

The Silver Lining

*Enter into the rock, and hide thee
in the dust, for fear of the Lord,
and for the glory of his majesty.*

*The lofty looks of man
shall be humbled, and the haughtiness
of men shall be bowed down,
and the Lord alone
shall be exalted in that day.*

*For the day of the Lord of hosts shall be upon every one
that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up;
and he shall be brought low:*

Isaiah 2:10-12

May 2008

Sermon by Bro. Gary Sinn, Latty, OH

Judges 20:1-35 and Revelation 2:1-17

I had to think, as we read in the Old Testament about the children of Israel, isn't it so true today, there is a battle going on. It's between good and evil. It's between wrong and right. It's between God and the devil. It's between the Holy Spirit and the evil spirits. We look about us and we see things that are concerning in our country. We see a total disrespect for God at times, don't we? We might say that the devil is winning the battle. We might say that, as we look across the broad face of the earth, that as believers, we are going to be overcome or overwhelmed by the evil that is about us. But I think so often it's so encouraging to go through the Bible and see that God has always been one step ahead of the devil. He won't be beat. We can go to the end of the book of Revelation and we can read a powerful message about how God will deal with Satan once and for all. He will be cast into a bottomless pit and he will never torment the believer again.

I remember one time reading a little account about some students that were studying the Bible. They were reading the book of Revelation. There was an old janitor at that school. They often noticed he was reading the Word of God. They said to him, we notice you read the Word of God and you read the book of Revelation. Can you explain it to us?

We just read here and sometimes we can get overwhelmed with the symbolism and all the things that are written in the book of Revelation. But there is a blessing, we're told, if we read it. There is a blessing if we allow God, as we read the book of Revelation, the prophecy, that it will inspire us to a closer walk with Him. (Rev. 1:3) Nearly thirty three percent of the Bible is prophecy. So that's why we need to read it. That we might be reminded that Jesus is coming again.

But that old man looked at the young students and he said, yes I do understand the book of Revelation. I can sum it up in two words: Jesus wins. Isn't that true, as we go

through this book, we can see that ultimately Jesus wins in the end. That's why it's so important, dear friends, that you are on His side.

As young men and women, you can go back to your high school days or perhaps early on. You'd pick sides, wouldn't you? We always wanted to be on the winning team. We didn't want to lose. Well, we can be assured that if we serve God and we are an overcomer, as we were reminded, on that great and notable day that Joel writes about (Joel 2:11,31), we will be among those that are victorious.

But I am sure those children of Israel, as they walked through those battles and they were defeated, they became discouraged, didn't they? It said they wept before the Lord. (Judges 20:23) They said, should we go to battle again? I believe, loved ones, there are times in our lives that the enemy will make inroads into our lives. At that time, we need to get down on our knees and pray for the power of His grace and the Holy Spirit and He will give it to us. Because greater is He that is within us than he that is in the world. Sometimes we get discouraged and down.

Remember the story of Joshua in the Old Testament. The children of Israel had been defeated. He fell down on his face and God said to Joshua, why are you laying in the ground? (Joshua 7:10) Get up because today I will deliver the enemy into your hand.

We can go throughout the pews, especially to those of you who are older in faith and I am sure each of you could testify how there were times in your life of great discouragement. The devil had come to you and said, you are not worth much in the sight of God. Or you are not going to make it spiritually. Or maybe it was financially. But each of you could testify that God was with you and His Word is true and His promises are sure. You rested in those promises, didn't you?

As we turn to the New Testament here, and we read about the churches, there is just one verse I

want to read. It says, "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand." Revelation 1:3. Today the world's making a mockery about Jesus coming

Sermon continued on page 43

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"I rejoice therefore that I have confidence in you in all things" (2 Cor. 7:16)

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

May 2008

Developing Trust

The Word of God gives clear examples of the trust and confidence placed in individuals whose hearts and lives are dedicated to serving Him. The following is said of the virtuous woman described in Proverbs 31:10-31: "The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil" (v. 11). Although numerous attributes and good works of this godly woman are subsequently recounted, the foundation for this trust lies in her most important virtue, which is described in verse 30: "but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised."

The virtues of integrity and reliability were exemplified powerfully in the life of Christ, and this generated trust in His hearers (Matt. 12:18-21). He taught His disciples these same characteristics, such as when he commended the "faithful and wise steward" who could be depended upon and entrusted with much responsibility (Luke 12:42-44).

The Apostle Paul received a good report regarding the Corinthian believers from Titus and was able to declare: "I rejoice therefore that I have confidence in you in all things" (2 Cor. 7:16). We can be sure that this expression of trust did not mean that everything in their lives was in perfect order. Like all of us, they were learning and growing under the patient and merciful hand of God. The confidence Paul expressed in them must have been a great encouragement to these brethren, motivating them to press on in their spiritual journey.

Lack of mutual trust among brethren has been identified as one of the significant factors causing disharmony in the church. Faith and trust in our brother is an indication of our faith and trust in Christ, who has created our brother and who dwells in his heart in the form of the Holy Spirit. "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments (1 John 5:1-2). We can all do better in trusting the intentions of our brothers and sis-

ters, believing the Holy Spirit is working in their hearts and ultimately commending them to God's grace (Acts 20:32).

Developing trust requires a purity of intent in our heart. Paul was able to say without question that he was put in trust of the gospel because his heart was pure and open before God (1 Thes. 2:3-4). Before we can grow in trust of our brothers and sisters, we must first examine our motives honestly in light of the Word, for God "desireth truth in the inward parts" (Psa. 51:6). Because we cannot see into our brother's heart, we are to give the benefit of the doubt in trusting his intentions, and we should extend mercy, which we all so deeply need. Jesus taught, "Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy" (Matt. 5:7).

We are called in humility to esteem our brother better than ourselves (Phil. 2:3). This is not based on his ability to meet our own standards, his personal worthiness or anything we may gain in return for placing loving trust in our brother. Christ taught that we are to "love one another; as I have loved you" (John 13:34). What merit is there in any of us that deserves this kind of love from Christ? This acceptance of us by Christ does not mean that He approves of those things in our lives which need to be corrected. Likewise, godly parents have an intrinsic love for and acceptance of their children which endures all the struggles and disappointments which are often experienced. We do not doubt Christ's continued love for us, even though we disappoint Him at times. We need to have that kind of unconditional love for all of the brethren. Christ-like love extends mercy and also upholds the standards of truth and righteousness (Mark 10:21). All of us need this from each other.

Loving trust in our brothers and sisters will be evidenced by the way we treat one another. We will listen with empathy and respectful attention to the thoughts and concerns of others and be slow to speak and careful not to react critically or to discredit each other when we differ (Jam. 1:19). It has been said that we must first seek to understand before we can be understood. We will also avoid categorizing

others based on perceptions and being too confident in our own opinions. Paul warned: "Be not wise in your own conceits" (Rom. 12:16), because this places ourselves above others and we no longer have the humility to value them.

Self-examination in light of the mirror of God's Word is essential for each child of God. However, this is often insufficient because we are unable to see our own faults (Jam. 1:24). We need the benefit of accountability to others, which includes loving admonition and encouragement in an atmosphere of trust and kindness (Rom. 15:14). In a relationship built on mutual trust we are able to candidly "speak the truth in love" (Eph. 4:15) and with grace and discretion (Col. 4:6). We can experience the great benefits of openly sharing thoughts and experiences which encourage each of us to grow spiritually, to come closer to the likeness of Christ and to work together in fulfilling the mission of the church. Trust is increased when we are transparent with each other, which enables us to experience one of the great blessings of true Christian friendship: "Iron sharpeneth iron: so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend" (Prov. 27:17).

May each of us think back to the sincerity of our "first love" at the beginning of our walk with Christ: when we were willing to do anything needful out of love for Him and gratitude for His deliverance. We will manifest this love with integrity and contribute to godly unity, if we willingly lay aside self, our inappropriate personal liberties and harsh reactions and all of the things of this world which distract us from our focus on Christ. "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" (1 John 3:16). May we be able to state honestly the words of David: "Judge me, O Lord: for I have walked in mine integrity: I have trusted also in the Lord...and I have walked in thy truth" (Psa. 26:1,3).

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

Suggestions for subjects are welcome and can be sent to:

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



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN Mission Committee

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

Our Mission in Japan

Japan is a fascinating and beautiful country. The Japanese people are industrious and have one of the highest literacy rates in the world. As in the rest of the world, Japan has a need of a witness for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our focus is not to teach them a vocation or how to excel by the world's standards. Our desire is to share the Truth of the Scriptures and encourage one another by example what it is to believe on the true and living God... to experience salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ.

History

During the Korean War in the early 1950's, some of our church boys were sent to Japan on the way to Korea. This is how our church first got involved in sharing the Gospel with the Japanese people. When our elders visited Japan they were favorably impressed with the simplicity of dress and the kindness and respect of the Japanese people.

The Japanese people were interested in what made America strong and they read the Bible, the "Book from America," with interest. The children flocked to our Sunday Schools and when we started an American kindergarten in 1966, it was well accepted in the community. The people were interested in the American religion and all the good moral teachings, but their roots were deep in Shinto and Buddhist traditions.

Over time there was a modest number of converts to the Lord, and a precious and growing remnant remains. We need to pray for them and encourage them by visiting and fellowshiping with them. We believe there are more who are open to the Gospel, and who will serve

the Lord Jesus Christ to the end. The Lord Jesus said, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." (Matt. 28:20)



The Shioda Church was our first church built in Japan. It was built in 1956 by the generous offerings and by the supervision of the American church



The Tokyo Church was built in 1959, once again, with the help of the American church

Example of faith

Bro. Toshie Uchida is an example of a Japanese who by grace through faith repented, was converted (Acts 3:19), and was baptized by Bro. Noah Schrock. At his baptism Bro. Schrock announced the hymn, "O Happy Day," which they sang, in the Japanese language. Bro. Uchida often announced that song until his death a few years ago. At first, he couldn't believe the Gospel. Later, when asked how he came to believe, he said, "I don't know, but now I believe."

The point is, he read the Bible and came to church, and God gave

him faith to believe. In John 7:17 we read, "If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself." Therefore, if we do God's will the best we know how, read the Bible and attend church, we will come to have faith. The Bible indeed is Truth. (John 3:8; Romans 10:17)

How we can help

We can make a difference by praying for the Japanese church and by showing much love and respect to them when they visit our American churches. Meet them, ask them questions, and share your encouragement in a loving way. It is a valuable part of the blessing of our brotherhood.

It is important that the Japanese church and the American church have a close relationship with one another. We work and serve together, by God's grace, to fulfill Ephesians 4:12-13. Together we learn of one another's people and cultures and are reminded that Christ died for the sins of the whole world, to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people. (Rev. 14:6)

Some of the most important blessings for the churches in Japan have been the love and prayer support of the American brethren... and the time and effort put forth by elders, their wives, and other brethren, who have made visits to Japan to spread the gospel and to nurture and encourage our Japan churches.

Prayer

Let us all pray that the Truth of the Gospel can prosper in Japan and that the church in Japan can be filled with the Spirit and love of God. It is important that we enjoy living for the Lord. (1 Thess. 3:12-13)



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

Child Sponsorship

The Child Sponsorship Committee wishes to highlight one of our Mexico fields this month, Isaiah 55, in Reynosa, just across the U.S./Mexico border from McAllen, Texas. It was begun in 2005 to meet the needs of deaf children. The Isaiah 55 staff has built a good relationship with the local government and community and has learned the Mexican Sign Language.

The goal of Isaiah 55 is to give the deaf a language so they might hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Their desire is for the salvation of students and their families and for them to grow in their walk with the Lord and become productive members of their society.

The children are taught a program called Lenguaje de Señas Mexicanas. It is very different from American Sign Language. Acquiring a language is the first objective of the students. Many children come with little or no language. This is the key both to education and to learning about Jesus. Once a child has the beginnings of a language, they can begin learning the classic school subjects of math, Spanish, reading, history, etc. Learning Spanish is a second language, but is vital as it will open doors to reading.

Building schools

Isaiah 55 plans to build small schools to accommodate 30-40 students. The schools will be scattered throughout the city, whose population is nearing one million. This way, students can remain with their families and both the family and child could learn sign language together. It will also give the families opportunities to participate in their

local churches. Vocational training is planned for the future, such as sewing, carpentry, and metalwork.

Serving the community

There are many opportunities to minister to and serve alongside the local community. In addition to working on the deaf schools, construction projects have expanded to include help to local school food programs, shelters, community dining halls, etc. They visit the local government orphanage, providing not just ongoing friendship for the children, but also help with projects such as painting and hosting medical/dental teams.

Work teams

Work teams have made a number of trips to Reynosa to help in renovating a building where the office and dorm space for volunteers is located. They have also erected schools with classrooms, kitchens, and dining halls with tables and benches. The local government, through the influence of a program of "signing" songs which the mayor saw, has donated an old building that work teams transformed into a three-room school. Medical teams have also served in the city with a clinic for dental and medical care.

Two sisters working through their local congregations are at Isaiah 55. Sis. Kim Kaiser (Morton, IL), does accounting and administrative work in the office. Sis. Erin Knobloch (Washington, IL), coordinates projects, does some of the legal work and teaches sign language.

Sponsorships with Isaiah 55 are with four classes, rather than with individual students. Pictures of the classes are sent to donors and letters are exchanged. The monthly cost

for one unit of support is \$25. The classes will have multiple units. Birthday and Christmas gifts are pooled and used for class parties or for field trips.

The form included below can be used. It is also available on the WR website. Enter the following link in your browser address: www.acworldrelief.org/request-a-sponsorship. Your church may also have our brochures.

To sponsor a child

You may apply for a student at this time by filling out the application form. A student will be assigned to you and you will be sent further information.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ St _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Please check preference:

- Haiti Guatemala
 Mexico Jamaica
 Wherever needed

If possible I would prefer:

- Boy - Age _____
 Girl - Age _____
 No Preference

Child Sponsorship Office

ACWR Child Sponsorship
 PO Box 36
 Morton, IL 61550
 Phone: 309-266-6080
 E-mail: childsponsorship@acwr.org

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Here in Morton we are all thankful for the arrival of spring and warmer weather! We find that the sunshine is such a boost to both our residents and staff members. Everyone enjoys getting outside whether it's on a mini vacation to Chicago or a walk to the picnic area behind Timber Ridge. We have begun several landscaping and maintenance projects to give our homes a fresh, new look. We appreciate and thank God for each and every one of our workers and volunteers who make these projects possible.

As we talk about seasons changing and new growth, we think of the changes we have experienced over the past year as we are converting to an electronic record system. It is a slow process as we enter data, revise procedures, and train employees in each of our eight homes. At this time, staff in our seven group homes have been trained and are working on the new computerized system. The next step is to set up computers and train staff across all departments at Timber Ridge, our 98-bed facility. While much training and time goes into implementing new systems, we are experiencing the value of having information more readily available in order to best meet our residents' needs.

As always, if summer travel brings you to our area, please feel welcome to call and schedule a visit to Timber Ridge. We are glad to give tours of the facility and introduce you to our residents and staff.

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Tim Wiegand

"It is not the will of your Father which is heaven, that one of these little ones should perish."

Matthew 18:14

Jesus told a story about a shepherd who went looking for one lost sheep even though he had 99 sheep that were safe. He finished that story by saying that it is not God's will that even one person should perish. I grew up on a hog farm and I know that if 99 out of 100 pigs that were born made it to market, we would have been very pleased (and profitable). This is why the teachings of Jesus never stop challenging the way I think. Pouring out resources to save one lost sheep makes no sense if I believe that God's Kingdom is a business, but it makes perfect sense when I realize that God's Kingdom is a family. God doesn't have a budget, He has a Book and it is His will that all of His children are written in that Book.

When I remember that God is a great compassionate Father, the work at Gateway Woods becomes much easier to understand. But I have days when my flesh does the thinking for me and I wonder if it would be better to just give up on certain kids. Thankfully, the scripture is clear that the Father does not want His "little ones" to perish and so the work continues. As you read this, would you pray that the staff at Gateway Woods would not become weary? In addition to Gateway staff there are foster and adoptive parents that have opened their homes to children in need and they would greatly appreciate your prayer support. Our God wants to use all of us to bring lost ones into His great big family. May we all look for opportunities in our daily lives to point others to Him.

News:

- We welcome Bro. Jarrod and Sis. Molly Steffen (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Joe and Sis. Heather Beer (Bradford, IL) as new Alternate Houseparents. Both families were able to sell their homes and started training on May 19. Please pray for them during this time of transition. We are very thankful for those who have a heart to serve at Gateway Woods and make a

difference in the lives of children and families in need.

- After a long, cold winter and a late spring, construction finally began to move last month as heavy equipment and crews arrived to dig the Pine House basement. We will soon see a noticeable change with the footings and floors poured and walls framed. As the local contractors progress, we will also be looking to volunteers from the Midwest to do a few key components like roofing and masonry. Please call us if you have the skill and time to help with either of these portions this summer.

To put a group home like this into operation that serves 7-8 troubled teens plus a houseparent family, there are other components that need to be included. The finished 8000+ sq. ft. house costs around \$900,000, slightly over \$1 per sq. ft. This includes landscape and a geothermal system. However, to furnish the house and provide a van and small car, plus purchase a small house in nearby Grabill for our Alternate Houseparents, brings the total project cost up to \$1.1 million. That is why we are so dependant upon our faithful supporters throughout the country to support us in a very generous way.

So far we are greatly encouraged and thankful with individual donations and church collections of \$212,543 and a very generous \$50,000 gift from the Ft Wayne-based Foellinger Foundation. We still have a long way to go. We encourage you to share generously as we grow to serve additional children who are in desperate need of the care and hope offered in our Christian program.

- This spring and summer we are encouraging companies, families, Sunday Schools, Vacation Bible Schools, etc. to commit to our Furnish-A-Room (FAR) project by raising the funds to completely buy all the furniture and bedding needed for one resident's bedroom. For larger groups there are larger rooms like the living room or kitchen to be supplied. Check with your local Gateway Woods Rep, VBS Coordi-

nator or Sunday School Superintendent to learn if your church is planning an FAR project. For complete information on FAR, please call our office 888 443-4283 (GATE) or check our web site at gatewaywoods.org. Further updates will be on the web as summer progresses.

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

- 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!

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

Sometimes words come spewing out of children's mouths when they are angry that are really not appropriate. We have a few children who have a hard

time biting their tongue and thinking before they talk. One day one of our boys had lost his temper with his little buddy and said some naughty things to him. I scolded him and told him that no matter how mad he was, it still was wrong to say those things. I told him that he had to stop and think before he spoke. He was so frustrated and with the biggest scowl on his face he said "Well, I don't have a zipper!" I was thinking, hmm, what does that have to do with anything?! I said "Well, why would you need a zipper?" He said "So I can zip my mouth shut!"

Our preschool board meeting was this past month. Thank you to all of the brothers who are on the board and for all that they do in making decisions and helping make the preschool run smoothly. God bless each one of you.

A group from Fairbury, IL, traveled down a few weekends ago to volunteer here at the preschool. God bless each of you for all of the painting that you did inside and all the work that you accomplished outside. The work you did made a huge difference! We appreciate it very much!

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**

It was a blessing a few weeks ago to take part in Communion and reflect on the death of our Savior. With us for the occasion was our Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) and Elder Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL).

Other visiting ministers this month

were Bro. Daron Price (Milford, IN), Bro. Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL), Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Bro. Tim Gerber (Mansfield, OH).

We enjoyed having a group from Fairbury, IL, here with us for a weekend. They volunteered their time and energy and did some work up at the TN Fellowship area and also at the preschool. We appreciate all that each of you did and may God bless you.

**ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Ron and Ev Hoerr**

"Give us help from trouble: For vain is the help of man."

Psalm 60:11

What a lovely Easter program our Sunday school students presented to us Palm Sunday, March 16. Also, thank you to our dedicated teachers. The scripture verses and songs touched our hearts. Oh, how great to serve him and so many of us benefit.

Visiting us on our pulpit was Bro. Ron Jones (Portland, OR).

Our surgical patients were: Bro. Dick Beery, Sis. Mary Ella Klopfenstein, and Genanne Witzig. Also in the hospital were Bro. Floyd Banwart and Sis. Linda Yackley.

Bro. Marshall and Sis. Stacia Witzig are the parents of Reesa Jean, born March 29. She's welcomed home by her three sisters and one brother.

**ARIZONA, PRESCOTT
Jane Hodges**

"I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin."

Psalm 32:5

Max Knobloch (Bro. Denis and Sis. Jackie, Lester, IA), who has been attending college in Prescott and fellowshiping with us, has sought the Lord's

forgiveness for his sins and has found peace with God. His testimony and baptism is scheduled for April 26-27. We are very thankful for the Lord's work in his life and pray that he will be given the grace to grow closer in spirit and love to God and to withstand the evil of Satan.

Since a report was not submitted for March, there are several visiting ministers to acknowledge and thank for their love and support for our small congregation. In order of their visits, they include Bros. Harvey Kuenzi (Sis. Jennifer, Silverton, OR), Dale Frank (Sis. Christine, Oakville, IA), James Emch (Phoenix, AZ), Ron Kipfer (Sis. Linda, Bluffton, IN), Paul Schmidgall (Sis. Shawn, Morris, MN), and Elder Bro. Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL).

Note of Thanks:

Sis. Jane Hodges wishes to thank the many loved ones who sent cards and gifts in memory of her mother, Emily Greenbank (Rittman/Smithville, OH), who completed her earthly life on March 20. The many prayers offered in behalf of the family were especially appreciated.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

We were happy to see Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) on Good Friday and even happier that he was willing to share the Word with us on the pulpit. We thank him for his service of love and invite him back any time!

We are saying goodbye each week to more of our winter visitors and this past Sunday said goodbye to Bro. Loren and Sis. Joan Knapp. They are heading back to Illinois for the spring and summer months. We wish them all God's blessings and hope they keep Tucson in their prayers as we keep them in ours.

Our temperatures have been a little warm for April; the low 90's for the recent week but tomorrow we are back

down to 79 for a high. Our days are, as almost always, sunny and bright.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Tina Jackson

I stand amazed in the presence
Of Jesus the Nazarene,
And wonder how He could love me
A sinner condemned unclean.
He took my sins and my sorrows
He made them His very own;
He bore the burden to Calvary
And suffered and died alone.
When with the ransomed in Glory
His face I at last shall see,
'Twill be my joy thro' the ages
To sing of His love for me!

Hymns of Zion #174

We celebrated the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ on Easter morning with an early Sunrise Service and breakfast. Having the San Gabriel Mountain range nearby, enabled us to view the greater Los Angeles Valley while we worshipped and rejoiced together in our Lord's glorious resurrection! As we overlooked the Valley that morning, it was a vivid reminder of just how vast the need for a risen Savior is!

