagement was announced. We will miss Sis. Shara as she returns to Illinois. Jeremiah 31:10-14 so perfectly describes how God reaches toward us, His people, with kindness, motivated by a deep and everlasting love and is eager to do the best for us if we have a heart willing to hear Him and allow His grace to work through us. We pray God's promises will be etched forever upon both their hearts as they now prepare together to serve Him.

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

"Through God we shall do valiantly: for he it is that shall tread down our enemies."

*Psalms 108:13*



We thank Bro. Mark Steiner (Sis. Sue, Smithville, OH) for ministering to us this month. We always appreciate the efforts made to support our minister rotation.

On Palm Sunday, our Sunday School children had their first Easter program. How important it is to impress the wonderful story of Jesus on their hearts, and to teach them of His sacrificial love for us!

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

Even as the spring-time flowers  
Grow beneath the sun's warm rays,  
So the Lord by His own powers  
Makes us garlands for His praise.

- from *Morning Hymn*, #166,  
*Zion's Harp*

May the Lord use our lives to bring  
praise and honor to Him as we strive to  
please Him in all that we do. Some of  
what we've been doing follows.

Elder Bro. Mike and Sis. Deb Leman  
spent two weeks helping at the orphan-  
age in Magdalena.

A work team spent a few days in  
Greenburg, Kansas, to help rebuild  
homes destroyed by a tornado last year.

Bro. Jeff Reinhard has been elected  
our new trustee.

An open house was held at the home  
of Bro. Mike and Sis. BethAnn Martin to  
celebrate the adoption of their daughter,  
Crista Renee Elizabeth Martin. Welcoming  
their sister are Joshua, Racquel, Victoria,  
Brandon, Anthony and also Bro. Benjamin  
and Sis. Ema.

Bro. Nate and Sis. Yvonne Lehman  
have been blessed with a new grand-  
daughter. Violet Grace was born to their  
daughter, Sis. Natalie, and son-in-law,  
Bro. Andrew Gerber, of Grabill, IN.

Kip Fehr graduated massage therapy  
training and plans to return to West  
Bend, Iowa, for a few weeks before  
spending the summer here in Colorado.

Bro. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West  
Bend, IA) had the message for us on  
Good Friday and on Easter Sunday af-

ternoon. We thank him for his willing-  
ness to serve. The Sunday school  
presented a program commemorating  
Christ's crucifixion and resurrection on  
the Saturday evening before Easter. We  
thank the children for all their efforts in  
learning their songs and pieces and the  
Sunday School teachers for their loving  
efforts in helping the children.

Among those needing our prayers for  
their physical well-being are Bro. Larry  
Steffen (Sis. Sue) who had hand surgery,  
Josie Braun (Sarah) who was hospital-  
ized for an infection following surgery,  
and Kaylynn Hohulin (Bro. Doug and  
Sis. Sharolyn) who is undergoing medi-  
cal tests.

Again, may the Lord make us "gar-  
lands for His praise".

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

"He is not dead, rejoice, He lives!"  
*Hymns of Zion #45 v.1)*

May the Lord be near us all this  
blessed Easter month, and provoke us to  
more thankfulness for the sacrifice of  
Jesus upon the cross and His rising from  
the grave for our sakes.

It has been quite a spring with the ar-  
rival of several healthy babies in  
Rockville, for which we are thankful.  
Bro. Glen and Sis. Erica Bahler had a lit-  
tle baby girl, Anna Luann, who joins  
four big brothers, Isaac, Micah, Moses  
and Amos. Grandparents are Bro. Owen  
and Sis. Donna Bahler and Mike and  
Luann Hoffman. Bro. Brent and Sis.  
Naomi Walder welcomed their first boy,  
Ashton Robert. He joins his three sis-  
ters, Emily, Kate and Rose. Ashton's  
grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Glo-  
ria Walder (Congerville) and Bro. Ken  
and Sis. Kay Luginbuhl. Our friends,  
Neal and Jennifer Kupferschmid, had a  
boy, Carter Neal, who joins older sib-  
lings, Sophie and Max. Bro. Gene and  
Sis. Ellen Kupferschmid and Peter and  
Rejane Denisky are the happy grandpar-  
ents. Bro. Michael and Sis. Joy Zahner

had a little boy, Caleb Michael, who joins  
big brother Austin and big sister Olivia.  
Caleb's grandparents are Bro. Warren  
and Sis. Bonnie Zahner and Bro. Rich-  
ard, Sr. and Sis. Betsy Hany. We are  
thankful for the safe arrival of these lit-  
tle ones. May all those raising children  
be given strength and grace to do so.  
"Suffer little children, and forbid them  
not, to come unto me: for of such is the  
kingdom of heaven." (Matt. 19:14).

Elder Bro. Dave Graf and his dear  
wife, Sis. Barb, spent a Sunday morning  
with us this month in his business trav-  
els, for which we are grateful. We are al-  
ways thankful when the time is made to  
come worship with us, and in Bro.  
Dave's case to be used in the preaching  
of the Word. May the Lord bless his ef-  
forts.

Many prayers and deeds of kindness  
were extended recently to our Bro.  
Kevin Zahner, his wife, Sis. Katie, and  
their youngest son, Darren, after he suf-  
fered serious burn injuries. After many  
commutes up to Boston for ongoing  
treatment, he is doing very well, for  
which we are all thankful.

Our prayerful sympathy and sup-  
port go out to the family of our friend  
Walter Schneider after his recent pass-  
ing. We certainly wish to extend our  
love and prayers to his wife, Ethel, and  
children, Bro. Wayne and Sis. Maxine  
Schneider, Mark Schneider, Susan  
Perocaró (Paul) and Scott Parker, and  
many others of the extended family. He  
is also survived by four sisters, Sis. Mar-  
tha Mangold (Bro. Clarence, dec.), Sis.  
Millie Gerber (Bro. Melvin), Hilda  
Kayan (Ed) and Flora Batz (Elmer,  
dec.). May each be comforted in the days  
ahead.

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### **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA** **WASHINGTON** **Henrietta Meyer**

"Likewise joy shall be in heaven over  
one sinner that repenteth."

*Luke 15:7*

Our congregation is rejoicing with  
Ken Belsley (Roberta) as he seeks the

Lord in repentance.

"I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness."

*I Tim. 4:7-8*

Bro. Ralph Klopfenstein (Gridley, IL) has finished his course on earth. We extend our sincere sympathy to his wife, Sis. Catherine. Bro. Ralph and Sis. Catherine were the first resident members of our congregation. We appreciate all they did for the church while they lived in this area.

Delaney and Kelsey Steffen are glad to have both parents safely home. Mom, Mona, spent two weeks in Laki for work. Then Dad, Bro. Phil, was in Haiti for a week with a church work team.

This month we had our annual business meeting. Bro. Joe Hinrichsen was elected to fill the vacancy on the Board of Trustees. Many thanks to all who give so much to keep the physical and financial parts of the church functioning smoothly.

This month we welcomed Sis. Margaret Blough to our congregation. She is originally from Smithville, but her last assignment as a traveling nurse was in Phoenix.

We also welcomed back Bro. Ernie, Sis. Lucy and Amy Isch as our caretakers for this month.

Every Sunday we are blessed with visiting ministers; some drive only a couple of hours, others travel halfway across the country. This month our ministers were Bro. Matt Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville, IL), Bro. Jerry Isch (Sis. Linda, Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Howard Plattner (Sis. Kristin, Alto, MI) and Bro. Darrel Stoller (Sis. Gloria, Bern, KS). Other visitors this month were from Rockville, CT, and Smithville, OH.

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.

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](mailto: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.

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### FLORIDA FORT LAUDERDALE Renee Mangold

We approach the Easter season with thankful hearts for the message of salvation and the gift of love given to us by Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Clint Schmidt (Winthrop, MN), Chuck Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie, Elgin, IL), Bill Waibel (Sis. Carol, Bay City, MI), and Joe Braker (Sis. Shirley, Morton, IL).

We invite our brethren and friends to include the Ft. Lauderdale area for vacations, to consider finding employment here, and to worship with us in our small church, especially in the summer months.

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### FLORIDA NORTH FORT MYERS Naomi Vogel

Those of you who have endured the harsh winter weather up north probably will not agree, but the winter in Florida has gone by way too fast. In just a very short time, our beloved snowbirds will start heading back north again. Our attendance totals will diminish from nearly 250 to around 25. We will miss you! Hurry back!!

On March 2, our Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz, assisted by Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) served us the Sacrament of Holy Communion. With Easter following so soon, we were vividly reminded of the reason we celebrate the death and resurrection of our dear Lord

and Savior Jesus Christ. It was, indeed, a blessed time of remembrance and appreciation!

Other visiting ministers this month were Bros. Dave Zehr (Gridley, IL) and Lenard Meyer (Chicago, IL). We appreciate all of you, and your wives, spending time with us and for your willingness to minister to us!

Bro. Andy Lehman from Bloomington spoke to us one Wednesday night about the Life Song for Orphans organization, which is based in Gridley, IL; Bro. Dave Kieser from Bloomington and Ft. Myers gave us an update on the progress of the Midwest Food Bank, which had it's beginning in Bloomington; and Bro. Bill Masters informed us of an organization in Cape Coral for which he and Sis. Mary are doing some voluntary service called Lifeline Family Services that houses and mentors unwed mothers in life-skills and spirituality. All presentations were informative and heartwarming. May God richly bless your efforts!

Those needing prayers for improvement of their health are Bros. Carroll Gerber, Mel Baum, and Paul Zehr and Sisters Elaine Schmidgall and Carolyn Siegle. We are all praying for you! Several here in Florida have struggled with the nasty flu that has been plaguing so many this winter.

Our sympathy goes to Sis. Mary Ann Stoller following the illness and death of her youngest brother, Kenneth Leman, in the Peoria area.

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### FLORIDA, SARASOTA DiAnne Brown

"And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt"

*Mark 14:36*

Happy Spring Greetings! So much to celebrate this week with the arrival of spring, Good Friday ... and the victorious rise of our LORD! In a recent service, a brother touched on the petition by Jesus in the garden; asking if the cup might be passed. It was a good reminder

that, while there is no shame in asking to be relieved of the cup, if it be God's will, drink it we must.

Our number steadily declines each week as our northern brethren leave for another season. We thank them again for the time they spend with us. While we will miss them, it offers an opportunity to reacquaint with those year-round residents missed in the larger crowds of winter. There is much joy in both.

On Friday, March 14, Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann and Deacon Bro. Jeff Streitmatter led us in the Communion service. What a privilege to share in the holy supper of the body broken for our sins; made even more poignant by the proximity of Easter Sunday. We could almost see that upper room, see the Lord breaking the bread and raising the cup.

We were blessed to have many visiting ministers this month, including Elder Bros. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary Ann, Fairbury, IL), Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL), Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) and ministering Bros. Nile Bucher (Sis. Phyllis, Bluffton North, IN), Richard Gramm (Sis. Samantha, South Bend, IN), Victor Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville, OH), Gary Endress (Sis. Evelyn, Bradford, IL), Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH), Ron Steiner (Sis. Ruth, Rittman, OH), Tom Waldbeser (Sis. Sue, Atlanta, GA), Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI) and Tim Ramsier (Sis. Jonell, Rittman, OH). Thank you, beloved ones, for your loving devotion to nurturing our faithfulness.

Our 2nd Annual Jamaica Sunday School Dinner was a grand success and generous friends, brothers and sisters raised enough to send six students this year. They all arrived home from Kingston, Jamaica, safely last Saturday, March 15. If you have the time, sit and listen to their story of the work they do and how it affects them. The impact this experience has on our students is truly life-changing. We extend warm and heartfelt thanks to Bro. Terry and Sis. Bev Miller for their many years of faithful service to this effort.

We offer our sympathy and prayers

for our dear Sis. Colleen Reardon in the loss of her nephew, Michael Reardon (Detroit, MI), after an extended illness. We also continue to pray for our dear Bro. Tom Miller as he bravely fights cancer. His smiling face and undaunted spirit are a testimony to all who know him. We praise God for healing mercies and the return of our dear Sis. Lorene (Bro. Ben) Maibach to church services. We have missed her bright smile these many months.

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### GEORGIA, ATLANTA Melinda Gramm

Thank you to Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Peoria, IL) and Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis, MN) for ministering to us this month.

We were blessed to hear our children sing in their Easter program this month. They reminded us that just as it takes a degreaser soap to clean our grease stains, only the blood of Jesus will wash away our sin stains.

Sis. Sylvia Knapp was a hospital patient this month and we pray for God's healing hand in her recovery.

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### ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE Sheila McCoy Doreen Moser

Count your many blessings,  
name them one by one,  
And it will surprise you  
what the Lord hath done.

We are counting four new blessings here in Belvidere. Bro. Trent and Sis. Jennifer Johnson and their two children, Kole and Klyne, plan to be moving from Forrest since Trent now has employment in the Madison, WI, area.

The Bradford and Elgin, IL, Bible classes along with their teachers were many added blessings to us this month when they came to visit.

Our Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) was here for the Communion exhortation service. We are so blessed to have religious freedom and willing servants of the Lord.

Bro. Art Mueller was able to attend the work team for S.E.E.D. in Les Cayes, Haiti. We are thankful he can volunteer his veterinary skills and be a big blessing to those in that area of Haiti.

Our Lord has blessed us with many precious Sunday School children. They have likewise blessed our congregation with the hymns they sung and the verses they said pertaining to the story of Easter during their program on Palm Sunday.

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### ILLINOIS BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL Alissa Kieser Betsy Zimmerman

Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL) joined us on Wednesday, March 12, for the reading of the Memorandum. We thank him for his willingness to serve. Also visiting this month were Bro. Scott Wegman (Taylor, MO) and Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI).

God has blessed us with several new babies this month. Bro. Sam and Sis. Shelley Steffen added another son to their family. Joseph Samuel was born February 14, joining big brothers, William, Thaddeus, Benjamin and Nathan. Grandparents are Bro. Earl and Sis. Betty Steffen and Bro. Dave and Sis. Judy Knobloch, all of Bloomington.

Baby Anna Kathleen arrived on March 7, welcomed by Jason and Sis. Katie Albritton and big brother, James. Grandparents are Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marsha Albritton, Bloomington, and Jim McCauley of Channahon, IL.

Bro. Michael and Sis. Mindy Anliker are parents of a baby boy, Levi Dale, born March 15. Levi's big brother is Noah. Grandparents are Bro. Wendell and Sis. Karel Anliker, Francesville, IN, and Bro. Rol and Sis. Carol Rumbold, Roanoke.

Bro. Curt and Sis. Elma Fleming are grandparents of a baby boy, Ethan Carter, born to John and Erin Martin of Peoria. Ethan joins big brother, Jake.

Steve and Sis. Donna Maurer are first-time grandparents of Cooper Zachary, born February 19, to Zach and

Jessi Esterling, Morton. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Tim and Sis. Jeanne Esterling, Morris, MN.

We extend our sympathies to Sis. Judy Knobloch over the loss of her father, Bro. Ralph Klopfenstein, Gridley. He was also a grandfather to Sisters Jen Heiniger (Bro. Brett) and Shelley Steffen (Bro. Sam).

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### ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Philip and Donna Nenadov

As we left for church this past Easter Sunday, I noticed that there was fresh snow that had fallen from the previous night. It's pure whiteness gave an appropriate reflection for the day. The Lord has risen from death and the grave to give mankind the opportunity to have our sinful lives purified by the blood of Jesus and to receive garments of salvation white as snow. May we glorify our great God for the wondrous love He has shown to us on this very special day!

Our hospital patients this month were Sis. Elizabeth Kimble and Bro. John Endress. May the Lord grant them his healing power and strength during their recovery.

We extend our sympathies to Bro. Jack and Sis. Nancy Knobloch in the passing of Sis. Nancy's father, retired Elder Bro. Paul Fehr (Morris, MN), and Bro. Jack's mother, Sis. Lucille Knobloch, from Princeville, IL. May Bro. Jack and Sis. Nancy feel our love and prayers for them as they grieve the loss of their parents.

Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Oakville) assisted our Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker in the reading of the Memorandum. We appreciate our Elder brothers who are willing to lead our congregations across the land. May we ever be prayerful for them that they may continue to lead our churches through this dark world we live in.

God be with you 'til we meet again.

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### ILLINOIS, CHICAGO Rachel Meyer

Greetings from Chicago. We thank God for His provision. We were blessed

to have several ministering brothers visiting. Our heartfelt thanks belong to Bro. Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL), and Elder Bros. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT), Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA), and Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL).

Our sincere sympathy is extended to Bro. Paul Leman (Sis. Milli) upon the loss of his brother, Ken Leman. May they feel the love of God along with our prayers.

On February 23, we were blessed to hear the reading of the Memorandum. We thank our Elder brothers for their loving advice.

We were thankful for the opportunity to host Elder Forums on February 25-26 and March 3-4. We appreciate our Elder brothers' willingness to come and reason together.

It was a joy to attend the Sunday School Benefit Dinner on March 1 and add our support to their upcoming trip to Magdalena. We thank them for the meal and wonderful program, as well as the teachers, parents and anyone else who helped the evening to run smoothly. Praise God for this missions opportunity—one that changes lives to His glory.

The Sunday School moved our hearts as they sang for Palm Sunday, March 16. As we are now in the Holy Week, echoes of songs ring with us. This is a most joyful and solemn time.

Lastly, our dear Bro. Brad Eisenmann was ordained as deacon on February 24. The church was very still as God was present. It was a joy to pour out our love and support for Bro. Brad, Sis. Cindy and their children, Bros. Greg and Ryan, Julie and Nelson. God's work is good.

"Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee; in whose heart are the ways of them. Who passing through the valley of Baca make it a well; the rain also filleth the pools. They go from strength to strength, every one of them..."

*Psalm 84:5-7*

May God's peace follow each one reading this page...wherever and whoever you may be. God loves you.

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### ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN Jackie Eisenmann

Our Bible class was blessed to host the Bible class from Taylor, MO, on the weekend of February 16-17. The students took advantage of the opportunity given to make new friendships that will hopefully last a lifetime. Our church was blessed by Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL) who came to spend time with the students that weekend. We thank Bro. Jeff for blessing us with his willingness to be used on the pulpit.

The next weekend the college student group hosted a Parent Appreciation weekend. The students served a supper and hosted a singing at church for their parents and invited the Champaign congregation as well. As always, we enjoyed fellowshiping with the students and their parents. We always welcome the parents to come visit any time!

We want to thank visiting Bros. Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL) and John Hartman (Fairbury, IL) for serving us on our Wednesday evening Bible studies. Also we were blessed when Bro. Bruce Endress (Bradford, IL) spent the day with us Sunday, March 9. May God bless these brothers as they are used in spreading the Gospel.

Sunday, March 2, was a house warming at the home of our Bro. Neal and Sis. Kim Kellenberger. We are thrilled to have them in our congregation since their move several months ago and wish them God's nearness. Neal's parents were with us Sunday, March 16, and we are thankful that his father, Bro. Randy (Kansas City, MO), was willing to be used on the pulpit that day. May God bless him!

Sunday, March 16, was our annual Easter Sunday School program. The children once again blessed us with their beautiful singing and the pieces they recited. It was so wonderful to hear the story of salvation through their mouths. They ended the program by asking us a very important question that is good for all of us to consider:

"Have you been to Jesus for the  
cleansing power?  
Are you washed in the blood of the  
Lamb?  
Are you fully trusting in His grace  
each hour?  
Are washed in the blood of the Lamb?  
Are your garments spotless?  
Are they white as snow?  
Are you washed in the blood of the  
Lamb?"

*Tabernacle Hymns #158*

## ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

**Vickie Maul  
Janie Waldbeser**

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have lost loved ones this month. Sis. Marj Alt (Bro. Ed) and Bro. Bill Rinkenberger (Sis. Marj) have said farewell to their sister, Sis. Marie Hohulin, of Forrest. Mann Feller of our congregation is also grieving the death of his sister, Cora Yergler. May God comfort each and every heart.

Our loved ones that spent time in the hospital this month are Sis. Gladys Knapp and Sis. Helen Janssen. We trust God's healing touch will be upon them.

We thank Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS) for assisting our Elder Bro. Tom Stock in reading the Memorandum on March 1. We also thank Bro. Alan Schambach (Remington, IN) and Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) each for having a topical Bible Study. Their topics were Humility and The Mind of Christ. How encouraging for us just before Communion.

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

*Gal. 2:20*

On the evening of Palm Sunday, we were touched and reminded of what Christ did for each of us as the precious children brought us the message of Easter in song.

Joni Young of Chicago, IL (Bro.

Roland and Sis. Mary Anne) is engaged to Anthony Lenzini of Crystal Lake, IL. We wish them God's nearness as they plan their future lives together.

Our Bible Class had the privilege of hosting Elgin and Morton on Sunday, March 9. Along with them were visiting ministers, Bro. Dan Moser (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL). May God bless them for their labors in our precious faith.