I apologize that I failed to mention some exciting news in our congregation which occurred last Fall! In October, Bro. Virgil and Sis. Marilyn Graf became grandparents again when their daughter, Sis. Carol, and Bro. Doug Blunier from Princeville were blessed with the birth of their first son, Kaden! Little sister Chloe was excited to 'show him off' to Grandpa and Grandma and Aunt Elaine, when they visited here over Easter. We are excited about their new Bundle of Blessing and extend a belated, but heartfelt "congratulations" to them all!

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven; A time to be born, and a time to die..."

Eccles. 3:1-2

Just as life brings us joy and happiness, so at times, it also brings us sorrow and heartache. We extend our sympathy to Bro. Virgil and Sis. Marilyn Graf and their family, in the sudden passing of Sis. Marilyn's mother, Sis. LaVina Dotterer, from Eureka. How thankful we can be of the promise to all believers found in Revelation 21:4-5.

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And He that sat upon the throne said, 'Behold, I make all things new'."

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Yasmin Koehl

Our church had many reasons to rejoice this month ... and weep together with loved ones who had to say farewell to a son, brother and uncle.

We were encouraged and uplifted to have ministering Bro. Dennis Kaufmann with his wife, Sis. Bonnie (Bloomington, IL), and Elder Bro. Dennis Warner and his wife, Sis. Esther (Lester, IA), share God's Holy Word with us. May the Lord bless these brothers for their service.

As time flies on, we realize how short our life span is. During the reading of the Memorandum, our brethren were reminded to make every moment count in living for Christ and being a Godly example to encourage and draw others to our loving Savior. Elder Bro. Tom Klotzle (Sis. Jody, Altadena, CA) assisted our Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic in conveying the contents of the letter to our congregation.

What a blessing it was to host the Silverton Single Group. We enjoyed a time of warm fellowship and lifting our voices together to praise God. We would like to thank each one who made the effort to come and to our young brothers, sisters, along with their parents and others for their labors to organize the weekend.

Jesus knows thy sorrow... our hearts went out to our dear Bro. Leonard and Sis. Christine Locher as their son, John Locher, passed away. Jesus hears our feeblest prayers ... our prayers continue that they may find comfort in Christ and in our brotherhood as we hold them close in our thoughts.

Tell Him all thy grief... our loving Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian) also said farewell to his brother, Milovan Petrovic (a Nazarean brother). Cast on Him thy burden... many prayers are being uttered on the family's behalf. He will bring relief... as the prayers are sent heavenward, we pray Bro. Peter may feel the love and the support from us not just in this time of sorrow, but also in the future days ahead.

**KITCHENER, ONTARIO
CANADA
Kim Leman**

“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. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead...”

Matthew 28:5-7

Our hearts were touched as we partook of Holy Communion together on Good Friday evening. We appreciated the message brought to us by our beloved Elder Bro. Mark Bahr. What a wonderful reminder of the sacrifice of our Lord as He was crucified for our sins, then arose victorious that beautiful Easter morning!

We thank ministering Bros. Dale Stoller (Sis. Sandra, Fairbury, IL) and Bob Meyer (Sis. Ann, Bluffton North, IN) for bringing God's Word to us.

With thankful hearts, Bro. Chad and Sis. Kim Leman, along with children Milan, Paul, Maria and Audrey welcomed Ellie Sandra into their home on April 8.

**COLORADO, DENVER
Ann Gonglach**

“So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.” (Romans 12:5) We have been thinking and praying about who we are as a church body and what our goals are as we seek guidance from the Holy Spirit regarding the building in which we meet. We appreciate Bro. Ed Bahler and his wife, Sis. Annette, who came from West Lafayette, Indiana, and spent a Saturday holding a seminar to help us think and talk about these things.

We are rejoicing with Chloe Gonglach (Bro. Bob and Sis. Ann) who has found peace with God and desires baptism. We also plan to hear the testimonies of Mike and Rose Zarkovacki who have been attending our church and desire to become members. We lift them and their daughters, Brooke and Nicole, up in prayer as they recently lost their unborn baby. May “the God of all comfort” comfort them.

Welcome to Bro. Jarred Stoller who has moved to Denver from Roanoke, Illinois. He is here for the summer doing an internship.

On April 19, we gathered to hear the reading of the Elders' Memorandum from their recent annual meetings. Their care and instruction is truly a blessing. We appreciated Elder Bro. Duane Farney and his wife, Sis. Karen (Croghan-Naumburg, NY), spending the weekend and ministering to us.

**CONNECTICUT
ROCKVILLE
Laura Virkler
Amber Rocke**

To our regret, we failed to mention the marriage of Bro. Mark Lanz (Bro. Barry and Karen) and Sis. Ashley Yurgel (Jack and Donna), which occurred at the end of January. We continue to pray for these loved ones as they embark on this new journey, and may they always remember that “...the

righteous shall be glad in the Lord, and shall trust in him; and all the upright in heart shall glory” (Psalm 68:3). We felt blessed to have so many friends and family members among us for this holy occasion.

We are grateful for Bro. Dale and Sis. Mary Ann Gerber at the birth of their son, Samuel Everett. We pray for this family, including siblings Lydia, Rebekah, Jacob, and Hannah, that they may feel God's blessings through this miracle. Grandparents are Bro. Everett and Sis. Nancy Gerber, and Bro. Emanuel and Sis. Verona Schneider.

We do not want to forget our loved ones from afar who have been blessed with children. Sis. Beth Wagenbach (Bro. Paul, Tremont, IL), the daughter of Bro. Dan and Sis. Dorothy Virkler, gave birth to Olivia Mae this past month. She joins her brother Jesse. Sarah Kinsey (Andy), the daughter of Sis. Nancy Gerber (Bro. Everett), gave birth to Kyle Edward. Bro. Sam and Sis. Tyrene Moser (Silverton, OR) gave birth to Nash Samuel. Bro. Sam's parents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Glenna Moser. May God continue to bless these growing families.

On March 30, we witnessed the ordination of Bro. Warren (Sis. Bonnie) Zahner as an Ordained Deacon for our congregation. Assisting our Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl) throughout this memorable weekend were Elder Bros. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH), Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA) and Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL). This weekend was an encouragement to many members and friends that were able to attend. May Bro. Warren and Sis. Bonnie continue to feel our love and support as they transition into their new roles.

“Haste and seek your soul's salvation; Heed the word of God today...” (ZH #52). It is with much rejoicing that we announce a new convert! Kevin Gottier (Guy and Sis. Beth) has made known his desire to seek his soul's salvation. Our prayers are for this dear

loved one as he begins his spiritual journey. It is always our prayer that many more will heed the call of the Lord. May God bless you through another month.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

As I write this, the ground is pink with petals from the first blooming trees of the spring and more trees are starting to bud. From late March to early May there are lots of flowering trees in this area.

Our Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand from Philadelphia came down March 15 to lead a Bible Study on being a witness. I think everyone went home with lots to think about as well as many blessings from the evening.

We are glad and thankful to have our congregation safely home from mission trips or visits to their families this month. We haven't seen Ken and Roberta Belsley much due to health problems and we keep them in our prayers.

Our caretakers this month are Bro. Isaac and Sis. Verna Ruffener from Rittman, OH. While here they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

We are blessed with visiting ministers every Sunday. This month our ministers were Bro. Jeff Streitmatter (Sis. Lynne, Sarasota, FL), Bro. Shawn Metzger (Sis. Sandy, Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Wayne Leman (Sis. Julie, Roanoke, IL), Bro. Gary Endress (Sis. Evelyn, Bradford, IL) and Bro. Ron Bollier (Sis. Edie, Indianapolis, IN). Bro. Wayne and Sis. Julie had come directly from a mission trip to Mexico. Other visitors this month were from Rittman, Sardis and Smithville, OH; Philadelphia, PA; Bradford and Princeville, IL and Silverton, OR.

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 or Sis. Henrietta Meyer at (703) 904-8301 for assistance and to let us know how many to expect for Sunday services. If you would like to get together on Saturday evening, please let us know that as well. We would be happy to have an evening of fellowship and/or singing.

**FLORIDA
FORT LAUDERDALE
Renee Mangold**

The visiting ministers were Bro. Ted Luginbuhl (Sis. Stephanie, Smithville, OH) on Good Friday, and on Easter Sunday, Bro. Joe Braker (Sis. Shirley, Morton, IL). They have returned to Illinois and we thank them for their ministry while they spent the winter in Ft. Lauderdale. Bro. Tom Leman (Sis. Marlene, Denver, CO), Bro. Tim Hohulin (Sis. Cathy, Roanoke, IL), Bro. Fred Funk (Sis. Diane, Morton, IL) and Bro. Steve Pamer (Sis. Arliss, Akron, OH) spent a Wednesday evening singing service with us.

Bro. Ed Gerber has been in the hospital and is now home recovering.

Our friend, Tara Hohulin, has been announced for peace and we look forward to hearing her testimony.

We're thankful that Sis. Ruth Schneider had a good report from her surgical procedure and pray for her continued good health.

I wanted to thank all of you who offered up thoughts and prayers for my recovery. I'm on the mend now and thankful for God's healing hand and for the support from so many of you. My thanks, also, to Bro. Roger and Sis. Judy Sauder for stepping in and covering my roll as reporter for the Silver Lining for these past few months.

Bro. Mike Hohulin sent out a report soliciting all the brethren in Ft. Lauderdale's opinions on updating our church.

There have been a few meetings so far and the project seems to be coming along with a good spirit of cooperation and focus on working together in Godly harmony.

We held our monthly potluck and we enjoyed being able to fellowship with our winter brethren for perhaps one of the last times this winter season. We're already looking forward to their return next winter, God willing.

**FLORIDA
NORTH FORT MYERS
Naomi Vogel**

Things are winding down for the season here in N. Ft. Myers. The Wednesday evening services in Naples have been discontinued until next winter and will end for the season in N. Ft. Myers at the end of April. We are hoping there will be lots of visitors over the summer months!

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington), Bro. Randy Gudeman (Francesville), Bro. Jim Ramsier (Sardis), Bro. Ron Steiner (Rittman), Bro. John Baumgartner (Bluffton North), and Bro. Tom Troxel (La-Crosse). May God bless you abundantly for your willing service and your wives for supporting you. We love and appreciate all of you!

Those recovering from surgery and needing Get Well prayers are Bro. Mel Baum, Bro. Mel Schrock and Sis. Sue Hodel. May you all be "Good as New" real soon!

We were deeply saddened to learn of the death of two of our dear long-time Florida wintertime residents. Bro. Eldon Steffen has been coming to Florida for many years until failing health kept him in Cissna Park recently. Sis. Ann Frautschi of Bloomington did not return to Florida after the death of her husband Carl several years ago. After enduring infirmities of their mortal bodies, they are now at rest with their Lord in a better place. May God comfort the families in this time of sadness.

Note of Thanks:

Sis. Carolyn Siegle wishes to thank all who remembered her with cards, gifts and "Well Wishes" during her recuperation from surgery. It was all deeply appreciated!

FLORIDA, SARASOTA
DiAnne Brown

All our life and conversation
Is before our Saviour's face;
All our thoughts and occupation
This vain world cannot embrace.

Zion's Harp #198

In a recent service, a Brother spoke about basic truths that were never questioned in past generations, but often are today, including the very existence of God. It's alarming to think the very cornerstone of our American heritage is being chiseled into sand and washed away by the constant stream of self-indulgence. We are, indeed, called to be peacemakers, but even Jesus found a need to turn over a table once in awhile. We are called to make our faith known to those we encounter in daily life. It is a challenge I hope to meet.

We heard a lot about Earth Day last week. Preserving the physical world can become almost a religion for some. Caring for God's creation is important, but one wonders, where is the urgent desperation for the preservation of our people...our nation? Why is it so easy to ignore the direct correlation between removing God from our civic places and the loss of civility? We were exhorted to tell someone we know about Jesus and the ultimate conservation.

With abounding joy we welcome our new Sis. Lindsay Leigh Brown (Bro. Larry and Sis. DiAnne) to the family of believers and wish her many happy years in His service. Lindsay gave her testimony on Saturday, March 29, and was baptized on Sunday, March 30, under the guidance of Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Sis. Judy, Chicago, IL), Elder Bro. Bruce Hohulin (Sis. Charlene,

Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Jeff Streitmatter.

On Sunday, April 20, several from the Sarasota church caravanned down to visit Sis. Marie Reardon. She was all smiles and enjoyed selecting some favorite hymns for the singing.

We congratulate Sis. Lindsay Leigh Brown (Bro. Larry and Sis. DiAnne) as she graduates from high school on May 24. Lindsay plans to attend college this fall, and will study Elementary Education and American Sign Language. Her mission trips to Kingston, Jamaica, had a great influence on her chosen profession.

We remember those facing health challenges at this time; including Sis. Marjorie Pittman as she recovers from hand surgery, Bro. Tom Miller and Bro. Todd (Sis. Kelly) Hebert. We send prayers for a speedy and complete recovery from knee replacement surgery to Sis. Betty (Bro. George) Siladie. Please consider a note or a call to these dear ones and let them know they are remembered and do not face these challenges alone.

We thank the following visiting ministers for faithfully sharing God's Word: Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI), and Bros. Nelson Beer (Sis. Shelby, Milford, IN) and Ron Heiniger (Sis. Kaylene, Bloomington, IL).

Will we accept the challenge to let someone we meet today know of our faith? It seems it should be hard not to, if we just remember, "All our life and conversation is before our Saviour's face."

GEORGIA, ATLANTA
Melinda Gramm

Thank you, Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville, OH), Bro. Tom Leman (Sis. Marlene, Denver, CO) and Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH) for ministering to us this month.

Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville, IN) shared the

Communion service with Bro. Tom Waldbeser. Communion is such a holy time of worship when we come together as one body to remember what Christ has done for us. How thankful we should be that the Lord instituted this sacrament.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE
Doreen Moser
Sheila McCoy

"Standing on the Promises of Christ
my King,
thro eternal ages let His praises ring
Glory in the highest, I will shout and
sing,
Standing on the promises of God."

Remembering the death and suffering of our Lord and King, celebrating in His promises and standing firm on those promises, we as a church body shared the bread and cup. Elder Bros. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) and Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) took us through the eternal ages from when Jesus shared communion with His disciples. Truly we had every reason to sing Glory to God in the highest as we have been promised more than we deserve. As we took time to meet and greet each brother and sister in the Lord, can we even imagine how wonderful heaven will be when we can greet Jesus, who gave His life for us?

Standing on the promises that cannot
fail,
when the howling storms of doubt
and fear assail
By the living word of God I shall pre-
vail,
standing on the promises of God.

Bro. Brian Anliker and Brianna Jepson were both hospital patients this month. As doubt and fear were certainly present, the Lord answered the prayers of the families and the church, as both are now healing. We will continue to keep them in our prayers.

Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,
bound to Him eternally by love's strong cord...

We have had the joy of welcoming Daniel Martin who has been assembling with us now and again. Daniel is attending school in Rockford and we appreciate having him in our midst. We are thankful for love's strong cord between our churches and hope he feels just as much at home in Belvidere as he does in his home church.

Overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,
Standing on the promises of God.

Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) was also with us this month. Truly there are battles to overcome on a daily basis and the best way to fight that battle is with the Spirit's sword.

Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
listening every moment to the spirit's call.
Resting in my Saviour as my all in all!
Standing on the promises of GOD!

**ILLINOIS
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL
Betsy Zimmerman
Alissa Kieser**

We took time this month to remember the death and celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ which gives each of us hope for eternal life. Though we are thankful each and every day for what Jesus did for us, it is truly special to worship and thank Him together as a congregation during Easter weekend. We also heard the story through song as we enjoyed the joyful singing of our Sunday School students at this year's Easter program.

We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield) serve our congregation this month. We also enjoyed having retired Elder Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont) with us.

We were each reminded that the calling of God can come at any age as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of three loved ones. We rejoice with Sis. Jessica Robinson (Bro. Mike and Sis. Liz), Sis. Larissa Metz (Bro. Brad and Sis. Karen) and Bro. John Traub (Sis. Bonnie) as they made a public covenant with Christ.

Our congregation also rejoices as it continues to grow. Bro. Jaron and Sis. Marla Huber welcomed home their first child, Aiden David, on March 20. His grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Debbie Huber (Bloomington) and Bro. Darl and Sis. Cindy Schieler (Indianapolis).

Dayn Joseph arrived March 29, welcomed by Bro. Rocky and Sis. Sharon O'Shea and big brother, Rocky. Grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Wilma Kieser (Bloomington) and Bro. Tom and Sis. Jean O'Shea (Chicago) and his great-grandma is Sis. Jean Kieser (Bloomington).

We extend our sympathies to Sis. Judy Knobloch (Bro. Dave) in the death of her father, Bro. Ralph Klopfenstein. Our thoughts and prayers are also with Sis. Beverly Hari (Bro. Everett) in the passing of her brother, Marlin Seggebrauch (Cissna Park) on April 3. We also are saddened by the loss of our dear Sis. Ann Marie Frautschi on April 14 but rejoice that she has gone home to be with her Heavenly Father.

**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Philip and Donna Nenadov**

"Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Matthew 3:2

We are thankful that there are souls still heeding this call today. Kayla Kupferschmid (Bro. Brad and Sis. Cheryl) and Loren Stoller (Bro. Nate and Sis. Sherrill) have made it known to man that they have decided to forsake the world and all its vanity and follow Christ. We wish them our prayerful

support and God's nearness.

We had many visitors this month including the following Elders and ministers: Elder Bros. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville), Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke) and Ron Schambach (Sis. Nancy, Elgin, IL) and ministering Bros. Kent Mogler (Sis. Mary, Minneapolis), John Hartman (Sis. Rosemary, Fairbury), Mike Rinkenberger (Sis. Pat, Congerville), and Nate Wieland (Sis. Suzanne, Goodfield). We are thankful each time we find ourselves under the sound of God's Word.

We were blessed to be renewed in our walk with the Lord as we partook in Communion. Elder Bros. Jim Plattner and Tom Hoffman served us and exhorted the church to continue in love and unity while we wait for the Lord to return. May God bless them for their efforts of love.

We offer our sympathies to Sis. Marilyn Slutz (Bro. Dick) in the passing of her mother, Betty Maurer, of Peoria, IL.

Hospital patients this month were Bro. Marvin Leman who had hip replacement surgery and is glad be back in church.. Our counseling Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker's wife, Sis. Judy, had surgery and we are thankful to report that she is also mending very well. We are thankful for the goodness of our Lord for His power of healing.

We welcome Bro. Paul and Sis. Marilyn Nenadov to Bradford this past month. They had been attending the Eureka, IL, congregation. We wish them God's richest blessings as they take their place among the brethren here at Bradford.

I erred by not reporting a birth that occurred on December 29, 2007. Jordyn Marie was joyfully welcomed into the lives of Chad and Jessie Pyles. Excited siblings are Gavin, Reghann, and Madilyn. Jordyn's grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Becky Pyles and John and Donna Dennis of Henry, IL.

Note of Thanks:

I wish to thank everyone for their prayers, visits, phone calls, cards, gifts, flowers, and the ministers who came to see me in the hospital. It was all very much appreciated. May God bless you richly for all your kindness.

Sis. Elizabeth Kimble

Note: Wednesday evening services start at 7:30 p.m. the entire year.

God be with you 'til we meet again.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Rachel Meyer

Greetings from Chicago. We thank Bro. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO) and his wife, Sis. Betsy, for ministering to us this past month. May God be with you.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Marge Young, who was recently in the hospital. She has since returned to the nursing home. Let us continue in prayer for her.

Our Bro. Chuck Stoller (Sis. Ella Mae) certainly has our prayers as he lost his brother, Floyd Stoller, from California. God knows every one that is hurting.

We solemnly remembered Christ's crucifixion on Good Friday and celebrated His resurrection on Easter. What a mixture of emotions are felt at this time. Above all, we bow in thanks to God and His Son for making salvation available to all people.

On March 26, Bro. Randy Mogler and his wife, Sis. Evie, traveled from Washington, IL, to present a Topical Bible Study about "Witnessing". It was an inspiration to hear about our God-given responsibility to not keep silent - and to "share Jesus without fear."

Also sharing a Topical Bible Study was our Bro. Lenny Meyer. On April 9, Bro. Lenny presented "Knowing God's Will". This is a continuing quest for the believer, and should our prayer not be that God's will always be done on Earth

as it is in Heaven? We thank Bro. Lenny for his message.

We had the opportunity to serve as a World Relief Activity was held April 5. Soup kits, meal kits, health kits and comforters were made for those who struggle to find food and shelter on a daily basis. This concept is foreign to us, so each World Relief activity aids in jogging our memories that we have more than enough. We must pray and continue to do our part for people around the world.

Here's a small observation. At my school, all of the students know that running in the classroom is "not ok". Last month, I overheard an exchange between two little 7-year-old boys. As one of them started to run to the Reading Room, the other called, "There's no running in school." The little runner called back, "I know. I'm just jogging." Life does depend on our perspective.

Note of Thanks:

Our heartfelt thanks for the prayers, support, visits and gifts of love during Tim's accident and recovery. We thank God for His mercy and healing power. May God bless you.

Bro. Virg, Sis. Mary and Tim Metzger

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN

Jackie Eisenmann

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Hebrews 12:1-2

Greetings from Champaign-Urbana! Our congregation is excited about two recent engagements this

month. On Sunday, March 30, the engagement of Bro. Brent Sauder from Champaign and Sis. Janelle Kilgus from Tremont, IL, was made known. Their parents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Mary Sauder and Bro. Todd and Sis. Rita Kilgus, all of Tremont. Sunday, April 13, Sis. Heidi Knobloch from Champaign was engaged to Bro. Joe Gerber from Bluffton, IN. Their parents are Bro. John and Sis. Cheryl Knobloch (Morton, IL) and Bro. Doug and Sis. Ruby Gerber (Bluffton, IN). We wish both of these couples God's blessings as they look forward to running, with patience, the "race of life" together!

Our college students hosted College Weekend on March 29-30. The theme was "What's Your Motivation?" that focused on Hebrews 12:1& 2. We want to thank the visiting ministers who came to speak to our students for the weekend: Bros. Rich Gramm (South Bend, IN) and Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO). There was a good turnout of college students from several states and colleges. We were blessed on Sunday of that weekend when Bro. Loren was willing to stay over and be used of God to preach the Word. May God richly bless all that were involved with the weekend!

The funeral for our Bro. Elwin Fehr was held April 9. Our prayers are with his children, Stuart (Gulya), Brad (Mary), Rolf, Emily (James) Edgecomb, and Brenda (Gary) Kowalzyk, and his grandchildren in this time of loss. We will miss our Bro. Elwin as he is finished with his "earthly race".

Our prayers are also with Jerry and Lois Vogel in the loss of Lois' sister. May God comfort the hearts of all who call upon His name.

We want to thank the visiting ministers who were willing to come for our Wednesday evening Bible studies this month: Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL) and Bro. Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL). It is always good to come together and be encouraged in our "earthly race" and be reminded of the "weights"

of life that can so easily be picked up along the way.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK
Vickie Maul
Janie Waldbeser

We had the blessed privilege of sharing Holy Communion together on March 19. We appreciate the efforts of Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) who assisted our Elder Bro. Tom Stock in this precious endeavor.

We gathered together on March 28 for our World Relief Family Night. It is amazing how much can get done in an evening when everyone works together! What a blessing to share with others who are in need.

April 6 was a blessed day for our Invite A Guest potluck. We were privileged to have many loved ones here to enjoy the day!

We have quite a few babies to announce this month! God has blessed the home of Bro. Greg and Sis. Heidi Maul with another precious little girl, Natalie Ann. Big sister, Bethany, along with grandparents, Mike and Sis. Kathy Maul and Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy Rudin (Forrest, IL), are happy to welcome her. Bro. Nick and Sis. Andrew Walder have been blessed with another boy, Clint Michael. He is also welcomed home by Drew, Brett and Kayla, along with grandparents, Bro. Dennis and Sis. Sharon Walder and Bro. Fred and Sis. Joann Maul. Bro. Max and Sis. Beth Kaeb have acquired the name grandpa and grandma when Trenton William was born to Bro. Will and Sis. Joanna Manz (Junction, OH). Also, first-time grandparents are Bro. Rod and Sis. Beth Steffen when little Joah Grey blessed the lives of Bro. Jeff and Sis. Gretchen Moser (West Lafayette). Also thankful for a new granddaughter is Bro. Gerry and Sis. Geraldine Farney. Elisabeth Rose was born to Scott and Sheryl Spohn of Roswell, GA. Big brother, Carter, is excited to have a little sister, too.

We were prayerful for Sis. Karol (El-

der Bro. Tom) Stock as she was in the hospital this month. We pray God will uplift and strengthen those who are in need and grant a speedy recovery.

We were saddened at the death of two of our loved ones. We hold the family of Sis. Mary Hofbauer up in prayer: her two sons, Jim (Betty) of Cissna Park, and Gene (Elsie) of Rankin, her daughter, Judy (Art) Clements of Bridgeport, MI. We pray for them and their families at this time. Also, our Bro. Eldon Steffen has gone on to his reward. He leaves his dear wife, Sis. Melba; five sons and daughters-in-law, Kenneth and Patsy of Tangier, IN, Dean and Shirley of Chokoloskee, FL, Bro. Marvin and Sis. Rhea of Naples, FL, Jon and Sandy of Naples, FL, and Greg and Darla of Leroy, IL. Also one daughter and son-in-law, Terri and Tom Young of Lakewood, CO. We pray God will comfort their families in their loss. What a wonderful promise from God we find in John 14:18 "I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you." May God seem extra close to each of you during this parting time.

We rejoice over the engagement of Sis. Teresa Kaeb (Bro. Eric and Sis. LouAnn) to Bro. John Hartter (Bro. Tim and Sis. Charlene) of Sabetha, KS. We wish this dear couple much joy as they plan for their upcoming wedding.

We appreciated have Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL) with us this month to share the Word. May he feel God's blessing for his labors of love.

It was a blessing to host ACYF here on April 13 and 20. We thank the many young Bible Class students who came and used their voices to lift God up in song. We pray they received a blessing as well.

Bro. Ken Eisenmann had our April topical Bible presentation. He spoke on Watchfulness. We thank him for the timely warnings he shared with us.

Notice: A beige London Fog woman's coat was taken by mistake at Eldon Steffen's funeral. It has the initials CW on the tag. A similar one was

left in its place, but it is shorter. If you find it, please call Carol at 815-457-2536.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE
Holly Zobrist

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

Genesis 2:24

We were blessed to have two announcements in Congerville this past month. Bro. Perry Klopfenstein, Jr. (Bro. Perry and Sis. Carol, Gridley) and Sis. Joan Craig (Bro. Kim and Sis. Carol) announced their engagement to the church. Bro. Caleb Knobloch (Bro. Jim and Sis. Marcy, Elgin, IA) and Sis. Miranda Luthi (Bro. Troy and Sis. Vanessa) also announced their engagement. We are thankful to hear that the Lord has been working in the hearts of these souls as they prepare to become one in the Lord.

Abram James was recently born into the home of Bro. Dave and Sis. Sandy Steiner. He is welcomed home by his siblings, Samuel, Aaron, Silas, Marie, and Mindy. Excited grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Anne Steiner (Tremont) and Bro. Melvin and Sis. Irma Walder (Champaign).

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. David Graf (Sis. Barbara, Akron) with us for Communion service. Other visiting ministers include Bro. Glen Braker (Sis. Audrey, Princeville), Bro. Brandon Emch (Sis. Maria, Kansas City), Bro. Tom Leman (Sis. Marlene, Denver), and Bro. Brent Kellenberger (Sis. Beth, Kansas City).

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Amy Gasser
Miriam Gasser

We were privileged to have many visiting ministers in the past month and are grateful to God for the blessings

we received through the inspired Word. Bros. Edwin Strahm (Bern, KS), Alan Schambach (Remington, IN), and Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL) served us Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Retired ministering Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) gave an interesting presentation on stewardship the evening of March 26. Also here recently were Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Bros. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH) and Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL).

Our best wishes go to two couples who are preparing for upcoming weddings later this spring and summer. Clint Schambach (Bro. Bob and Sis. Jeanne) is engaged to Lori Hambleton of Woodlawn, IL. They plan to be married June 14. Walter Miller of South Elgin, IL, and Natalie Dietz (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Sara) are also engaged and are making arrangements for a July 11 wedding.

We are thankful that Bro. Charles Schambach could lay down his earthly armor and be called to his heavenly home on April 13. He is survived by Sisters Gertrude Sauder of Elgin and Martha (Bro. Leon) Schneider of Rockville, CT, and Brothers Albert, William (Sis. Cora), and Ronald (Sis. Nancy) of Elgin and Bro. Edward (Sis. Jenny) of Prescott, AZ. Bro. Charles left us with many special memories of his gentle ways, hospitality, and favorite pastime. With hope, we look forward to meeting again in that land of fadeless day.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

**Cindy Stoller
Dee Baer**

Our prayers are with those who have experienced difficulties in their bodily health, including Sis. Helen Wiegand (Bro. Bob), Bro. Sid and Sis. Ann Leman, Sis. Janet Knecht (Bro. Richard), Nigel Meiss (Bro. Trent and Sis. Lucy) and Joseph Zimmerman (Bro. Bob and Sis. Kathy).

Bro. Beirne Messner (Morris, MN) and Bro. Tim Zimmerman (Lamont, KS) helped share in the ministry this past month. We are thankful for their

humble labors.

The wedding engagement of Bro. Pete Wettstein (Bro. Jake and Sis. Mary) and Sis. Holly Hinrichsen (Goodfield, IL, Bro. Mike and Sis. Gerri) was announced. May the Lord bless and guide their hearts as their lives blend into one.

The passing of Sis. La Vina Dotterer has caused sadness in the hearts of her loved ones. Her children include Bro. John Dotterer (Sis. Jeanne), Bro. Bill Dotterer (Sis. Sharon, Lamar, MO), Sis. Carolyn Hoerr (Bro. Mark), and Sis. Marilyn Graf (Bro. Virgil, Altadena, CA). "When a Christian dies, precious is the prize..."

Sis. Dorothy Ginzal said farewell to her sister, Sis. Frances Wiegand. Also, Bro. Eldon Steffen of Cissna Park, IL (brother to Sis. Ida Mae Rocke (Bro. Eldon)) passed from this earth. "Those who love the Lord never say a last goodbye."

First-time parents, Bro. Mark and Sis. Danielle Wiegand, are thankful to welcome home their little boy, Travis Mark. Travis has a new cousin also born to first-time parents, Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Kalsey Knecht. Her name is Rylee Ella. Maternal grandparents of both babies are Bro. Kent and Sis. Chris Leman. Paternal grandparents of Travis are Bro. Don and Sis. Jane Wiegand, and of Riley are Elder Bro. Ervin and Sis. Sandy Knecht. May the love and grace of God be near these and all parents as they seek to raise their children in His ways.

Our high school graduates this year include the following: Arlen Edelman (Bro. Keith and Sis. Nadine), Jacie Fehr (Bro. Dan and Sis. Diane), Phillip Hartter (Bro. Ron and Sis. Janet), Sis. Traci and Sis. Tricia Hoerr (Bro. Mark and Sis. Carolyn), Bonni Martin (Bro. Steve and Sis. Vicki), Sis. Rachel Martin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Marilyn), Katelyn Mayhall (Sis. Tammy Mayhall and Ed Mayhall), Sis. Kate Rocke (Bro. Rob and Sis. Jan), Sis. Connie Stoller (Bro. Stan and Sis. Lola), Keith Wiegand (Bro. Brian and Sis. Tina), and Betsy Zimmerman (Bro. Loren and

Sis. Mary). We congratulate them on their completed education and pray for them to seek and follow the perfect guidance of our loving Lord.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

**Elizabeth Fehr
Anna Schmidgall**

We were reminded of our dear Jesus' death on the cross and His triumphant resurrection during this past month. The Sunday School told us the Easter Story through verse and song. Bro. Rick Plattner was assisted by Elder Bros. Ben Walder (Congerville, IL) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) in serving Holy Communion.

Our congregation rejoiced in hearing the testimonies and witnessing the baptisms of four loved ones. Our new brothers and sisters in faith are Bro. Reid Zehr (Bro. Quinn and Sis. Joan), Bro. Ben Herr and Sis. Susan Herr (Sis. Cindy), and Sis. Leann Steidinger (Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish). We pray for God's guidance and blessings throughout their lives.

We are thankful when God works in the lives of two souls to become one in the Lord. Sis. Maggie Huber (Bro. Rich and Sis. Dawn) was announced to be married to Bro. Cody Maher (Bro. Dan and Sis. Kim, Roanoke, IL).

Bro. Joel and Sis. Amber Plattner welcome Leigha Rose into their family along with big brother, Micah. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Rick and Sis. Mary Plattner and Bro. Kevin and Sis. Denise Kilgus (Forrest, IL).

We are always thankful to have visiting ministers share God's Word. This month Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Bros. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), Tom Bolliger (Tremont, IL), Sid Kaufman (Cissna Park, IL), Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL), Al Schambach (Remington, IN), Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL), DeWayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN), Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), Tom Troxel (LaCrosse, IN), Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA), and Ned Stoller (Alto, MI) served us.

Our prayers are with Bro. Bud

Kelson and Sis. Ruth Meyer as they spent time in the hospital.

Marvin Maier, a resident at Fairview Haven, has made a beginning in repentance. We are thankful that God calls all ages and His desire is that we all have a home in heaven. Our prayers are with Marvin as yields his life to Him.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Jill Wenger
Lori Leman**

“And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.”

I Corinthians 11:24

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

We are thankful for the safe arrival of two new baby girls this month. Bro. Joel and Sis. Heidi Beard were blessed with another daughter, Leah Joy. Her siblings Loren, Katie, and Luke, as well as grandparents, Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill Stoller and Bro. Ed and Sis. Dee Beard (Sardis, OH), are thankful for little Leah. Reese Elizabeth came to bless the home and lives of Bro. Jeff and Sis. Sarah, Clarissa, Travis, Preston, and Justin Mueller. Her grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Renee Wenger and Bro. Ronnie and Sis. Loida Mueller.

We are sad to say farewell to Bro. Trent and Sis. Jennifer Johnson as they have relocated to the Belvidere, IL, congregation for a job change. We will miss them and their two young sons, Kole and Klyne, and hope that they come

home to visit us often.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with our hospital patients. May God be near Bro. Chris Metz (Sis. Viola), Bro. Mel Steffen (Sis. Leona), Sis. Ruth Roth (Bro. Les) and Sis. Judy Anliker (Bro. Wayne) as they recuperate.

We want to thank our visiting ministers this month for lending themselves in the work of the Lord. May God bless Bro. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL), Bro. James Knapp (Congerville, IL), Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Bro. Jedd Rocke (Goodfield, IL), and Bro. Mark Zimmerman (Eureka, IL) for their willing service to us.

Note of Thanks:

We sincerely thank you for the many expressions of love and best wishes we received for our 50th wedding anniversary. It was humbling and overwhelming. May our Heavenly Father bless everyone for their kindness to us.

Bro. Wayne and Sis. Judy Anliker

Notice: A short winter tweed coat with gloves in the pocket was mistakenly taken from Forrest church on Sunday, March 2. A similar one with a scarf, but a size smaller, was left in its place. Please contact Ruth Roth at 815-657-8521 or les_ruth@sbcglobal.net if you have any information. Thank you!

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

**Rita Bauman
Amber Grimm**

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

II Thessalonians 3:1

We were blessed with several visiting ministers this month. Our heartfelt thanks go out to Bro. Virgil Kaeb (Sis. Suellen, Sarasota, FL), Bro. Wayne Lemman (Sis. Julie, Roanoke, IL), Bro.

Steve Martin (Sis. Vicki, Eureka, IL), Bro. Tom Lemman (Sis. Marlene, Denver, CO), and Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL).

Bro. Caleb Wyss (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Donna) and Sis. Bethany Strahm (Bro. Wilfred and Sis. Verona, Bern, KS) were united in marriage on March 9. Engaged to be married are Bro. Pete Wettstein (Bro. Jake and Sis. Mary, Eureka, IL) and Sis. Holly Hinrichsen (Bro. Mike and Sis. Gerri). We are thankful to see God working in the lives of these couples and ask God's blessings on them as they grow together in faith.

Prayers go out to Sis. Vi Hohulin as she was hospitalized this month. May God continue to grant strength and health to her.

Bro. Floyd (Shorty) Hoffman (Sis. Evelyn) passed away this month. Our prayers go out to Sis. Evelyn and her family. Prayers also go out to Bro. Jerry Steffen and his family in the passing of his brother, Bro. Eldon Steffen (Cissna Park, IL). We were reminded recently in a sermon to look towards the eastern sky for the return of our Saviour. It will be such a glad day when we can all be reunited in heaven and earthly cares are over.

Congratulations to our graduating seniors: Sis. Anna Bauman (Bro. Ben and Sis. Marge), Brittany Rieke (Bro. Brian and Sis. Lisa), Nathan Bauman (Bro. Andy and Sis. Rita), and Jake Rokey (Bro. Ben and Sis. Shelley). “And the Lord shall guide thee continually...” (Isaiah 58:11).

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry A. Klopfenstein

Have Thine own way, Lord!
Have Thine own way!
Hold o'er my being
Absolute sway.
Fill with Thy Spirit
Till all shall see
Christ only, always
Living in me!

Hymns of Zion #113

Verse four above (from the hymn, "Have Thine Own Way Lord) is very instructive. Surely all of us would want God to hold "absolute sway" in our daily lives. This is possible if we stay close and make daily and hourly appeals for His grace and power in our lives. If so, we can be a light to others as this song implies.

We have six high school graduates this year: Whitney Butikofer, Sis. Kristin Kaeb, Bro. Preston Klopfenstein, Sis. Victoria Stoller, Wendy Stoller and Bro. Trent Witzig. College graduates are: Joel Campbell, Eric Harris, Lindsay Kaupp, Sis. Christy Stoller, Sis. Amber Miller, Sis. Ashley Hodel and Kelsey Zehr. A dozen students will graduate from grade school.

Sis. Jenn Ringger was announced to be married to Bro. Seth Campbell. Her parents are Bro. Stan and Sis. Colleen Ringger. He is the son of Bro. Mark and Sis. Marcia Campbell. An August 3 wedding date has been set.

Bro. Perry Klopfenstein, II was announced to marry Sis. Joan Craig, Congerville. Her parents are Bro. Kim and Sis. Carol Craig. He is the son of Bro. Perry and Sis. Carol Klopfenstein. They plan on being married on July 6 at Congerville.

Truly, we wish God's continued direction for these couples, who have sought His will in this second most important step in life.

Sis. Helen Zimmerman had surgery and is recovering. Likewise, Sis. Linda Zimmerman is recovering from knee surgery. Bro. Tom Miller continues to fight cancer. Bro. Ed Gramm, formerly of Gridley and now of Eureka, is suffering from a serious illness. Sis. Jennifer Feucht is on bed rest with a pregnancy. May God's power accrue to healing, according to His will.

In a recent sermon the advice from the Lord Jesus was emphasized. Among many other teachings, there are three things He wants the believer to do: (1) Deny self, (2) Take up His Cross, and (3) Follow Me. His grace is sufficient, and if we are humble, this is truly

possible, and can provide for a peaceful, spiritually-beneficial life!

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Annette Tanner Julie Bahr

Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA) so willingly lent of himself to travel to Morton to assist Elder Bro. Ted Witzig Sr. with Communion service. Our heartfelt thanks go to Bro. Ben along with Bro. Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa, Bradford, IL) who came earlier in this month to minister on the topic of "Forgiveness" for our Family Worship Night. "Father forgive us as we forgive OTHERS."

Morton has been extremely blessed with numerous wedding announcements! Sis. Katie Ritthaler was announced to marry Bro. Justin Herman, Peoria. Sis. Katie is the daughter of Bro. Jim and Sis. Kathy Ritthaler. Bro. Justin is the son of Bro. Greg and Sis. Beth Herman from Peoria.

Sis. Heidi Knobloch's engagement was also announced to Bro. Joe Gerber, Bluffton. Sis. Heidi is the daughter of Bro. John and Sis. Cheryl. Bro. Joe is the son of Bro. Doug and Sis. Ruby Gerber, Bluffton.

Kirk Schick is engaged to marry Kristin Parker from Morton. Kirk is the son of Bro. Randy and Sis. Jane Schick.

Brock Bahr is engaged to marry Caitlin Maddock from Washington, IL. Brock is the son of Bro. Brian and Sis. Julie Bahr. A wedding date of June 28 has been set.

Kendon Bahr is engaged to Jacquie Pamson, also from Washington, IL. Their wedding date has been set for August 31. Kendon is the second son of Bro. Brian and Sis. Julie Bahr. Your prayers are coveted for each one of these young people who are beginning this important life journey.

An icy car crash took the life of Bro. John Feucht's brother, Bro. Raymond Feucht (Sis. Marge) of Gridley, IL. Our deep sympathy goes to the entire family

of Bro. Ray Feucht. Sis. Florence Guthrie (late Bro. Richard) of Kiowa was called Home on April 10. She is the dear mother to our Sis. Geneva (Bro. Jerry) Sullivan. On April 3, Sis. Minnie Glueck (late Bro. Karl) passed away at the age of 101 at Apostolic Christian Restmor. She is survived by four children, Rose, Frederick (Diana), William (Debra) and Bro. Karl (Sis. Velda). Sis. Betty Yergler's daughter-in-law, Martha Yergler, passed away. Our prayers are with each grieving family.

The new Apostolic Christian Restmor long-term care facility move-in date was on April 15! About 400 employees and volunteers made their services available to complete the move of equipment and residents all on the same day. God provided beautiful weather conditions and "many hands made light work" of the move, or at least "lighter work." Praise God for His faithfulness.

In the early morning of April 18, Illinois and neighboring states experienced an earthquake. The tremors in some areas were reported as sudden and frightening. Bro. Ted Witzig Sr. shared that the earthquake experience could just as surely have been the coming of our Lord in "the twinkling of an eye." Bro. Ted Hirstein asked "Are you ready and waiting, or are you waiting to be ready?"

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Carissa Klopfenstein Kristin Menold

We wish to thank Bro. Fred and Sis. Diane Funk (Morton), Bro. Erik and Sis. Deb Givens (Princeville), Bro. Sid and Sis. Sandi Kaufmann (Cissna Park), and Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Sara Streitmatter (Bloomington) for visiting our congregation and bringing God's Holy Word to us during the past month.

We rejoice with Jessica Sauder (Bro. David and Sis. Rachel) and Michel Elsasser (Bro. Brian and Mary) who have given their hearts to Jesus. We

pray for God's grace to be with you as you begin your journey with Him.

Congratulations to Bro. Aaron and Sis. Kara Klopfenstein from Indianapolis on the birth of their little boy, Cooper Lee, born April 1. Cooper is the grandson of Bro. Cleve and Sis. Kathleen Klopfenstein and Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Charlene Banwart (Champaign). Cooper's brothers, Caleb and Carter, are very happy to have a new baby brother. We wish you God's blessings as you raise this new little blessing.

Congratulations to Bro. Justin Herman (Bro. Greg and Sis. Beth) and his new fiancé, Sis. Katie Ritthaler (Bro. Jim and Sis. Kathy) who were announced for engagement April 6. Their wedding is scheduled for August 3 in Morton. We pray God's blessings during this time of engagement.

We rejoice to have five new brothers and sisters join our congregation. March 29-30 was the testimony and baptism of Johnny Huber (Bro. Jim and Sis. Jane) who was baptized by his grandfather, retired Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer, Joel Stickling (Chris and Sis. Marsha), Zach Knobloch, and Zach's parents, Lynn and Paul Knobloch (son of Bro. Jim and Sis. Helen Knobloch, Princeville).

April 11-12 was Peoria's Couples Retreat held at the Radisson Inn in Peoria. The speaker for this event was Bro. Ted Witzig Jr. from Morton. Twenty-one couples of all ages attended this retreat. Everyone seemed to have an enjoyable and insightful time.

We wish to thank the MortonAires for visiting our congregation for our monthly Hymn Sing on April 6, and also the 3-5 grade Sunday School students. We thank each person that made the effort to be with us and for your willingness to share.

Please continue to lift up in prayer the Reinhard family as they minister to the Haitians. Political unrest has caused riots; angry people protesting the high cost of food have blocked the

roads. No harm has been done to anyone but there have been threats. Please pray for their safety and for the situation in Haiti to be resolved.

Bro. Dave Sceggel and Bro. Jonathan Aupperle also covet your prayers with the work at the orphanage in Magdalena. Pray for the church and the gospel to continue to go forth.

Other prayer requests this month include Sis. Lillian Cagle, Sis. Loretta Eisenmann, Sis. LouAnn Funk, Bro. Richard Guingrich, Sis. Ruth Huthmann, Bro. Lou Lonteen, Bro. Ted Stoller, and Sis. Mabel Weber, for recovered health.

Our sympathy is with the family of Sis. Frances Wiegand who passed away April 4. She is the mother of Bro. Mike Wiegand. Sympathy is also extended to Sis. Lucille Beyer's family (Bro. Dean and Sis. Teresa Thomas), and Sis. Miriam Messerli in the passing of her brother, Art Endress from Princeville.