The Cissna Park Choir and those who traveled with us would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the Detroit church and choir for all the love and hospitality given to us the weekend of March 8-9. We feel very blessed to have had the opportunity to have fellowship with you and to worship God through the Word and song with you. James 2:1 says, "But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected;" and the perfected love of God is certainly what we experienced that weekend. May God richly bless you.

## ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

**Holly Zobrist**

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

Glory! Glory! How the angels sing;  
Glory! Glory! How the loud harps  
ring!

'Tis the ransomed army, like a mighty  
sea,

Pealing forth the anthem of the free.

*Tabernacle Hymns #202*

Angels in Heaven are truly rejoicing as we've had seven new converts in the last week. They include Marissa Schieber (Bro. Mike and Sis. Mary), Molly Hartman (Bro. Bob and Sis. Lisa), Julie Roth (Bro. Mark and Sis. Tammy), Jesse and Andrea Ruegsegger (Bro. Lee and Sis. Alice), Marlise Walder (Bro.

Ben and Sis. Juanita), and Amanda McClure (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Marilyn). We are so thankful that each of these souls has found the grace to answer God's call and will keep them in our prayers.

We rejoiced as Brad Knapp (Bruce Knapp and Sis. Mary Knapp) and Daniel Craig (Bro. Kim and Sis. Carol) made a covenant with God and buried their old lives in the waters of baptism. We were thankful Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO) and Bro. Mark Zimmerman (Sis. Cheryl, Eureka) could be with us. Other visiting ministers this month include Bro. Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS).

Bro. Ben and Sis. Kristan Craig were thankful for the safe arrival of Lucy Jo. She is welcomed home by her sister, Liberty. Excited grandparents include Bro. Kim and Sis. Carol Craig and Clair and Sis. Beverly Keever (Mansfield, OH).

## ILLINOIS, ELGIN

**Amy Gasser**

**Miriam Gasser**

Elder Bro. Ted Witzig, Sr. (Morton, IL) assisted Bro. Ron in serving Communion the evening of March 1. It was a humbling experience to receive such a rich blessing instituted by our Lord, so long ago. Bro. Ted also had both services on Sunday. The following week, Bro. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN) edified us through his ministry. We thank these brothers for their labors on our behalf.

On March 8, a World Relief informational meeting for the Western Churches Sewing Group was held at the Fellowship Center. We appreciated all who made this such a meaningful and enjoyable day.

Garrett Johnson of Marengo, IL, and Nicole Kellenberger (Bro. Daryle and Sonia) were married on March 8, since they were able to complete their wedding plans sooner than anticipated. We wish them a happy union, blessed by God's love.

Bro. Keith and Sis. Emily Schambach are first-time parents of little Kaleigh Alana, born March 9. Her de-

lighted grandparents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Edie Bollier (Indianapolis, IN) and Bro. Les and Sis. Alison Schambach.

Our prayers have been answered for Charlene McWilliams, who safely returned from Iraq. She is Bro. Ron and Sis. Nancy Schambach's daughter. Charlene resides in Honolulu, HI, with her husband, Grant.

A welcome was extended to Jerry and Sis. Cindy Hann and their sons, Tim, David, and Philip, who relocated from Vermont to Buffalo Grove, IL. Jerry, Tim, and Philip moved to the area first and have been assembling with us; but Sis. Cindy and David waited until David's recent graduation from high school.

Our Sunday School Easter program was held the evening of March 16. The enduring message of Christ's death and resurrection was conveyed through the recitations, songs, and readings. We appreciated the practice and efforts that went into this special event.

Bro. Nate Steffen (Sis. Marilyn) recently had a knee replacement, and Shawn Eason (Bro. George and Carol) also had surgery. Sis. Louise Steffen had the misfortune of a fall and broke her leg. May the Lord grant each one strength and healing in due time.

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### ILLINOIS, EUREKA Cindy Stoller Dee Baer

The waters of salvation have been stirred. We are thankful and praying for those who have begun in repentance. They are the following: Olivia and Luke Anliker (Bro. Art and Sis. Carol), Jonathan Leman (Bro. Chris and Sis. Marlene), Lilly and Zachary Schmidgall (Bro. Mark and Sis. Lisa), Nolan and Ryan Streitmatter (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Deyona), Krista Rocke (Bro. David and Sis. Eva), Matt Sinn (Bro. Charlie and Sis. Karen), Brett Leman (Bro. Scott and Sis. Phyllis), Steven Getz (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Mary), Cody Schumacher (Bro. Dan and Sis. Heidi), Jesse Leman (Bro. Kent and Sis. Christine), and David Getz (Bro. Gary and Sis.

Gail). May all who hear, heed the Word.

New births in this life continue to be a blessing to our families. Caleb William was welcomed by Bro. Jason and Sis. Jill Carr and his big brother Reuben. Grandparents are Bro. Tim and Sis. Donna Carr and Carlisle and Deanna Kelly. Gideon George is the new son of Bro. Benjamin and Sis. Laurel Wyss. His brother is Lemuel and grandparents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Cheryl Zimmerman and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Donna Wyss (Goodfield, IL). Joseph Scott is welcomed by Bro. Bob and Sis. Kathy Zimmerman and siblings, Jonathan and Joanna. Grandparents are Bro. Floran and Sis. Twyla Streitmatter (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Bob Zimmerman (Roanoke, IL).

We extend sympathy to Sis. Ann Leman (Bro. Sid) in the death of her sister, Cora Yergler, of Cissna Park, IL.

In concern we pray for those who have sickness and surgeries. They include Bro. Roland "Swifty" Martin (Sis. Deloris), Sis. Dorothy Schmidgall (Bro. Marvin), Sis. Donna Kupferschmid (Bro. Ed), and Bro. Paul Nenadov (Sis. Marilyn).

Our congregation was blessed with the addition of Bro. Steve Martin (Sis. Vicki) as ordained deacon. Assisting for the ordination service were Elder Bros. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL) and Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA). We are thankful for the peace we have felt as the church has been led in this matter.

Our spirits were rekindled to faithfulness and obedience as we remembered the life and the death of Christ our risen Redeemer as we partook of Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) was here to assist Bro. Ervin and Bro. Steve with this holy act.

Other visiting ministers include Bros. Don Manz (Junction, OH) and Floyd Freiden (Elgin, IA).

The tie that binds our hearts in Christian love is being stretched a bit as we have said farewell to the Nenadov's, Bro. Paul, Sis. Marilyn and Sis. Joy. They have relocated and will be assembling with the Bradford, IL, congregation.

### *Notes of Thanks:*

We would like to thank each and every one of you that thought of us, said a prayer, or lent a hand to us in the passing of our precious son, Tyler. We truly have appreciated all the love and support that we have felt from the brotherhood. May God richly bless you all.

*Bro. Jon and Sis. Marla Wiegand and family*

The family of Bro. Henry Blunier wishes to express thanks to the many loved ones who gave sympathy and love through prayers, gifts, cards, food, memorials for the handicapped, and any deeds of kindness during his recent illness and death. May God bless you.

*Sis. Wilma Blunier and family*

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### ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY Elizabeth Fehr Anna Schmidgall

Brethren, be ye not affrighted;  
God is yet among you here;  
You are still with Him united,  
And His grace is ever near.  
His corrections prove His love,  
Showered on us from above.  
Let this be your consolation!  
Why despair in tribulation?

*Zion's Harp #38*

We are thankful for our visiting ministers this month. They were Bros. Gary Brown (Sis. Jane, Forrest), Dan Moser (Sis. Anne, Elgin, IL), Kerwin Edelman (Sis. Sara, Athens, AL). May God grant them His grace and strength to continue to preach the truths in His Word. We were also blessed to hear the reading of the Memorandum in Forrest. Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Sis. Karen, Croghan-Naumburg, NY) was with us for the evening.

Faithful until death remain!  
For the crown of life be striving.  
Break through bonds of woe and pain,  
In His promise e'er confiding,  
Which through grace is kept in store  
For thee when thy journey's o'er.

*Zion's Harp #105*

Our Sis. Aldine Steffen's journey ended on March 2. We are saddened by her departure but encouraged in the hope that she has exchanged her cross for a crown. We extend our sympathy to her family, which includes her six children: Bro. Albert (Sis. Karen) Steffen, Bro. Kenneth (Sis. Janice) Steffen of Forrest; Dale Steffen of Palm Desert, CA; Harvey (Nancy) Steffen of Phoenix, AZ; Donna (Bill) Whitson of Winfield, KS; Darlene (Jim) Boaz of Champaign, IL; 12 grandchildren, 37 great-grandchildren, and her last sibling, Sis. Anna Steffen, of our congregation.

Our prayers are also with Sis. Betty Wiegand in the loss of her brother, Bro. Kenneth Plattner, Peoria.

O what is hundred?  
This age to few is e'er allotted...

*Hymns of Zion #131*

Our Sis. Anna Steffen celebrated her 100th birthday on March 10. Being converted in her youth, she has walked many years with her Lord. We appreciate her godly example.

The engagement of Bro. Kyle Steidinger (Bro. Randy and Sis. Dawn) to Sis. Alicia Schmidgall (Bro. Bill and Sis. Anna) was announced. Our prayers are with these dear ones as they make plans for their marriage.

If with anguish thou art shaken,  
If men bind and torture thee,  
Thou wilt never be forsaken—  
Think upon eternity!  
Stand in faith and do not fear,  
For thy Lord is ever near.  
Zion, let His hand direct thee;  
He will strengthen and protect thee!

*Zion's Harp #38***ILLINOIS, FORREST**

**Jill Wenger  
Lori Leman**

We were thankful for our many visiting ministers this month. The Brothers who so willingly ministered to us in the Spirit were Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), Ken Dietz and Marvin Leman (Brad-

ford, IL), Dennis Rassi and Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL), Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL), Alan Schambach (Remington, IN), and Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL). On March 1 the Memorandum was read to the Forrest congregation by Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumburg, NY), Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL) and our own Elder Bro. Wayne. We continue to prayerfully support our Elder Brothers in sounding a clear warning.

Baby Kate Breanne came to join the home of Bro. Mark and Sis. Natalie Schneider and big sister, Allie. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Kevin and Sis. Denise Kilgus and Bro. Jim and Sis. Sandra Schneider.

We rejoiced to hear the engagements of two dear couples. Bro. Jeremy Leman (Bro. Ernie and Sis. Carol) and Sis. Shara Dotterer (Sis. Kathy and the late Bro. Wendell) have begun to make wedding plans. Bro. Matthew Schaffer (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Martha) and Sis. Kayla Kellenberger (Bro. Curt and Sis. Martha) of Lamar, MO, are seeking to pledge their lives together also. May these two couples remember to put God first in everything.

We will miss Bro. Jacob and Sis. Brooke Kuntz and children as they have felt the Lord's leading to relocate their family to the Croghan-Naumburg, NY, area. May the Lord watch between us while we are apart.

As the angels rejoice in Heaven, so we rejoice to hear the news of new converts. Alex Dotterer (Sis. Kathy and the late Bro. Wendell) and Jeremiah (J.R.) Rinkenberger have humbly knelt at the foot of the Cross in repentance. May these young men give their all to Him.

Those spending time in the hospital recently were Bro. Les and Sis. Louise Zimmerman, little Mila Zimmerman (Bro. Josh and Sis. Molly), Bro. Paul Wiegand (Sis. Edna) and Bro. Larry Bachman (Sis. Donna). Our thoughts and prayers are also with Sis. Lavonne Lanz (Bro. Elmer) as she continues to gain strength.

"Thus united and in concord, Let us walk the path of life, Hand in hand, O may love bind us..." March 16 was the

wedding day of Bro. Craig Steidinger (Bro. Glen and Sis. Holly) and Sis. Leah Knapp (Bro. Harlan and Sis. Jean). We want to wish this happy couple a lifetime of God's richest blessings.

We extend our love and sympathy to Bro. Ken and Sis. Janice Steffen on the passing of his mother, Sis. Aldine Steffen (Fairbury, IL). They so faithfully cared for Sis. Aldine in their home for many years. May God be their rich rewarder. Sis. Marie Hohulin has said her last farewell in this life. She leaves her children, Karel Righter, Spring, TX, Sis. Earlene (Tom) Hamilton, Sis. Elaine (Robert) Mueller, both of Fairbury, and Daryl (Rebecca) Anliker, Bisco, NC, to mourn her passing. These older Sisters in the Lord were faithful God-fearing examples to us all.

*Dear Brothers, Sisters, Friends and Family:*

Over the past 5 years we have felt the love and prayers from every one and now with the loss of our son, Blake Hall, we thank you for your support during this time. Our family appreciated the flowers, food, prayers, kindnesses and gifts of love. Without the love of our church family and our loving Saviour, we would not have been able to make it through these difficult years of Blake fighting cancer. God Bless!

*Bro. Don and Barb Hall and family*

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**ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD  
Amber Grimm  
Rita Bauman**

"And he took bread, and gave thanks and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you."

*Luke 22:19-20*

We had the privilege of partaking Holy Communion on March 21. Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton, IN) assisted in this holy sacrament.

Other visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) who gave us instruction from the Memorandum read to our congregation. May we ever strive to obey God's leading and strengthen the unity of our church.

Also, Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH) was here to worship with us on Easter. We sincerely thank each one for being here and for their labor of love.

We sympathize with Sis. Lydia Hohulin (Bro. Bill) at the passing of her brother, Ken Leman. We also extend sympathy to Bro. Joe Rinkenberger (Sis. Irene) in the loss of his sister, Sis. Marie Hohulin, Forrest, IL. May God comfort these families.

The engagement of Sis. Larissa Wiegand to Bro. Curt Wettstein of Gridley, IL, was announced. We are happy for this couple and pray they feel God's blessings in their commitment. Sis. Larissa's parents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Lori and Bro. Curt's parents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Elna (Roanoke, IL).

Those spending time in the hospital this past month were Sis. Eddis Blunier (Bro. Denny), Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Sis. Peg), and Sis. Elsie Hohulin. We pray that God will heal and strengthen them.

Our congregation has been blessed with a baby girl. Bro. Dan and Sis. Kayla and big brother Peyton Wiegand welcomed Ashley Renae on March 13. Rejoicing with them are grandparents, Bro. Larry and Sis. Lori Wiegand, and Bro. Harvey and Sis. Debra Joos (Morris, MN). May God provide His help and guidance in the raising up of this precious gift from Him.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

*John 3:16*

We were once again humbled as the Easter story was brought to us in recitation and song at our Sunday School program. Thank you, students, for taking

the time to learn your part of the program. Also, special thanks to our teachers and parents, for helping the children tell the old old story of Jesus and His love. May we go to the cross daily and not just at Easter.

### ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry A. Klopfenstein

#### *I'm Going Home*

My heavenly home  
is bright and fair.  
Nor pain or death  
can enter there:  
It's glittering towers  
the sun outshine;  
That heavenly mansion  
shall be mine.  
I'm going home,  
to die no more.

#### *Hymns of Zion*

Our congregation has experienced death this past month, and the pain of earthly separation has been felt. But we also can rejoice, knowing that the deceased had made preparation and entertained the hope of eternal life.

Bro. Ralph D. Klopfenstein, 80, passed away on Thursday, March 6, at Normal. He had been in a nursing home for three years suffering from Parkinson's disease and Lewy Body disease. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Sis. Catherine; and three daughters, Gloria Volk, Sis. Judy Knobloch, Bloomington, and Sis. Cathy Hohulin, Roanoke; and four sons, Bro. Cleve Klopfenstein, Peoria, Marty Klopfenstein, Bloomington, Stan Klopfenstein, Bloomington, and David Klopfenstein, Normal. He is also survived by 16 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren. Two brothers, Lynn Klopfenstein, Decatur, Alabama, and Bro. Perry Klopfenstein, Gridley; and two sisters, Sis. Alice Stevig, Morton, and Sis. Ada Klopfenstein, Gridley, also survive. Preceding him in death were his parents, Bro. Elmer and Sis. Anna Klopfenstein, and a brother, Jay Klopfenstein.

Bro. Ralph's kindly and cordial manner will be missed at church. Three

hours prior to his death some family members sang the Hymns of Zion song, "I'm Going Home" as the end neared. This was a wonderful, mountaintop experience — due to the deep and promising words of that beloved hymn.

On Thursday evening, March 27, Bro. Ray Feucht, 82, lost his life in a traffic accident on Route 24 near Secor during a temporary hail storm which caused a very slippery road. This accident has been shocking and very sad for our Gridley congregation, and others.

Bro. Ray is survived by his wife of 50 years, Sis. Marge; three daughters, Sis. Jeanette Feucht, Gridley, and Sis. Sonia Endress, Gridley; and Delores Elhabbassi, West Linn, Oregon; one son, Curtis Feucht, Eureka; two sisters, Sis. Emma Gerber, Lester, Iowa, and Sis. Pauline Schick, Washington; two brothers, Bro. John Feucht, Morton, and Bro. Paul Feucht, Canton, South Dakota. His parents and ten siblings preceded him in death.

His absence in our fellowship will be noted. Bro. Ray had a special gift of social interaction, and his outgoing nature endeared him to many. There is a strong message in Bro. Ray's death — that one must be ready for eternity, because no one knows when the summons from on High will come!

The love from the brethren was noted at both of the visitations of Bro. Ralph Klopfenstein and Bro. Ray Feucht. Throngs of people attended each of their visitations which offered much consolation to the widows and family. May the Lord be with Sis. Catherine and Sis. Marge as they adjust to the pain of separation from their mates.

On March 30, twin sisters Heidi Welsch and Heather Gentes were baptized, and became sisters in faith. They are the daughters of Bro. Dale and Sis. Vicki Schlipf, Gridley. May the Lord be with these girls in their quest to live for God.

Sis. Christa Gramm is to be married to Bro. Ed Meister, III, of Peoria. She is the daughter of Bro. Mike and Sis. Rosie Gramm. His parents are Bro. Ed, II, and



Sis. Dana Meister, Peoria. Lord willing, they are planning a July 13 wedding.

Bro. Curt Wettstein was announced to marry Sis. Larissa Wiegand, Goodfield. Their parents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Elna Wettstein, Roanoke, and Bro. Larry and Sis. Lori Wiegand, Goodfield.

Nancy Grusy is recovering from hip surgery. She had fallen earlier in the month, and is at home, improving nicely. Sonja Hughes had surgery and is now recovering. Sis. Winifred Schlipf is seriously ill. We certainly pray for God's healing balm to be manifested according to His perfect will.

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## ILLINOIS, MACOMB

### Kevin and Lindsay Frank

We had a very blessed eve on March 5 as we gathered for our Wednesday services. Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Sis. Debra) from Peoria, IL, shared the Word with us. There was also a few from Oakville/Burlington, IA. We appreciate all those who make the effort to come and we pray the Lord will bless each of you accordingly. The next upcoming services will be, Lord willing, on March 19 (Bloomfield, IA), April 9 (Burlington, IA), and April 30 (Tremont, IL).

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.

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## ILLINOIS, MORTON

### Annette Tanner Julie Bahr

Ministering Bro. Fred Funk (Sis. Diane) gave the topic for our Family Worship Night, entitled "The Blind Man". What enlightenment to know that the blind man he spoke of was Samson! What a high price to pay, both spiritually and physically, for a short time of commitment to a deceptive woman. Visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN) and Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN). Bro. Dan

was gracious enough to assist Elder Bro. Ted Witzig Sr. with reading the Memorandum to our church. Our thanks to each one who visited our Morton church.

On February 29, a sweet baby boy, Silas Fred, was born to Bro. Tom and Sis. Tasha Steffen. Siblings, Noah, Oliver, and Naomi, along with grandparents, Bro. Fred and Sis. Chelly Kaiser and Bro. Keith and Sis. Kathy Steffen (Washington), are delighted to welcome him home.

Bro. Ken and Sis. Jackie Babin also welcome a little granddaughter, Annalese Kay, on March 13. Annalese was born to parents, Britt and Kim Fonner, and welcomed by siblings, Trevor, Chris, and Connor.

Our love and sympathy goes out to the families who have lost loved ones. Sis. Alice Stevig (Bro. Keith) lost her brother, Bro. Ralph Klopfenstein (Sis. Catherine) from Gridley. Sis. Vi Funk's grandson, Calvin Williams, passed away from natural causes at the age of 30. Calvin was the son of her daughter, Gail Williams, and the nephew of our Sis. Marian Funk. At the age of 98, our dear one Emma Frank passed away. Her funeral was held on Good Friday morning. She is survived by one son, William Frank, and one daughter, Janet Bonham. We should keep these families in our prayers.

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## ILLINOIS, PEORIA

### Carissa Klopfenstein Kristin Menold

We welcome Bro. Dave and Sis. Jan Roberts to the Peoria congregation. It is good to have you with us.

Congratulations to the two couples that announced their engagement this month. Sis. Angela Weber (Mike and Sis. Janet) was announced to Bro. Seth Braker (Bro. Jim and Sis. Marge, Roanoke). They plan to get married in September. Bro. Eddie Meister (Bro. Ed and Sis. Dana) was announced for engagement to Sis. Krista Gramm (Bro. Mike and Sis. Rosemary, Gridley). Their wedding is scheduled for July 13. We

pray that you continue to feel God's direction as you plan your lives together.