Note of Thanks:

Sis. Lucille Beyer's family wishes to thank each one for the many deeds of kindness shown to her at the time of their loved one's death.

Dare we say it? Spring is finally here!

"For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations."

Isaiah 61:11

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE **Connie Christ** **Linda Joos**

Our dear friend, Sarah Alfon, has felt the soul's deep need of a Saviour and is repenting. May God be near her in this conversion process. She is the daughter of Bro. Alan and Sis. Janet Streitmatter.

Visiting ministers have been Bro.

Fred Witzig (Indianapolis, IN) on Easter Sunday, Bro. John Grimm (Columbus, OH), and Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN). March 28 was our all-church Bible Study with Bro. Justin Koch (Washington, IL) speaking to us on "The Power of Corporate Worship". We thank each one for visiting us.

Violet Woertz passed away April 13. She was part of our Princeville church all her life. She leaves behind a sister and brother-in-law, Art and Dolores Frisby. May God comfort them in their loss.

Our sympathy is extended to Paul Streitmatter, Sis. Geraldine Streitmatter, Bro. Alf and Sis. Virginia Streitmatter, Sis. Shirley Kieser and Sis. Mary Lou Streitmatter in the loss of their dear loved one, Sis. Lucille Beyer (Peoria, IL), who recently passed away.

Our hospital patients have been Harry King (Sis. Virginia) and Sis. Elsie Mueller. May God grant them strength and healing, and may His will be done in all things.

We rejoice with Dustin Blunier (Sis. Joyce and late Bro. Dale) and Julie Duis (Bob Duis and Paula Duis) as they exchanged wedding vows December 29, 2007. We wish them much joy and God's blessings as they establish their home and are now one as husband and wife.

Bro. Darin and Sis. Keri Blunier welcome little Morgan Elizabeth, born April 12. Happy siblings are Cody, Mallory, Clayton, Madison, Colton and Connor. Thankful grandparents are Sis. Joyce Blunier (late Bro. Dale) and Bro. Howard and Sis. Mary Ann Herrmann. A new baby is such a miracle and gift from God.

Thankful grandparents are Bro. Floran and Sis. Twylla Streitmatter as their daughter and son-in-law, Bro. Bob and Sis. Kathy Zimmerman (Eureka, IL), welcome a precious son, Joseph Scott. Jonathan and Joanna are happy siblings. Welcoming a new granddaughter is Sis. Mary Lou Streitmatter (late Bro. Don) whose

daughter and son-in law, Craig and Anne Thistlethwaite, rejoice in the arrival of little Kara Anne. Elle is her big sister.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Judy Sauder Dee Fehr

"The grave has lost its sting." Our Sunday School students presented their Easter program on March 19. From the youngest children singing "I Love Jesus", to the Bible Class students proclaiming "There is Power in the Blood", the wonderful story of Jesus' death, resurrection and victory over sin was told. "There is wonder-working power in the precious blood of the Lamb."

We were blessed to be visited by the men's quartet, "Testify", on April 6 and enjoyed a wonderful evening of beautiful harmony in God's praise.

On March 26, Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington) spoke on "Trusting God through Life's Trials" by examining the topic of suffering through the eyes of the Bible. What is God's purpose for suffering in our lives? "For our light affliction which is but for a moment worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." (II Cor. 4:17)

Speaking of life's trials brings to mind Bro. Larry and Sis. Sharon Neukomm, who suffered the loss of their house in a fire on March 29. Thankfully, all family and friends who were in their home at the time of the fire escaped without injury. May God's Spirit and peace be with them as they confront the many decisions that must be made in the ensuing days.

Several loved ones from our congregation have suffered the loss of family members recently. Sis. Marie Hohulin (Fairbury) died on March 1. She was the stepmother of Bro. Mel (Sis. Shirley) Hohulin. Archie Unzicker of Eureka passed away on March 24. He was the father of Sis. Jane (Bro. Jerry) Schumacher. Bro. Rich (Sis. Madelyn) Fehr's brother, Elwyn Fehr (Cham-

paign), died on April 5. We pray God's comforting hand on all as they deal with sorrow and loss in their lives.

There have also been reasons to rejoice in the past month, as new babies have been welcomed into families. Bro. Adam and Sis. Amy Spangler are parents of Bennett Ashlyn, born on April 14. Bennett's older brother is Tanner, and her grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Diane Bates and Bro. Roger and Sis. Dawn Spangler (Morton). Bro. Tim and Sis. Cathy Hohulin's first grandson was born on March 18. Zion McKai was born to Staci and Jerime Barrett of Eureka. Bro. Bob Zimmerman also has a new grandson, Joseph Scott, who was born on March 21 to Bro. Bob and Sis. Kathy Zimmerman (Eureka). Joseph's maternal grandparents are Bro. Floren and Sis. Twila Streitmatter (Princeville).

"Let thy fountain be blessed and rejoice with the wife of thy youth."

Proverbs 5:18

March 23 brought rejoicing and happiness with the announcement of the engagement of Bro. Cody Maher to Sis. Maggie Huber. Their parents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Kim Maher and Bro. Rich and Sis. Dawn Huber (Fairbury). On April 19, Sam Fischer and Erica Martino were united in marriage. Sam is the son of Bro. Bruce and Sis. Deb Fischer and Erica's parents are Tom Martino and Jill Martino.

We are thankful for Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton) who visited us on the weekend of April 19-20, and conducted a Bible study with our young group and also was with us on Sunday to worship in the Lord's House.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Teresa Rowell Janice Sauder

SPRING! It has finally arrived. The sun is shining, the birds are singing, the flowers are peeking their heads out of the ground. IT IS SPRING! New life is

evident everywhere and especially in our church. We have 6 new babies to report! Bro. John and Sis. Misty Sauder welcome Shepard Honor into their growing family. Willow, Echo, Talon, Meadow, Arrow, Halo, Anchor, and Indigo are excited to have another brother. Elder Bro. Charles and Sis. Miriam Sauder are Shepard's grandparents.

Bro. Mike, Sis. Ivy, Mahlon, Joseph, Daniel, Hannah, Titus, Courage, and Blessing are happy that Providence Hope has been added to their family. Bro. Joe and Sis. Marcella Steiner and Bro. John and Sis. Ingrid Buster (Burlington, IA) are Providence's grandparents.

Bro. Todd and Sis. Valerie Steiner welcome Emma Louise into their family. Victoria, Trent, Corbin, Philip, Thad, Faith, Joshua and Lydia are Emma's siblings. Bro. Joe and Sis. Marcella Steiner and Bro. Ken and Sis. Mardell Dietz (Bradford, IL) are Emma's grandparents.

Bro. Paul and Sis. Beth Wagenbach and Jesse welcome the newest member of their family, Olivia Mae. Olivia's grandparents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz Wagenbach and Bro. Dan and Sis. Dorothy Virkler (Rockville, CT).

Bro. Mike and Sis. Carmen Rassi and Kate are excited to add Lincoln Curtis to their family. Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy Rassi and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Marcia Kaiser are Lincoln's grandparents.

Bro. Steve and Sis. Barb Pflederer are excited about their new grandson, Ezra. His parents are Austin and Joni Parker.

We were especially blessed this month to have nine visiting ministers to preach the Holy Word to us. Bro. Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Fairbury) and Bro. Ed Fritz (Sis. Sally, Washington) were with us for Easter Sunday, and we thank them for the Word. Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS), Bro. Dan Moser (Sis. Anne, Elgin, IL) and Bro. Jon Zeller (Sis. Christine, Morton, IL) were here for the testimo-

nies and baptisms of two dear young men.

We welcome Bro. Levi Kaiser (Bro. Tim and Sis. Ruth) and Bro. Galen Huette (Bro. Dave and Sis. Susan) into our church family. We also enjoyed having Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene), Bro. Erik Givens (Sis. Debbie), Bro. Craig Martin (Sis. Terri), all from Princeville, IL, and Bro. James Knapp (Sis. Lisa, Congerville, IL) for the testimonies and baptisms of two couples.

We extend a hearty welcome into the family of God to Bro. Brett and Sis. Laura Hermann (Bro. Howard and Sis. Janice Sauder) and Bro. Aaron and Sis. Katie Ehnle. We wish these new brothers and sisters the Lord's richest blessings as they continue on the Way.

We were happy to hear the engagement and forthcoming wedding of Sis. Janelle Kilgus (Bro. Todd and Sis. Rita) and Bro. Brent Sauder (Bro. Steve and Sis. Mary). In this we wish them the Lord's nearness and blessings as they begin their new walk together.

We also sympathize with those who have lost loved ones. Bro. Karl (Sis. Velda) Glueck lost his mother, Sis. Wilhemine "Minnie" Glueck (Morton, IL), and Sis. Ellie (Bro. Bill) Knobloch lost her brother, Bro. Bob Schrock (Oakville, IA). May God comfort these dear souls and fill the empty spots in their hearts.

Lastly, we wish to thank Sis. Sheri Allen for her time spent writing the news with me. She and her husband, Chris, have been fostering three little ones for about a year and she has decided to pass on the Silver Lining to Sis. Janice Sauder. Thanks again, Sheri, for all your hard work.

Note of Thanks:

We want to thank you for all the prayers, cards, letters, visits, and phone calls we received during Wayne's hospitalization and recovery. It's very comforting to feel the love that radiates from our church family. It warms our heart and humbles us. Jesus works in

all of us and will give us no more pain than we can bear. In His time, He will do His work. His will and not ours be done.

Bro. Wayne and Ruby Miller

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

**Nancy Knepp
Elizabeth Heinold**

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

Psalm 19:1

After a long winter, spring is here. The grass is green and leaves are coming. God shows Himself clearly in His beautiful creation.

We were blessed with visiting ministers this month. Bro. Matt Gerber (Ixtilan, Mexico) has been home here in Washington, and also Bro. Robert Meyer (Sis. Ann, Bluffton, IN). We have enjoyed having them with us and thank them for willingly serving us. Bro. Steph and Sis. Donna Lou Baner were with us for a Topical Bible Study where he shared with us about moderation. It's an awesome thing to see the Holy Spirit speak through willing brothers.

We were saddened by the sudden death of Bro. Ray Feucht (Sis. Marge, Gridley), father of our Bro. Curt Feucht (Sis. Beth), brother to our Sis. Dolly Schick and uncle to our Bro. Don Wagenbach (Sis. Marie).

We are happy to welcome Bro. Scott, Sis. Dorene, Kalahan, Claire and Kamden Aberle. They have relocated from Kansas City and we look forward to getting to know them.

Many prayers were answered with the safe arrival of Mason Alan Steffen! His parents are Bro. Britt and Sis. Megan Steffen. Grandparents are Bro. Stan and Sis. Jane DesCarpentrie and Bro. Larry and Sis. Sue Steffen (Denver, CO).

Bro. Harold and Sis. Ann Meiss celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary this past week. May God continue to

bless them in the days ahead.

Note of Thanks:

We want to express our heartfelt thanks for the outpouring of love in the loss of our husband, dad, and grandpa. We appreciated very much the many deeds of kindness, cards, food, etc., and especially the prayers. May God bless you all.

The John Klaus family

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

**Stefanie Dailey
Jan Schwartz**

To Father, Son, and Spirit praise,
For help and guidance on our ways!
Thou givest power from above,
Hast chosen us, through Christ, in
love,
To be Thine own!

Zion's Harp #200, verse 7

Our congregation had a blessed evening on Saturday, April 6, when we shared in Holy Communion. After preparing our hearts for such a wonderful evening, we were blessed to share it with three visiting Elders. We thank Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Sis. Nancy, Phoenix, AZ), Elder Bro. John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia, Latty, OH), and Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North) for their willingness to share this special time in Holy Communion with us.

We rejoice with Al and Becky Pfister as they have a desire to seek membership in our church. Our prayers are with them as they continue to walk with Christ.

The engagement of Bro. Rodney Reimschisel and Sis. Heather Price was announced to our congregation on April 6. Their parents are Bro. Todd and Sis. Lori Reimschisel and Bro. Steve and Sis. Tonia Price. The following Sunday, April 13, two more engagements were announced. Bro. Joe Gerber announced his engagement to Sis. Heidi Knobloch (Champaign, IL). Their parents are Bro. Doug and Sis.

Ruby Gerber and Bro. John and Sis. Cheryl Knobloch (Morton, IL). Also, Bro. Brian and Sis. Deb Fiechter announced the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Ashley, to Bro. Jason Gerber, son of Bro. Gene and Sis. Becky. Our prayers are with these couples as they look forward to a lifetime together in the Lord.

Our prayers have gone out this month to many once again. Brian Steffen (Bro. Craig and Sis. Jean) has been deployed to Iraq from now through December. Our sincere prayers are with Brian, as well as his family here in Bluffton.

Bro. Ron Macklin (Sis. LaNae) was hospitalized in Indianapolis and faced surgery. Sis. Pat Maller (Bro. Rod) is also facing health difficulties. Also hospitalized this past month was Sis. Sylvia Bertsch (Bro. Oscar). Our sincere prayers are with each of these loved ones and we pray their good health will once again be restored.

Little Myles Kaehr (Bro. Brady and Sis. Kristen) came home after spending the first several weeks of his life in the hospital after a premature birth. We are thankful Myles is doing well and our prayers are with him.

Our hearts are saddened and we extend our deepest sympathy and sincere prayers to Bro. Carl and Sis. Evelyn Hackenjoes in the loss of their son, Bro. Brent Hackenjoes, who went to be with our Lord on April 14. Our prayers also extend to his siblings, Bro. Brad, Andy (Michelle), and Laurie (Ted) Cobarrubia.

Bro. Brent and Sis. Rachelle Tonner were blessed with a baby girl, Ashlyn Kay, born on March 20. She is welcomed by her brothers, Brendon, Brody and Brayson; and by her sisters, Brittney, Kaitlin, Madison, and Riley. Ashlyn's happy grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Diann Tonner and Bro. Sam and Sis. Mary Jo Gerber.

Bro. Michael and Sis. Jane Reinhard became first time parents on April 3. They adopted a little baby boy, Deacon Michael. Deacon's excited grandpar-

ents are Bro. John and Sis. Pam Reinhard and Lee and Julie Braselton.

Sis. Susie Gerber was blessed with a new grandson, Quinn Russell, born on March 21. Quinn's parents are Bro. Corey and Sis. Erika Gerber (West Lafayette, IN). Quinn joins siblings, Allison, Caden and Conlin. Likewise, Bro. Mark and Sis. Wanda Moser welcomed a new grandson, Joah Grey, born on April 10. Joah's first time parents are Bro. Jeff and Sis. Gretchen Moser (West Lafayette, IN).

And finally, on Sunday, April 7, we were reminded of the death and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour as we heard our Sunday school children singing to our Lord in our Easter program. What a blessing it was to all of us who attended!

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Sherry Pfister
Jessie Longenberger**

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

Ecclesiastes 3:1

On March 16, the Easter Program was a blessing and a great success due to the efforts of many. A big thanks to our Sunday school students (our future church), teachers, song leaders, superintendents, parents, and those who shared their home for practices and anyone else who helped to make this a team effort. It was wonderful hearing the true Easter story.

Our congregation has been prayerful for those in the hospital. Lori (Brad White (daughter of Marcia Brewster (Steffen)) was in the hospital due to an allergic reaction during a procedure. Caitlin Williams (granddaughter of Sis. Eileen Cook) has Crohn's Disease and could certainly use and welcomes our prayers. Please continue with ongoing prayers for Leslie (Bucher) Aschliman (granddaughter of Bro. Bob and Sis. Ida Aschliman) and her family.

On April 9, we were thankful to have Bro. Troy Leye (Sis. Kelly, Bluffton) to have the Wednesday message for our congregation. We are grateful for your willingness to share God's Word.

Our prayers over the past few months has been that the Lord would appoint a new Elder. The Lord is very faithful and directed that Bro. Steve Ringger should fill this position. Our prayers continue to go out to him and his wife, Sis. Myra, and their three sons, Bro. Matt (Sis. Rachel), Bro. Michael (Sis. Angie), and Bro. Jon (Sis. Beth), during this time of change and in the days to come. May God bless him and his family for being willing in this work of the Lord.

"We give thanks to God always for
you all, making mention of you in our
prayers."

I Thessalonians 1:2

Our Ordination Service on Sunday, April 13, for Bro. Steve Ringger brought many Elders and ministers. For the Sunday morning service we had Bro. Neal Widmer (Sis. Kristine; West Lafayette), Bro. Ed Sauder (Sis. Bonnie; Roanoke, IL), and Bro. Randy Gudeman (Sis. Becky, Francesville). We appreciate the love and labors of Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen; Champaign, IL), Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo), Elder Bro. William Schlatter (Sis. Emily; Junction, OH), and Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Sis. Jeni, Bluffton) as they assisted Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen) with the ordination service for Elder Bro. Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra).

We thank and appreciate Elder Bro. Phil and Sis. Maureen Stettner for their service to the Lord and in our congregation. May God richly bless you and your family.

Note of Thanks:

Sis. Deb (Bro. Ted) Neuen-schwander is very thankful to be home. Sis. Deb and Bro. Ted appreciate all of your concerns and prayers and are

humbled by the expressions of love and support from everyone.

Our sincere thanks,

Bro. Ted and Sis. Deb Neuen-schwander

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

**Barb Huber
Jessica Murray**

"From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: Lead me to the rock that is higher than I."

Psalm 61:2

This was the verse posted online from Bro. Chad Huber (Sis. Pam) as they are dealing with the birth of their twins, Lucas Andrews and Lauren Elyse, and 34 hours later, Lauren going to be with the Lord. As they are still in Jamaica, the best way to communicate is through prayer. Their family is need of prayers now for strength in healing. We will continue to lift you and your family up in prayer.

Our Sis. Sharon Huber (Bro. Chris) has spent time this past month in the hospital recovering from malaria. We continue to pray for the Lord's blessings of strength and healing as you and your family continue to deal with these health concerns.

Bro. Chris and Sis. Jennifer Nuest are celebrating the birth of their new son, Cameron Alexander, along with big sister Madisyn and big brother Braden. Grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Pam Leman and Bro. Larry and Sis. Jane Nuest. May the Lord continue to bless you and your family.

We send our thanks to Elder Bro. Phillip Stettner (Blufton North, IN) for being here to share the Memorandum. Please take our love and greetings back to your home.

We also pray for several others who have ongoing health concerns, that they can feel the peace and presence of God and His healing mercies at this time in their lives.

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

II Timothy 3:16

With the preceding verse as a guide, we have begun a topical study of the book of Hosea, which has been a blessing, as we consider God's warning and encouragement to the children of Israel, and how it also relates to us today.

INDIANA INDIANAPOLIS

**Sandy Lichtle
Penny Schroder**

We rejoice with Bro. Bert and Sis. Karen Aeschliman on the birth of their grandson, Quinn Russell Gerber, born on March 21. Quinn's parents are Bro. Corey and Sis. Erika Gerber (West Lafayette, IN).

Bro. Aaron and Sis. Kara Klopfenstein were blessed with a son, Cooper Lee, on April 1. Cooper is welcomed home by his big brothers, Caleb and Carter, and his grandparents, Bro. Cleve and Sis. Kathleen Klopfenstein (Peoria, IL) and Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Charlen Banwart (Champaign, IL).

Bro. Darland and Sis. Cindy Schieler are thankful for the safe arrival of their grandson, Zolan Ezra Schieler, born on April 10. Jeremy and Tonya Schieler are Zolan's parents.

On April 5 and 6, we had Indy Outreach weekend. Many young people joyfully gave of their time to help those in need in the community. We thank all of those who participated in this weekend, and we appreciate their servant hearts and labors of love. We also thank Bro. Dick Meister (Sis. Sharon, West Lafayette, IN) who was with us on April 4 and shared an informative presentation on "How the World Views Christians in America."

We were blessed to have Bro. Scott

Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN) with us this month. Thank you for your service in the Lord.

INDIANA, LACROSSE

**Bethany Johnson
Julie Rocke**

EASTER – What a wonderful reminder to each of us of our Lord's sacrifice and of our hope of salvation. A renewing and quickening of our spirits once again occurs as we place our focus on Jesus' resurrection and the miracle that God performed for us, His children.

What a joy it is to be able to travel and to welcome visitors to our congregation. We were blessed this past month, with many visitors and many of them were ministers of the Word. We thank each of them for their service on our behalf. Gathering with us were Bros. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN), Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis, MN), Dan Moser (Sis. Anne, Elgin, IL), Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville, OH), Gary Brown (Sis. Jane, Forrest, IL), Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandy, Alto, MI), and Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynell, Akron, OH). May God bless each of them and their families for their labors of love.

We welcomed many visitors on March 29-30 for our annual Fellowship Weekend. We enjoyed the fellowship and singing throughout the weekend.

A faithful soldier went home to his Lord on March 28. Bro. Doayne Stewart is survived by his wife, Sis. Dorothy, and their children, Doreen (Paul) Kuehl of Kouts, IN, Dale (Nola) Stewart of Big Sandy, TN, Daryl Stewart of Chicago, IL, and Darick (Susan) Stewart of Valparaiso, IN; 8 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren and 10 great-great-grandchildren.

Our thoughts and prayers are with several in our congregation who have met with accident or are undergoing treatment. Bro. Gene Nuest (Sis. Norma) is undergoing treatments for cancer. Rachel Feller (Bro. Joe and Sis.

Jackie) received treatment as well. Hannah Feller (Bro. Joe and Sis. Jackie) is recovering from a sporting accident. May each of them feel the healing touch of the Master Physician.

INDIANA, LEO
Elizabeth Schrenk
Abigail Schrenk

“For thou hast possessed my reins; thou hast covered me in my mother’s womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.”

Psalms 139:13-14

We have two new babies in our congregation who remind us again of the marvelous works of God.

Faye Lydia arrived on April 14 into the family of Bro. Jaret and Sis. Sharlin Wieland. Faye is welcomed home by big sisters, Andie and Aviah, and big brother, Smith.

On April 15, Paige Riley joined the family of Bro. Kent and Sis. Heather Merritt. Big sisters, Alyssa and Sydney, will be overjoyed to have little Paige join them at home.

We pray these two families will find strength and wisdom from the Lord as they continue to raise their children in His honor.

Retired Elder Bro. David Bertsch spent some time in the hospital this past month. We ask for your continued prayers for Bro. Dave as he continues to recover at The Cedars Retirement Center.

We always enjoy our visiting ministers. Bro. Bill Waibel (Sis. Carol, Bay City, MI) brought forth encouraging words. We thank Bro. Bill for coming to visit.

Our congregation enjoyed a brief visit from Bro. Kirk and Sis. Keri Plattner who are serving in Knockpatrick, Jamaica. They have been in the US for a few weeks visiting with family and friends. We thank

them for sharing about what God is doing in Jamaica with the deaf at the Caribbean Christian Centre for the Deaf. We ask for your prayers as they return to Jamaica soon.

INDIANA, MILFORD
Carol Hurd
Pam Beer

We appreciate the visit of ministering Bro. Sam Schlatter and his wife, Sis. Linda (Junction, OH). A special thank you to them for traveling to Milford and sharing God’s Word with us.

In the last few months we have had several new families come and join our Milford congregation in worship on Sundays. We are so thankful that Jose DeJesus Terrazas (Norma) has decided to give his life to the Lord and become converted. We wish him much grace and understanding as he begins his Christian walk.

On March 23, Bro. John and Sis. Carol Hurd celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. We congratulate them on reaching this milestone and appreciate the example they have been to us and the support they give to our church family.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Anne Troup are very excited about the arrival of their new granddaughter, Claire. Claire’s parents are Brad and Kim Brown. We wish them much joy and happiness as they raise their sweet blessing from God.

INDIANA, REMINGTON
Jenni Honegger
Marcella Tyler

This month has been filled with the blessings of the Easter season. Good Friday services were a somber yet wonderful reminder that our Lord and Saviour suffered a cruel journey and death upon the cross. And on Easter Sunday we heard once again that Jesus arose from death and grave to give us hope for our salvation. What a glorious story that truly never grows old, no matter how many times we hear it!

We have enjoyed the efforts of several visiting ministers this month. Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Ruth Ann, Wolcott, IN) gave a topical Bible presentation to our combined Remington and Wolcott congregations about the importance of spiritual balance. Bro. Tony Manz (Sis. Denise, Junction, OH) brought us the Lord’s message one Sunday. And Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Oakville, IA) and Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) assisted with our Communion service this month. Thanks be to God for the willingness of these shepherds and for their wives’ support in their ministry.

We are thankful to welcome back Bro. Ken and Sis. Bernice Schneider from their months in Biloxi, and we look forward to encouraging them in their new life together. We also congratulate Bro. Ed and Sis. Lois Bahler for their recent 60th wedding anniversary. “Sticking with” anything for 60 years is certainly a wonderful achievement, and this is even more true for the sacred institution of marriage.

The Remington congregation would also like to extend a heartfelt welcome to Bro. Neil and Sis. June Knobloch, as well as their children, Grant, Nelson, and Kedron. Bro. Neil and Sis. June moved to the area from Champaign, IL, several months ago and have prayerfully decided to make Remington their new church home. We are thankful for their continued fellowship and the many special talents they will bring to our congregation.

We were sorry to hear of the passing away of Bro. Art (Sis. Audrey) Graf of Akron, OH. Bro. Art was the father of our Sis. Heidi (Bro. Greg) Schneider. Our prayers are with the whole family as they mourn the loss of their husband, father, and grandfather. But we must remember to also be joyful for Bro. Art, who has after a season of great suffering received his eternal reward with Christ!

As we look forward to Mother’s Day next month, we want to remember to be prayerful for our mothers. Whether we

think of the woman whom God used to give us life or of another woman who has been an encouragement to us on our journey of faith, we have all been blessed in some way by a "mothering" figure. Let's remember to thank them for their love towards us and to thank God for their presence in our lives.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND
Becky Langhofer
Natalie Virkler

"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."

I Cor. 2:9

We have had two new babies in our dear church family! Ezekiel Cyrus was born on April 8 to Bro. Joshua and Sis. Keyna Martinez. His older brothers are Marty Jo and Gabriel. Bro. Marty and Sis. Lavilla Langhofer are the proud grandparents.

Bro. Rich and Sis. Samantha Gramm had a baby girl, Kathryn "Kate" Lynn on April 14. Welcoming her home were Elena and Grace. Kate's grandparents are Bro. Scott and Sis. Gigi Schafer and Bro. Ed and Sis. Lucille Gramm (Eureka, IL).

We are thankful for healthy babies and safe arrivals! What a tremendous blessing each new life brings.

Our thanks to Elder Bro. Curt Frank and Sis. Lyla (LaCrosse) and Elder Bro. John Jackson and Sis. Peggy (Bay City) for coming to share Communion with us. Bro. John and Sis. Peggy stayed to share the Word with us on Sunday as well. We are very thankful for your willingness to give of your time!

INDIANA
VALPARAISO
Marguerite Hoerr

Our Easter program was held one week after Easter Sunday in order to al-

low ministering Bro. Bob Beebe (Sis. Sue) to speak to us on that day from the pulpit and at our program in the afternoon. It also allowed a group of brothers from Milford to share their talent in singing for our program. They were Bros. Randy Beer, Reg Beer, Jeff Beer, Brent Beer, Rob Schick and Troy Wuthrich. Randy, Brent, Rob and Troy brought their wives and families with them. Their children joined with our Sunday school as they sang songs in worship of our Risen Lord and King. It was a joyful Sunday and we thank them all, the men, their wives and their children, from the depths of our hearts for the uplift we received. Bro. Cap and Sis. Mary Ann Beer came with Bro. Stan and Sis. Linda Wuthrich to spend the day with us, also. Bro. Cap and I are near the same age. He's my cousin and we are long time friends since we grew up together in Milford. We were able to visit with them and the younger families during our fellowship hour at noon and later on at the dinner we had after church. Again, for Bob and for me, it was especially wonderful meeting people we loved from our home church of Milford.

It made our hearts sing to have Bro. Lyle and Sis. Marilyn Zeltwanger back with us from Phoenix, where they spent the winter. Bro. Lyle spent a good part of the time they were gone with complicated knee surgery. He had extensive therapy and we're thankful for his complete recovery. We missed them and are so happy they're home in Valpo once again.

We also welcome Bro. Ken and Sis. Carol Bucher who spent their winter months in Florida. We missed them to the utmost while they were gone, so it's with gladness that we welcome them back. We'll enjoy both of these couples during the summer and fall months to the fullest.

Our church was blessed with the visit of ministering Bro. Gary Anliker (Sis. Edie, Elgin, IL) on Sunday, April 13. Accompanying them were Bro. Don and Sis. Leanne Schambach. We were-

n't able to be there because I had another carpal tunnel surgery on Thursday of that week; but we got glowing reports about their visit.

Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus was with us the evening of April 19 and served Communion to our congregation. Partaking of this ceremony during the spring months seems so appropriate as we had just celebrated Christ's death and resurrection. It was a very blessed evening, as Bro. Dan and Bro. Garry impressed on our minds the true sacrifice that was offered for us, by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Bro. Ed Lester, Jr. and Sis. Tricia feel God's leading to move to the Elkhart community, and will be worshipping with the South Bend brethren. They have been such a blessing to our congregation ever since their marriage three and a half years ago; both of them teach in Sunday school and will be missed by kids and adults both. We have been uplifted by Sis. Tricia who brought her smile with her from Milford, and her readiness to help wherever she is needed. Bro. Ed was raised in the Valpo church and found his Lord while worshipping here. He now has earned a degree in nursing and will look for employment in the South Bend/Elkhart area. We wish them both God's richest blessings as they move from their first home together to one they have bought near Elkhart. We'll be looking forward to lots of visits when they come to visit Ed's parents, Bro. Ed, Sr. and Sis. Caroline Lester. A farewell gathering for Ed and Tricia will be held on Sunday, April 27, following afternoon services.

Sis. Leona Bucher (Bro. Merle) has plans for hip surgery early in May. Our prayers are with her prior to and during the time of surgery.

Today Bob is driving our son in law, Dick Pelath, to the University of Chicago where Dick is receiving two chemo treatments weekly. This is Dick's third round of chemo and he remains optimistic and full of hope. Bob considers it such a blessing that they are able to

travel together to these appointments.

Don't forget where we're located if you're traveling across Indiana. We're on State Rd S. just 2 ¼ miles South of U.S. 30. Our services are at 10:30 and 12:30 each Sunday. A warm welcome awaits you.

**INDIANA
WEST LAFAYETTE
Darlene Walder
Hollie Meister**

Easter came somewhat early this year and while we remembered Christ's suffering and death during the month of March, we were given the opportunity to share in the emblems of Communion this month and be reminded again of the great price Jesus paid for each and every one of us. We thank our Elder Bro. Curt Frank and Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein in lending themselves on this special evening, April 12.

We rejoice at the coming of a new member to the Moser household. Bro. Jeff and Sis. Gretchen welcome Joah Grey into their lives and hearts. Very excited first time maternal grandparents are Bro. Rod and Sis. Beth Steffen from Cissna Park and also thankful paternal grandparents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Wanda Moser from Bluffton. May God bless you in raising this precious son to love the Lord.

We appreciate those that visited our congregation this past month and especially those that served in the ministry. Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo) was with us, as well as the extended Stieglitz family for a reunion. Also visiting and serving so willingly were Bros. Dan Beer (Milford), Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North), Steve Stieglitz (Leo), and John Lehman (Wolcott). Thanks, Brothers.

We continue to pray for Bro. Leon and Sis. Reva Waibel. Last month we reported Sis. Reva having gone through surgery. She is now recuperating and Bro. Leon underwent a surgery this month. What an example of an amazingly strong and faithful couple they

are. We pray for God's healing and provision in these hours of need for them.

Our dear Bro. Les Meister has laid down his cross and picked up his crown. For several years he assembled with us in his quiet and patient way growing older in years. Bro. Dick and Sis. Sharon faithfully cared for his needs and will be blessed by God for their many deeds of kindness. We extend our sympathy and prayers at his passing to his family, son Bob and children, and Bro. Dick and Sis. Sharon and their sons, Rob and Kristin, Bro. Ryan and Sis. Hollie and Bro. Rustin and Sis. Amanda. Great-grandchildren will also miss grandpa Les. Our prayers are with you.

God bless each and every one of you as we look forward to warmer temperatures here in the Midwest. It does seem to be taking quite a long time but I need to remember to refrain from murmuring. I like the winter months but oh those beautiful warm days of spring. You almost can't replace them.

**INDIANA, WOLCOTT
Lynell Blume
Erica Blume**

Spring is often labeled as a "time of new life." A new life in the form of a precious baby boy was born to Bro. Michael and Sis. Erica Wagenbach on March 31. Jacob Joel joins siblings, Kaleb, Daniel, Joshua, Timothy and Anne, who welcome and love him. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Irv and Sis. Shirley Furrer and Bro. Gerald and Sis. Bonnie Wagenbach (Oakville, IA).

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

Isaiah 53:5

We were once again privileged to go to Calvary's hill and review the death of our precious Saviour at our Holy Communion service on April 13. What a

humbling experience to think of the great price that was paid for our sins! We certainly thank Elder Bros. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie; Oakville, IA) and Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie; Gridley, IL) for so lovingly and willingly assisting our Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna; Remington, IN) in serving us the broken bread and cup of wine. We were reminded that our dear Lord not only suffered and died from all the physical wounds to His body, but also from the weight of sin from all mankind.

Realizing that sin has been a part of their lives and wanting to take advantage of the shed blood of Jesus, our new converts are Clint Blume (Bro. Larry and Sis. Lynell); Harold Lehman (June); Rodney and Jennifer Ross; Melissa Blanding (Michael); Joshua Furrer (Bro. Troy and Sis. Lisa). Our congregation rejoices, as do the angels in Heaven. We pray that the Lord will lead them through a true repentance.

Isaac Lehman (Bro. Rob and Sis. Beckie) and Sis. Maria Lehman (Bro. Greg and Sis. Mary Beth) were surgical patients this month. May the healing touch of the Great Physician be upon both of them.

We are thankful for ministers who labor on our behalf. Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Ruth Ann) gave us much food for thought at our topical Bible study entitled "A Balanced Life" on March 26. Though we live in this world, we must balance that with not being a part of this world!

**IOWA, BLOOMFIELD
Christy Wiegand**

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

Zion's Harp #79 v.3

March 16 was the wedding day for Sis. Jenny Schock and Bro. Kyle Banwart. Happy parents of the couple are Bro. Dale and Sis. Teresa Schock

and Bro. Kent and Sis. Beth Banwart (West Bend, IA). We rejoice with this couple and pray for God's blessings as they make their first home in Ames, IA. There were many visiting ministers here for the wedding: Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA), Bro. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend, IA), Bro. Kevin Banwart (Sis. Sandy, West Bend, IA), Bro. Gerald Wagenbach (Sis. Bonnie, Oakville, IA), and Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove, IA).

On March 29 we shared in the blessing of Holy Communion. We are thankful that Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA) could be with us for this special time, as we commemorated all the Savior has done for us. We thank Bro. Dennis for his labors of love preaching the Word of God to us on Sunday also.

It was recently made known that Brent Wuthrich (Bro. Roger and Sis. DeAnn) and Erica Knapp (Roger and Debbie) are engaged to be married. We rejoice with them as they make plans for their future together.

With Mother's Day approaching, we want to remember our Mothers and thank them for their love and support and for teaching us about God's love by word and example.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

**Karla Gerst
Dixie Messner**

Hallelujah! The Lord arose.
Our ransom now is paid.
The Son is victor over death;
Who're believes is saved.

Hymns of Zion # 257, vs. 5

Truly Easter is a time to reflect on our salvation. How wonderful to know that Christ hung on that cross so our sins could be forgiven. We were thankful to have Elder Bros. Ben Walder (Congerville) and Jon Schmidgall (Oakville) here to serve us Holy Communion.

A void is left in our congregation as

we bid farewell to Bro. Michael and Sis. Rachel Messner and their children, Micah, Abigail and Paul. We wish them God's blessings as they move to Minnesota and join the Winthrop congregation.

We are thankful Sis. Charity Scheitlin is well enough to come to church again.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Bro. Robert Schrock (Sis. Edith, Oakville). He is the brother of Sis. Lois Wiegand of our congregation. We always enjoyed seeing Bro. Bob and Sis. Edith at our monthly singings in Burlington.

Note of Thanks:

We thank you very much for your cards, gifts, concern, and prayers during Ethan's recent illness. It was greatly appreciated!

Matt, Monica, Madelaine, Lydia, & Ethan Eisenmann

IOWA, ELGIN Gloria Frieden

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

With humble, thankful hearts we took a trip to Calvary and remembered the great price our Lord paid for our salvation, and then partook of Holy Communion. Renewed and refreshed in the Spirit, now, we journey on to greater faithfulness and appreciation. Our sincere thanks to Elder Bros. Gerry Hertzell (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS) and Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA) for serving us this blest sacrament. Bro. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend, IA) was also with us on this special day and we thank each one for their labors of love on our behalf.

The wedding engagement of Bro.

Caleb Knobloch (Bro. Jim and Sis. Marcy) to Sis. Miranda Luthi (Bro. Troy and Sis. Vanessa, Congerville, IL) was made known and we want to wish them God's direction and blessings as, together, they seek His will for their lives.

May this be the prayer on the heart of Bro. Ben Frieden (Bro. Floyd and Sis. Jan) as he comes to the close of his high school education.

Guide me as I journey on,
And in the choices that I make.
Be my guide, and walk with me,
Every step I take.
Be within the very heart
Of all I say and do and be.
And fill my life abundantly with love
That comes from Thee.

Bro. Tim and Sis. Kathy Butikofer are thankful for the safe arrival of their new grandson, Noah Fisher Benson (Nick and Meg). Great-grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Millie Butikofer and Bro. Alvin and Sis. Phyllis Banwart (West Bend, IA).

IOWA, IOWA CITY Diana Butikofer

Mother's Day and Father's Day are nearly here and I'm reminded of God's command, "Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee." (Ex. 20:12) Our God is also our Father—in fact, He is our best ever, even perfect, example of what a parent should be. Let us give thanks and strive to show the same grace and love to our children and the rest of His children.

We want to thank Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville, IL) for sharing God's Word with us on a Wednesday evening.

IOWA, LESTER Gloria Moser Polly Metzger

"For ye shall go out with joy and be

led forth with peace..."

Isaiah 55:12

We are so thankful two of our dear converts have been announced for peace, Maura Knobloch (Bro. Stan and Sis. Dawn) and Whitney Metzger (Bro. Blair and Sis. Julie). May they continue to look to the Lord for His guidance and direction, and may they feel His many blessings.

Several dear ones have been hospitalized this past month: Sis. Zelma Knobloch, Sis. Deb Metzger (Bro. Tom), Sis. Marie Knobloch (Bro. Ezra), Bob Molitor (Carol), Sis. Emma Knobloch, Sis. Emma Gerber, and Cade Knobloch (Bro. Stan and Sis. Dawn). We have many dear souls in our community facing and undergoing treatment, and we pray that they will feel God's nearness, and that His healing hand will be with each one.

We appreciate the efforts of our ministering brothers and our visiting brothers as well. Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Bruce Frank (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) have been among us and we wish them God's continued blessings. On April 10, Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) were here for an informational meeting of the A.C. Home for the Handicapped. We appreciate their efforts in this presentation and ask God's continued blessings on the work of those involved in the Home.

On April 12, Morris Metzger (Bro. Glen and Sis. Joyce) and Tonya Moser became engaged. We wish them God's blessings as they make plans for their future together.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes with those who have lost loved ones. Bro. Raymond Feucht (Gridley, IL) passed away March 27. Bro. Ray lived all of his life (except the last four) in Lester. He was a dedicated and loving member of our church. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife, Sis. Marge, and his children, Delores (Abdellah)

Elhabbassi (West Linn, OR), Sis. Jeanette Feucht (Gridley, IL), Bro. Curt (Sis. Beth, Washington, IL), Sis. Sonia (Bro. Brandon) Endress (Gridley, IL), and his grandchildren. He is also survived by his sister, Sis. Emma Gerber; a brother, Paul (Josie); a sister-in-law, Sis. Martha Feucht; and a brother-in-law, Bro. Phil (Sis. Donna) Mogler, all of Lester. Sis. Emily Leuthold passed away on April 1. She, too, was a wonderful example to us. Our deepest sympathy is extended to her husband, Bro. Art, and her children, Bro. Jim (Sis. Betty), Bro. Chuck (Sis. Vicki), Carl (Deb), Mary (Jerry) TerWee, Carol (Bob) Molitor, Martha (Jerry) Dracht, Bro. Doug (Sis. Charlene), Ken (ReNae), and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her sister, Sis. Martha Feucht, of Lester. May God comfort each of these dear families in the days ahead, and may we continue to pray for each one.

IOWA, OAKVILLE Sharla Wiegand

Believing that it is God's will, the engagement of Sis. Krystal Knapp (Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorna) and Bro. Jacob Knobloch of Lamont-Gridley (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jeri) was announced on March 16.

We appreciated having Bro. Bruce Frank (Cissna Park, IL) minister to us on March 16.

First-time parents, Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Brittny Steiner, welcomed Mia Jean on March 22 into their family circle. Thankful grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Carol Steiner and Bro. Jeff and Sis. Monti Wagenbach.

Our dear Bro. Robert Schrock left this life on April 8 to be with the Lord. May God comfort his wife, Sis. Edith, and their children, Debra (Larry) Fountain of Des Moines, Ann (Greg) Johnson of Wapello, Jill (Jeff) Lucas of Fort Madison, Bill (Karen) Schrock of Mediapolis, Joseph Schrock of Kalona, and Dan (Ruthann) Schrock of North

Liberty. Bro. Bob was always sure to meet everyone and shared a hearty handshake.

Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) helped serve Holy Communion on April 5. It is a precious time to remember what our Lord and Saviour did for us.

IOWA, WEST BEND Janet Fehr Sue Schneider

Little Sophie Jo Massner entered this world on March 18 into the lives of thankful Bro. Dallas and Sis. Christy. This makes a playmate for big brother, Caleb. Celebrating the joy of another grandchild would be Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gail Massner and Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy Frank (Oakville, IA).

We recently shared the Lord's Supper together in Holy Communion. Assisting our Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm was Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Janet, Winthrop, MN). We appreciated having him here to share a sacred and blessed evening.

A few people from our congregation have experienced hospital stays in the past month. Ralph (Melanie) Bormann, Miriam Frieden and Sis. Kathy (Bro. Leland) Metzger have each received medical assistance, and with God's help we hope are all on the road to recovery.

April 13 was a special Lord's day as we witnessed the wedding of Sis. Karen Zaugg (Bro. Pat and Sis. Julie) and Bro. Blaine Koehl (Bro. Karl and Sis. Marilyn, Morris, MN). We will miss Sis. Karen's presence in our congregation, but pray for God's nearness in their marriage at their home in Morris. Visiting ministers here for the weekend were the following: Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA), Bro. Gary Brown (Sis. Jane, Forrest, IL), Bro. Beirne Messner (Sis. Joyce, Morris, MN), Bro. Roy Koehl (Sis. Jenell, Morris, MN) and Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX). May God richly bless each one who came to be with us.

Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam,

Washington, IL) and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS) were in West Bend for a Friday evening presentation on the Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped. It was attended by varying age groups and was both informative and interesting.

One more minister blessed us with a visit this month. Bro. Paul and Sis. Shawn Schmidgall and their family (Morris, MN) were here the first weekend in April.

We were saddened to hear that Dave (Lynn) Petersen's father, Norm, passed away on April 14. May God provide comfort and healing to each one that was affected by this loss.

"Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah."

Psalms 46:10-11

JAPAN, TOKYO **Jana Klaus**

Our Easter Sunday was blessed as we had a full church, even some first time visitors, with the Easter service in the morning and the Sunday School program in the afternoon. As always, many in the congregation participated in song or reading, but the main part was the children presenting songs and recitations in both Japanese and English. A special part was when all the mothers of the Sunday School children came up front to join their children in singing two favorite Sunday School songs (in Japanese) – "Shall We Gather at the River" and "Jesus Loves Me". We pray that once again as the beautiful and all-important message of Easter went out, that hearts were touched.

A couple carloads from our Tokyo congregation were able to travel out to the country church, Shioda, to be a part of the minister ordination of Bro. Akihiro (Sis. Carrie) Ito on April 6. It was truly a blessed and encouraging day and we just praise God for this will-

ing couple to carry on in His work in Shioda. Our prayers and support are with them.

We so enjoyed a visit from Bro. Andy and Sis. Chris Aberle (Tremont, IL) as they were back for the first time since they left eight years ago when they spent a few years in Tokyo with Andy's work. It felt so normal to have them a part of our congregation again and to hear Bro. Andy in the afternoon Bible class. Sis. Chris was also able to attend the once-a-month Thursday ladies meeting, which she often went to while she was here. We thank them for coming and hope they come again soon, with their boys, Ben and Drew.

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

We rejoice with Matt Kaeb (Bro. Paul and Sis. Joan), Lauri Stoller (Bro. Arden and Sis. Dar), and Almanzo and Sheila Strahm (Bro. Kyle and Sis. Peggy), as they brought forth their testimonies and were baptized the weekend of April 19-20. We thank Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO) for sharing the weekend with us, as well as Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Cory Metzger (Sis. Jodi, Wichita, KS).