We have been blessed to have four new converts this month: Jacob Getz (Bro. Robbie Getz), Josh Graham (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Pam, Princeville), Leah Stickling (Bro. Craig and Sis. Jacki) and Rachel Streitmatter (Bro. Doug and Sis. Cindy).

We were thankful to have Bro. Clark and Sis. Cindy Stoller from Gridley with us on March 9. Thank you, Bro. Clark, for giving of yourself for our congregation.

The Sunday School Easter program was on Sunday, March 9. Thank you to all the Sunday school children for sharing your songs and verses. It was a good reminder to hear the story of Easter again.

Also on Sunday, March 9, our Peoria choir sang at the Peoria County Jail. It was touching to hear the testimony of the Lord's salvation from a few of the men and women there. The Lord is so alive and real to them. Their need for Him is apparent and their honesty in admitting it is refreshing. James 4:6 says, "The Lord resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

Pray for our missionaries, Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard and family in Haiti, Bro. Dave Sceggel and Bro. Jonathan Aupperle in Magdalena, Mexico.

Congratulations to Bro. Mike and Sis. Mindy Kaisner on the birth of their baby girl, Anna Lucille, who was born on March 10. Anna's grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Myrna Hoerr and Bro. Leon and Sis. Eunice Kaisner of Peoria. We wish you God's blessings as you enjoy this amazing gift from God.

John Huber (Bro. Jim and Sis. Jane) gave his testimony on Wednesday, March 12. His grandfather, retired Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer, led the testimony. We are looking forward to John's baptism on March 30, along with four other converts who will be giving their testimony and baptisms on March 29-30: Joel Stickling (Chris and Sis. Marsha), Zach Knobloch, and Zach's parents, Lynn and Paul Knobloch, son of Bro. Jim and Sis. Helen Knobloch,

from Princeville. Our love and prayers are with each of you.

On March 15, the Herman family held an all-church singing at their Barn. Thank you for sharing your facility with us. It is good to enjoy the fellowship of believers of all ages and sing praises to our magnificent God.

Our Peoria congregation remembered Jesus' suffering and death through Holy Communion on March 16. There will be another Communion service at the AC Skylines on Thursday, April 3, for those of our congregation that were not with us on March 16.

Prayer requests for this month include Bro. Ted Stoller, Sis. Mabel Weber, Bro. Wayne Unsicker, Sis. Lillian Cagle, Sis. Ruth Huthmann, Bro. Richard Guingrich, and Bro. Lou Lonteen for recovered health.

Our sympathy goes to the family of Bro. Art Pfister as he has passed away. Also to Sis. Ruth Huthmann and Bro. Verne Hohulin in the passing of their stepmother, Sis. Marie Hohulin from Forrest, and Bro. Cleve Klopfenstein, whose father, Bro. Ralph Klopfenstein, passed away this past month. Our prayers are with you during this time of loss.

As we reflect on the death and resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ, let us continue to be grateful for all that He has done for us.

"He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as were our faces from him: He was despised and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our grief, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon him, and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquities of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth. He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep be-

fore her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth."

*Isaiah 53:3-7*

## ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

**Linda Joos  
Connie Christ**

"As here, in Jesus' name invited, His people meet to share His love," (Zion's Harp #25). We were privileged to partake of Holy Communion on Saturday evening, March 1. Elder Bro. Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Jim in serving us this blessed sacrament. "Anew, Lord, we are bound to Thee, Through Thy blest sacrifice..." (Zion's Harp #200). What mercy and what blessings are ours!

We enjoyed our Invite a Guest potluck and the precious fellowship which we were able to share on Sunday, March 9. Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH) and Bro. Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL) so willingly and kindly brought us God's Word through His Spirit. Also, Bro. Fred Witzig (Indianapolis, IN) visited us on February 24 and was a willing bearer of God's Word. We are thankful for every ministering brother, whether home or visiting, and for their willingness to submit to the Spirit in bringing God's Word.

Our prayers are with those in our church family who are suffering the afflictions of this earthly body. Sis. Elsie Mueller, Bro. Art and Sis. Joy Baurer, and Bro. Bob Scholl have all been hospitalized, and we pray that they will continue to regain strength to be able to assemble with us again soon.

On March 16, our Sunday School children presented their annual Easter program. It is so refreshing to hear the miracle of the story of Jesus' death and resurrection from the lips of our children.

We are so thankful to hear that Devon Knobloch (Bro. Keith and Sis. Lisa) and Adam Streitmatter (Bro. Alan and Sis. Janet) have felt their great need of a Savior and are seeking the Lord in repentance. May our prayers be with all of our precious converts.

Our prayers are with Sis. Tiffany

Martin (Bro. Larry) in the loss of her grandmother, Loretta Smale. May the Lord comfort every sorrowing heart.

## ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

**Dee Fehr  
Judy Sauder**

The Sauder home was blessed with the arrival of Mason Thomas on February 20. His parents are Tom and Amy of Germantown Hills and his grandparents are Charles and Brenda Gangloff of Metamora and Bro. Tom and Sis. Mary Sauder. Also, on March 15, Bro. Rol and Sis. Carol Rumbold became grandparents again when Levi Dale was born to Bro. Michael and Sis. Mindy Anliker (Bloomington) joining his older brother, Noah. Bro. Wendell and Sis. Karel Anliker (Francesville) are Levi's paternal grandparents. We rejoice with these dear families and pray for God's blessings upon them as they raise their sons in the ways of the Lord.

On February 27, Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington) presented an overview of the book of Romans for our monthly family worship. We were reminded of our utter sinfulness, God's gracious plan of salvation through faith, our battle with sin as believers, spiritual gifts and ministering to our fellow believers. Then on February 29, Bro. Bill Schick gave a presentation on the ongoing outreach to children and families at the "House of Life and Hope" in Magdalena. It was encouraging to hear of the Lord's faithfulness in bringing souls to Himself and then graciously providing for their needs. We thank these brothers for their faithfulness to the Word and to their respective ministries and their willingness to share with us.

March 1 was the annual Bible Class spaghetti supper. It was a blessing to see students, teachers, and parents working together for a good cause.

Proverbs 18:22: "Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favor of the Lord." On March 2, Bro. Paul Hangartner (Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie) was united in marriage to Sis. Dee

Mandaza at Indianapolis. That same day the engagement of Bro. Seth Braker (Bro. Jim and Sis. Marge) and Sis. Angela Weber (Mike and Sis. Janet) of Peoria was announced. We pray for God's rich blessings upon these dear couples as they begin their lives together. Also on March 2, the Bloomington Choir led by Bro. Ben Luginbuhl sang several hymns of praise at our family sing. We thank them for their beautiful selections which made it an inspiring evening.

The Wettstein family has been richly blessed. Bro. Gary and Sis. Elna's daughter, Ellen, recently began her repentance and their son, Keith, gave his testimony of faith and was baptized March 8 and 9. May God bless these two dear souls as they grow in Him.

Sis. Doris Hodel (Bro. Jim), Sis. Jane Hodel, Rachel Braman (Greg), and Sis. Marge (Bro. Gene) Fehr are facing various health issues. We pray for God's healing hand upon them.

Funeral services were held in Roanoke on March 8 for Ken Leman of Peoria. He was a brother-in-law to Sis. Helen and Sis. Ann Leman. Also Bro. Ralph Klopfenstein (Sis. Catherine) of Gridley passed away March 6. He was the father of our Sis. Cathy (Bro. Tim) Hohulin. We extend our love and deepest sympathy to these dear families and pray for God's peace and comfort upon them.

On March 12, Bro. Matt Gerber (Ixtlan) ministered to us. His text was II Samuel 7. We were exhorted to examine the idols in our lives. We also were reminded that God is no debtor to man and that He desires to draw all people to Himself. We thank Bro. Matt for his labor of love. Also that evening, the Scripture Memory Class gave a presentation of the Bible verses set to music which they have learned over the past few months. We thank all those involved who help our young people learn more of God's Word which will deeply impact their lives.

I Corinthians 11:26: "For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death til he come."

On Sunday evening, March 16, we partook of Holy Communion. Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern) and Elder Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton) assisted Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman in this work. Bro. John also ministered to us during the day. We thank these brothers for their willingness to share this blessed time with us.

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### ILLINOIS, TREMONT

#### Teresa Rowell

#### Sheri Allen

We are thankful that the engagement of Bro. Dale Koch (Bro. David and Sis. June) to Sis. Meg Dill (Bro. Dewayne and Sis. LaRae) of Minneapolis, MN, was made known to our congregation. We are so happy for them and pray for them as they plan their wedding.

Bro. Glen Braker (Princeville, IL) was kind enough to join us for our family night. Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) came to assist with Communion. It was a wonderful evening. We all had the opportunity to gather together for the first time to worship in our newly remodeled church. It was a special time of fellowship and unity. We were reminded of the sacrifice that God made for each of us.

Our prayers are with Sis. Carol (Bro. Alvin) Beutel and her family for the loss of her brother-in-law, Simon Cawley. We also want to pray for strength and healing for the many hospital patients that we have had. They include Bro. Bob (Sis. Barb) Wagenbach, Sis. Darlene (Bro. Elmer) Kaeb, Bro. Fred (Sis. Jeanette) Beutel, Sis. Nancy (Bro. Merle) Sauder and Bro. Bob (Sis. Rosie) Frank.

Mercy there was great, and grace was free;

Pardon there was multiplied to me;  
There my burdened soul found liberty,  
At Calvary.

*Hymns of Zion #151*

The Easter program was held on Palm Sunday. All of the Sunday school children gathered together and sang beautiful praises to God. It was so precious to watch them. We want to express our appreciation to each of them as well

as the teachers and helpers. It truly was a blessed evening.

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### ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

#### Elizabeth Heinold

#### Nancy Knepp

"For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming? For ye are our glory and joy."

*I Thess. 2:19-20*

What a blessing to welcome four new sisters into the church! Newly baptized sisters are Sis. Haley Herrmann (Bro. Mark and Sis. Tammy), Sis. Tess Plattner (Bro. Russ and Sis. Sally), Sis. Emily Knepp (Bro. Keith and Sis. Michelle) and Sis. Mandy Steffen (Bro. Scott and Sis. Marvella). As always, it is so encouraging to the church to hear testimonies and see the work of the Holy Spirit in young lives. It proves that God is still calling the lost souls among us! Praying for continued patience in sowing the seed and a more abundant harvest! Along with many other relatives and friends, Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Sis. Sandy, Eureka, IL) and Bro. Tony Manz (Sis. Denise, Junction, OH) were here for the blessed occasion, and Bro. Bill Schick (Sis. Joan, Magdalena, Mexico).

Elder Bro. Ben Walder (Sis. Juanita, Congerville, IL) helped share the Memorandum with our congregation. It was encouraging to hear the exhortation on unity. There is work for all of us.

As the Lord commanded, we commemorated the Lord's death with Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan, Winthrop, MN) assisting in the service of Holy Communion. Bro. Steve Sauder (Sis. Mary, Tremont, IL) taught a thought-provoking Bible Study on reconciliation, using Jacob and Esau as an example.

Bro. Matt Gerber (Ixtlan, Mexico) has been "home" for a few weeks. He exhorted our youth after our Sunday School Easter program on Palm Sunday. If the people had not cried "Ho-

sanna", Jesus declared, the very rocks would cry out His praises. We certainly heard His praises sung that day! Thank you, students, teachers and parents, for another wonderful program.

The death of a father is always a great loss, especially when it is sudden and unexpected. Our sympathy goes to Sis. Melody, Sis. Faith and Joy Klaus as they laid to rest their father, John Klaus. Many of their brothers and sisters attended here also while going to college and we grieve with them and especially his wife, Betty. May our Comforter keep you in His care daily.

We bid farewell to Bro. John and Sis. Wanda Kinsinger and their children, James, Jesse and Joy. They have moved to South Korea for a time as Bro. John will be teaching English there. They will be missed and in our prayers.

Bro. Robert Pfaffman (Sis. Lilly) and Sis. JoEllen Martin (Bro. Todd) were both hospital patients this month. May our Great Physician provide healing and health again.

"He is risen."

*Mark 16:6*

"The Lord is risen indeed."

*Luke 24:34*

Hallelujah!

*Note of Thanks:*

Greetings dear brethren and friends. I want to humbly thank each one for your love and kindness shown unto me after my farm accident. In my time of need I am again reminded of the preciousness of our brotherhood. May the Lord richly bless you all.

*Bro. Tom and Sis. Carol Schick*

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**INDIANA, BLUFFTON**  
**Stefanie Dailey**  
**Jan Schwartz**

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh."

*Ephesians 5:31*

February 24 was the wedding day for Sis. Amy Fiechter (Bro. Mike and Sis. Shari) and Bro. Jon Gerst of our Leo, IN, church (Wally and Donna, Alto, MI). Sis. Amy is formerly of Magdalena, Mexico, and we were privileged to have Bro. Bill Schick (Sis. Joan, Magdalena, MX) minister part of the wedding service in Spanish. Also taking part in the wedding service was Bro. Trent Schrock (Sis. Heidi, Leo, IN). Blessing us on the pulpit in the morning were Bro. Tom Klotzle (Sis. Jody, Altadena, CA), Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO), Bro. Bill Waibel, (Sis. Carol, Bay City, MI), and Bro. John Jackson (Sis. Peggy, Bay City, MI).

March 2 marked the wedding day for Bro. Josh Imel and Sis. Kasha Gerber. Josh's parents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Sharon Imel, and Kasha's parents are Bro. Kent and Sis. Kim Gerber.

Bro. Jon Isch and Sis. Jennifer Gerber were united in marriage on March 9. Their parents are Bro. Barry and Sis. Imogene Isch and Bro. Gene and Sis. Becky Gerber. We wish these three couples God's richest blessings and trust they will all look to God to be the center of their marriages.

On Friday evening, February 22, Bro. Bill Schick (Magdalena, MX) honored us with a presentation of the important work going on at The House of Life and Hope, an orphanage in Magdalena, Mexico, operated by the Apostolic Christian Church. The presentation gave everyone a better understanding of the undertaking and responsibility going on there and it was a blessing to all who attended.

Our Bluffton congregation has once again had many reasons to be on our knees praying this month. Bro. Mick Gerber (Sis. Brooke), Bro. Ben Gerber, and Alicia Gerber mourned the loss of their step-mom, Lucinda (Cindy) Gerber (Scott), who passed away suddenly on February 28. Our prayers are with them as well as their dad, Scott, and her in-laws, Bro. Larry and Sis. Pauline Gerber.

Bro. Homer Fiechter went to meet his Lord on March 3. Grieving the loss of their dad are Sis. Sheryl Ringger (Bro. Alan), Ray Fiechter (Carol), and Kent Fiechter (Deb). Our prayers are also with Bro. Homer's brothers, Bro. Melvin (Sis. Doris), Bro. Wayne (Sis. Dorothy) and Bro. Alvin (Sis. Bernice, Bluffton North); and his sisters, Sis. Gladys Maller, and Sis. Justine Gerber (Bro. Don).

Our prayers are also with Sis. Clara Gerber (Bro. Wilmer), Sis. Lucy Steffen (Bro. Ralph), and Sis. Lorene Baumgartner as their brother, Bro. Glen Baumgartner (Phoenix, AZ), passed away on March 3.

In addition, our thoughts and prayers have been with Sis. Peggy Aschliman (Bro. Derryl), who was in the hospital this month and faced major surgery. We pray she will have a quick recovery.

Bro. Kent and Sis. Viola Wolf and their family have been a recipient of our prayers also this month. They are visiting Sis. Viola's family in Hungary for an extended stay.

We are also celebrating new births this month. On February 8, Bro. Don and Sis. Suzie Fiechter embraced their new granddaughter, Mariah Jade. Mariah's parents are Bro. Tim and Sis. JaNon Furrer of Prescott, AZ.

On February 18, Tyler and Janelle Geels joyfully greeted their first child, a son, Andrew Paris. Andrew's excited grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Joni Schwartz.

Bro. Nathan and Sis. Rachel Mueller (Leo, IN) welcomed a daughter, Halle Rae, on March 3. She joins big brother, Kaine. Delighted grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Jan Schwartz and Bro. Dave and Sis. Terri Mueller (Bluffton North).

Lydia Grace was born to Ben and Jackie Dailey on March 6. She joins big brother, Caleb. Lydia's joyful grandparents are Bro. Doug and Sis. Susan Dailey.

Bro. Jon and Sis. Juli Kaehr were blessed with a son, Jude Zion, born March 10. Jude is joyously greeted by

siblings, Sis. Sarah Fiechter (Bro. Quinn), Bro. Jesse, Sis. Hannah, Sis. Lydia, Sis. Esther, Samuel, Luke, Anna, Abigail, Marcus, and Hadassah. Jude's grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Carolyn Isch and Sis. Pat Kaehr. We are very happy for all these families and their new babies and wish them all God's blessings in the future.

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**INDIANA  
BLUFFTON NORTH**

**Sherry Pfister  
Jessie Longenberger**

Salvation: It saves and is personally grasped, experienced and possessed.

We thus rejoice that Brian Curry (wife Sis. Kristi) has made a beginning in the Lord. Brian's parents are Jan and Alice Curry. Kristi's parents are Bro. Walter and Sis. Joyce Neuenschwander.

We had many special events this month. On February 22, Bro. Bill Schick presented the ongoing ministry of Casa Vida y Esperanza (House of Light and Hope) to our congregation. It is an orphanage for children in Magdalena, MX, operated by the Apostolic Christian Church and is where our own local sister, Jenna Mueller, is currently serving. Bro. Bill reminded us that the church, currently under construction, will soon be open for worshippers.

Our high school students traveled to Purdue University for a day of worship and fellowship with the other Indiana Sunday Schools on March 9. The question posed this year to all was: "Who is Your God?"

On Saturday evening, March 15, our congregation observed Holy Communion with Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary, Fairbury, IL) giving the message. Elder Bros. John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia, Latty, OH) and Ed Schwartz (Sis. Jeni, Bluffton) also came to assist. The following day our Sunday School students presented the Easter message in song and story. We appreciate so much the students' and teachers' efforts given to inspire us to love the Lord even more.

Our love and prayers are with these dear ones in their health trials this past

month: Bro. Carroll Gerber, Sis. Deb Neunschwander, and Bro. Vernon Gerber who had a defibrillator inserted and is now home.

Sympathies to Sis. Martha (Amos) Reinhard whose brother-in-law, Harold Glass, age 92, passed away. Sympathies also to Sis. Theresa Kipfer (Ted, dec.) whose father, Lloyd H. Haiflich, passed away on February 22. Sympathies to Sis. Delores Shady whose husband, Bill, passed away March 1.

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**INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE**

**Jessica Murray  
Barb Huber**

This month we rejoice with the Brothers and Sisters who were elected into new positions within the church. We pray the Lord will be with you as you serve Him by giving to others. Thank you for putting your love, heart, support, and time into all you do.

Our Sis. Helen Eshleman (Bro. Morris) went to be with her Maker. Our love and sympathy goes out to this family as they mourn a wife and mother. May the love of the Lord lift you up and comfort you in the days to come.

The High School Bible Class spent a Sunday with the other Indiana Bible Classes at Purdue for ACYF, where they had a good time of fellowship. Thank you to the ministers and parents who helped with this and dedicated their time with our youth. May the lessons they learned remain with them as they continue to grow.

Once again we have many traveling to help in the mission fields. The days and weeks you spend there are building a bright future for someone you probably have not even met yet, and may never meet until you are in heaven together. What a reunion that will be. Thank you for all your willingness of giving.

We had a wonderful service on Palm Sunday that really prepared our hearts for the week, to go through the days and reflect on how Jesus walked daily. This was followed by an Easter program presented by our Sunday School Students.

They sure can tell the story from innocent hearts.

*Note of Thanks:*

We wish to sincerely thank our wonderful church family and friends for your love and prayers, beautiful and uplifting cards sent to us before and after Wally's death. These expressions of love helped carry us through these very difficult days. May God richly reward and bless you. Wally's life exemplified Colossians 3:23. "Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as unto the Lord, and not unto men."

*Sis. Rosella Bucher and families*

*Daughters: Vicky (Ron) Anliker, Veronica (Walt) Steffen, Valerie Wuethrich*

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**INDIANA  
INDIANAPOLIS**

**Sandy Lichtle  
Penny Schroder**

Bro. Peter and Sis. Penny Schroder have been blessed with a son, Jared Silas, born on February 21. Welcoming him home are his brother, Jonah, and his grandparents, Bro. Norman and Sis. Gloria Stahl (Chicago, IL), Carna Schroder (Holiday, FL), and Paul and Bev Schroder (Tarpon Springs, FL).

Bro. Ken and Sis. Lyn Wuethrich welcomed their precious granddaughter, Reagan Lee Wuethrich, on February 28. Reagan's parents are Sean and Julie Wuethrich.

Bro. Ron and Sis. Edie Bollier are thankful for the safe arrival of their granddaughter, Kaleigh Alana Schambach, born on March 9. Kaleigh's parents are Bro. Keith and Sis. Emily Schambach (Elgin, IL).

March 11 was a special day for Bro. Bill and Sis. Conni Witzig as their granddaughter, Hope Marie Witzig, was born. Hope's parents are Brian and Faith Witzig.

On March 20, Bro. Darl and Sis. Cindy Schieler were blessed with a grandson, Aiden David Huber. Bro. Jaron and Sis. Marla Huber (Bloomington, IL) are Aiden's parents.

We rejoice with Bro. Paul Hang-

artner (Bro. Gene and Sis. Evelyn, Roanoke, IL) and Sis. Dee Mandaza (Baba and Mbuya Mandaza, Zimbabwe) as they were united as one in the Lord on March 2. We wish them God's richest blessings as they seek to serve the Lord together.

We are happy for Sis. Heather Furrer (Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorene, West Lafayette, IN) and Bro. Chad Hoerr (Bro. Doug and Sis. Peg, Washington, IL) of West Lafayette, IN, who have announced their engagement. We pray for the Lord's continued guidance and blessings as they prepare for their wedding.

On March 9, our high school Sunday School students attended Apostolic Christian Youth Fellowship Day at Purdue University. We extend a special thanks to the teachers and ministers who were willing to be used for the Lord.

Our Easter program was held on March 16. It was a joy and blessing to hear the children share the Easter message through verse and song.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Gail Bradford (Bro. Bill) as she was recently diagnosed with cancer, which has a good prognosis. We pray for God's grace and strength to be with her as she begins radiation treatments.

We appreciate the servant hearts of our Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL), Elder Bro. Akito Inoue (Sis. Marie, Tokyo, Japan), Bro. John Bradle (Sis. Jill, Roanoke, IL), and Bro. Steve Stieglitz (Sis. Jane, Leo, IN) who shared the Word with us this month. Thank you for your labors of love.

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## INDIANA, LACROSSE

**Bethany Johnson  
Julie Rocke**

"And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay."

*Matthew 28:5-6*

The Easter story was once again told to us through the verses and songs of our children. It is so beautiful to see God's promise fulfilled as Jesus rose from the grave after dying for our sins. What an awesome price that Jesus paid and what a statement of love!

"What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me? I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows unto the Lord now in the presence of all his people."

*Psalms 116:12-14*

What a powerful message was brought to us as we shared Holy Communion the same weekend as the Easter program. Assisting Elder Bro. Curt was Ordained Deacon Bro. Bob Beebe (Sis. Sue) from our South Bend, IN, congregation. This is such a special time to reflect on our lives and on what Christ did for us by dying on the cross.

After much prayer and searching, God has given us two faithful servants to be ministers to our flock. Bro. Calvin (Sis. Jeanne) Schneider and Bro. Mark (Sis. Karen) Wettstein, along with their children, have humbly accepted this responsibility. We have been and will continue to keep them in our prayers as they begin this new work in the Lord. Our heartfelt gratitude goes to Elder Bros. John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia, Latty, OH) and Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville, IN) for their presence, messages and help in this special occasion.

Elder Bro. Curt and Sis. Lyla Frank's little granddaughter, Mila Zimmerman (Bro. Josh and Sis. Molly, Forrest, IL) underwent open heart surgery this month. We are glad that she is home and that God has brought her safely through. Also undergoing surgery this month were Bro. Gene Nuest (Sis. Norma) and Sis. Carolyn Levy (late Bro. Ralph). Our prayers are with all of them as they continue to heal.

Sis. Lucille Nuest had her 90th birthday recently and was remembered with a card shower. She has been serving the

Lord for many years and we appreciate the example that she is to us.

Bro. Tom and Sis. LuAnn Troxel are grandparents to sweet little Nathan Jacob Troxel-Gonzalez of Ixtlan, Mexico. His thankful parents are Bro. Rudy and Sis. Rosario.

What a joy it is to see these little ones and to know that they will grow up in Christian homes!

Some of the members of our congregation went to Biloxi, Mississippi, to help with the continuing clean-up there. They always receive the greater blessing when they have a chance to go and help out.

We would like to send special thanks to Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Ruth Ann, Wolcott, IN) and retired Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Sis. Jane, Bradford, IL) for their help in the ministry this month. May God richly bless you for your willingness to serve His lambs.

Our high school students took the opportunity to attend ACYF day at Purdue University March 9. Many thanks to all who had part in preparing for the day and to those who teach our students – both on that day as well as on a regular basis. May God bless your labors.

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**INDIANA, LEO  
Elizabeth Schrenk  
Abigail Schrenk**

"My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up."

*Psalms 5:3*

Every morning we are reminded of the faithfulness of our Lord. As spring begins to arrive in our part of the country, we have seen again the steadfastness of the Lord. Our voices rise in worship, song, and prayer to Him who so lovingly gives us each new morning and each new season.

We gathered in Bluffton, IN, to witness the vows of Bro. Jon Gerst and Sis. Amy Fiechter on February 24. Bro. Jon

and Sis. Amy will be making Leo their home church. We welcome them as a couple and pray they will experience the fullness of God's love as they begin their lives together. May He bless them both as they continue to serve Him.

On March 3, a new little girl arrived into the home of Bro. Nathan and Sis. Rachel Mueller. Little Halle Rae is welcomed into the family by big brother Kaine. We are thankful for her safe arrival and pray for her parents as they raise these two dear ones in the fear of the Lord.

Our congratulations also go to Bro. Andrew and Sis. Natalie Gerber with the birth of their little girl, Violet Grace. Violet was born on March 12. Our prayers go to Bro. Andrew and Sis. Natalie as they begin the responsibility of parenting.

On Palm Sunday we gathered to celebrate the Easter season with our annual Sunday School Program. Our Sunday school children were looking for Jesus and couldn't find him. Hallelujah! He is risen. We thank our teachers and students for their hard work and preparation.

Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH) assisted Elder Bro. Lynn in serving us Communion on March 19. We were reminded of God's ultimate sacrifice to us. We thank Bro. Mark for serving our congregation.

This month brought several visiting ministers. Bro. Matt Kaufmann (Sis. Rebekah, Bloomington, IL), Bro. Nate Lehman (Sis. Yvonne, Denver, CO), and Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jacki, Francesville, IN) blessed us with the Word. We appreciate the sacrifice these brothers offer as they minister to us all week after week. May they each know the abundant blessings of our Lord Jesus.

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**INDIANA, MILFORD**  
**Pam Beer**  
**Carol Hurd**

*A Token of Spring*

The day is so dark and so gloomy  
 The clouds are so heavy and drear.

Yet suddenly off in the distance  
 I hear a sweet song of good cheer.

It is the first token of springtime  
 The ground with the snow is still white;  
 Oh, could I transcribe the sweet medley  
 Before the small singer takes flight.

I know not if it be a robin,  
 A blue bird perchance it may be:  
 Whatever the name of the singer  
 It's song is a blessing to me.

It may be a little song sparrow  
 Whose music falls so sweet on my ear.  
 Though void of bright feathers and plumage  
 It's song fills my heart with spring cheer.

Not always from birds of bright plumage  
 Do songs that are sweetest arise;  
 For oft from a bird all unnoticed  
 Comes a song that we all inwardly prize.

And likewise some friends that I cherish  
 Are unpretentious and plain;  
 They give forth songs so consoling  
 Their blessings forever remain.  
 —Henry Beer

As spring has arrived, the World Relief Work Day group is meeting for the last time until fall. Many projects were finished and sent on their way. The fellowship of working together is such a blessing. The Family Night and Youth meetings are a special blessing as young and old work together to meet the needs of others.

On March 1, the Silver Thimble Club held their annual supper and auction. It is always a fun time and the funds raised are used to help others in need.

The Milford congregation wishes Bro. Walter Steffen a happy 80th birthday. We are thankful for the many years Walter served as Sunday School teacher and minister here in Milford. May God grant him many blessings. His family honored him with a weekend together.

The Milford church enjoyed having the family worship with them.

Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN) assisted Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) serve Communion on March 8. This is always a special time for Christians as we observe how Jesus gave His life and shed His blood so we might be saved.

On Sunday, March 16, the Sunday school children and teachers presented the Easter program, once again reminding us that Jesus arose from the grave ascending to Heaven to prepare a place for the redeemed.

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**INDIANA, REMINGTON**

**Jenni Honegger**  
**Marcella Tyler**

Greetings of Christian love to you all! On February 28, Brock Daniel joined the family of Bro. Dana and Sis. Lea Nieman. He was welcomed home by big brother, Kade, and big sister, Lydia. Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb Stoller and Bro. Denny and Sis. Kay Nieman (Smithville, OH) are his thankful grandparents. We, too, are thankful for Brock's safe arrival and anxious to get to know this sweet little gift from the Father.

We are also thankful for the peace God has given to convert Tanya Wulf (Bro. Arnie and Sis. Myra, Lester, IA). Tanya is a graduate student at Purdue who has been worshipping with us the past several months. We pray that as Tanya looks forward to baptism she will continue in the Father's grace and walk closely with Him, trusting Him to guide her path.

Our Cheer Circle held their annual auction on March 7. It is a good feeling to know that these sisters are available and willing to help out those who are in need or who just need a little cheering up.

Our Bible Class attended ACYF with many area youth at Purdue in West Lafayette on March 9. We are thankful for the many opportunities for fellowship that are available for our young people and for the efforts put forth on their behalf.

Our Sunday School Easter Program was on March 16. It was a blessing to hear the little children, as well as the older students, remind us of the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour. Although thoughts of His suffering and death should bring us sorrow for our own part in contributing to them, it is also a joy to know that He conquered them so that we might have hope and be free.

Christ is the world's dear Paschal  
Lamb  
He is the Great "I was, I am"  
Through Calv'ry's pain and dismal  
gloom,  
He conquered over death and tomb.  
He rose His own to justify,  
And draws all men up to the sky,  
If you have found the Christ, His way,  
Then you can keep this Easter day.  
*Hymns of Zion #89*

Finally, our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Lori Scheitlin (Bro. Rolyce) and Sis. Patty Bahler (Bro. Kurt) as they received word of the passing of their sister-in-law, Kathy Knobloch (Doug), of Rock Rapids, IA.

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

"What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of

God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

*Romans 8:31-32, 35-39*

We want to welcome any visitors to our church family. Just be sure to call ahead for our midweek schedule as it changes often!

Our Brothers were blessed to have breakfast and a Bible study this past month. Bro. Bob Beebe led the study in a topical on Christian ethics.

*Note of Thanks:*

I want to thank everyone for their prayers, the cards, telephone calls, their visits, bringing food and meals to me, and many more acts of kindness before and after my surgery. Also for coming and having services for me. Words can't express how much I appreciate all that was done for me. May God richly bless you.

*Sis. Ernestine Meister*

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

On a cold wintry Wednesday night, Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN) and Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) drove to Valpo church to share the contents of the Elders' Memorandum with us. Bob and I were not able to attend because of a 15 inch snow here, but today after church we listened to the CD of that evening which Bro. Ed Lester, Sr. lovingly made for us. We want to thank these two Brothers for making us aware of the administrative and spiritual items considered at the 2007 Conference. We could feel the love and concern for us as they spoke.

Today, March 2, we were pleased to see Bro. Art Heinold back in church after he spent some time in Florida. Bro. Art is the oldest member of our congregation and the youngest convert. He was 90 years old when he turned to the Lord. He is a blessing and inspiration to our Valpo congregation, with his cheerful and friendly spirit, and we all missed him when he was gone.

We look forward to Good Friday services this week. Our grandson, Matt, is

visiting us for the week and we'll have "young eyes" to drive us home from church that night. Matt is the oldest son of our oldest son, Bob. They live in St. Paul, MN. Matt graduates from the University of Minnesota this spring semester.

Our Easter Program will be held on the 29th of March. Because each church plans their own Easter program, our committee is planning to have ours a week later. With this delay we are favored to have ministering Bro. Bob Beebe and Sis. Sue as our guests from the South Bend church on that Sunday. We'll also have a group from the Milford church, who will bless us with their singing. Thus we'll have the double blessing of celebrating the Easter miracle, the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, on two Sundays. Easter Dinner in the church dining room will follow the program.

Dick Pelath, our son-in-law, is faced with another round of chemo because of a tumor on his back. He came to have lunch with us while Matt is here, and we're always impressed with his cheerfulness and optimism. He welcomes your prayers and says he takes courage knowing others are praying for him.

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

*Eccles. 3:1*

There no longer is any snow in our lawn, except for a few piles where our faithful snow plow man heaped it. Under the snow we find that spring is not far behind. It's time to clean up winter debris from our lawns and we look forward to another change of season. Spring and summer will bring more visitors to our little Valpo church and we look forward to seeing each one of you, whoever you are.

When you're traveling across country, we remind you that we are at the Crossroads of America: on State Road 49 S, just 2 ¾ miles South of U. S. 30, and just a few miles farther South from I 94 and the IN toll road. Our services are



10:30 and 12:30 each Sunday. A warm welcome awaits you.

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**INDIANA  
WEST LAFAYETTE**

**Hollie Meister  
Darlene Walder**

March 16 was our Sunday School Easter Program. The students did a wonderful job teaching us about Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection. We would like to thank the teachers and students for all their hard work in bringing us God's Word.

Our congregation rejoices in the birth of two new babies.

Bro. Rustin and Sis. Amanda Meister welcomed Joshua Jordan into their family. Excited big brothers are Micah and Clay. Grateful grandparents are Bro. Dick and Sis. Sharon Meister (West Lafayette, IN), and Bro. Roger and Sis. Sandy Ward (Francesville, IN).

Quinn Russell was born to Bro. Corey and Sis. Erika Gerber. Quinn is welcomed home by his sister, Allison, and brothers, Caden and Colin. Joyful grandparents are Sis. Susie Gerber (Bluffton, IN), and Bro. Bert and Sis. Karen Aechliman (Indianapolis, IN).

Sis. Reva Waibel (Bro. Leon) underwent surgery this month. We pray that God would continue to give her strength and encouragement as she recovers.

We were blessed to have the following visiting ministers this past month: Bro. Bruce Frank (Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Matt Rassi (Chicago, IL), and Bro. Lynn Fiechter (Bluffton, IN). We would like to thank each of them for sharing God's Word with our congregation.

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

We wish to thank Bro. Dale Banwart (Sis. Missy; Congerville, IL) for ministering God's Holy Word to us. It's always a blessing to have Bro. Dale, Sis. Missy and their family come back to visit us in Wolcott!

On March 9, our Bible class, along with their teachers, attended the ACYF

gathering at Purdue University. May our precious youth always keep the spiritual teachings they have learned in their hearts and minds. If they do, we trust there will be good fruit in their lives.

God's wonderful creation is so evident as Spring unfolds before us once again. The trees are budding, flowers are poking through the ground, the days are getting longer, and the air is getting warmer. Just as we associate new life with Spring, we reflect on the "new life" that is ours through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. We look forward to hearing about God's love for us and His plan of salvation at our Easter program on Good Friday.

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**IOWA, BLOOMFIELD**  
**Christy Wiegand**

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

March 1 and 2 was our annual Invite-A-Couple weekend. We were blessed by many visitors from far and near who came to share the weekend with us. Among the visitors was ministering Bro. Steve Pamer and his wife, Sis. Arliss (Akron, OH). We appreciate Bro. Steve sharing the Word of Life with us on Sunday, and thank him and his wife for their efforts.

Sis. Barbara Schock has found employment in the Garden Grove, IA, area and has moved there. We are thankful to see her smiling face back here in Bloomfield when she visits. We know that she is a blessing to the Garden Grove congregation. We thank her for her years of service writing our Silver

Lining news.

It is hard to believe the Easter season is here already. "'Tis not the manger but the cross, that sets the spirit free!" May we be thankful this Easter for the sacrifice Jesus made for us!

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**IOWA, BURLINGTON**  
**Dixie Messner  
Karla Gerst**

Awake, Thou soul's first inspiration;  
Let watchmen stand before the temple door!

With constant zeal and firm devotion,  
Against the enemy they do implore.  
Their pealing calls throughout the world resound;  
Salvation, Lord, in Thee alone is found.

*Zion's Harp #111 vs. 1*

We were thankful to have Elder Bros. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) with us for the Memorandum recently. The encouragement went forth once again to stand firm against the attack of the enemy. Ministering Bro. Erik Givens (Princeville, IL) also shared the Word with us this past month. May the Lord richly reward them for their labors in His vineyard.

Both Alice Defenbaugh (Ray) and Ethan Eisenmann (Matt and Monica) had special medical care this past month. We're thankful for the Lord's blessings of health and healing.

God has opened the door for Bro. Michael and Sis. Rachel Messner and their children to move to Winthrop, MN. Bro. Michael has already gone to start his new job there, while Sis. Rachel and the children are still in our area. We wish them God's continued guidance and help during this time of transition. They will be missed.

We were saddened to hear that our friend, Herb Miller (Esther), passed away. We missed seeing them while he was in the hospital. Our thoughts and prayers are with Esther and their family. May God grant them the comfort and peace that only He can give.

O blessed Saviour, loving Lord,  
Receive me as Thine own;  
And wash me with Thy precious blood,  
And take me to Thy home.

*Hymns of Zion #61 vs. 3*

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### IOWA, ELGIN Gloria Frieden

After a long winter, we are looking forward to spring and witnessing, again, the rebirth of nature. How encouraging it is to know that God is able and willing to cause a rebirth to take place in our hearts, too. He can take a heart that is hardened, cold and dirty with sin, and make it loving and free of filth. All we have to do is sincerely ask Him.

On February 26, Bro. Aaron and Sis. Sharla and Keana Frank welcomed little Clinton Kedric into their hearts and home. Also thankful for this precious addition to their family circles are his grandparents, Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy Frank (Oakville, IA) and Bro. Charles and Sis. Sue Schneider.

On March 9, our Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA) gave a loving exhortation on Communion which we are looking forward to partaking of on April 6.

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### IOWA, GARDEN GROVE Willia Clark

Oh, who among the sons of men,  
by word, or song, or deed or pen,  
can ever fittingly convey,  
the meaning of this blessed Day?

*Hymns of Zion #89*

The hymn writer says it all. When Jesus lives in our hearts, we can be so overwhelmed with the immensity of His gift of love that we have no words to adequately describe what His sacrifice on the cross and His resurrection really mean to us. To have every sin forgiven is to be free indeed.

Once again the Lord has blessed us with visitors, both those who stand to serve us with God's Word, and those who sit in the pews, worship and fellow-

ship with us. We thank each of you for coming our way. Visiting ministering brothers have been Bro. Clint Schmidt (Sis. Magdalena, Winthrop, MN), Bro. Glenn Dill (Sis. Marilyn, Tremont, IL), Bro. Paul Eisenmann (Sis. Elaine, Burlington, IA), and Bro. Kenneth Dietz (Sis. Mardell, Bradford, IL) and our Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA). We thank each one.

As summer approaches and you plan summer travels across this great nation, remember to look up the smaller churches to visit as you travel. In Garden Grove, you may contact our minister, Bro. Brad (Sis. Laura) Funk, 641-443-2661, or me, Willa Clark, 641-414-2549.

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### IOWA, IOWA CITY Diana Butikofer

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bros. Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA) and Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Oakville, IA) and Bro. Phil Schulz (Sis. Kelli, Burlington, IA). We appreciate these brothers' willingness to preach God's Word to us and thank Bro. Jon for helping to share the Memorandum message as well.

"For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come..."

*Song of Solomon 2:11-12*

The signs of spring give us hope of an end to winter and hope of warmer weather and new life to come. Christ's death and resurrection also give hope of victory over death and hope of life in Him.

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### IOWA, LESTER Polly Metzger Gloria Moser

Our congregation rejoices with two families who have welcomed babies into their homes. John and Sis. Karmin Popkes are thankful for the arrival of a baby girl, Alayna Lee, born on March 4. Happy siblings are Shayna, Trevor, Car-

son and Jayma. Grandparents are Bro. Chuck and Sis. Karen Walter (Silverton, OR) and Sis. Eleanor Popkes. Hannah Mae Meyer was born on March 5 to Bro. Brad and Sis. Trinda Meyer. Reagen, Madeline, Micah, Ethan, Emma and Darren are excited for a sweet little sister. Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda Kuenzi (Silverton, OR) and Bro. Pat and Sis. Twyla Meyer are the thankful grandparents.

Hospital patients this past month include Nash Knobloch (Bro. Dan and Sis. Rejean), Sis. Lois Metzger (Bro. Jim) and Sis. Linda Kellenberger (Bro. Verlyn). We also want to remember Bro. Don Metzger as his wife, Mary Jane, undergoes further medical treatment. May they feel the healing hand of God and may we continue to pray for others in our congregation that are dealing with physical afflictions.

"Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near."