Carson Michael joined the family of Bro. Clint and Sis. Kristi Strahm on April 10! Excited siblings are Katrina and Kelsey. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Curt and Sis. Ellen Strahm (Sabetha, KS), and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary Bachtold (Forrest, IL).

Our hearts rejoice when two souls, led by faith, have been drawn together to become one in the Lord. Bro. Jason Kaeb (Bro. Paul and Sis. Joan) was announced to Sis. Maggi Eisenbise (Bro. Dave and Sis. Sheri, Sabetha, KS). We pray that God will lead them as they plan for a lifetime together!

We appreciate Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty, Silverton, OR) being with us the weekend of April 5-6, as we partook of Holy Communion.

Our prayers are with Sis. Anna Esslinger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gerty, Bloomfield, IA), as she starts her career as a traveling physical therapist. At the time of this writing, Sis. Anna is assembling with the Sarasota, FL, congregation. We pray that God will watch over and protect her in her travels.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT **Martin Hohulin**

We welcome home after a long winter vacation in Arizona, Bro. Bob and Sis. Betty Lemons. They helped to get ready for the mid-winter Conference in Phoenix and were able to hear ministers from many places.

We offer our sympathy to Sisters Julie Bahr and Gloria Fischer. Bro. Raymond Feucht (formerly of Lester, IA, but lately of Gridley, IL) lost his life on a slick road the last week of March. Less than a week later, Sis. Emily Leuthold was relieved of her earthly suffering at Lester, IA. Sis. Julie was a niece to both of them. Sis. Gloria lost a dear aunt, Sis. Lucille Streitmatter-Thomas-Beyer. She was the wife of the late retired New York Elder. These three souls had made preparations for their final departure.

Sis. Juanita Sinn underwent surgery and her husband, Bro. Wayne, required emergency room treatment. Both are back in church again.

Sis. Jan Boge's mother, Vera Ebel, of Spencer, IA, had surgery and is recovering in the home of Sis. Jan and Bro. Bill. In the same family, son Michael Boge and Gloryanna Wilson have announced their engagement. God's blessings to them for a happy and successful marriage.

Bro. Larry and Sis. Julie Bahr and Bro. Jeff and Sis. Gloria Fischer have moved to the Kansas-Missouri state line. Both purchased lovely homes with acreage just a mile from each other. The Bahrs' home was built by Bro. Wayne and Sis. Juanita who have moved into Fort Scott. Both places will afford room for the children to work and play. Each

home is in a different state. Bro. Jeff's address is in the new ministers' book. Bro. Larry's address is Rt. 1, Box 51, Fort Scott, KS 66701.

Due to a crowded schedule, the Sunday school children performed their Easter program after Good Friday services. The voices of the children were a fitting end to this important service.

We were thankful for visiting ministers, Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie) and Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart for Communion services. On April 20, Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN) paid a first time visit to the Fort Scott church. Both messages were timely and well delivered.

Last, but not least, our dear young friend, Melanie Banwart, age 13, started her repentance that day. She and her older sisters, Sis. Andrea and Sis. Emily, are natives of India. They were adopted by Bro. Gene and Sis. Linda Banwart. Praise God for His redeeming grace!

KANSAS, KIOWA
Janice Bahr
Jenny Stewart

When shadows grow long in the evening
 When birds wing their way back home,
 I get a heavenly feeling,
 It's sunset and I'm going home.
 God paints the clouds in the evening sky,
 To show me the way to the palace on high,
 And stars mark the pathway lest my feet should roam,
 It's sunset and I'm going home.
Gospel Hymns #812

These are the precious words that we sang at the graveside of our dear Sis. Florence Guthrie, who fell asleep in the loving arms of her Saviour this month at the age of 92 ½. Sis. Florence was an active and very faithful sister here in Kiowa, right up to the time she was

called home, and it won't be quite the same to go to church Bible study, singings, Wednesday evening and rest home services, etc. and not have her there. We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to her family and pray that the beautiful gift of memory that God has given us will be a comfort until the Lord unites us again in Heaven.

We are so grateful that our dear friend Sheryl Farney is again home after a malfunction with a port that nearly took her life. The doctors told her that this is always fatal but the power of prayer is more powerful than medicine, and the good Lord still has a reason for Sheryl to be with us. May we always pray. It is the greatest gift we can give to one another, and all it costs is our time.

With Memorial Day approaching, may we remember to thank our Lord for setting our souls free, and may we remember to thank our veterans for the freedoms we enjoy in the wonderful USA, and keep them in our prayers.

It will soon be time for graduation, and Blake Wagenbach (Bro. Ken and Sis. Laura) and Joshua Stewart (Bro. Kelly and Sis. Jenny) will be starting high school in the fall. Also, Sis. Tifani and Sis. Chelsie Bahr (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Janice) will be graduating from college. It is so exciting to watch and pray to see just where the Lord will lead Blake and Josh in high school, and Sis. Tif and Sis. Chel in life. To these, our precious young people, we extend our love and congratulations, and these beautiful words of a favorite scripture:

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

Proverbs 3:5-6

God bless you!

KANSAS
LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Ester Knobloch

"And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me."

I Cor. 11:24

On April 5 we were reminded of the price of our redemption as we partook of Holy Communion. We thank Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) for being here to help serve us and for bringing forth the Word on Sunday.

God has provided another ministering brother for our congregation. Bro. Ron Isch (Sis. Jane) has been called to serve from the pulpit. We pray the Holy Spirit will always direct him and give him words of truth to speak in clarity.

We rejoice with the angels in heaven that our dear friend, Liz Isch (Justin), has turned her heart to the Lord in humble repentance. We pray God will be near her as she begins to walk the path of life.

KANSAS, SABETHA
Rebekah Beyer
Carrie Grimm

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

Hymns of Zion #168, vs. 3

As the Easter season has come and gone, let us always remember the price our dear Savior paid so that we may have the hope of everlasting life with Him. We shared Good Friday services with the Bern, KS, congregation.

On March 23, it was announced that our converts, Levi Grimm (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Nita), Jodi Grimm (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Nita), and Lena Hartter (Bro. David and Sis. Beth), are at peace with God and man and desire baptism. Lord

willing, the approving and baptisms will be May 3 and 4.

We rejoice with Bro. John Hartter (Bro. Timothy and Sis. Charleen) and Sis. Teresa Kaeb (Bro. Eric and Sis. Lou Ann, Cissna Park, IL) as they announced their engagement. Their wedding is planned for June 29 at Cissna Park. We also rejoice with Sis. Maggi Eisenbise (Bro. Dave and Sis. Shari) and Bro. Jason Kaeb (Bro. Paul and Sis. Joan, Bern, KS) as their engagement has also been made known. May God guide both of these couples as they plan for their upcoming wedding and marriage.

Our Sabetha congregation held an Invited Guest weekend on April 5-6. We were thankful to have visiting ministers, Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL), Bro. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend, IA) and Bro. Larry Bahr (Sis. Julie, Fort Scott, KS) who were willing servants and shared God's Holy Word with us. It was truly a blessed weekend of fellowship and worship.

We are thankful for the safe arrival of Bro. Curt and Sis. Ellen Strahm's new grandson. Bro. Clint and Sis. Kristi Strahm (Bern, KS) welcome Carson Michael into their family circle.

The Sabetha church hosted the Elder Conference Agenda Committee meeting on April 17 and 18. Elder Bros. Art Nohl (Sis. Sandra, Morris, MN), Curtis Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN), Phillip Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN), and our Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sis. Ellen) served on this committee. We shared a blessed evening Wednesday April 16, with the Bern, KS, congregation as these willing brothers ministered on our behalf. We pray they feel God's nearness and guidance.

Our prayers continue to be with Sis. Jeryl Grimm (Bro. Doug), LaVon Wenger (Sis. Erma), and Sis. Barbara Edelman (Cliff) as they have had challenges of the flesh. Our prayers are also with Sis. Komari Aberle (Bro. Rick) and her family as her father has spent time

in the hospital. We keep these dear souls in our prayers for healing and recovery.

When remembering how Jesus suffered and died on that old rugged cross, may our burdens be lightened and we strive to walk a closer walk with Him.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

We rejoice with Bro. Cory and Sis. Jodi Metzger over the birth of their fourth child, Truman Layne Metzger. He is warmly welcomed by his brothers, Harrison and Landon, his sister Claire, as well as his maternal grandparents, Bro. Max and Sis. Judy Reimchisel, and his paternal grandmother, Sis. Dorene Metzger.

Bro. Al Langhofer is able to assemble with us in spite of recently being hospitalized because of his afflictions. We praise God for granting Bro. Al the strength and desire to be present in our fellowship.

We have two special events which we are looking forward to. First, and most important, is the privilege of partaking of Holy Communion the last weekend in April and the other event, the annual Mother-Daughter Banquet, is planned for the following Saturday. Communion includes thinking of what God has done for us and the Mother-Daughter Banquet helps us renew former acquaintances.

Here is a thought to ponder: Yesterday is history, Tomorrow is a mystery, Today is a gift, That is why we call it the present.

MEXICO, IXTLAN

Matt Gerber

"And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you: To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints."

1 Thess. 3:12-13

Ministering Bro. Seth Gerber from Magdalena visited in April for two weeks and shared the Word with us. Sis. Ruth Cervantes (Tecati, Mexico) arrived to begin work as Administrator for the new school we plan to open in August. Construction on the school is nearing completion and internal planning is beginning full swing. We ask for your prayers for wisdom and spiritual understanding as we begin this important phase of preparation. Also please pray God would cause Sis. Ceci and Sis. Estela's health struggles to work out for His glory and for opportunities to minister to others who are suffering.

MEXICO, MAGDALENA

Gloria Gonzalez

Carissa Schlipf

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

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

1 Peter 1:3

To God be the glory for the living hope we have in the death and resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ!

"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ."

Colossians 3:23, 24

In March we hosted three work teams: two college groups from Illinois State University and University of Illinois/Bradley, and the Roanoke Bible class. We are thankful for all the work they accomplished on the church building and group home, as well as the many other projects that they com-

pleted. The added fellowship was a blessing and the extra prayer on-site much appreciated.

The first CVE Board meeting of the year was held here in Magdalena the third week in March. We were glad to have Elder Bros. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL), Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ), and Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Jerry Tooley here with us, and also welcome new CVE Board member, Bro. Sam Hohulin. We are thankful for his willingness to play a part in this labor of love.

“Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD.”

Proverbs 22:18

The first weekend in April we celebrated the recent marriage of Bro. Jon and Sis. Amy Gerst with a reception here in Magdalena. It was good to have Jon and Amy back to visit and we wish them God’s richest blessings as they establish their marriage and new home in Leo, IN.

“Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.”

Eph. 3:21

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

It was a blessed event to witness the marriage of Bro. Andy Oesch (Bro. Tom and Sis. Michelle) and Sis. Listyn Capman (Tracy). We trust and pray that they will look to God as they begin their new journey together. Congratulations to you both.

We thank our kitchen committee and helpers who handled the menu portion and food preparation for the Regional Elder meeting this past month. The visiting Elders were Bros. John Jackson (Bay City), Mark Bahr (Detroit), Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junc-

tion), and Merle Hartzler (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman).

It’s that time again — we have graduations coming up soon. Our congratulations go to Isaac Blough, Kammeran Koehl, Justin Pratt, and Mike Zaagman from high school, as well as Sis. Stephanie Gerst, Sis. Holly Plattner, Chad Pardo and fiancé’ Jenny Brennan as they graduated from college. We pray for God’s hand in all their lives as they begin yet another journey here on earth.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Sis. Helen Steffen, who lost her sister, Sis. Goldi Steffen, of Bluffton, IN. Also to the family of Sis. Virginia Schutte, a faithful servant of the Lord, who died peacefully at home on her dairy farm in Alto that she and her dear departed husband, Derry, started in 1950. Sis. Virginia is survived by her children, Sis. Louise Desotell, Sis. Susan (Bro. Wes) Daniels, Steven (Sis. Sandy) Schutte, Rudy, Marilyn, and many grandchildren, brothers, sisters, nieces, and nephews. We in Alto will always remember Sis. Virginia’s gentle smile and her wonderful homemade baked goods.

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

Greetings of love in our Saviour’s name! We trust that you are enjoying the beautiful springtime like we are in Michigan.

We are thankful that Bro. Nate Wieland (Sis. Suzanne, Goodfield, IL) was able to spend Easter with his family in Bay City and could share the Word with us. The weekend of March 29-30, Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, La-Crosse, IN) assisted our Elder Bro. John Jackson in sharing Holy Communion with our congregation. We thank these dear brothers for their labors on our behalf.

We trust that the Lord’s healing strength will be with those who have been under physician care recently. We

pray for Norm (Sis. Linda) Andrzejewski, Sis. Eileen Knochel, Bro. Eugene (Sis. Carol) Meylan, and Bro. Glen (Sis. Maria) Ruegsegger.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Marilyn Meylan and her family in the loss of her mother, Nellie Knochel.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT **Manuela Denes** **Tamra Coughlin**

We all know the rhyme “April showers bring May flowers”. Well, we haven’t had too many days with showers yet the spring flowers are in full bloom. What we have had in abundance, however, are showers of blessings.

“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.”

Matthew 17:20

We shared a beautiful Saturday evening listening to Sis. Melinda Lanski as she gave her testimony before the congregation. It is always so moving to hear how a soul can overcome various struggles and come to the Lord and be born again. We were then so happy to embrace her as a sister in Christ on Sunday and are thankful that her husband, Todd, and daughters, Katie and Meredith, could share in the joy that she has in her life. We especially want to thank Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Sis. Loretta) for being here on Saturday night to assist our Elder Bro. Mark with this very important work.

“But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.”

I Corinthians 11:28

It is so hard to believe that another year has passed since we shared Communion. We prepare our hearts for this time and are so fortunate to be able to share the Lord’s Supper with our

brothers and sisters in Christ. Many thanks go out to Bro. John Jackson (Sis. Peggy) from our Bay City, MI, congregation for assisting Bro. Mark in this solemn rite. How blessed we were to be able to partake of the bread and wine for yet another season.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to those who have lost loved ones in the past month. Sis. Mary Weigele (Bro. Ernie) is mourning the loss of her mother, Sis. Florence Guthrie, of the Kiowa, KS, congregation. Sis. Bonnie Popp lost a dear aunt, Mary Maletic, and Bro. Russ Rambeau and his wife, Ginny, bid farewell to her father, Richard Rogers. May the Lord grant His peace unto them all.

We never want to forget those who have not been able to worship with us on a weekly basis, whether it be due to ill health or hospitalization. Our prayers and thoughts go to Sis. Perseda Wieland, Sis. Ann Tachar, Sis. Kathryn Losiewicz, Bro. Hartzel Kaisner (Sis. Mary), and Bro. Willard Bahr (Sis. Eloise). Bro. Warren and Sis. Kay Rauhe are pleased to announce the graduation of their son, Kevin, and his wife, Debbie, from Michigan State University, both with bachelor degrees. May they find success and satisfaction in their chosen careers.

We'd also like to send a note of thanks to Bro. Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH) and his father, Bro. Howard Harmon, and in-laws, Bro. Gale and Sis. Janet Stoller, for coming to conduct services for the month of April at our home for the aged, Woodhaven. Also visiting this month were Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl, Rockville, CT) and Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandy, Alto, MI). May the Lord bless all who work in His vineyard to get the Good Word out!

MINNESOTA MINNEAPOLIS

Mary Mogler

We shared a beautiful Communion service April 30 as Elder Bro. Mike Lemman (Sis. Deb, Denver, CO) re-

mind us of Christ's sacrificial love for each of us. We were blessed to have both Elder Bros. Mike and Art Nohl (Sis. Sandra, Morris, MN) with us for a special evening and again Sunday as they brought the Word to us.

A wedding shower was held for Tyler Messner (Bro. Rick and Sis. Brenda) and Tisha Kroells in honor of their upcoming marriage on June 7.

June 29 is the wedding date set for Brooke Kent (Darcy and Jill, and the late Sis. Rachael Kent) and Ryan Fox. We wish both these couples joy as they make plans for their future together.

It was a blessing to have Bro. Rod Bajema and his wife, Sis. Twyla (Lester, IA), with us and appreciated Bro. Rod's inspired message.

As we commemorate the 20th anniversary of our church, our congregation is making plans for a reunion on September 13-14 for all who lived in the area and assembled with us over the past 20 years. Lord willing, we look forward to hosting and sharing the blessings of special memories of these years.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

**Susie Wulf
Sheila Reuter**

We were thankful for the visiting ministers that shared God's Word with us this month. They were Bro. Scott Wegman (Taylor, MO), Bro. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN), Bro. Galen Rokey (Bern, KS), Bro. David Hartter (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Gene Metzger (Lester, IA). May the Lord richly bless them for their efforts.

We rejoice with Bro. Josh and Sis. Marcy Sundheim as they welcome Cayden Douglas into their hearts and home. He was welcomed home by big brother Clint and grandparents, Bro. Doug and Sis. Joyce Wulf and Stephen and Vicki Sundheim. May God be with them as they raise their family.

April 12 was the wedding of Bro. Blaine Koehl and Sis. Karen Zaugg (West Bend, IA). Their parents are Bro. Karl and Sis. Marilyn Koehl and Bro.

Pat and Sis. Julie Zaugg (West Bend, IA). We pray God will be with them as they begin their life together as one in the Lord.

Our prayers are with Bro. Harold Gramm and he has spent time in the hospital. We trust the Lord will be with him and provide for him.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP Rachel Steiner Julie Schmidt

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

Matthew 28:6

We are thankful for the price that was paid on the cross and the hope that we have of eternal life. Easter morning had an extra blessing with a breakfast put on by the Sunday School students and teachers. We appreciate their continued efforts and labors of love.

We pray for God's healing hand upon our surgery patients this month, Duane Messner (Mona) and Bro. Verl Schmidt (Sis. Jamie).

"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men..."

Gal 6:10

A family World Relief Night was held on March 29 with many of our families present to eagerly help pack beans. Over one ton of beans were packaged and labeled that evening. We thank our World Relief Reps for organizing opportunities such as this.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY Brittany Fehr

A farewell singing was recently held for Bro. Quinton and Sis. Heather Snyder. They and their daughter, Emma, have recently moved to Illinois and have made Taylor, MO, their home congregation. They are certainly missed, but we trust that God will continue to lead and bless them.

MISSOURI, LAMAR**Becky Marti
Dana Braker**

We were blessed this month to be able to partake of Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO) was here to assist with the service. It truly is a blessing to break from the business of this world and remember Christ's sufferings for us. Also here to bring us God's Word this month was Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Eureka, IL).

This month two couples made their engagement known to us. On March 16, Sis. Kayla Kellenberger (Bro. Curt and Sis. Martha) was announced to Bro. Matthew Schaffer (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Martha) of Forrest, IL. On April 13, our Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi was announced to Sis. Becky Marti. Their parents are Bro. Raymond and Sis. Violet Luthi and Bro. Charles and Sis. Alice Marti. We wish these loved ones much grace as they look forward to a new walk together in the Lord.

Our sympathy and prayers are with Bro. Bill and Sis. Sharon Dotterer and family on the passing of his mother, Sis. LaVina Dotterer (Eureka, IL).

MISSOURI, ST LOUIS**Betsy Schrenk**

Our recent visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kansas City, MO), Bros. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla), Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy), and Lenny Meyer (Sis. Charlotte), all of Chicago, and Bro. Jedd Rocke (Sis. Marsha, Goodfield). We thank them for their willing service on our behalf.

With some sadness, our little congregation finished the 10th week of the Crown Financial Bible Study. Our fellowship has been richly blessed by getting together every week for this endeavor. To have the Biblical direction for every aspect of our use of money and possessions presented in this comprehensive study has been so very helpful and enlightening, urging us to develop and keep a heavenly perspec-

tive. As a visiting minister said a while back, if a man's treasure is here on this earth, every day he is moving further away from it. If his treasure is in heaven, every day he is moving closer to it.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR**Kathy Eberhardt**

In the busyness of life, are we staying in tune with the Holy Spirit and in harmony with the Holy Word? We completed our 10 week study of Biblical Crown Financial. We have learned to how to view our lives regarding finance. Our failure to view our present lives through the lens of eternity is one of the biggest hindrances to seeing our lives and our assets in their true light. Yet scripture states that the reality of our eternal future should determine the character of our present lives and the use of our money and possessions. There are more than 2350 verses on how to handle money and possessions.

Jesus said more about money than almost any other subject. This study has brought our Taylor family closer in fellowship and understanding each other's difficulties and needs.

He who provides for this life, but takes no care for eternity is wise for a moment but a fool forever. Jesus said it this way, "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" (Mark 8:36)

We are excited about a new couple relocating to the Taylor area. Bro. Quinton and Sis. Heather, with little Emma have come from Kansas City.

Joining us from Gridley, IL, was a work team to help on His Ranch. Thank you for all your work in this labor of love.

Bro. Tom Waldbeser (Sis. Susan, Atlanta, GA) came to worship with us by bringing forth the Word of Life, and also helped on His Ranch.

Elder Bro. Kent Heimer shared a Bible Study on commitment. Each of us is allotted twenty-four hours every day, to do what we choose. Are we using our

time wisely? Is Jesus waiting to hear from us? Take time, make time or find time to be with Jesus.

**NEW YORK
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG****Hope Graves**

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kansas City, MO) with us for the weekend of April 5-6. We shared a potluck together Saturday evening before listening to the reading of the Memorandum. May the Lord bless Bro. Don for his willingness to travel to our congregation for the weekend - we all received a blessing.

We were also blessed to have ministering Bro. Tom Bahler (Sis. LaNae, Rockville, CT) come and share in the reading of the Word on April 20. This means so much to us, especially when our Elder Bro. Duane Farney travels to other congregations to assist in God's work there.

Our prayers went out to Sis. Karen Farney who was hospitalized in April.

Our sympathy extends to the family of Bro. Gerald Lehman in the death of his wife, Lois, on March 29. Our prayers are also with Sis. Celia Virkler and family in the death of her brother, James Beck, on April 7.

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI) travel to our area for the funeral of Bro. John Rauhe on March 28.

As we look forward to the arrival of summer, may we always remember the Hand who has formed all that our eyes see and behold each day.

Consider ye mortals, the wonders of nature,
Which God in wisdom did create.
Did not our Creator, in power and order,
for man His wondrous works instate?
How can we behold the great work of creation
and not feel moved, His name to praise?
From whom are these wonders?
O, give Him the glory!

Our voice in honor to Him raise.
Hymns of Zion #49

OHIO, AKRON
Mara Henico
Rachel Pamer

Thou my everlasting portion
 More than friend or life to me,
 All along my pilgrim journey
 Savior let me walk with Thee.

How thankful we are that God is able to provide in all seasons of life. This month makes us aware of the many different stations in life and various situations which loved ones in our congregation have recently encountered. We are thankful for the safe return of Bro. Carl Graf from a work team to Juarez and Sis. Michelle Hrubik from a work team to Haiti.