*Isaiah 55:6*

We are so thankful for loved ones that are seeking their soul's salvation. Brent and Priscilla Bosch (Bro. Tony and Sis. Pam), Chet Mogler (Bro. Brian and Sis. Beverly), Tasha and Cassie Metzger (Bro. Tom and Sis. Deb), Crystal Moser (Bro. Rick and Sis. Lori), Matthew Warner (Bro. Stan and Sis. Sue) and Laura Knobloch (Bro. Myron and Sis. Beth) have begun their repentance. May God grant them much grace to build a firm foundation on Jesus Christ, the solid Rock.

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

*Zion's Harp #200*

March 15 and 16 was a weekend of deep gratitude as we paused to reflect on our Saviour's suffering and His cruel death on the cross to pay our debt of sin.

Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) was here to assist our Elder Bro. Dennis Warner as we partook of Holy Communion. It was truly a time of being renewed and inspired to journey on. Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL) also shared God's Word with us on March 9. We extend our appreciation to both of these brothers as they labor in the Lord's vineyard.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to Bro. Silas and Sis. Edith Knobloch as they mourn the loss of a dear stepmother, Sis. Marie Hohulin.

Kathy Knobloch, daughter-in-law of Dale and Sis. Mary Ellen Knobloch, passed away on March 10. We extend our prayers and support to their family.

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### IOWA, OAKVILLE

#### Sharla Wiegand

The Conference report was read and expounded upon with the help of Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN). We are very thankful for his willingness to serve.

Bro. Kent and Sis. Megan Schmidgall became first-time parents on March 3 with the birth of Grace Abigail. Rejoicing with them are grandparents, Elder Bro. Jon and Sis. Julie Schmidgall and Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa Kellenberger (Sabetha, KS).

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### IOWA, WEST BEND

#### Janet Fehr Sue Schneider

Bro. Paul Fehr Sr. (94) from the Morris congregation passed away on February 22. He was a dear brother to Sis. Hulda Wirtz and Bro. Elmer Fehr from here. We wish to extend our heartfelt sympathy and prayers to his family. Bro. Paul was the son of Bro. Alfred and Sis. Mary (Gerber) Fehr and was born and raised in West Bend. He married Sis. Anna Luthi in Morris, MN, and farmed in West Bend for a time before moving to the Morris area.

We were pleased to have Bro. Joe Gerst (Sis. Connie, Iowa City, IA) with us on February 24, and appreciated his services. It is always a blessing to have

loved ones "come home" to visit.

Sis. Jackie Mogler was our only hospital patient this month. We are thankful she is now doing well.

"I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eyes."

*Psalms 32:8*

We rejoice with two dear couples who have felt the prompting of God's Spirit and are engaged to be married. Sis. Penny Zaugg (Bro. Norm and Sis. Polly) from the Morton, IL, congregation and Bro. Zach Maher (Bro. Dan and Sis. Kim) from Roanoke, IL, are planning a June wedding. On March 9, the engagement of Sis. Karen Zaugg (Bro. Pat and Sis. Julie) and Bro. Blaine Koehl (Bro. Karl and Sis. Marilyn) was announced. Bro. Blaine is from the Morris, MN, church. May God bless both of these engaged couples.

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

*Genesis 2:18*

Bro. Kyle Banwart (Bro. Kent and Sis. Beth) and Sis. Jenny Schock (Bro. Dale and Sis. Teresa) from Bloomfield, IA, were united in holy matrimony on March 16. We trust Bro. Kyle and Sis. Jenny will be help meets for each other.

Our congregation enjoyed listening to the Senior and Junior Bible Class (also several visiting students) who sang during our lunch break on Sunday, March 9. They sang songs pertaining to Christ's death and resurrection. We appreciate the efforts of the students and their teachers.

A blessed Mother's Day is wished for all mothers, both young and old.

#### TWO MOTHERS

I had two mothers...  
Two mothers I claim  
Two different people  
Yet with the same name.

Two separate women  
Diverse by design

But I loved them both  
Because they were both mine.

The first was the mother  
Who carried me here  
Gave birth and nurtured  
And launched my career.

She was the one  
Whose features I bear  
Complete with the facial  
Expression I wear.

She gave me some music  
Which follows me yet  
Along with examples  
In life that she set.

Then as I got older  
She some younger grew  
And we'd laugh as just mothers  
And daughters can do.

But then came the year  
That her mind clouded so  
And I sensed that the mother  
I'd known would soon go.

So quickly she changed  
And turned into the other  
A stranger who dressed  
In the clothes of my mother.

Oh, she looked the same  
At least at arm's length  
But she was the child now  
And I was her strength.

We'd come full circle  
We women three.  
My mother the first,  
The second, and me.

And if my own children  
Should come to a day  
When a new mother comes  
And the old goes away.

I'd ask of them nothing  
That I didn't do.  
Love both of your mothers  
As both have loved you.

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### JAPAN, SHIODA

#### Carrie Ito

Spring has sprung here in Japan!

The plum blossoms are a beautiful reminder of rebirth. Just as the sun and warmer weather bring the blossoms, so God's love and grace can turn our own lifeless brown branches into something beautiful that is a blessing to others and a glory to God.

We were blessed this month with the visits of Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois's two daughters, Joy and Jewel.

We extend our sympathy to the Bro. Andrew and Sis. Jana Klaus and their family as they grieve the passing of Bro. Andrew's father, John Klaus.

A new man visited our church recently. He told us of some health problems he has, inferring that this is the reason for his coming to church. We pray he will continue to come and learn of the Savior. We also pray that many others would not wait for an urgent need in their life to seek the Savior, but that they may seek Him while He may be found. May we that are believers also seek Him daily, loving Him not for what He can do for us (which is amazing!), but for who He is. For is it not true, that we can have the fullest joy, not when we seek our own happiness or fulfillment, but when we seek to glorify His name?

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### **JAPAN, TOKYO** **Jana Klaus**

Greetings from Tokyo! In early March, we were once again blessed with Holy Communion service with our Elder Bro. Akito Inoue serving us. All members, except for dear Sis. Hiroko Utsuki who was home with pneumonia, were present which made 11 of us, plus our three converts who were observing. Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia) came to Tokyo on business through the week and willingly ministered to those of us who could gather for a midweek service at the Klaus' home. Thank you to Bro. Ben for making the time and effort to bless us. And, we enjoyed the fellowship of convert Jacob Farney (Croghan, NY) who is stationed in southern Japan at Iwakuni Marine Base for possibly one more year. He was able to make a 5 day trip to Tokyo.

Hannah Klaus will graduate from 6th grade the end of March and become a Junior High student at the same girls' school as her older sister, Sarah. We pray they will be a support to each other and light for Jesus to the students and teachers around them.

The Klaus family experienced the pain of separation on this earth as Dad and Grandpa, John Klaus, passed away on March 11. He and Grandma (Betty) were living in Tokyo up until 7 years ago, plus were a part of our church here in the early years, so many Japanese brethren knew and loved him. Many in the church say they remember his musical skills and teaching of hymns. He has passed on that wonderful legacy to his children and grandchildren. He had a strong desire to preach salvation to the lost and we believe he is experiencing the reward of his faithfulness now with his beloved Savior Jesus. We thank all for their love, support and comfort during our time of mourning.

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### **KANSAS, BERN** **Jill Meyer** **Rita Menold**

What joy I feel, what peace is mine  
as I my all to Thee resign!  
*Hymns of Zion #259*

Four souls have confessed having this wonderful peace and look forward to baptism the weekend of April 19-20, Lord willing. They are Mathew Kaeb (Bro. Paul and Sis. Joan), Laurie Stoller (Bro. Arden and Sis. Dar), Almanzo and Sheila Strahm (Bro. Kyle and Sis. Peggy).

Bro. Richard and Sis. Edie Strahm are thankful grandparents of Levi Ray, born to Bro. Scott and Sis. Emily Strahm of Morris, MN. And becoming grandparents for the first time, Dave and Marci Reist welcome David Thatcher, son of Thatcher and Ann Reist.

On March 9, we witnessed the wedding vows of Sis. Bethany Strahm (Bro. Wilfred and Sis. Verona) and Bro. Caleb Wyss (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Donna;

Goodfield, IL). May God's blessings be upon this couple as they assemble with the Goodfield, IL, congregation. Our thanks go to Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Sis. Peggy; Goodfield, IL), Bro. Matt Gerber (Ixtlan, Mexico) and Bro. Dave Hartter (Sis. Beth; Sabetha, KS) for ministering to us that weekend.

We pray God will continue to grant His healing power to Bro. Rod Edelman and Bro. Wayne Strahm who were surgical patients this past month.

Bro. Dan Dubach (Sis. Bethany; Prescott, AZ) and Bro. Rod Bajema (Sis. Twyla; Lester, IA) were with us March 1-2 for our annual Invite-a-Guest weekend. Bro. Dan was also our speaker for the Bible Study at K-State on February 28. We thank them and all who were able to be with us for a weekend of blessed fellowship. We were also grateful to have Bro. Dale Banwart (Sis. Missy; Congerville, IL), Bro. Glen Braker (Sis. Audrey; Princeville, IL), Bro. Jeff Bahler (Sis. Heidi; Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky; Lester, IA) share the Word of God with us this month. May they be blessed for their willingness to serve.

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### **KANSAS, FORT SCOTT** **Martin Hohulin, Sr.**

Oh, what peace we often forfeit,  
Oh what needless pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry  
Everything to God in prayer!

As a small boy in the Sabetha, KS, Sunday School, a severely mentally handicapped boy selected the song "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" every Sunday, perhaps because he liked the melody. At that time it didn't make much of an impression on me. Many years later, after my conversion to Jesus Christ, we lost a 19 year old son in a car accident. Then the words came alive and had a new meaning. We were overcome with grief. Here was someone much bigger than ourselves who offered to carry the burden of our tragedy. How precious did these words become of the old hymn, Hymns of Zion #161.

Sis. Karen Kellenberger had surgery March 10. She had a rapid recovery with the help of her mother, Sis. Hazel Geyer, of Peoria, IL. She was able to travel to a meeting at Taylor, MO, on Saturday, March 15, with her husband, Bro. Rick.

As the winter goes into spring and the Easter Season, may we, with every opportunity, welcome the risen Saviour. May His story never become old.

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

What a wonderful and beautiful time of the year. We can think and ponder the death and resurrection of our precious Savior and Lord. Can you believe all the suffering and pain He endured just for you and even me? We are truly blessed and if we but ask, forgiveness can be ours. God with His infinite wisdom has definitely smiled down on us with His everlasting love and grace. May we always count our blessings and thank Him for His care.

Count your blessings, name them one by one;  
 Count your blessings, see what God hath done;  
 Count your blessings, name them one by one;  
 Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.

*Hymns of Zion #116*

We are thankful for the many visitors we had in our midst for Easter Sunday. Friends and family joined us to worship on this special Lord's day. We always enjoy the fellowship we have with visitors. If you are passing through, please stop and worship with us. We would love to see you.

The Memorandum letter was presented to our congregation this month. We want to thank Elder Bro. John Lehman and Elder Bro. Jay Luthi for giving of themselves to congregate with us and share the message from the Elder Body. We appreciate their efforts, as well as the efforts of all of our Elders for their courage and support.

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

As often as I bear in mind  
 That God to me His Son assigned,  
 Whose reconciling, precious blood  
 For me, unworthy one was shed...

*Hymns of Zion #259, vs. 2*

During this Easter season we are reminded of the terrible suffering our Saviour endured on the cruel cross for our sins that we might be reconciled unto our God, and the wonderful hope that we have in His resurrection. May it not be that this remembrance would become an annual event, but that we can daily show our appreciation to Him through a life of humble obedience.

Thy Word, O Lord, draws us together  
 In mutual fellowship to stand;  
 It kindles in our hearts forever  
 The flames of faith and love's sweet band.

*Zion's Harp #63, vs. 1*

We are thankful for the times that we can gather around God's Word with those from near and far. Several were with us for our invite-a-guest weekend and we enjoyed the fellowship of our precious faith. With us on the pulpit this past month were Bro. Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Cory Metzger (Wichita, KS). We thank them for being willing to be used in the Lord's service.

Trusting in the Lord's leading, the engagements of Sis. Kayla Kellenberger (Bro. Curt and Sis. Martha, Lamar, MO) to Bro. Matthew Schaffer (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Martha) of Forrest, IL; and Bro. Jacob Knobloch (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jeri) to Sis. Krystal Knapp (Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorna) of Oakville, IA, was announced. We pray that God will continue to give both couples direction during this time of preparation that they can establish a firm spiritual foundation for their marriage.

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**KANSAS, SABETHA**  
**Rebekah Beyer**  
**Carrie Grimm**

Bro. Lyle and Sis. Amanda Grimm (Morris, MN) gave birth to Halle Lois on February 14. Halle is their firstborn and her grandparents are Bro. Rod and Sis. Arlene Grimm and Bro. Gary and Sis. Sandy Fehr (Morris, MN).

Bro. Kent and Sis. Megan Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) welcomed their first baby, Grace Abigail, on March 3. Her grandparents are Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa Kellenberger and Elder Bro. Jon and Sis. Julie Schmidgall (Oakville, IA).

Alia Ann was born March 17 to Bro. Brett and Sis. Rosanna and Quinn Kellenberger. Grandparents are Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa Kellenberger and Bro. Don and Sis. Linda Sinn (Silverton, OR).

Hospital patients this month were Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne) and Sis. Sharon Mills (Bro. Paul). Many prayers are with them as they recover.

March 9 will be our last Wednesday evening church service. After Easter we start Sunday evening singings, alternating with the Bern congregation every other Sunday.

*Note of Thanks:*

We want to thank everyone who remembered our "60th" Wedding Anniversary on February 21, 2008. We thank everyone for all the beautiful cards sent, gifts and Best Wishes. It all helped make our day a very memorable one. May God bless you all.

*Bro. Calvin and Sis. Dena Weiss*

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**KANSAS, WICHITA**  
**Emma Miller**

Bro. Paul Gasser (Sis. Joyce, Akron, OH) were present for Wednesday night services on February 27. We appreciate their willingness to share fellowship with us. Then, on March 16, Elder Bro. Jay Luthi and Sis. Jane spent the day with us. We thank him for bringing the report of the winter Conference. Obviously, much time and thought went into preparing the report. Bro. Jay plans to

return in April to conduct Holy Communion services.

The Sunday School teachers have been emphasizing the Easter traditions in their lessons. The children show much interest in the lessons and ask interesting questions. We are looking forward to our planned Easter Sunrise breakfast and the opportunity to hear what the Sunday School students will present.

The Glen Funk family shared in the tragic loss of Bro. Glen's nephew, Calvin Williams, from Phoenix, AZ.

Several Wichita brothers continue to spend time working on the tornado cleanup in Greensburg, KS. Recently they were privileged to work with a group of A.C. volunteers from Denver. If any workers are moved to come from our churches north and east of Wichita, we extend a welcome to them to worship with us in Wichita since Greensburg is not that far away.

Our congregation has been given the opportunity to share with the needs in Haiti by donating goods to help fill a shipping container that is planned to be sent there this spring.

Sis. Lillian Bowers is homebound much of the time. She and her son, Bro. Phil, are faithfully trusting in the Lord's provisions for their well being. Sis. Ruth and Bro. Jonathan Long and other family members continue to care for the needs of Lillian and Phil as well as the needs of their extended family members. May they be blessed as they render their loving care. Years ago, Bro. Phil circulated the following, "I have learned that it is not what you have in your life but who you have that counts."

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### KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON Barb Huber

"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth His handiwork."

*Psalm 19:1*

What a joy it is to hear the sounds and see the sights of spring everywhere re-

vealing the beauty of God's creation. It is a blessing to experience this special season of the year. May this blessing fill each of our hearts with inspiration for spiritual renewal in our lives.

This past month, we were inspired with spiritual renewal as Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI) and Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH) mightily brought forth the Word of Life. We were blessed when Bro. Andy read the Memorandum later Sunday afternoon. We felt deeply indebted to these dear Brothers and their wives as they both respectfully traveled during the night before to minister to our small assembly on the Lord's Day. When Bro. Ned's plane flight was cancelled on Saturday, March 1, he chose to still drive the long distance from Alto. After serving Communion in Smithville Saturday evening, March 15, Elder Bro. Andy and Sis. Roberta also drove the many miles. May the Lord bless these dear Brothers for their sacrificial efforts put forth to labor and faithfully serve us.

We're thankful that Sis. Rebecca Germann continues to feel the many prayers on her behalf. May the Lord bless her with a complete recovery and restore her to good health again. 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.

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### MEXICO, IXTLAN Matt Gerber

"He is not here, but is risen..."

*Luke 24:6*

The Ixtlan church celebrated the arrival of our newest and littlest attendee, baby Nathan Jacob Troxel, born to Bro. Rudy and Sis. Rosario Troxel on February 25. Grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. LuAnn Troxel (LaCrosse, IN) and Sis. Bertha Gonzalez.

Eye doctor and ministering Bro. Loren Schrenk and his wife, Sis. Betsy, along with Sis. Julie Hoerr came the

first week of March to operate on people who couldn't otherwise afford eye surgery.

In mid-March, ministering Bro. Darren and Sis. Sue Plattner and their children came to visit. Sis. Sue is daughter of Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan Heinold. We appreciated the time preceding Easter to reflect on the great price our Lord Jesus paid to redeem us from our sins.

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### MEXICO, MAGDALENA Gloria Gonzalez Carissa Schlipf

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

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

*Psalm 127:1*

We are thankful for the labor of love provided by a work team from Roanoke in February. May God bless each team member for sharing of their time, talents, and energy with us! Working alongside this work team were several masons who completed inside brick work on the pulpit-area of the church. It is amazing to see the difference brought by the added brick and causes us to reflect on the progress of the church building's construction. May we be just as focused and prayerful for those who make up this young church body, that each one may be firmly founded in the Truth of the Word, filled with the transforming power of the Spirit, and a testimony of a changed heart and life to those around us.

Bro. Derek Schrock (Congerville, IL) spent most of the month of February helping out here on campus, with the work team, and with various construction projects. We appreciate his willingness to give of his time and pray that it was a blessing for him!

"For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name,..."

*Hebrews 6:10*

We welcome Sis. Berenice Navarro (Morelia, MX) who arrived in February to join in the work here at Casa Vida y Esperanza. We are very thankful for her willing heart, gentle spirit, and the extra pair of hands! May God bless her servant heart and give her grace and strength as she adjusts to this new change in her life.

What a blessing it was to have our Elder Bro. Mike and Sis. Deb Leman (Denver, CO) spend over a week with us in March! Their presence and help was very much appreciated, especially as Bro. Bill and Sis. Joan Schick were back visiting family in the States. It was also a blessing to have Bro. Mike share the Word with us on Sunday and Wednesday night.

"For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen."

*Romans 11:36*

**MICHIGAN, BAY CITY**

**Sarah Knochel  
Janelle Ramseyer**

Greetings of love in our precious Savior's name!

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have spent time in the hospital this past month. We pray for each one and trust that God's healing powers will be with Eileen Groeschen, Bro. Robert Knochel, and Sis. Alice Wieland.

Jesus, keep me near the cross,  
There a precious fountain  
Free to all - a healing stream,  
Flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

In the Cross, In the Cross,  
Be my glory ever;  
Till my raptured soul shall find  
Rest beyond the river.

Good Friday and Easter will soon be here and what a special time it is when we can reflect and remember Christ's suffering on the cross. Our confidence remains in Christ's resurrection and that one day we can be in heaven with

Him.

**MICHIGAN, DETROIT**

**Tamra Coughlin  
Manuela Denes**

Our Sunday school students shared a special ministry to the congregation with their Easter program on the evening of Palm Sunday. They gave witness to the events of the week leading up to our Savior's crucifixion. To end the evening, the choir joined the students to victoriously sing "Up From the Grave He Arose," which tells of our hope of life after death made possible by Christ's triumph over the grave.

The Cissna Park choir and others from their congregation traveled here to share their joy in song worship on March 10-11. Bro. Bruce Frank and his wife, Sis. Bonita, traveled with the choir and shared the Word of God with us on Sunday. Thank you to each one who made the trip and for offering the gift of your joy and fellowship.

Also joining us and preaching the Gospel this past month was Bro. Jeff Bahler (Sis. Heidi) from Wolcott. Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi) from Alto shared in this month's services at Woodhaven. Accompanying him and assisting with the singing worship was his daughter, Josie, and Bros. Matt Oesch and Ben Kaeb.

Once again we have been reminded of the truth of Job 1:21 which says, "the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord" as our church family has witnessed several deaths and a birth this past month. On Friday, March 14, Carson Cole was born to Bro. Lucas and Sis. Crystal Frank. Carson's older siblings are Logan and Kaleigh and his grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Dottie Ramsier (Smithville, OH) and Bro. Bill and Sis. Jo Frank (LaCrosse, IN).

Our sympathy goes to Bro. Guy Wieland's (late Sis. Rose) children, Sharon Lenk and Bill Wieland, and to his grandchildren and great-grandchildren as well as his sister-in-law, Perseda Wieland.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. John Rauhe's (late Sis. Esther) children, Betty Jean and Bro. Warren (Sis. Kay) Rauhe, and his grandchildren, Bro. Jason (Sis. Carrie) Rauhe, Kristen (Tom) Siver, and Kevin (Debbie) Rauhe, and his great-grandchildren. The funeral was held in Croghan, NY, where Bro. John and Sis. Esther lived for most of their lives.

We also offer our sympathy to Michael Reardon's parents, John and Sis. Linda Reardon, his family, John and Scott and Erin, and his grandmother, Sis. Lois Belsley, as well as his many aunts, uncles, and relatives. In both times of sorrow and joy, we bless the Lord's sovereign name.

Sis. Cindy Hitz (Bro. Tom) is recovering at home from surgery. She is thankful for prayers on her behalf during her recovery.

In the coming month, we're looking forward to Melinda Lanski (Todd) sharing her testimony and being baptized the weekend of April 12-13 and Communion on April 26.

In preparation for summer schedules, we are eagerly anticipating our Annual Choir Benefit Dinner and program on Sunday, July 13. The Detroit Choir has also invited the Covenant Chamber Choir to participate in the program this year.

**MINNESOTA  
MINNEAPOLIS**

**Mary Mogler**

Are you washed in the blood,  
In the soul-cleansing blood of the  
Lamb?

Are your garments spotless?

Are they white as snow?

Are you washed in the blood of the  
Lamb?

*Tabernacle Hymns #158*

On both Good Friday and Easter morning, we looked upon freshly fallen snow in all its pureness and glistening beauty and were visibly reminded of David's yearning to be washed and made whiter than snow. The Sunday school

students shared with us through their touching verses and songs that it is only the shed blood of Jesus that can give that pure snow white cleansing.

The engagement of Sis. Meg Dill (Bro. Dewayne and Sis. LaRae) and Bro. Dale Koch (Bro. Dave and Sis. June) of Tremont, IL, was recently announced. We rejoice with them and pray God's continued blessing and guidance as they plan for their lives together.

Saturday, March 22, was the wedding day chosen by Darcy Kent and Jill Myers. We wish Darcy and Jill and their family much happiness and welcome Jill into our fellowship.

Our congregation is enjoying the presence of Bro. Mike Katanic (Sis. Heather) of Rittman, OH, as he is here temporarily working with his brother, Paul.

We welcome home our dear Sis. Ethel Bednarski after spending her winter in California. It is a blessing to have her among us again.

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**MINNESOTA, MORRIS**  
**Sheila Reuter**  
**Heidi Nohl**

Our prayers are with our loved ones who have suffered loss at this time. Elder Bro. Paul Fehr passed from this life leaving behind his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. We offer our sympathy to his children, Sis. Judy (Bro. Leroy, dec.) Fehr, Bro. Lloyd (Sis. Diane), Sis. Ruby (Bro. Dennis) Schmidgall, Sis. Nancy (Bro. Jack) Knobloch, Sis. Wilda (Bro. Harvey) Koehl, Sis. Velma (Bro. Gary) Domnick, Sis. Diane (Bro. Mike) Schmidgall, and Bro. Paul Jr. (Sis. Pam). May God be near them at this time.

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA) and ministering Bros. Greg Braker (Lamar, MO), Galen Rokey (Bern, KS), Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA) and Ken Lawson (Atlanta, GA). We pray God will bless them for their willing service.

Alton Anthony was born to Bro. Anthony and Sis. Amy Ekren. Welcoming him home are Bro. Gary and Sis. Sandy

Fehr. Also joining the family of Bro. Scott and Sis. Emily Strahm is little Levi Ray. Levi's grandparents are Bro. Arnie and Sis. Sharon Koehl and Bro. Richard and Sis. Edie Strahm (Bern, KS). We wish them God's blessings as they raise their children.

We wish God's blessings on Lucas Koehl and Tracy Hacker as they were recently married. Parents of the couple are Bro. Roy and Sis. Janelle Koehl and Chuck and Deb Hacker. Also joined together in marriage were Todd Nohl and Jamie Dahlen. Their parents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Bonnie Nohl and Joel and Rosalee Dahlen. We pray God will be with them each step of the way.

The engagement of Bro. Blane Koehl (Bro. Karl and Sis. Marilyn) and Sis. Karen Zaugg (Bro. Pat and Sis. Julie, West Bend, IA) was made known to our congregation. We wish them God's richest blessings as they begin their lives together.

*Note of Thanks:*

The family of Bro. Leo Dogotch wishes to express their thanks to all who remembered our family with their prayers and kindness during Dad's hospitalization and also at his death. It is a true blessing to know that our brethren are praying for us through these trying times.

*The family of Bro. Leo Dogotch*

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**MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY**  
**Brittany Fehr**

We shared a beautiful evening partaking of Holy Communion together on Saturday, March 1. May God's blessings be with Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (the late Sis. Sandra, Lamar, MO) who assisted our Elder Bro. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen) with the service. It was truly blessed to gather with brothers and sisters to remember Christ's suffering and partake together.

May God's blessings be upon the other ministers that have recently labored in our midst. These include Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS), Bro. Greg Stieglitz (Sis. Lisa, India-

napolis, IN), Bro. Scott Wegman (Sis. Dawn, Taylor, MO), and Bro. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend, IA). Bros. Greg, Scott, and Darren were present for the Single Focus weekend, as was Bro. Cory Metzger (Sis. Jodi, Wichita, KS). Single Focus Weekend took place on March 8-9. Many thanks to all these brothers for their labors.

Sis. Anna Lou Aberle has moved to the home in Sabetha for a time. It is her desire to gain strength there before returning to her home and her son, Mark, who has been providing excellent care. Our prayers are with them during this time of separation. We trust the Lord will abundantly provide His healing blessings.

Last Sunday was to be the last Sunday before Bro. Scott and Sis. Dorine Aberle moved to Illinois. We will certainly miss them and their darling children, Kallahan, Klaire, and Kamden, as well as Bro. Phil Rassi, who recently relocated to Canada for his job. Bro. Scott and Sis. Dorine plan to make Washington, IL, their home congregation; Bro. Phil plans to attend in Kitchener, Canada. We certainly believe that God will bless these congregations with their presence! It is often difficult when people move away, but we know that God's will is best.

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**MISSOURI, LAMAR**  
**Dana Braker**  
**Becky Marti**

Among our visitors this past month was Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH). We appreciate his willingness to be used in the Lord's service. May we continue to pray that the true Word can come forth each time we gather.

Spending some time in the hospital were Sis. Evelyn Marti (Bro. Leonard), Julia Dotterer (Bro. David and Sis. Carol) and Kolby Rutledge (Karla). We are thankful for God's healing hand.

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**MISSOURI, ST LOUIS**  
**Betsy Schrenk**

As our dinner guests were saying



their goodbyes recently, my eyes were drawn to a small but very noticeable smear of strawberry jam on the husband's white shirt. Shortly thereafter, as I was standing in front of the sink, I glanced into the mirror and saw a spot of the chocolate dessert we had eaten on my sweater, unnoticed by me until then, but realizing it had been very obvious to everyone else. I had to laugh, thinking about how apparent the stain on someone else was to me, but how completely oblivious I was to my own stain. Matthew 7:3 reads, "And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?"

Our visiting ministers were Bro. Arnie Gerst (Sis. Marge, Taylor) and Bro. Mark Wettstein (Sis. Karen, La-Crosse). Bro. Arnie came out of retirement to serve our little congregation because the minister scheduled to come had a conflict and we were in Ixtlan that Sunday. Bro. Mark was installed into the ministry at the end of February this year. We are thankful that the Lord continues to call laborers into His harvest.

We are anticipating two of our couples moving from the St. Louis area this year. We would encourage anyone who would feel God's call to support a small church to prayerfully consider fellowship in our congregation.

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### MISSOURI, TAYLOR Kathy Eberhardt

With spring approaching, we think of a new beginning. Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley) came for a Wednesday evening Bible study over the book of Malachi. We were reminded to give our best, not our leftovers or seconds to the Lord. We also appreciated Bro. Wayne Leman (Sis. Julie, Roanoke) presenting another Bible study from Joshua 24:15 "... But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." He talked about husbands giving their best under His care.

We celebrated the Lord's Supper with Bro. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville, IN). Thanks for his willingness in serving us.

Taylor hosted the Apostolic Christian Medical Fellowship meeting on March 15. We enjoyed having everyone that attended and especially having Bro. Bob Pflederer (Sis. Eleanor, Morton) staying for Sunday and bringing forth the Word of God.

We had our Easter program on Palm Sunday. The question was brought forth, "What will we do with Jesus?"

Bro. Gerald Sutter (Sis. Marge) was a hospital patient this month.

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### NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Hope Graves

We enjoyed having some company with us for the weekend of February 23, and shared a potluck dinner together followed by a singing.

We welcome Bro. Jacob and Sis. Brooke Kuntz and their children, Levi, Lucas and Aaron, to our congregation. We are thankful they have followed the Lord's direction to make this transition from their home church in Forrest, IL. May the Lord bless them as they settle into our congregation; they have already been a rich blessing to all of us!

We were not able to have church services on March 9 due to power outage from an ice storm. We were thankful for the Lord's protection through this time.

Our prayers have been with Bro. Gerald Lehman and his wife, Lois, in their recent hospitalizations and Lois's move into the Lewis County Extended Care. May the Lord be with them through this transition.

Our prayers are with the family of Bro. John Rauhe in his death on March 20.

We had a blessed Easter Sunday which included our Sunday School program as a part of the afternoon church service. We were so happy to hear the message of Christ's death and resurrection brought out by the little children. May they always remember this time in their youth that they came to church and heard the message of salvation brought forth.

This is that great thing I know,  
This delights and stirs me so.  
Faith in Him who died to save,  
Him who triumphed o'er the grave.  
Jesus, God of majesty!

*Zion's Harp #225*

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### NEW YORK CITY Secaucus, New Jersey

Anywhere with Jesus I can safely go,  
Anywhere He leads me in this  
world below;  
Anywhere without Him dearest joys  
would fade;  
Anywhere with Jesus I am not afraid.  
*Hymns of Zion, #179*

We are thankful to hear of a new couple, Adam and Gina Beecher (West Bend, IA), who have just moved out to NYC. We were glad to have the opportunity to worship together with them, Gina's parents, Bro. Dave and Sis. Yvonne Bruellman (West Bend, IA), as well as visitors from Philadelphia coupled with our local brethren on March 16. It was our first meeting this year, and we were glad to renew old acquaintances and make some new ones. Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle) and their family were with us, and we were thankful to hear the gospel message brought forth in simplicity and power.

We would like to update the remainder of the 2008 Secaucus schedule. Lord willing, we plan on having services on May 18th, July 13th, Sept 14th, and Nov 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.

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

O Savior might I thus as Thee  
 Likeminded, pure, and humble be  
 With Thee, O Lord, I'll walk aright,  
 A child and servant in Thy light.

How thankful we are as we consider Christ's ultimate sacrifice on our behalf! As we consider how totally helpless we would be if He had not been willing to follow the Father's will for Him, it makes us realize that God has placed us where we are and He wants us to be just as submissive and willing to give up self so that His will can be done on earth as it is in heaven.

We were thankful to have Bro. Jerry and Sis. Martha Bauman (Rittman) and Elder Bro. Duane and Sis. Karen Farney (Croghan-Naumburg) with us. We trust that these brothers will feel God's blessing for their willingness to serve the Word of Life to us.

Recently, our Sis. Sharon Gherian (Bro. Paul) and Bro. Samuel Greenbank (Bro. Glen and Sis. Joan) traveled to Biloxi to help with the work in that area. We are thankful that God blessed their travels and brought them safely back home in spite of some very icy weather.

We are thankful that God has given strength and a measure of renewed health to several from our congregation. While there are many who have various ailments, and we want to keep each in our prayers, we are especially thankful that little Ariana Henico (Bro. Greg and Sis. Darla) and Bro. John Graf (Sis. Jan) and Sis. Jan Graf (Bro. John) have been able to leave the hospital and assemble with us once again.

**OHIO, COLUMBUS**  
**Sarah Rufener**

O wondrous cross where Jesus died,  
 And for my sins was crucified;  
 My longing eyes look up to Thee,  
 Thou blessed Lamb of Calvary.

*Gospel Hymns #791*

As we remember the crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, may we all renew our lives and faith in Him, and glory in "a love so divine that demands our soul, our life, our all".

We gratefully thank the following brothers who have in humble submission shared the true gospel message with our church this past month: Bro. Mike Baumann (Sis. Florina, Mansfield), Bro. Ron Steiner (Sis. Ruth, Rittman), and Bro. Tom Schambach (Sis. Connie, Elgin).

Cheryl Gehres is recovering from hip surgery - we are thankful that her mobility continues to improve and praise God for His goodness and healing. Our prayers and sympathy are with Sis. Nancy Banks, at the passing of her mother, Betty Bush. May God be with their family and grant them peace and comfort in their time of sorrow.

**OHIO, JUNCTION**  
**Vicki Boroff**

"And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me."

*Luke 22:19*

We took Communion March 15. Helping our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter was Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis).

We are also thankful to Bro. Bill Brake (Sis. Miriam, Sardis) for bringing the Word to us. We appreciate the efforts of a long journey.

**OHIO, LATTY**  
**Amanda Wenninger**  
**Carmen Eisenmann**

Spring is here! Flowers will soon be blooming, and it is a wonderful reminder of God's ever-present love found not only in nature, but also in the resurrection of His Son from the grave! Let us

rejoice at this time of rebirth and renewal as the dregs of winter slowly fade away.

Two new babies have made their appearance in the baby room this month. Alexis Jean was born on February 16 to Seth and Casey Wenninger. Big brother Zavier greets her at home. Maternal grandparents are Tom and Robin McCord of Payne, OH. Lane Michael was born to Bro. Doug and Sis. Bonny Wenninger on March 9. Makaela and Luke welcome him at home. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Pat Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL) and paternal grandparents of both babies are Bro. Larry and Sis. Joyce Wenninger.

Our congregation also welcomes Bro. Nathan and Sis. Stephanie Young and their three girls from Kansas City, MO. Bro. Matt and Sis. Wendy have relocated back "home" to Latty from the Columbus, OH, congregation. Bro. Matt grew up in Latty, and it is good to see him and his family back again. We pray that God will bless both of these families and help them to feel at home.

Several of our congregation were hospitalized in the past month. They were Sis. Irene Stoller, Bro. Wayne Stoller (Sis. Dorothy), Sis. Marge Gerber (Bro. Jim) and Gus Schlatter.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Nelson Beer (Sis. Shelby, Milford, IN), Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH), and Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville, OH). May God bless them for their efforts.

Ted Miller (Bro. Roger and Sis. Kay) and Jessica Gaerte were united in marriage on March 1. May God bless this new union, and may they look to Him to be everything in their lives.

It was wonderful and refreshing to hear that Alyssa Nuest has found peace with God and man. Her parents are Bro. Lee and Sis. Paula. We anticipate hearing her testimony in the near future.

**OHIO, MANSFIELD**  
**Esther Baumann**  
 On February 23-24, we experienced

God's rich blessings as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Bro. Archie and Sis. Amber Tucker. We thank Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) for his help in this Holy work.

Also on February 24, we delighted in hearing the good news that Luke Tucker (Dan and Sis. Barb) has found peace and is awaiting baptism.

God called home a faithful soldier of the cross, Bro. Lawrence Popp. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Viola, and children, Gaylene (Gus) Peter, Stan (Barb), and Joy (Steve) Boliantz.

Also losing loved ones this past month were Sis. Theresa Keiper (Bro. Phil) whose sister, Katy Spengler, died; and Bro. Joe Pamer (Sis. Betty) whose sister, Sue Pavkov, passed away. Continue to remember all of the bereaved in your prayers.

Elder Bro. Dave Graf (Sis. Barb, Akron, OH), Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH) and Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH) came to minister to us on the weekend of March 1-2. May God be their rich rewarder for taking time out of their busy schedules to support us.

We humbly partook of Holy Communion on March 9. We thank Elder Bro. Dave Graf (Sis. Barb, Akron, OH) for his assistance to our Elder Bro. Mark in this blessed work.

Continue to remember our recently hospitalized loved ones in prayer: Abigail Sauder (Greg and Sis. Missy), Bro. Mike Garunovic (Sis. Jelena), Sis. Becky Vent (Richard), Bro. Frank Graszl, Roma Them, and Sis. Edna Eyerely (Bro. Dave).

God my life's Creator,  
Grant me grace and favor,  
Not to live in vain.

*Zion's Harp #167, v. 1*

May this be our humble prayer today.

## OHIO, RITTMAN

### Linda Zollinger

#### Laurie Beery

On Sunday, February 24, Bro. Evan Gasser and Sis. Amanda Rupp were united in Holy Matrimony. The parents of this couple are Bro. Fred and Sis. Mary Gasser and Bro. Ken and Sis. Carol Rupp. May Bro. Evan and Sis. Amanda always look to God to guide their lives together.

The engagement of Bro. Aaron Bauman (Bro. Vic and Sis. Brenda, Smithville, OH) and Sis. Becky Raifsnider (the late Doug and Sis. Diana) was announced on Sunday, February 24. On Sunday, March 9, the engagement of Bro. Jordan Stoller (Bro. Eric and Sis. Melanie) and Sis. Joy Rufener (Bro. John and Sis. Janice, Smithville, OH) was made known to our congregation. We wish God's blessings on these two couples.

On Saturday evening, March 15, we were privileged to partake of Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzler (Sabetha, KS), Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) and our retired Elder Bro. Henry Dotterer assisted our Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler in serving us. Other ministering Brothers that visited us recently were Bro. Jesse Bedolla (Detroit, MI), Bro. Ted Luginbuhl (Smithville, OH), Bro. Vic Bauman (Smithville, OH), Bro. Don Steidl (Akron, OH), Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) and Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN).

We are thankful that God is still calling and Brian Emch (Bro. Craig and Sis. Gail, Smithville, OH) has answered the call to repentance. May God grant Brian much grace and strength to lay his all on the altar.

Bro. Quill Barna, Bro. Irvin Klotzle (Sis. Jane), Bro. Frank Steidl and Sis. Betty Steiner (Bro. Bob) have recently spent time in the hospital. May each one who has an affliction feel God's nearness.

Our dear Sis. Lillian "Betz" Bauman passed away on March 15. We pray that her sisters, Fredona Shiffer and Garnet Wright, and others that loved and cared for her will be comforted during this

time.

*Reminder: May is the month to pay our Silver Lining subscription dues.*

## OHIO, SARDIS

### Faith Beard

Oh Lord, how wondrous is Thy  
strength and kindness  
Which Thou to mortal man dost yet  
reveal!  
Thy love is shown to us in all its full-  
ness,  
For through Thy grace our guilt no  
more we feel.  
True innocence is still Thy adoration,  
And children have Thy special invita-  
tion.

*Zion's Harp #118, vs. 3*

Not only is God's wondrous strength and kindness shown to us through His gifts of grace and the miracle of rebirth, but also in the miracle of the birth of a new baby created by Him. On February 21, Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry Zollinger rejoiced with the birth of a granddaughter, Lillian Laursen, firstborn child of Ben and Suzy Zollinger. Then on March 11, Bro. Matt and Sis. Dawn Brake also became first-time parents with the arrival of Mallory Joy. Grandparents of Mallory are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lois Maibach (Smithville, OH) and Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam Brake. It is so special to hold those tiny babes - to feel the wonder of their complete innocence and the peace knowing that they, for a time, have that "special invitation".

"And I beseech you, brethren, suffer the word of exhortation: for I have written a letter unto you in few words."

*Hebrews 13:22*

The record snowstorm our state experienced the weekend of March 8-9 made uncertain our plans for the reading of the Memorandum. We were thankful that Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Judy Anliker (Forrest, IL) were able to have safe travels, and we are sincerely appreciative of Bro. Wayne's and our El-

der Bro. Ken Indermuhle's efforts in bringing the Memorandum to us.

Sis. Virginia Riggensbach (Bro. Dale) spent a couple days in the hospital, but we are thankful now that she is gathering with us again.

Two dear souls who were long associated with our New Martinsville congregation have been called from this life. Lillie Barth Wade, the youngest and last living daughter of Sis. Emma Barth, passed away at 100 years old. Our Sardis congregation enjoyed to visit with Lillie at our monthly singing at the local nursing home. Gail Berger, the widow of Bro. Paul Berger, died at age 98. We have fond memories of visiting and singing with Paul and Gail in their home until the time of Bro. Paul's passing. Gail made us feel welcome in her home until going to live in a nursing home about 9 years ago. "Precious memories, how they linger ..."

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## OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Ruth Gasser  
Edith Miller**

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

*I Cor. 11:24-25*

Even though a winter storm prevented us from having our Communion service on the Saturday evening of March 8, as planned, we were able to reschedule it for the next day, on Sunday afternoon. We regret the Elder brother that was planning to come to assist our Elder was unable to come due to this storm, however we appreciate that Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH) came to assist Bro. Andy with this work. We thank him for his efforts, as we could experience the blessings of God during this solemn occasion.