We are also prayerful for the families of our Sis. Esther Fritz and our Bro. Art Graf (Sis. Audrey), as well as Sis. Emily Greenbank (mother of Bro. Glen), as these three recently were called to their heavenly home.

We are thankful that Bro. Leon Graf and Sis. Mary Ann Weigle (Bro. Al) recovered well from surgery and are again able to assemble with us.

It is also a blessing to hear that Tom Reljin (Zarko and Helen) has begun his repentance and trust that God will be especially near as he seeks peace with men and God.

We rejoice with Bro. Adam (Bro. Greg and Sis. Sarah) and Sis. Jeni Henico (Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley Klotzle, Smithville) as they have been joined as one in the Lord. We are thankful that they plan to make Akron their home church.

We were also blessed to be able to have Communion services recently and appreciated having Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo) with us for that weekend. We also were blessed to have Bro. Ted Luginbuhl (Sis. Stephanie, Smithville) to serve in the Word on a separate occasion. We are thankful that these brothers are willing to allow God

to use them to speak the Truth and trust that God will bless them now and in eternity for their labors of love.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Bro. Art Graf would like to express their thankfulness for the many expressions of love and support during his decline and passing. The prayers, visits, and cards meant so much.

OHIO, COLUMBUS
Sarah Rufener

We have enjoyed a great number of visiting ministers this month: Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sis. Alice, Sardis, OH), Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH), Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH), Bro. Steve Frauhiger (Sis. Irene, Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Mike Bauman, Jr. (Sis. Lilly, Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Sam Schlatter (Sis. Linda, Junction, OH). Thank you for sound exhortation in sharing the absolute Truth of God, and your willingness to serve Him.

On April 5 we shared that most intimate blessing of Holy Communion. We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Mark Masters with us for this special evening. "For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come." (1 Corinthians 11:26)

Our congregation was happy to host an entire busload of visitors from Chicago on April 19-20. We greatly enjoyed the fellowship and felt blessed to renew old friendships and make new acquaintances. Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Sis. Judy), Bro. Virgil Metzger (Sis. Mary) and Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy) lent themselves in the ministry. Thank you for traveling the many miles to encourage our small flock!

OHIO, JUNCTION
Vicki Boroff

Our congregation was blessed with a new arrival on March 29 — Trenton

William was born to first-time parents, Bro. Will and Sis. Joanna Manz. Excited grandparents are Sis. Gwen and Bro. Ken Manz, and Sis. Beth and Bro. Max Kaeb (Cissna Park).

We were thankful to have Bro. Fred Domka (Sis. Connie, Mansfield) bring the Word to us.

Our hospital patient this month was Bro. Eli Manz. We are thankful for his recovery.

We were happy to hear that Angie Manz was announced for peace and we look forward to hearing her testimony in the near future.

Thor Etter (Barb and Rob Brink, and Len "Chip" Etter) married Casey Pumphrey (Jim and Sandy Pumphrey) on April 12. We wish them God's many blessings and guidance in their future.

OHIO, LATTY
Amanda Wenninger
Carmen Eisenmann

We are grateful for the ministering brothers who served us in this month. They included Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Sis. Pat, Congerville, IL), Bro. Craig Martin (Sis. Terri, Princeville, IL), and Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL).

We rejoice with Holly Stoller (Bro. Todd and Sis. Pam) as she has made a beginning in her repentance! Our prayer is that God will grant her much grace and strength as she strives to begin walking a new life.

We are also thankful to announce our convert Kim Miller (Derek) as having found the wonderful peace of God. May God be ever near her as she prepares for her weekend of testimony and baptism.

We have two new babies to report this month. April 2 was the birth date of Octavia Kate born to Bro. Ryan and Sis. Kori Stoller. Grandparents of this new little one are Bro. Todd and Sis. Pam Stoller and Bro. Vic and Sis. Brenda Bauman (Smithville, OH). Micah James was born on April 10 to Bro.

Mark and Sis. Diane Sinn. Happy to welcome him home are siblings, Luke, Weston, Julie, Tyler, and Lorie. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Ann Sinn and Sis. Marian Sinn (Silverton, OR).

We are thankful that God was with Sis. Renee Sinn (Bro. Walt) as she recently underwent surgery.

Finally, our thoughts and prayers go out to Sis. Wendy Williamson (Bro. Jason) and Bro. Leonard and Sis. Christine at the loss of their brother and son, Leonard Locher. May God be near this family during this time.

OHIO, MANSFIELD **Esther Baumann**

Two precious gifts from heaven were born into our midst this past month. Charity Lanae arrived on March 21 into the home of Bro. Mark and Sis. Julie Rufener. Also welcoming her home are big sister Esther, and grandparents, Bro. Ron and Sis. Kay Rufener and Bro. Clarence and Sis. LuAnn Zobrist (Congerville, IL).

Natalie Ann Brandt was born on April 17 to Michael and Elizabeth Brandt. Excited big sister Emily, and grandparents, Bro. Greg and Sis. Sharon Sabo and Tim and Ruth Brandt, also welcome her.

We were delighted to learn that Paul Ramsey (Bro. John and Sis. Dawn) has received God's precious peace. We continue to pray for him as he grows in grace.

Gale Dotterer (Bro. Gaylord and Sis. Betty) has moved to California for employment. We remember him in prayer and hope he returns often to visit us.

Our heartfelt sympathy and prayers to Sis. Ruth Domka and her family on the unexpected loss of her granddaughter, Holly Carruthers.

Special thanks to Bro. Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonita, Cissna Park, IL) for his willingness to serve us in the ministry.

Bro. Mike Garunovic (Sis. Jelena) was recently hospitalized and continues to appreciate prayer support as he

recovers.

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

Now it is accomplished! I'm no longer mine;

Lord, I will forever and always be Thine.

For Thou hast created and purchased me too,

Baptized with Thy Spirit,
Thou makest me new.

Zion's Harp #209

We are thankful to welcome three new sisters and one new brother in faith. Sis. Holly Acker (Boyd and Barbara), Bro. Aaron Steiner (Bro. Matt and Sis. Gail), Sis. Amy and Sis. Jennifer Raifsnider (Sis. Diana and the late Doug). We were blessed to hear their testimonies on March 29 and witness their baptisms on March 30. Elder Bros. Mark Masters and Andy Stoller assisted our Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler.

May God richly bless Elder Bros. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH), Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) and ministering Bros. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), Ronald Palitto (Akron, OH), Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH) and Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN) for their visits and labors of love this past month.

Hospitalized this past month were Bro. Kenneth Rupp, Sr., Glenn Winkler (Mary Jane), Sis. Mary Jane Winkler (Bro. Andy), Bro. Robert Steiner (Sis. Betty), Madalyn Bauman (Sis. Stacy), and Sis. Julie Steiner (Bro. Andrew). Our prayers are with those who are sick and suffering.

May God bless the following families and their precious little ones:

Elliot Michael Vanni arrived January 7. Happy first-time parents are Danelle and Jeremy. Also welcoming him are paternal grandparents, Dana and Deborah, and maternal grandparents, Dan and Sis. Anita Pope.

Bro. Eric and Sis. Lisa, along with Caleb and Clara, welcome Corbin Rich-

ard Gasser born April 1. Grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Ellen Gasser and Bro. Richard and Sis. Pat Steiner.

Jorjia Jill Persinger arrived on April 3. Parents are Brian and Jennifer and sister, Jewel. Grandparents are Jim and Sis. Joyce Thompson and Jim and Pam Persinger. Great-grandparents are Bro. Arthur and Sis. Janet Maibach.

John and Sis. Cynthia Nussbaum welcome John Reed born April 14. Excited big sisters are Rachel, Rebecca, Renee and Lorraine.

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to those who are grieving the loss of loved ones. The departure of our dear Sis. Emily Greenbank (Smithville, OH) and to her sisters, Sis. Clara Jenkins, Sis. Ruth Beery, Sis. Anna (Bro. Orin) Rufener, and Sis. Velma (Bro. Elton) Rufener. Also, the passing of Sis. Esther Fritz (Akron, OH) and to her sister, Sis. Joan (Bro. John) Hartzler, and her brother, Bro. Aquilla Barna. Dale (Clara) Bodager of Jeromesville, OH, passed away March 27 and was buried in our church cemetery. Bro. Frank Steidl passed away April 8 leaving four brothers, three sisters, and many nieces and nephews.

OHIO, SARDIS **Faith Beard**

"And he said unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: He is Risen; He is not here: behold the place where they laid Him."

St. Mark 16:6

On Easter, our most Holy day, we once again remembered our risen Lord and King. Also assembling with us for worship on that day was Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago, IL) and we wish to thank him for ministering the Word and this remembrance to us.

I wish to die in my dear Jesus;
His wounded side my refuge is.
By Him the heavens I inherit;

My broken heart is turned to bliss.
In Jesus I will trust always;
In Him I live and pass away.
Zion's Harp #247, vs. 3

Our church family grieves the loss of our Sis. Virginia Riggenschach, who left this earth and time on March 31. We continue to uphold in prayer her dear husband, Bro. Dale, and children: Millie McPeck (Bill), Jim (Melinda), Bill (Kay), and Don (Diane). We also remember Virginia's elderly mother and her sister-in-law, Marie Riggenschach. May God be the greatest Comforter in these times of sorrow and adjustment.

"But if we walk in the light, as He is the light, we have fellowship one with another..."

I John 1:7

On April 12-13 we appreciated the efforts of our many visitors who traveled to be with us as we enjoyed an Invite-A-Guest weekend. Bringing the Word to us that weekend was Bro. Ted Luginbuhl (Sis. Stephanie, Smithville, OH) and Bro. Shawn Lanz (Sis. Sandra, Philadelphia, PA). We express our thanks to both those who served us from the pulpit to meet our spiritual needs and also those who served us our delicious meal for our physical needs.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank all for the love, prayers, phone calls, cards, food, visits to the hospital, gifts of love and the many deeds of kindness shown to us during the passing of our loved one. May God richly bless each one of you.

The Family of Virginia Riggenschach

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Edith Miller
Ruth Gasser**

"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 Oppliger 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.

OHIO, TOLEDO Teresa Rywalski Rebecca Beard

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

I Cor. 11:26

We gathered together for a quiet evening and remembered the sacrifice our Lord made for us. We were then served Holy Communion by our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) and Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH).

Also serving us on the pulpit this month were Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH) and Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis, OH). May God bless these Brothers as only He can.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Brianna Strahm

On March 16 we enjoyed the Easter program presented by the Sunday school students. Following the program, our congregation enjoyed a meal and time of fellowship together. May the Lord richly bless the labors of the students and their teachers.

Our continued thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Kathy Fehr (Bro. Wayne) as she recently underwent a medical procedure and is preparing for upcoming surgery. May their family feel the Lord's nearness and strength through this valley of life.

We appreciated the following visiting ministers this month: Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty) and Brothers Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie), Todd Zollinger (Sis. Michele), and Harvey Kuenzi (Sis. Jennifer). May God abundantly bless them for their labors.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Melissa Kuenzi

Cindy Metzger

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

We want to welcome Sis. Emily Sinn (Bro. Mark and Sis. Elsie) into our brotherhood. Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield, IA) was here to help Elder Bro. Art.

Bro. Ben and Sis. Carolyn Bolliger and family are in our prayers for the recent loss of their son-in-law, Dave Milo (Grace). We pray for the Lord's nearness to their family especially during this time.

Our prayers are with Bro. Chuck Walter (Sis. Karen), Bro. Lee Kuenzi (Sis. Janet) and Adeline Kuenzi (Lyle and Andréa) who have recently been hospitalized.

We are rejoicing with Mark Dietrich who has found peace with God and

man. Lord willing, we look forward to his testimony and baptism in the coming months.

Our congregation has been blessed with two new arrivals this month. Nash Samuel was born to Bro. Sam and Sis. Tyrene Moser on March 21. Nash's grandparents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Glenna Moser (Rockville, CT) and Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda Kuenzi. Ariana Alyse was born on March 24 to Bro. Jim and Sis. Tresa Zollinger. Ariana's siblings are Brianna, Carson, Collin and Niles. Grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Shirley Zollinger and Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda Kuenzi.

We certainly appreciate the willingness of the ministering brothers every time they give of themselves. This past month Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA), Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield, IA) and Bros. Ron Jones (Sis. Liz) and Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy) of Portland were in Silverton serving our congregation.

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA

Our congregation is rejoicing with the knowledge that two precious souls from our midst have given their hearts to the Lord. He knows each of us by name and one by one, He reaches out His hand in love and mercy. Responding to His call are Emily Wiegand (Elder Bro. Ben and Sis. Michelle) and Bonnie Isch (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Linda). We trust that God will guide these precious souls as they become established in His service.

We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Duane Farney and his wife, Sis. Karen (Croghan, NY), with us recently. Bro. Duane assisted our Elder Bro. Ben in leading our Communion service in remembrance—the Lord gave His life, His broken body and His shed blood, as a sacrifice for us. We thank Bro. Duane and Sis. Karen for their support.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

Mike and Monica Fritz

We wish to express our heartfelt sympathy, prayers, and support to the family of Bro. Darin and Sis. Tami Kupferschmid, whose brother-in-law, Bro. Ryan Carr (Sis. Kandi; Eureka, IL), was recently taken from this life in an auto accident. We want to express that same sympathy, prayers, and support for Sis. Kandi, and the extended families of both Bro. Ryan and Sis. Kandi, as well as their young children.

We are so thankful for our visiting ministering brothers, who have so willingly and capably served us with their example and with God's Word. Our recent visitors have included Bros. Gary Sinn (Sis. Paulette; Latty, OH), Tim Zimmerman (Sis. Barb; Lamont-Gridley, KS), Ron Kipfer (Sis. Linda; Bluffton, IN), and Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy; Junction, OH), and Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH). We have also been greatly strengthened by the fellowship of brethren and friends visiting from Chicago, Congerville, Eureka, Fairbury, and Forrest, IL; Bluffton, Francesville, and LaCrosse, IN; Bern and Lamont-Gridley, KS; Morris, MN; and Junction, Latty, Mansfield, and Rittman, OH.

If you are traveling in or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. The following churches are scheduled for services in the near future: LaCrosse, IN (5/25); Bluffton North, IN (6/1); Remington, IN (6/8); Sardis, OH (6/15), Roanoke, IL (6/22), and Tremont, IL (6/29). 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.

TEXAS, AUSTIN

Amy Ringger
Serenity Ringger

Jesus fed the 5,000 with a great miracle. "And they did all eat, and were filled." (Mark 6:42). Not only did they eat, but they were filled.

What a blessing it is that we can receive the spiritual food and it can fill us each week, each day. We are thankful for the ministers who were willing serve us in the past month: Bros. Gene Lehman (Sis. Verna, Wolcott), Dan Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford), Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, La Crosse), Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend), and Duane Roche (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis). Visitors were welcome from Cissna Park, Lamar, Forrest, Congerville, Silverton, Lester, and Eureka.

The following is the minister schedule for June: (1) Leo, (8) Kansas City, (15) South Bend, (22) Smithville, and (29) Taylor. We extend a warm welcome to anyone who may be in the area to worship with us, even midweek, though we don't have a regular schedule for midweek services. Please call ahead to help us plan for serving lunch. Also, because visitors add much to our local fellowship times, it helps if we know about your visit well in advance, perhaps even a month or more if possible, so that we can accommodate you more readily in our weekend gatherings. See the ministers' book for local contact information.

Directions to our church are these: from the intersection of Hwy 71 and 21 on the west side of Bastrop, go east on Hwy 71 about 1/2 mile and take the first exit (by the Ford dealership), proceed on the eastbound frontage road about 4/10 mile. The church is on the right. It is located about 18 miles east of the Austin airport. The address is 1025 W. Highway 71, Bastrop, TX 78602. It is a one-story building with limestone siding and the church sign in the front.

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

would like to use the bedrooms during the time you are here.

TEXAS, McALLEN

Sandy Kipfer

Greetings to all in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We thank our visiting ministers, Bro. 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 1 1/2 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.

VERMONT, CLARENDON

Kirby Reutter

"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body."

Matthew 26:26

Those of us who live and worship in Vermont have so many reasons to feel blessed. For five years now, Apostolic brothers, sisters, and friends have been worshipping in rented facilities here in

Vermont. At first services were held only one time per month, then two times, and then three. Starting in April of this year, we are now meeting four times per month, twice on the western side of the state and twice on the eastern side. Now we are even looking forward to establishing a building fund for a permanent, more centralized location!

Thankfully, we have been ever more blessed spiritually! Bro. Warrner Zahner was recently asked to serve as an Ordained Deacon in Rockville, CT which means he will have increased responsibilities here in Vermont as well. On May 4, Bro. Warren will be with us and deliver our Communion Exhortation. On June 1, both he and Bro. Kevin will return to serve us the second Lord's Supper to be held in Vermont. We wish Bro. Warren and his wife, Sis. Bonnie much grace and wisdom as they assume additional responsibilities in service to the Lord's church.

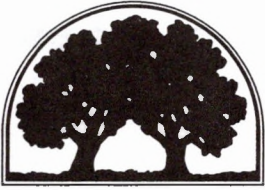
As always, we continue to appreciate the Rockville ministers, their wives and many other visitors who repeatedly make trips to worship with our small flock. Throughout the rest of the year we will also look forward to many other visiting ministers from other parts of the country as well.

Please do not hesitate to worship with us at any time of the year!

"And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

Matthew 26:27-28





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
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*Jerry and Arlene Banwart, 307 First St, Congerville, IL 61729
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Interested in Houseparenting?

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

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

Lynn Stieglitz
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Mentoring

Although the word "mentor" is not mentioned in the Bible, the concept occurs frequently throughout its pages. In the Old Testament, Moses received advice from his father-in-law that enabled him to delegate responsibility. In the New Testament, Jesus spent much of His earthly ministry in mentoring His disciples. He taught them how to pray, instructed them in the way of salvation, and helped them grow spiritually.

Philip the evangelist mentored the Ethiopian eunuch in response to the Spirit's command to "go near, and join thyself to this chariot" (Acts 8:29). Philip helped him understand the gospel message of salvation through faith in Jesus. The apostle Paul was a mentor to many, especially Timothy and Titus. Paul's letters to them are beautiful examples of mentoring instructions, warnings, and godly advice.

What is mentoring?

A simple definition of mentoring is "coming along side and helping someone." A mentor establishes a relationship with another in order to give wisdom, help, encouragement, support, and guidance. The desired result is that all parties will grow closer to Christ in their daily walk and closer to the fellowship of believers making up the Body of Christ.

"Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend." (Proverbs 27:17)

Some of the purposes and goals of mentoring are:

- * Giving encouragement and providing support, guidance, wisdom, and help.
- * Helping others attain spiritual growth.
- * Modeling leadership.

Mentoring is a Gift of the Spirit

Mentoring is listed as one of the gifts of the Spirit in Romans 12:8. The gift of "exhortation" is a translation of a Greek word that literally means "coming alongside to help" and implies such activities as admonishing, supporting, and encouraging others. Actually, the role of a mentor is closely related to the mission of the Holy Spirit - comforting, guiding, warning, chastening, directing, instructing, convicting, encouraging, and helping.

In 1 Corinthians 12:28, Paul mentions a list of various duties that are assigned to members of the Body of Christ. One of those listed is "helps" which is a translation of a different Greek word that refers to the act of rendering assistance to the poor, supporting the weak, and ministering to the needy. Its inclusion in that list indicates how important it is to God that the members of the Body of Christ be willing to take on that role in the church.

Diversity of mentoring skills

One author has identified nine different and unique applications of mentoring skills. While no one individual has all of them, almost everyone is capable of performing at least one. Here are descriptions of the most common mentor types:

Discipler - a person who is a more mature follower of Christ relates to a new convert or less mature believer and shares knowledge, skills, and a basic understanding of what it means to be a growing follower of Christ.¹ This would be most helpful for an individual who was just beginning his or her walk with Christ.

"Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." (Matthew 16:24)

Spiritual guide - a person who is a godly, mature follower of Christ relates to a less mature believer and shares knowledge, skills, and understanding in what it means to grow spiritually.² This would be most helpful in a believer of any age who realizes he or she is weak and has not achieved spiritual growth as God desires.

"I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able." (1 Corinthians 3:2)

Coach - a person who knows how to do something very well and is willing to demonstrate those skills to another who wants to learn them.³ This spans a wide diversity of areas, such as parenting, cooking, studying, speaking, building relationships, witnessing, and marriage enrichment.

"And he [Apollos] began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took

him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly." (Acts 18:26)

Counselor - a person who specializes in giving advice in situations which are often critical to another's development.⁴ This happens when someone contacts another and asks for advice or counsel on resolving an issue or making a decision.

"And Moses' father in law said unto him, The thing that thou doest is not good. . . . Hearken now unto my voice, I will give thee counsel. . . . Thou shalt provide out of all the people able men . . . to be rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens: And let them judge the people at all seasons: and it shall be, that every great matter they shall bring unto thee, but every small matter they shall judge: so shall it be easier for thyself, and they shall bear the burden with thee." (Exodus 18:1-22)

Teacher - a person who has a knowledge of some subject area and is willing to teach that information to another so as to make a difference in his or her life.⁵

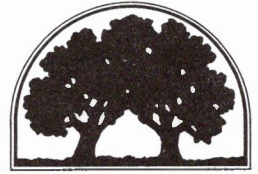
"Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also." (2 Timothy 2:1-2)

In conclusion, mentoring is learning how to grow spiritually from people whom God brings into our lives. The vast majority of people who benefit from mentoring have a desire to grow and learn. As long as God gives us life and breath, we need to continue to grow, to be used as servants, and to help others with the gifts God has given us.

References

1. Clinton, J. Robert and Clinton, Richard W., *The Mentor Handbook*, Altadena, CA: Barnabas Publishers, 1991, pg. 3-6.
2. *Ibid.*, pg. 4-4.
3. *Ibid.*, pg. 5-3.
4. *Ibid.*, pg. 6-4.
5. *Ibid.*, pg. 7-2.