Other ministers who have visited us during the past month were Bros. Ken

Schneider (Remington, IN), Dan Goric (Rockville, CT), Warren Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Earl Beery (Rittman, OH). We thank them for their service to us and wish them God's blessings.

Two engagements have been made known to us recently. Bro. Aaron Bauman and Sis. Becky Raifsnider (Rittman, OH) are planning a May wedding. Parents of this couple are Bro. Vic and Sis. Brenda Bauman and Sis. Diana and the late Doug Raifsnider (Rittman, OH). Bro. Jordan Stoller (Rittman, OH) has felt led to ask for Sis. Joy Rufener to become his wife. Parents of this couple are Bro. Eric and Sis. Melanie Stoller (Rittman, OH) and Bro. John and Sis. Janice Rufener. A June wedding is planned for the latter couple. May God's blessing be felt as plans for weddings and marriages are made.

On March 8, Sheri Steiner and Erik McGrew were united in marriage. In spite of the winter storm that day, plans were successfully carried out. Sheri's parents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Sue Steiner. We wish God's blessings on this marriage.

May God be near our new convert, Warren Stoller (Bro. Scott and Sis. Charlene), as he has answered God's call and wishes to become a child of His.

Bro. Denny and Sis. Kay Nieman have been blessed with the arrival of another grandchild, as Bro. Dana and Sis. Lea Nieman (Remington, IN) became parents to Brock Daniel on February 28. He joins his brother and sister, Kade and Lydia. On March 11, Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lois Maibach welcomed another grandchild, as Mallory Joy Brake was born to first-time parents, Bro. Matthew and Sis. Dawn Brake (Sardis, OH). Bro. Dave and Sis. Dottie Ramsier are thankful for the safe arrival of their newest grandchild, Carson Cole Frank, born on March 14 to Bro. Lucas and Sis. Crystal Frank (Detroit, MI). Logan and Kaleigh also welcome their new brother. May God's blessings be felt in all of these families, and may grandparents also assume some responsibility in guiding these little ones in the right way.

Sis. Laura Opplinger was required to

spend some time in the hospital recently, but has since returned to her home at our nursing home. We wish Sis. Laura the peace and comfort of her Heavenly Father as she endures the afflictions of the body.

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## OHIO, TOLEDO

**Teresa Rywalski  
Rebecca Beard**

Greetings of love to each of you!

Dave and Sis. Connie Sancraint welcome a new granddaughter, Addyson Carolann. We wish God's blessings on her parents, Nick and Andrea Sancraint, as they rear their children!

Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) was here on a Thursday evening in February and updated us on the winter Conference. May God richly bless him and his family.

We wish to remember our Sis. Freda Rehklau and Sis. Clara Beard who are not always able to assemble with us. May they find comfort in knowing that we love them.

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## OREGON, PORTLAND

**Brianna Strahm**

We appreciated having Elder Bro. Akito Inoue (Sis. Marie, Toyko, Japan) with us as he assisted our Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty, Silverton) in the reading of the Memorandum on February 17. Our congregation then enjoyed a meal and time of fellowship together. We thank our two Elder Brothers for their labors on our behalf throughout the weekend.

Our prayers were with our Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy) in the recent passing of his uncle, Bro. Paul Fehr, of Morris, MN. Also, Sis. Brianna Strahm underwent minor surgery and the prayers of the brethren were greatly appreciated.

We recently completed a small project in the parking lot of our church building. A new cement slab was poured near the church entrance to provide more convenient parking space for our elderly brethren and friends. We appreciate the labors of the brothers who

gathered during the week to assist in the completion of this project.

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## OREGON, SILVERTON

**Melissa Kuenzi  
Cindy Metzger**

We were glad to have Elder Bro. Akito Inoue (Sis. Marie, Tokyo, Japan) here for Saturday evening services on February 16.

Leonard Schurter, the father of Bro. Shawn (Sis. Kim) and Bro. Craig (Sis. Juanita) Schurter was involved in a serious farm accident on February 18. Many prayers went up on his behalf, and he is miraculously and steadily recovering in the Trauma ICU at Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland.

Jayna Metz (Bro. Joel and Sis. Laura) was also hospitalized briefly and is now home again.

We are always thankful to those who visit and minister to us and we want to again thank Bros. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy) and Ron Jones (Sis. Liz) of Portland, OR.

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## PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

"And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses: and she said, Because I drew him out of the water."

*Ex. 2:10*

In this early passage of scripture, we have an example of how God's plan came to be through the adoption of Moses by Pharaoh's daughter. God has a plan for each soul that is born into this world. Through His gentle leading and kind providence, He has blessed the Allen family here in the Philadelphia congregation through the recent adoption of their son, Tomo. Bro. Bob and Sis. Rika have been the foster parents for Tomo (Austin) since his birth. Now, a couple of years later, he can take his place in the family along with his brothers, Hira and Yoshi. This is a blessing not only to Bro. Bob and Sis. Rika, but to our entire con-

gregation.

We extend our gratitude to Bro. Jerry and Sis. Martha Bauman and family from Rittman, OH, for their recent visit. Bro. Jerry shared the pulpit with our local Brothers and we had a very blessed weekend. We are grateful for each visitor. If your travels bring you to Philadelphia, we welcome you to worship and fellowship with us.

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## TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

**Mike and Monica Fritz**

The Lord has richly provided for our needs through the willing service of our visiting ministering brothers, for whom we are so thankful. Our recent visitors have included Bros. Ken Weerts (Sis. Myrna; Cissna Park, IL), Jesse Bedolla (Sis. Bonnie; Detroit, MI), Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne; Sabetha, KS), Byron Stoller (Sis. Carol; Gridley, IL), Brent Kellenberger (Sis. Beth; Kansas City, MO), Matt Steffen (Sis. Deanna; Princeville, IL), Virg Metzger (Sis. Mary; Chicago, IL), Steve Stieglitz (Sis. Jane; Leo, IN), and Lenny Meyer (Sis. Charlotte; Chicago, IL). We have also appreciated the fellowship of brethren and friends visiting from Bradford, Chicago, Cissna Park, Eureka, Fairbury, Forrest, and Princeville, IL; Bluffton North, Francesville, Indianapolis, and Leo, IN; Bloomfield and Lester, IA; Sabetha, KS; Detroit, MI; Kansas City, MO; and Junction, Latty, and Mansfield, OH.

If you are traveling in or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. The following churches are scheduled for services in the near future: Elgin, IL (4/20); Bern, KS (4/27); Burlington, IA (5/4); Sarasota, FL (5/11); Fairbury, IL (5/18); and La-Crosse, IN (5/25). If you are planning to worship with us, please call ahead to confirm our schedule. Often we gather on Saturday evenings for fellowship, and all are heartily welcome. We also meet on Wednesday evenings for a song service at 7:15 p.m. and would welcome any midweek visitors. Contacts are Bro. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928; Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica

Fritz (615) 866-5543; and Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 356-5755.

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## TEXAS, AUSTIN

**Amy Ringger  
Serenity Ringger**

With all the new growth of leaves and flowers around us, it makes me think how blessed we are to have winter so that we can experience the joys of spring again each year!

We are thankful for the ministers who were willing serve us in the past month: Elder Bros. Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian, San Diego), and Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North) and Bros. Justin Koch (Washington), Ed Strahm (Sis. Ramona, Bern), Paul Gasser (Sis. Joyce, Akron), Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago), Dennis Rassi, (Sis. Diane, Fairbury) and Dan Koch (Sis. Julie, Tremont). We had extra ministers and visitors this month because the National Building Committee held their annual meeting in our area. We also enjoyed our visitors from Smithville, Peoria, Francesville, Indianapolis, Fairbury, Lester, Champaign, Iowa City, and West Bend.

The following is the minister schedule for May: (4) Wichita, (11) Bloomington, (18) San Diego and (25) Lester. 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.

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### TEXAS, McALLEN Sandy Kipfer

Greetings to all in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We thank our visiting ministers, Bro. Paul (Sis. Joyce) Gasser and Bro. Roy (Sis. Jenell) Koehl, 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 also are thankful for the visiting brethren from Goodfield, IL, Zapata, TX, and Congerville, IL.

We would like to encourage those who plan to come south for a 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: (May 11, Washington, IL), (May 25, Bluffton North, IN), (June 8, Gridley, IL), (June 22, Princeville,

IL), (July 13, Bradford, IL), (July 20, Goodfield, 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.

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### TEXAS, ZAPATA Mary Plattner

We are most thankful for those who visited Zapata this past month. Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (San Diego) was here for the reading of the Memorandum on Saturday evening followed by Communion on Sunday afternoon. Other ministering brothers have included Bro. Paul Gasser (Sis. Joyce, Akron, OH) and Bro. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam, Latty, OH). Bro. Todd had services on Good Friday evening.

Our midweek services have been discontinued and we anticipate resuming them when our winter residents again return next winter. Anyone wishing to visit us is most welcome. For those anticipating a visit in Zapata during the summer, we encourage you to contact us prior to coming.

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### VERMONT CLARENDON/NORWICH Nathan and Miriam Reutter

Greetings in our Lord and Savior!

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Dan Goric (Sis. Mary Lou) and Bro. Warren Zahner (Sis. Bonnie), both of Rockville, CT. We appreciate all their efforts on our behalf and their words of encouragement. We are looking forward to the beautiful spring weather and the extra visitors and fellowship that come along with the spring and summer seasons.

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:

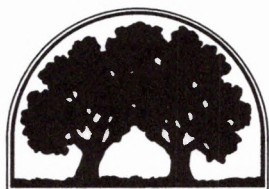
Morning Service 10:15 AM

Afternoon Service 12:30 PM

Sunday school is held during the morning service.

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





## 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](mailto:bdsteff@yahoo.com).

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

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

## - USED BIBLE, BIBLE STORY BOOK, AND SONG BOOK DISTRIBUTION -

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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](mailto: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."*

## 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*

## Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services

73 East Queenwood Rd, Morton, IL 61550 309-263-5536 (local#) 309-263-6841 (fax)  
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### Communication As A Tool For Parents

Parenting has often been limited to three elements: Rules, Correction and Discipline. We provide the children with the rules. When they break the rules, we implement the correction. When discipline is needed, we announce the price the child will pay for breaking the rules. These elements are needed in every family, but for many children, this is the extent of most parents' communication.

The art and act of communicating isn't always so straightforward. The Old Testament example from Esther of King Ahasuerus asking Haman "what can be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honor?" was certainly a question with a greater message. Unfortunately for Haman, his interpretation of that message was definitely not as he had expected. He thought the king wanted to honor him rather than Mordecai (Esther 6).

To better appreciate the depth of what communication can be, establishing a working definition of the word is always helpful. Such a definition is needed because communication can appear to be a simple task, yet be more complex than just two or more people engaged in conversation. Communication also takes many forms other than just the spoken word. Communication occurs when a message is sent by a sender and received by a receiver. Complications occur when the message sent does not equal the message received. These complications can become magnified when various styles of communication are overlooked. Successful communication requires the appropriate balance of these 4 styles: verbal (what you say); paraverbal (how you say it, or voice tone and volume); body language (the way you use your body to communicate); and personal space (what your use of space, or closeness to that person, communicates).\*

A dictionary search states that communication can be a verb meaning to give or interchange thoughts, feelings, and information by writing, speaking, etc. The Word reflects in Gal. 6:6 "Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things." The Greek definition of this use of "communicate" encourages us to enter into fellowship and make one's self a sharer or partner. This verse emphasizes giving and certainly heightens the need for Moms and Dads to give of their time, perspectives, and patience in order to know their children in the deepest and broadest sense. The tenderness of children's hearts and their emerging ability to comprehend are significant factors in the effectiveness of a parent's way of sending, or trying to communicate, a message. It is often helpful to remember the child's developmental stages of growth and that the skill of listening matures with time and consistent practice.

A richer dimension of communication must lie beneath and support all we say in providing rules, holding our children accountable, and administering discipline. Communication is most effective when parents are able to discern the setting and scenario that the child is in and then utilize an appropriate method of presenting the intended message. The following eight elements of communication, when applied in love, can establish a deeper and more effective bond between parent and child.\*

**Encouragement:** Children need communication designed to inspire and fill them with hope and courage.

**Correction:** When a child needs to be brought into conformity with a standard, correction remedies something that is wrong by showing what is wrong and what needs to be done to make it right.

**Rebuke:** A rebuke censures a behavior. Sometimes a child must experience a parent's alarm and dismay in regard to their behavior.

**Entreaty:** This is an earnest and intense plea from a parent to their child to make a wise decision. It is a special kind of communication that is reserved for use in special cases.

**Instruction:** Instruction is the process of providing a lesson, precept or information that will help a child understand his world and his place in it in relation to both other people and to God.

**Warning:** A warning is a powerful way to alert a child to a probable danger while the child still has time to escape unharmed.

**Teaching:** This is a process of imparting knowledge. It is useful as a follow up to an event or as part of preparing for what might lie ahead.

**Prayer:** This essential element allows opportunity to build the relationship between the parent and God, between the parent and child, and between the child and God. It is also a consistent way of providing instruction and insight for the child.

Factor in the temperament, personality and upbringing of the parent; some of these forms of communication may be easier to implement than others. Most parents definitely have strengths that allow them to utilize a couple of the eight elements more readily than the others. Conversely, a parent that is easily frustrated or angry may also tend to focus primarily on one element type. As with the Fruits of the Spirit, the goal of a parent should be to plant, prune and pick a complete harvest of the eight elements of communication with their child.

\*Referenced from HRDQ Research

\*Referenced in the *Shepherding a Child's Heart* p.80-88 (1995)



## 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  
 lynnstiegl@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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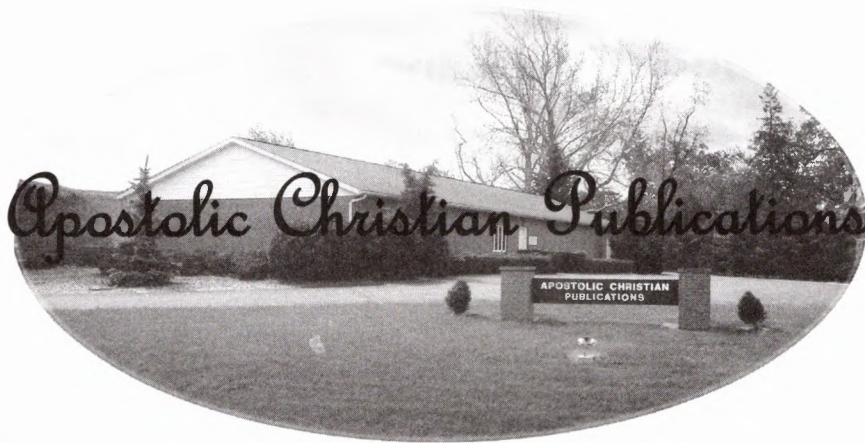
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 but he that keepeth the law, happy is he."  
 Proverbs 29:18*

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*Sermon continued from page 2*

es' life here that are real interesting to us as we read it. It says, "...when he was full forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren the children of Israel." Acts 7:23. But it already said he was mighty in the works of the Egyptians (v. 22). Yet at forty years old it came into his heart to look back to Israel, and look back to his childhood, his upbringing. We know the story that Moses was this baby born to a Jewish mother, and there was a time there when all the babies were going to be destroyed. So he was protected by being put in this little boat out in the bulrushes. The kids know the story better than I do. He was protected and he was found by Pharaoh's daughter. Then he was given back to a maiden to nurse him, which was his own mother, I believe. Then in due time, was given back and was raised in Pharaoh's house. (Exodus 2:1-10)

So Moses was too young, at that point, to understand his family heritage. But apparently it was told him over time, and there was a time when he desired to go back. But he went back on his own conditions, and from his own interest, it sounds like. Because he went back and he thought he was going to start depending on one of his own, and we know that he ended up committing a murder by smiting an Egyptian. Then we know that he had to run and hide for forty years. (Acts 7:23-29) I guess what I'm getting at here, and what the Scripture is saying to me right now, and maybe to you too, is that God has a time table. That first time that Moses thought he was going to step in suddenly as this foreign person to all his people, this Egyptian man to them, and to step in and be their leader – it just wasn't God's time, and it wasn't God's place yet. It was another full forty years before that happened.

I do feel moved that maybe we could talk a little bit about the ending of this chapter, because it might have application to some of us here who won't be here so long today. We fast forward a little bit to Moses going up to the mountain, Mount Sinai, and receiving the ten commandments from God. And being up there – was it forty days, forty nights? Something like that – and the people down in the camp lost their faith. They lost their patience. They turned away from the God that they were worshipping, the God that had helped them through thus far, and the God that had

blessed them in so many ways. What did they do? They turned to the gods of this world. (Exodus 31:18, 32:1-6)

Loved ones, there are a lot of gods in this world. We could probably debate which generation, throughout the history of time has had more temptations, and more false gods to worship or to be tempted with. Which generation Satan might have worked at the hardest, and the longest or whatever. But I believe we can say this; I believe we can say that Satan today knows that his time is shorter than ever before. And I believe because of that, he's maybe using the same bag of tools, but I think he's working harder.

We heard this morning, he's working very hard on the younger generation. He wants to deceive and to keep them in deceit. These people here turned to the gods that were around them, the gods that they were exposed to, whether it was in Egypt or along their way out in the wilderness. These other countries around about them that God told them to have nothing to do with them: keep your paths straight, look to Me and don't have any dealings with these gods.

What did they do? Shortly after Moses, their leader, walked away, they went and they worshiped these calves. They had Aaron build this calf for them. We look back at that story and we almost chuckle to ourselves. How ridiculous it was that they would take their gold and melt it and have him form this calf and they would worship it. I don't think any of us would do that. But there must have been some deception there in their minds that would allow them to do that, to erect something (whatever it was) and to put it in front of them, and to worship it.

I have to ask myself as a parent: What are we allowing, what am I allowing my children to have in front of them to worship it? Maybe you want to ask yourself the same question. No, none of them would say they are worshipping it. That might be a stretch. But what is it that our younger people are putting between themselves and God and salvation? What are they putting between them, why aren't they grasping and understanding that the way of the Lord is perfect and it can convert their soul? It can give them joy and peace and happiness and contentment forever! It's because the god of this world is giving them so much. He is blinding them with so much entertainment, with so much to be put in front of them. Unfortunately, they can look around society as a whole and they can see that those same things are

prevalent in society, and it makes it more difficult.

There was a time in society where, at least going back in my day and time and beyond, in the history of the United States, where even people that weren't maybe completely converted, they still lived upstanding lives. They dressed appropriately. They lived appropriately. The sin and the vice that was going on was in a small part of society and that was at the outer fringes, so to speak. It was frowned upon by even the unconverted. And most people went to church.

Now we have a changing landscape. We have Satan that came in from a different angle in the last generations, and he's deceiving from a whole different perspective. He's deceiving the entire society to fall into sin, to accept sin, to accept that black is no longer black, white is no longer white and that all the lines of discernment are blurred, changed, and are different. We even struggle with it as brothers and sisters, as a church. We wonder, where is the fine line between worshipping God and the world? We know even the book of James and other places tell us: love not the world or the love of God cannot be in you. (I John 2:15) We all believe that and we follow that, but yet where is that line? Where do we draw the line? I might say that depending on where you and I as fathers and mothers or grandparents draw the line, is going to make a difference to our children and to our young people. I don't know, am I confusing them by where I draw the line in my life? Or am I helping to define for them right and wrong according to the Scriptures? How about you? We just have to ask ourselves, we have to really look in our hearts and into our lives and see where we're at with this.

None of us would build a calf, but what about these other gods? It says, Moloch and the star of Remphan, (Acts 7:43) and these figures that they made to worship them, and all these things that were gathered up by the heathen nations around them. What is it that is so attractive to the ungodly world around us that attracts us? What is it that tempts us and draws us to these things? Because when it draws us to these things, as those who represent God and Jesus Christ (we're His disciples, we're His children, all those various terms that the Bible talks about), if we're drawn to these things, how can we expect that our youth and the next generation won't be? So our only prayer is

*Sermon continued on page 44*

*Sermon continued from page 43*

that somehow, some way God would.

As we heard this morning, God is all powerful. God is more powerful, and He has storehouses of power and ability that He can tap into that's always been there. God has always been as good and as great as He ever can be, but God is able to be Almighty. He is able to give more grace and more wisdom - whatever it is - to our friends, to our children, that they could see through and beyond the deceitfulness of this world that we live in. That they can repent by God's grace, and they can come unto the Lord. They could feel His nearness and that they can live for Him and they can give this whole life. Deny themselves, take up the cross and follow Him. Feel the blessings that we can feel, too.

So we want to have that faith and that confidence that that can happen, that will happen. But we just want to keep praying, and keep praying more and more. It would be good to get lists. Pray with a list if we need to. If you're like me and you forget names, it wouldn't hurt. It would be good for us to keep praying and to understand the power of prayer and the power that we can have. The power that we can tap into because we have the source, we have the God of heaven and earth that loves everyone and cares for everyone and wants every soul to live in heaven for ever and ever with Him.

So we want to encourage each other to continue steadfast and to not be discouraged, but to allow God to keep working in our lives. He might work in a strange or a mysterious way. His timetable might be a different timetable than yours and mine, and as I think of that, we go back to Moses.

Forty more years expired it says, as he was hiding out in the wilderness until a time and a day that he didn't understand it. Dear friends, be listening for the call of God. Because it could be at a time and a day you don't understand it either. I can remember the very day I repented. It was January 20, 1981. But I didn't have any idea when I woke up from my bed that morning, that that would be the day that God would call me. And I'm sure He called me many times before that, but for some reason I had the grace and the ability to answer that call that day. And I can assure you as Bro. Chuck said this morning, that the hardest part was to go tell someone that I need to repent. I was broken in heart and disturbed deeply. When I spit

those words out, I didn't even realize it right away, but within minutes and hours I could understand and feel that there was another power that had stepped in and started taking over in my life. I'm speaking for each brother and sister here. It was the Spirit of God that started taking over and working in my life. All those worries, all those fears about those mountains, that were in front of me and: what are my friends going to think, and: how am I going to go to school... Back then the guys wore their hair longer and I was going to have to get a haircut. That was a big deal! These types of things became nothing. God just wiped those worries away, and He took me into the palm of His hand and He carried me right along. He carried me right across the sand like in that poem where there was only one set of footprints. God carried me when I needed it. Your moms and your dads can express the same thing. Those who are converted can say that God did the same thing to them.

So we want to be ready when God calls us. We want to answer the call. Because He may not come by again. It's just like waiting for a bus, or a plane to take a trip somewhere. We don't want to miss that bus, we don't want to miss that train, because there may not be another chance.

Moses was the same way. He was there wandering around in the wilderness, and he saw something that caught his eye from a distance. It was the bush that was on fire. Curiosity got the best of him, and he went over there, and behold, it was a bush. (Acts 7:30) This doesn't describe it in as much detail as the Old Testament, but I think it was the bush that was burning but wasn't being consumed (Exodus 3:2). Really that's the way our God is too. He's a God that, I think it says, consumes with a burning fire (Hebrews 12:29). But in this case, God was trying to attract Moses to what He was trying to show him. Moses went over there, and it says he trembled. He trembled at the sight of God, or at the power of God (Acts 7:32). That's certainly the way it should be in our own lives. That we can tremble when we see the power of God working.

It says Moses durst not even behold it (Acts 7:32). I take that to mean he almost covered up his eyes. He couldn't look at it. Just like other times and other Scriptures where men could not even look at God or the power of God when He was working. Because our God is so holy and so great.

But there was a voice that came from that tree. We know the story so good. But that voice called to Moses and first told him to be appropriate. It says "...Put off thy shoes from thy feet: for the place where thou standest is holy ground." Acts 7:33. I sometimes wonder...do I grasp, do you grasp (you might ask yourself), do we grasp that the God we worship is holy? Do we grasp that when we drop on our knees to pray, that in a sense that's holy ground? We're talking to the God of heaven and earth. I don't know if I often think of that enough, but to think that God gives us this avenue to be able to talk with Him to be able to commune with Him.

Then I find myself feeling bad because maybe I drift off in my thoughts when I'm praying, or maybe at night I fall asleep or something while I'm on my knees, and those types of things. So maybe in our prayer life we want to remember, maybe it's not the length of the prayer, but it's a sincerity of the prayer. It's the pattern Jesus gave in that prayer, that He told us: "...Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name." Matthew 6:9. We know that by heart, I'm sure. We can keep that simple pattern of honoring the Father first, and then the asking for those simple things of life, the daily bread and maybe it's not bread - we don't necessarily think of just bread, but do we stop and ask the Lord for wisdom for each day? Just for today - one day at a time? We also heard that this morning - one day at a time. "Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself..." Matthew 6:34. Tomorrow has a whole new set of worries and cares. Just let's take today.

Do we ask the Lord in our prayer: Dear Lord give me grace, give me wisdom for this day, how I can get through this day, how I can affectively be a light and example to those round me, how I can (for those of us who are parents or grandparents) teach by example to my children. Say the right thing. Make the right decision. As parents, we often get, we might say, blindsided by one of our kids asking: Can I go here? Can I go there? Can I do this or that?, unexpectedly - kind of like Moses came across this flaming fire from God unexpectedly there out in the wilderness. Sometimes we have to really be thinking and praying on our toes. Spiritually we have to know and think about for a minute what the best advice to give our children would be. Sometimes we're too busy in life and we just don't think about it and

ve just make a quick decision and let them do maybe what we regret having them do later. So, we want to be on our knees spiritually. We want to read, we want to pray, we want to let God direct us. In that simple prayer, it says also, the Lord teaches us how to ask forgiveness of others and ask God to forgive us.

And then to think about, I think the end of the prayer, it talks about the kingdom and the glory forever and ever, amen. Then we think about heaven, maybe that would be one of our thoughts in the morning, too, to think about heaven. Maybe each of us think about heaven in a different way. Maybe it can really strike your heart or mine just to think of a loved one that was close to us that has gone on to their reward. We think about their faithful life, or we think about that they're resting in heaven right now. Maybe that's what the trigger would be to help us think about that each morning as we move into our day, because it helps put everything in perspective. It helps us realize that the life that we're dealing with, these day-to-day issues, and raising our children, and the decisions we make at work and school seem so real and important and overwhelming to us. But when we can think about heaven each morning to start the day, it can kind of put things in perspective that someday all those worries and cares are going to be wiped right away, and what's only going to count is what we've done for Christ. When the Lord does come to take us, those day-to-day cares of life probably will not be a concern anymore. But again, if we can take life one day at a time and put our trust in God.

So Moses was eighty years old and the Lord told him to take off his shoes, and where he stood was holy ground because God was there. Everywhere God is is holy ground. Not that we really worship the ground. We worship God as a Spirit, but we reverence His sanctuary here; for example, the old church, things like that.

God had a plan for Moses at the age of eighty. Most of us are retired and thinking about enjoying the last few years of life that we might have. But God had a plan for Moses at the age of eighty and He told him that: You're going to go back and talk to Pharaoh, and you're going to go back in there are you're going to let me use you, and work through you, to work through Pharaoh to let my people leave Egypt. You're going to take those, at least over a million people was that? Or was it 6 million? Whatever it was,

I don't want to say a number not knowing for sure, but it was a lot of the children of Israel that for 400 years had grown and multiplied in Egypt. God told Moses: You're going to go in there and you're going to take them out, by My hand and by My might, you're going to make that happen. (Acts 7:34,35)

It's an amazing thing. I wonder for you and for me, do we sometimes hesitate to take on what God wants of us in our life, in our little corner? You know, for Moses to go in there and to face Pharaoh like he did took a lot of grace. I've often thought to myself - I haven't been in the presence of too many important political people, leaders of our land, but I think all of us might have our own little political thoughts on different articles we might read in the paper or something and we might say: Well, I'd set them straight! I'd tell it like this. But I think if we really got in front of somebody such as our president or whatever, we would be in awe and we would have some fear and trembling. For Moses and Aaron to be able to go in there and do what the Lord did, and to continue to be steadfast even when Pharaoh tried to cut the corners and say: Ok, You and the men can go, but you have to keep the animals here. Or: You and the soldiers can go, but the women and the children have to stay behind - I don't remember all the details, but Pharaoh remained hardened and continued to resist God's word and God's will. But Moses and Aaron, by God's grace, remained steadfast along the initial instructions that God gave them.

That's what you and I want to do. We don't want to have any compromise with what God's plan is. And when we put it in our hearts not to compromise, God will bless us and He'll provide those miracles that He did before Pharaoh and the children of Egypt there to be able to make them finally see and to understand. Even though Pharaoh was probably the last one to really understand. His heart was so hardened that he wasn't willing to give in for the longest time. But in the end, God prevailed and after 400 years of suffering and slavery, really, they were able to come out. I've often thought of, I'm not sure I could even grasp 400 years. I think of our country being just over 200 years, and the long rich history we've had. But to think of a people that were for twice that amount of time, were in bondage and in slavery, and so evilly treated, and yet God said...we know it touched His heart, we knew it hurt Him.

Brothers and sisters, if we're going through a suffering time, if something's hurting us, in our heart, our mind, if there's a physical or an emotional or a separation or whatever it might be that we're questioning or Satan's coming in and causing us to question in our hearts: Why would God do this to me? Or: Why would God do this to my brother? How could a God of love do that? Let's go back and remind ourselves of these 400 years that God allowed His people to do that. But He says here, and He said it twice (and I think when God repeats something twice, He really means what He said, that it really affected Him), in verse 34: "I have seen, I have seen the affliction of my people which is in Egypt, and I have heard their groaning..." Acts 7:34. So God does hear our groanings. God does feel and hear our hurts, and our groanings, and our prayers. And just like He didn't call Moses until He was eighty, we don't understand His time table for us, but know and believe that as you pray to Him, and as you continue to suffer whatever it is that you're suffering, or whatever it is that's an affliction for you, for us as a church - whatever it might be - that God is hearing! And in due time He's going to answer that prayer according to His will.

We know the story of Moses and the children of Israel did escape over the Red Sea. They were brought into this land flowing with milk and honey and they were blessed in many, many ways, even thought at times they really failed God and they were punished. But God meant to bless them in a perfect and wonderful way and He means to bless you and me in a perfect and a wonderful way as well. That time may not come until we get to heaven. God promises us; He gives us today, and He gives us that daily bread, and He gives us the basics of life, but He doesn't promise us more than we really need. He doesn't promise us all of our wants in life. But whatever it is, whatever our burden, whatever our trial, whatever our situation is in life if we can willingly endure and keep praying to Him, if it's His will, He'll remove it in His time and according to His time table. In the meantime, we could be a blessing to Him as we endure and as we suffer for His name's sake.

"...My grace is sufficient for thee:" He says, "for my strength is made perfect in weakness..." II Corinthians 12:9.

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.accounseling.org)

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- Materials and presentations on other specific topics
- Mentoring for students in mental health-related fields
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## Preschool Teacher Needed

The Apostolic Christian Preschool has an immediate opening for a teacher directed of the Lord, with a degree and/or experience in Elementary or Early Childhood Education. It is a wonderful experience to teach children about the Lord in a loving, Christian environment. If you feel the call and want to find out more please contact:

Bro. Mike Moore

(256) 729-0620

8653 Beechwood Rd.

Athens, AL 35611

Email: [ALM@aol.com](mailto:ALM@aol.com)

**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

**DIRECTOR OF ACTIVITIES**

*Management position available early this summer at Detroit's Woodhaven Retirement Community.*

Our current Director of Activities was tragically widowed several years ago. After considerable prayer, she recently became engaged to a Christian widower of her same faith. Unfortunately he lives 3 hours away. She said that of all the jobs she has had, this one is by far the one she loved the most and will have the hardest time leaving.

The Director of Activities is an active participant on the nine member Management Team and also manages our Adult Day Services program. A college degree is desired, but not required. A love of the elderly and good oral and written communication skills are important.

Woodhaven is licensed for 105 in the care facility and has 22 apartments and a 25 person, 7 day a week adult day program.

If God is tugging at your heart, please email:

*Executive Director Randy Gasser at [randyg@woodhavenrc.org](mailto:randyg@woodhavenrc.org)  
or call him at (734) 261-9000*

*Did I mention we have a very active choir at our church?  
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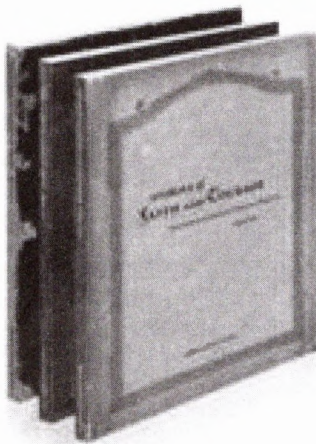
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*...This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord.  
Isaiah 54:17*

## CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 2008

All volunteers should contact the project coordinator. Should you not be able to contact the coordinator, for Haiti direct your inquiry to Bro. Rich Bertschi, Ph. 309-467-6110, E-mail [lemangm@mtco.com](mailto:lemangm@mtco.com). For Jamaica, direct your inquiry to Bro. Mik Rassi, Ph. 1-309-359-5240 or E-mail [michael\\_rassi@hotmail.com](mailto:michael_rassi@hotmail.com).

### HAITI

*Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of February 9, 2008 - [www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/](http://www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/)*

Project	Date	Coordinator	Capacity
Les Cayes, AWA Water Aid	May 16-23, 2008	Troy Stuber 309-925-2603 <a href="mailto:tstuber1@peoplepc.com">tstuber1@peoplepc.com</a>	5
Les Cayes, FRW Vocational School	Jun 20-27, 2008	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 <a href="mailto:topnotch@home.ffni.com">topnotch@home.ffni.com</a>	4

### JAMAICA

*Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of February 9, 2008 - [www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/](http://www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/)*

Jamaica Deaf Village, CCCD	May 16-24, 2008	Ted Hirstein 309-266-8769 <a href="mailto:hirstein@mtco.com">hirstein@mtco.com</a>	50
Jamaica Deaf Village, CCCD	May 30-Jun 7, 2008	Keith Herrmann 309-639-4349 <a href="mailto:kr greetings@winco.net">kr greetings@winco.net</a>	40
Knockpatrick School, CCCD	Jun 28- Jul 5, 2008	Pete Webel 419-756-2587 <a href="mailto:wpw47@aol.com">wpw47@aol.com</a>	40
Knockpatrick School, CCCD Francesville Sunday School	Jul 12-19, 2008	Dave Zeitwanger <a href="mailto:dakzeit@urhere.net">dakzeit@urhere.net</a>	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](mailto:mfiechter@onlyinternet.net)*

*Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of February 9, 2008 - [www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-mexico/](http://www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-mexico/)*

Project	Date	Coordinator
Magdalena Construction	Jun 7-14, 2008	Don Hoerr/Peoria Bible Class <a href="mailto:hoerrfamily7@insightbb.com">hoerrfamily7@insightbb.com</a>
Magdalena Construction	June 21-28, 2008	Brad Gehring/Taylor Bible Class 217-228-9849 <a href="mailto:bradgehring@yahoo.com">bradgehring@yahoo.com</a>
Magdalena Construction	June 28-July 5, 2008	Kent Mogler 651-452-8586 <a href="mailto:kent.mogler@comcast.net">kent.mogler@comcast.net</a>
Magdalena Construction	Jul 19-26, 2008	Blake Stahl 630-740-7461 Chicago-Champaign Bible Class <a href="mailto:bcstahl01@hotmail.com">bcstahl01@hotmail.com</a>
Juarez Medical/Dental	Sep 17-24, 2008	Cheryl Herrmann 309-385-1082 <a href="mailto:cherrmann@verizon.net">cherrmann@verizon.net</a>
Magdalena Construction	Nov 22-29, 2008	Rod Schmidt 303-774-7913 <a href="mailto:rschmidt@Acosta.com">rschmidt@Acosta.com</a>



## 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 -** Best Western Alpenglo Lodge - Conference Center  
 Located in downtown Winter Park (78665 US Hwy 40)  
 Office: 888-726-8088 (toll free)  
[www.wplodging.com](http://www.wplodging.com)
- 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](http://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](mailto:lemantom@comcast.net)

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

*"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@dtnspeed.net](mailto:edkaiser@dtnspeed.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](mailto:leutholdg@aol.com), Tennessee Fellowship Chariman Bro. Don Sauder (615)373-8928 or [don.sauder@juno.com](mailto:don.sauder@juno.com) or Tennessee Fellowship Treasurer Bro. Mike Moore (256) 729-0620 or [alm38@aol.com](mailto:alm38@aol.com).



# REMEMBERING

## *Our Spiritual Heritage*

### **Joseph Bella**

Brother Joseph Bella, of Hungarian extraction, was an early church pioneer of our faith here in the United States. Having been instrumental as well in the early formation of the church in Hungary, he eventually immigrated to America. He is known for his many travels in developing churches in several states. His early home was at Sardis, Ohio, where he labored with Elder Bro. Isaac Gehring. Joseph Bella was known as a "roving Elder" because he traveled so much giving assistance to newly-converted souls, and helping the new congregations thrive.

He was a single man who never married. It has been known for quite some time that he made a promise in his youth that he would never marry. For years I was unaware of the reason for this covenant he made with God to never marry. Recently, I learned about the reason. He had an illness of some kind, and he promised God, if he was healed, he would never marry.

As the years transpired, he did indeed intend to marry a sister in the faith (in Hungary). Some of the brethren, however, reminded him of the previous promise he had made. He then relented from marrying, and remained single, although it is thought he sent financial assistance (alms) to that sister for many years. Integrity then, as now, was a strong princi-

ple among our brethren.

As a single man in America, Bro. Bella lived in a woodshed next to the old Gehring homestead near Sardis. An excerpt from *Marching To Zion* states, "The small Bella dwelling consisted of a woodshed 'lean-to' on one side and a two-room, two story section on the other. Bella repaired watches for his livelihood in one room and slept in the other. A large portion of his time was devoted to the Lord's work, in shepherding the small flock at Sardis as well as traveling to other churches." His travels included much walking from place to place, as he had done in Hungary.

### **Fire At Sardis**

The early congregation at Sardis (1848) built their first church building in approximately 1850. Prior to that they assembled in homes. Soon, however their little log church caught fire and was completely destroyed. A rail fence near their church caught fire and flames eventually spread to the church. This occurred at night or at a time when no one was in the area. The next time the believers assembled for worship, they arrived to find their church in ashes. Indeed this was a blow to those first brethren at Sardis, having only been in America two or so years, and still acclimating themselves to all the challenges they faced, both financially and socially.

Elder Gehring added a room to

his home and services were held there for several years. By 1875, a new one-story building without basement was built. Over time more improvements were made and the second church (of our faith) in America continued to prosper.

### **History Project**

This is to acknowledge, again, that the finishing aspects of the new 805-page update of *Marching To Zion* continues and it is hoped Lord willing, that the manuscript can be sent to the printer in late Spring. Pertinent information on ordering, etc., will be posted in the *Silver Lining*, and each local Elder will receive information as well.

### **Treasures of Praise**

We have a very rich legacy of song in our brotherhood. An example is below:

At Thy feet, O Lord we linger;  
 Speak to us in accents clear!  
 Let us hear Thy word so tender  
 Eagerly with godly fear.  
 Teach us follow Thy example;  
 Teach us to devote our time;  
 This so short a time, though ample  
 For eternity sublime.

—From the *Zion's Harp*,  
 Hymn #203

By Perry Klopfenstein

Next issue: Misc. History

# The Light Of Hope

## From Across The Ocean

### 希望の光

#### “Are You Able To Repent”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

Scriptures indicate that some people, some times, cannot find grace to repent. In Hebrews 12:17 it is written concerning Esau, “For he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.” Therefore, I have been thinking how wonderful it is if we are able to repent. In the case of Esau, he could sorrow for his mistake but he could find no place of repentance, that is, he could not find a solution to his problem.

In our church, in our usage of the word “repentance,” it usually means not only sorrow for our sins or mistakes, but also, it means to surrender to God and put our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for forgiveness and salvation. According to English orthography, the letters “re” mean “back” and “pent” means “turn,” or repent means “to turn back to God,” which is the way the word is usually used in our church.

In the case of Judas, who betrayed Christ, we read, “Then

Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself.” Matthew 27:3. He even tried to make restitution by taking the thirty pieces of silver back to the chief priests and elders. His problem was that he couldn’t find the grace to surrender himself to God and to believe on Jesus Christ, for forgiveness. Satan probably told him, “You are finished,” and he believed Satan. We should never believe Satan.

Repentance is an experience that no one should miss out on. It empties us of ourselves and makes room for Christ to enter in and take over. The term is usually associated with becoming a follower of Jesus Christ, of being baptized, and becoming a member of our church. However, the term is used in chapters 2 and 3 of the book of Revelation, which is addressed to the seven churches in Asia, and to the believers in those churches. Revelation 2:16 reads, “Repent; or else I will

come quickly,” and Revelation 3:19 reads, “Be zealous therefore, and repent.” Repentance is for believers, too. If we are in a state of repentance, we never put ourselves above others. In Philippians 2:3 we are instructed, “In lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.” We should have self worth and self esteem but it should be based on Christ in us, and not in ourselves, for we are nothing without God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is not only wonderful but we should be very thankful if we have grace to repent, and to forgive others. If it is difficult for us to apologize for our errors, or to really forgive someone who trespasses against us, and to show that forgiveness by our attitude and conduct, not by words only, we are to be pitied. To be frequently apologizing may seem like a weakness but from God’s viewpoint, that may be a strength.

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*Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.  
... That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro,  
and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the  
sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie  
in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love,  
may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ.*

*Ephesians 4:3, 14-15, 21-24*

*If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him,  
as the truth is in Jesus: That ye put off concerning the former conversation  
the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed  
in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God  
is created in righteousness and true holiness.*