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.
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U.S.A. BOARD WORK PROJECTS

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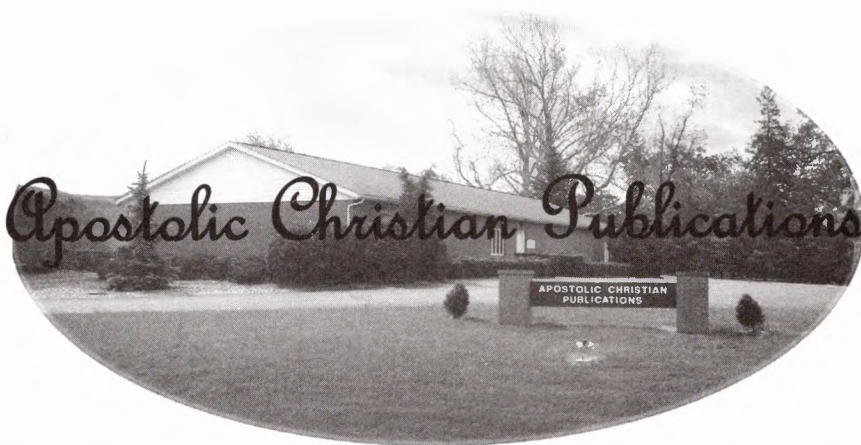
*"Where there is no vision, the people perish:
 but he that keepeth the law, happy is he."
 Proverbs 29:18*

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ack, isn't it? Oh, you talk to people and they'll say, what's the world coming to? I like to tell them it's coming to an end. Some day there's going to be a judgment day. There's going to be a time where God is going to say, to here and no further. He is going to bring His judgment. This God that's a loving, merciful God, one that each of us who were lost in sin found it so, didn't we, that when we were sinful, wretched, lost and we stood outside of God and we came to Him with a humble heart and in repentance and we knelt before Him and said, God, I'm a sinner, He heard our prayer, didn't He? He took us up and He picked us out of that miry, awful pit of sin. He placed our feet on a path that led to heaven.

Dear friends, it still works today. Maybe there's one of you sitting here this morning. The devil's come to you and he's told you, your too ugly sin, your sin is too great, there's no way the blood of Christ can cleanse you of that. Maybe he's told you He won't hear your prayer. He's lying to you. He's the father of lies, we know that, don't we, loved ones.

But I believe we have to keep in mind the time is at hand. There's a judgment day coming. Some day God's love and mercy will go from that to a God of wrath. It says, who shall be able to stand against the wrath of the Lord (Nahum 1:6)? We can all answer that, can't we? No one. No one can stand against the wrath of the Lord some day.

Let's read about these churches. It says, "Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;" Rev. 2:1. You'll notice throughout the book of Revelations, the number seven comes up often. I believe it means completeness or perfectness. It talks about the seven stars, the seven golden candlesticks. It also talks of the seven churches, the seven spirits. I believe here He is talking about, the seven golden candlesticks could be the seven churches.

"I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:" Rev. 2:2. Brothers and sisters in Christ, we are called, aren't we, to a life where we are to lead a life that is separated from the world. Here He said, I notice you can't bear them which are evil. There's a theme throughout the Scriptures that talks about leading separated lives. That we don't let the world filter into our hearts and lives. That we don't let the things of this life bog us down, the cares of life.

Maybe there's one of you that came this morning and you're thinking about yesterday or tomorrow. Or you are thinking about where you might make your next dollar. I just encourage you, WAKE UP! It's all going to burn up! We're going to lose it all. We won't take any of it with us. But the busy-ness of life sometimes can draw us away from God, can't it?

We can be busy in things that are good. It reminds me of a little poem I quoted recently in Latty. It goes something like, I knelt to pray but not for long. I had too much to do. Must hurry off and get to work, the bills would soon be due. So I said a hurried prayer, jumped up from off my knees. My Christian duty now was done. My soul could be at ease. It goes on to say, "No time, no time. It was my constant cry. No time to help those in need. At last was time to die. And as I came before the Lord, I stood with downcast eyes. For in His hand He held a book. It was the Book of Life. He said I've searched the Book from front to back. Your name I cannot find. I once was going to write it down but I could never find the time. If we don't have time for God here, He won't have time for us on judgment day. That's part of that day that's going to come, the wrath of God.

He complemented this church. He said, thou hast tried them which say they are apostles. They knew a false doctrine. Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, is the object of your faith the cross of Christ? Is there anything

more important in your life than the cross of Jesus Christ? Because that's where it all began. That's the basis of our faith. We must believe that Jesus Christ came, died on the cross, shed His blood for the sins of the whole world. And through His blood being spilt there on Calvary, we could find forgiveness of sins. It was of no good work that we had done. We were all born sinners. We were all condemned to hell eternally. But Jesus took our place. That's sound doctrine and He commended them for it.

"And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted." Rev. 2:3. You might say they were faithful. I hope I don't disrespect anybody by what I have to say. But if you listen, I think you will agree. In here it said, I believe, blessed is he that overcometh for he shall receive the crown of life (Rev. 2:7). I think it is more appropriate that we use the word 'overcome' at times than faithful and I'll tell you why.

My mind goes to a man that's a neighbor of ours. He's somebody I would call faithful, but he doesn't have God in his life. He loves his wife. He's faithful to her. I never questioned whether he would cheat on his wife. He's faithful to his country. He served as a soldier in our army. He's faithful in paying his taxes. I'd have him do anything for me. I trust him. He's honest. He's also faithful - just had a neighbor get caught in a combine. He was the first one there. Loved his neighbors. He doesn't go to church. He doesn't know anything about God. He doesn't care to know anything about God. His life at times is full of sin. He's not an overcomer. If the world would end tonight, I fear he would end up in hell.

The overcomer is one that doesn't have sin in his life. That's both on the outside and the inside. You can't see into my heart. I can't see into yours. We perhaps could have hidden sin and fool people for a while, can't we?

It says blessed is the overcomer.

Sermon continued on page 44

Sermon continued from page 43

Up to this point we think this church is doing a good job. But in verse four it says, "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love." I've often read that chapter and I just didn't know quite what to make of that verse. Nevertheless thou hast left thy first love. We read these verses before, and we sense a people that hates evil. They can't stand it. So if they've left their first love, what's missing?

I want all of you that are married right now to go back to when you were first married. I think if you are like me and my wife, there are so many memories you have when you are first married. First of all, for Brother Brad and Sister Rachel, I'm sure you were at a point, over the last few months, that when the phone rang, or maybe you had your cell phone and you looked and - that's Brad. You're so excited to hear his voice. Maybe you called your wife soon after you were married and said, honey I love you. I am going to be home pretty soon. She met you at the door and was so glad to see you. It's that first love. Just a great overwhelming feeling of love one for the other.

Let's take that to the spiritual side. Remember when God first called you. Maybe some of you were steep in sin. You can remember God's great love for you. You were so thankful. It was so easy to praise His name. It was so easy to get down on your knees and thank Him for what He did for you. You had that first love.

This church had left it. So what did they leave? They no longer were sensitive to the Holy Spirit. I think at times they became too judgmental. It can happen to us loved ones. Doesn't mean we don't judge sin. Doesn't mean we don't look at something. There is an old saying that goes, if we don't stand for something we'll fall for anything. We can be too critical. I think that happened to this church. We need to be careful.

The devil would love to drive a wedge between us, wouldn't he? That might be a battle he's winning.

It's sad. You know who loses out when he drives a wedge between us? You and I. And our dear friends. I don't want to stand before God someday and hear Him say, you know you were too critical. You were too hard. You caused divisions in the church. You were a stumbling block to a dear soul that wanted to come and serve God. But they were discouraged because they didn't see love in your heart.

Do you have a burden for the lost? Judgment day's coming. I just encourage all of you to go home tonight and get down on your knees and pray for the lost like you've never prayed before. Because God's coming back. I have loved ones. You have loved ones. We don't want any of them to go to hell, do we? Hell is a real place.

There's a little town in one of our islands and it's named hell. People go there. It's a tourist attraction. I think it is a tourist trap. That's what hell is. It's a tourist trap. People don't realize how bad it is going to be. If the devil can get us to laugh at something, it takes away the seriousness of it. A comedian will tell a dirty joke and people laugh. They don't realize it's wrong. That's what the devil is doing with hell today. He's making light of it and people are just rejecting it. Just brushing it off, saying, it's not that bad. It is, loved ones. It is going to be a terrible place.

Remember the man that had five brothers? He said, somebody go back and tell my brothers. They don't want to come here. The rich man and Lazarus. Lazarus was in Abraham's bosom and the rich man, it says, was tormented in hell. Tormented. Day and night. It's not going to end. (St. Luke 16:19-31) So we have to, don't we, keep the lights of the church burning.

I want to share a personal story with you. I know at times we are encouraged not to do this. But before I repented, I came to church. Had long hair, about down to here. There was always a brother who came up and shook my hand. He knew my life was wrong. He knew that I wasn't headed the right way. He'd come up to me and he'd ask me about the ac-

tivities in my life. What did you do this week? The week after I graduated from high school, the same man, same brother - he's gone now. Can't wait to meet him again. He came up to me and he said, Gary, don't want to offend you but now would be a good time to give your heart to God in repentance. It didn't offend me. Because I knew he loved me. We just can't go up to our dear friends and say, you need to repent. We have to develop a relationship with them, don't we? Brothers in Sunday School, are you doing that? That they might be encouraged to come to know God.

Brothers and sisters, we can have love and truth in the church. It can be done. We need to strive for that. That needs to be our goal, to have love and mercy and compassion for each other and also stand for the truth of God's Word. This church had failed in that.

"Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place except thou repent." Rev. 2:5. That's the message today, dear friends, is repentance. God did it right, didn't He? Remember we said earlier that God's always been one step ahead of the devil. Because He set up a plan when He saw the law was no longer working. He saw that sin was taking over. He said, I'm going to send my Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. He's going to come here below and He's going to lead a perfect life. He's going to go to the cross and die for the sins of the whole world, that we could be spared.

It just reminds me of a little incident that happened back in the depression. In New York City there was a mayor by the name of Philip LaGuardia. Matter of fact, there's an airport after that name today, LaGuardia Airport. He was the mayor and he decided one day to go to the night court where the misdemeanors and the felonies were judged. As he sat there for an hour, all of a sudden an older gray headed woman came in, crippled and could

arely walk. She went up and she sat down. The judge said, why are you here? She said, I'm here because I stole something. She went on to explain, my son's out of work. We had no food. I've never stole before in my life. My children and my grandchildren were hungry. I thought, I'm the one that needs to do this so she went and stole a loaf of bread to feed her family. She said, I'm not very good at it and I got caught. I've never done it before and don't plan to do it again. Well, the judge said, a law has been broken. He gave the sentence. I think it was a \$5.50 fine or ten days in jail. She said, I don't have any money. I'll have to spend it in jail. Mayor LaGuardia walked over and he picked up his hat. He said, I'd like to take up an offering and he passed it around the courtroom. A lot of those people were poor but they put in what they had. It came out to \$5 and some kind of cents. About perfect for a fine. He said, here you take it and pay your fine.

Isn't that what Jesus did for us, seeing we had a debt we couldn't pay? But He couldn't go among you and I to find an offering, could He? God didn't say, go choose the men and women of the world and bring an offering for sin. No, He had to send His Son, His only Son.

How many of you only have one son? I do. It would be so hard to give him up. Jesus did it because He loved you and me. He went to the cross and He died for the sins of the whole world, that we as mankind could be saved from that terrible wrath that we've spoken about this morning.

Let's go to the next church. "And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive; I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan. Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: but thou faithful unto death, and I will

give thee a crown of life. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith..." Rev. 2:8-11. Here's a church that was commended. They were anchored in Jesus Christ and Him crucified. They once were dead. Now they're alive. Are we alive this morning spiritually?

After we serve God for a while, sometimes we can have a deadness creep into our lives. Perhaps we are not reading the Word of God the way we should. Perhaps we are not spending time in prayer the way we should. Perhaps we're too involved in the things of this life. He said, you are poor. And they were. They were poverty stricken. But He said, you are rich. What will be said about us some day when we are laying in our casket at the front of the church? Will they say he had great lands and great possessions? He was a great person.

That's what they did with the rich man, didn't they? It said he fared sumptuously every day. (St. Luke 16:19) He had everything he wanted. I think at his funeral they eulogized him clear up to heaven. But he went to hell. Because his heart wasn't set on Jesus Christ and Him crucified, was it? His life was lost eternally.

He said, you are poverty but you are rich. How can we be rich and be poor? Because we have the greatest gift ever given to mankind. We were reminded a while back in Latty, over the holiday season some of us might give gift cards. Some of them are never used. Businesses love them. People buy gift cards to give to somebody and I forget how many of them aren't redeemed. They are put in a drawer and they are forgotten about and pretty soon they expire. God gave the greatest gift: His Son. That whosoever believeth on Him should not perish but have eternal life.

So let's continue on, brothers and sisters. Perhaps this morning the Word has spoken to your heart in one area or another. Don't justify your life and say well, I'm like this church. I hated sin. I can't stand them that are liars. Perhaps on the other side, our spiritual being, we've left our first love. Let's just look in-

ward, each of us. I'll tell you right now, it spoke to my heart. Oh, because I am saying it doesn't mean the Word doesn't speak to us. There's verses in here that really challenge me. Matter of fact, I'll be real open with you. In some ways, I've felt a little bit like a hypocrite standing up here. Specially when I see some of you older brothers and sisters that have weathered the storms of life. I have a lot of work to do in my life. The Word has challenged me to do that. So let's make sure that we keep the lights of the church burning. That those that are lost can find their way to salvation. That when that great day comes, we'll all be ready to meet Him.

A hymn comes to my mind now in closing. I don't know if I can quote it exactly. But I feel like it sums up what we've tried to say this morning. It goes something like this. All the railroad cars are empty as they rattle down the track. In the newsroom no one watches as machines type pointless facts. All the planes veer off their courses. No one sits at the controls no more. For the King of all the ages has come to claim eternal souls. Happy faces line the hallways. Those whose lives have been redeemed. Broken homes He has mended. Those from prison He has freed. And the young and the aged stand hand in hand, all aglow. Lives who were ruined, broken, crippled, now in garments white as snow. The King is coming. The King is coming. I just heard the trumpet sound. Now His face I see. Oh, the King is coming. The King is coming. I just want to leave that last part for each of you to answer. It ends, Praise God He's coming for me! Can we say that this morning?

Official Apostolic Christian Church Website

** Providing basic information about our church and linkage to other church-related sites is located at:*

www.apostolicchristian.org

Full Time Service Positions in Haiti

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

Child Care Support

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

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

MEBSH Construction Department

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

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

Those interested in considering these positions should contact:

Bro. Ted Hirstein

67 Sapphire Point, Morton, IL 61550

309-266-8769 hirstein@mtco.com

Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services

73 East Queenwood Rd,
Morton, IL 61550

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

877-370-9988 (toll free)

www.accounseling.org

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- Referrals to specialized services
- Apostolic Christian Way of Purity
- Information and presentations on Biblical financial stewardship
- Materials and presentations on other specific topics
- Mentoring for students in mental health-related fields
- All calls are confidential

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

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.

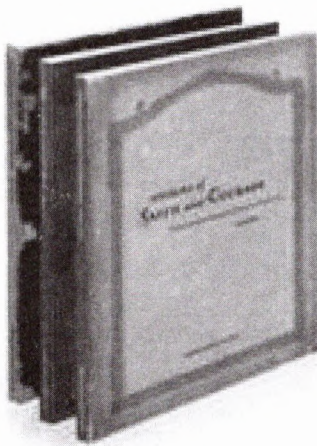
The Director of Activities is an active participant on the nine member Management Team and also manages our Adult Day Services program. A college degree is desired, but not required. A love of the elderly and good oral and written communication skills are important.

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
or call him at (734) 261-9000

*Did I mention we have a very active choir at our church?
 Assistance with moving costs will be provided.*

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

CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 2008

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

HAITI			
Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of May 12th, 2008 - www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/			
Project	Date	Coordinator	Capacity
Les Cayes, FRW Vocational School	Jun 20-27, 2008	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 topnotch@home.ffni.com	4
JAMAICA			
Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of May 12th, 2008 - www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/			
Knockpatrick School, CCCD	Jun 28- Jul 5, 2008	Pete Webel 419-756-2587 wpw47@aol.com	40
Jamaica Deaf Village, CCCD Akron, Rittman, Smithville SS	Jun 20-27, 2009	Jay Maibach jmmaibach@embarqmail.com	40

CCCD = Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf
MEBSH = Missions of Evangelical Baptists of South Haiti
Palm Grove = Mission of Haiti
S.E.E.D. = An Agricultural School & Extension Service
TBA = To Be Announced
Palm Grove = Mission of Haiti

A.W.A. - B. = Apostolic Water Aid/Bluffton
A.W.A. - FRW = Apostolic Water Aid/Francesville, Remington, Wolcott
A.W.A. - T = Apostolic Water Aid/Tremont
 (*) = Changes or additions since last issue
 (**) = Spring Break Timeframe

Mexico Work Teams 2008

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

Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of May 12th, 2008 - www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-mexico/

Project	Date	Coordinator
Magdalena Construction	Jun 7-14, 2008	Don Hoerr/Peoria Bible Class hoerrfamily7@insightbb.com
Magdalena Construction	June 21-28, 2008	Brad Gehring/Taylor Bible Class 217-228-9849 bradgehring@yahoo.com
Magdalena Construction	June 28-July 5, 2008	Kent Mogler 651-452-8586 kent.mogler@comcast.net
Magdalena Construction	Jul 12-19, 2008	David Zeltwanger/Francesville Bible Class 219-567-2378 dakzelt@urhere.net
Magdalena Construction	Jul 19-26, 2008	Blake Stahl 630-740-7461 Chicago-Champaign Bible Class bcstahl01@hotmail.com
Juarez Medical/Dental	Sep 17-24, 2008	Cheryl Herrmann 309-385-1082 cherrmann@verizon.net
Magdalena Construction	Nov 22-29, 2008	Rod Schmidt 303-774-7913 rschmidt@Acosta.com

Summer Worship Services in Colorado

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

- July 13 & 20 -** Best Western Alpenglo Lodge - Conference Center
 Located in downtown Winter Park (78665 US Hwy 40)
 Office: 888-726-8088 (toll free)
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

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

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

"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 dkaiser@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, Tennessee Fellowship Chariman Bro. Don Sauder (615)373-8928 or don.sauder@juno.com or Tennessee Fellowship Treasurer Bro. Mike Moore (256) 729-0620 or alm38@aol.com.



REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

Following are excerpts from a writing entitled, "The Days of Yesterday in Woodford County, Illinois." It includes data from the early days of the Apostolic Christian Church at Congerville, Illinois. It was compiled by Sis. Mae Schrock in 2001. On May 1, 2008, she observed her 104th birthday. She is a younger sister of deceased Elder Bro. Noah Schrock, Oakville, Iowa, and deceased ministering brothers Joe Schrock and Jess Schrock, Congerville, Illinois.

"When Elder Joseph Virkler from New York State visited the Congerville area in 1850, there were no Apostolic Christians living here. His preaching and that of Elder Benedict Weyeneth brought repentance and conversion to a few families, who at that time, were Mennonites.

Their meetings were held at homes, in barns, or wherever space was available. In the summer, when weather permitted, the few converted Apostolic Christians, with families and friends, held their meetings in the woods, as there was no church building at that time.

A small church was built about 1895 near the Mackinaw River. What is now called the Congerville church was called Slabtown, because there was a small town or village called slab town in the area. There were a few stores such as a post office, and a store for supplies, a sawmill that cut slabs from the area woods, etc. These slabs were

used to build the homes of the pioneers. The sawmills were always near water as waterpower was used to operate the mills.

All converts were baptized in the Mackinaw River until 1919 when five souls were baptized during the latter part of May. Sometimes, when baptisms were in the winter, a hole had to be cut in the ice. For later baptisms there was an outside pump near the church. A horse tank was brought in and filled with water from the tank.

The old Congerville church at that time was one single building with a narrow hall across the south front room. In the summer the front doors were kept open for fresh air, so it was not surprising if a chicken or some type of friendly neighbor would come in. Sometimes a hat would blow off a hook in the hall and come cart wheeling down the aisle. There were two heating stoves in the assembly room.

The kitchen and dining room were across the back. The dining room had three tables: two for the women and children and one for the men. It was also used for Sunday School where the children were taught to read German instead of Bible stories. The Sunday school had to be dismissed early to set the tables for lunch, which consisted of bread, butter, and jam.

There was also a narrow open porch across the back. Beyond that on the north side was one single room called the summer kitchen where the coffee was made in a big

copper boiler.

There were no screens on the windows so "fly chasers" were used. These were long sticks with colorful ribbons or probably crepe paper streamers. Usually the young girls would take the fly chasers and walk back and forth along the table shaking them to keep the flies off the food.

Compared to our comforts today the above account seems nearly unbelievable. Yet, it is valid, and from the memory of one living yet today.

In view of this account, the Remembering column would like to interview any 90-year-old person older, who still has a clear mind. I am sure much historical data could be garnered, and kept in store for future generations, if the Lord tarries. If you know of any such person(s) please call me at 309-747-2803, or at 800-847-6686.

Treasures of Praise

Thy conflict is our peace.
Thy death is our salvation,
Thy bonds, our liberty,
Thy pains, our consolation.
Thy cross doth comfort give,
Thy wounds a balm that heals.
Thy blood a ransom is,
Thy Word a hope reveals.
From the "Zion's Harp,"
"One For All," page 44, verse 5

By Perry A. Klopfenstein
Gridley, Illinois

Next Issue: More history

The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

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“On Being An Example”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

Is there anyone in your life who has influenced you by being a good example? Have you ever thought, “I would like to be like that person?” Have you ever thought that others look up to you for a good example? Do you believe others want to be like you? These are questions worth considering. As Christ did not live for self but for others, it is my understanding that all Christians or true believers should not live for self but for others. It is part of being a good example.

In I Timothy 4:12 we read, “Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.” Ministers are supposed to be good examples so that everybody wants to be like the ministers in our church. We hope and pray that all of our ministers have that kind of respect. Timothy was instructed to be a good example in what he said but also in his attitude and purity of life.

Now if you find someone who is a good example and you model after him or her, the rest of the people in your church then have two good examples to imitate or follow after. That’s better than having just one good example. If all of the believers in your church then model after the two of you, you have a whole church of good examples. If the whole church becomes a good example of the kind of people true believers should be, those not yet converted will have many good examples to observe and the Holy Spirit is more apt to gain entrance into their hearts. Before I repented and surrendered to the Lord, I remember thinking that I wanted to be like another young man who had repented and was baptized in our Princeville Church. He was a good example to me.

Maybe that’s a bigger problem than we know; too many of us are not the good examples to others that God wants us to be. One poor example in a church

can harm the reputation of the whole church and also the reputation of Christianity. For some reason, a poor example is whispered about much more than a good example.

We need to be good examples to each other but the greatest example for all of us is the Lord Jesus Christ. I Peter 2:21 reads, “For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps.” Peter was telling the believers that if they suffer for doing well, they should take it patiently, as Christ did.

The Bible teaches us to be cheerful. “But be of good cheer,” John 16:33. The Bible teaches us to be kind. “And be ye kind one to another.” Ephesians 4:32. If you wait until you don’t have anything to worry about before you start to be cheerful and kind, you will never be cheerful and kind. Let’s be good examples now.

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... for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Psalms 23:4

