

The Silver Lining

*As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten:
be zealous therefore, and repent.
To him that overcometh will I grant
to sit with me in my throne,
even as I also overcame, and am set down
with my Father in his throne.*

Revelation 3:19,21

February 2009

Sermon by Bro. Jim Meiss, Phoenix, AZ

II Chronicles 35 and II Thessalonians 2

Greetings in the name of Jesus. If we are able to assemble together in the Lord's house today, we truly are very privileged. We have much to be grateful for. We just sang together that He will lead us by waters still and He will fill our thirsting souls. So may we be filled with that thirst, that desire for the truth of God's Word, trusting that He is able to give us all that we are in need of.

Last Sunday morning we had the privilege of considering King Asa, as we read from the Old Testament. The teaching really struck me, as we talked about a king who served God well for thirty five years. I think somewhere in the reading, the word 'perfect' was used to talk about the things that he did (I Kings 15:14). When we think about it, that's pretty commendable. Thirty five years he was doing the right thing.

Brother Bill, last Sunday, shared that it had been about thirty four years since he'd been baptized. My wife and I are both about at that same point, where it has been about thirty five years since that time when we made that beginning. We think that's really a pretty lengthy period of time. That's really something!

Then King Asa started to rely upon himself. He looked at the treasures that were in God's house. Using his own logic and his own thinking, he devised a plan that was not according to God's will. He turned from the path of serving God with a right heart. (I Kings 15)

It really struck me as a reminder that this great adventure that we are on, of walking with the Lord, this wonderful privilege that we have of relying on His grace and looking forward to being with Him one day in heaven, it's a day to day thing, isn't it? Moment by moment we have to realize that our strength is not of ourselves. It doesn't matter what we've done in the past. But in the midst of this battle day by day, we need to look to our God, rely

upon Him and trust Him for the grace to take the next step, believing that He is able to complete the work that He has begun.

So we consider once again, in II Chronicles 35, an incredible time, an incredible celebration of a beautiful thing that took place. A king that was in tune with God. That had been given proper guidance, as a young man, by Godly men that taught him and showed him the way. They had this Passover and there was nothing else like it!

I had to think, as we read about the singers here, the years went by and God's people were hauled away captive to Babylon. Eventually they were allowed to go back to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple. Nehemiah came and they had the Passover again and the singers were there again. Nehemiah went back to Babylon and he came back to Jerusalem and he just was disgusted with what he found, because once again, the people, even though they had taken part in such an incredible Passover, we read there in Nehemiah that provisions were no longer made for the singers, so they were scattered to the fields to try to provide for themselves (Nehemiah 13:10). They had drifted away from being close to God.

Here we read about Josiah, almost exactly like Asa. He went to battle. He had his own plan. He used his own thinking, his own logic. He thought, well, surely I can do this. His life was taken from him. (II Chronicles 35:20-24)

So we look at all this and we consider it and we say, what does this mean? What hope is there if these godly men made bad choices that led to their downfall? What does it mean for me? I am so grateful today, that I can stand here with the truth of God's Word and tell you that because of the gospel of the good news, because of Jesus Christ, because of the words that were recorded by His disciples, Peter tells us, ye are not

saved by vain things. You were not saved by the tradition of your fa-

Sermon continued on page 42

The Silver Lining subscriptions are due from the following churches. Please collect in:

March

1. Garden Grove, IA
2. Valparaiso, IN
3. Silverton, OR
4. Bloomfield, IA
5. Phoenix, AZ
6. Gridley, IL
7. Zapata, TX
8. Congerville, IL
9. Washington, DC
10. Lamar, MO
11. Morton, IL

Suggested Donation: \$14/subscription

Next correspondence due:

For March Issue

(16 Jan. News - 15 Feb. News)

Due: 20 February 2009

The Silver Lining (Vol. 64, #2)
1389 County Road 1600 N
Roanoke, IL 61561

USPS 496780

Published Monthly By The Apostolic
Christian Church of America

Counselors:

Ron Schambach, Tom Stock

Official Apostolic Christian
[Church Website](http://www.apostolicchristian.org)
www.apostolicchristian.org

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

cleman@mtco.com
(e-mail is preferred)

The Silver Lining
1389 County Road 1600 N
Roanoke, IL, 61561
309-923-7192 (phone)
775-923-9987 (fax #1)
309-923-7359 (fax #2)

Periodical non-profit - postage paid at Roanoke, IL 61561, and additional offices. The subscription rate is a donation. Send zip number with address. Remember to send changes of address. Send both old and new addresses (with both zips). Postmaster send address changes to:

The Silver Lining
1389 County Road 1600 N
Roanoke, IL 61561

"Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church."

(1 Cor 14:12)

February 2009

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

Spiritual Gifts

Spiritual gifts are given by God to every believer. They strengthen the Body of Christ and assist in carrying out His work here on earth. The Word teaches that we are to be knowledgeable (not ignorant) about spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 12:1). The purpose of this editorial is to help us grow in our knowledge and understanding of God's plan regarding spiritual gifts, so that we can become more useful vessels in the Lord's kingdom.

Key points to be considered regarding this subject include: 1) all members have useful gifts, 2) humility is essential, 3) there are many different gifts and roles and each member is needed, 4) there is to be no comparing, competition or division within the Body, 5) application of gifts has no value without charity and 6) utilization of gifts must be to the glory of God and for the edification of the Church.

Every member of the Body is given gifts and is placed in a position where he or she can be useful. *"But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal"* (1 Cor. 12:7). *"But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him"* (1 Cor. 12:18). God has a wonderful plan whereby we can exercise faithful stewardship of His gifts, as those who will someday give an account (Matt. 25:14-30; 1 Cor. 4:2).

Humility is a prerequisite for grace, without which no good thing can be accomplished. *"...God resisteth the proud and giveth grace to the humble"* (1 Pet. 5:5). Humility helps us remember that our gifts come from God and any results are for His glory. True humility does not allow us to elevate ourselves (1 Cor. 12:3) or put ourselves down (Psa. 139:14). A false humility can cause us to draw back and fail to use the gifts which have been given to us. Failing to use our talents and gifts is not humility but irresponsibility. We should not say, *"I cannot... for I am a child"* (Jer. 1:6) as Jeremiah did when he was called to serve. God does not call the "qualified." He first desires a willing mind (2 Cor. 8:12), and then He qualifies those He calls through Spirit-endowed gifts and grace.

Our motive for service should never be to seek glory for ourselves as the Pharisees who sounded a trumpet when they gave alms (Matt. 6:2). Sometimes there is criticism of the fact that we give honest, factual reports of the useful contributions made when God-given gifts are applied in the many outreach activities of our church (World Relief, Missions, Home for the Handicapped and Gateway Woods websites, Silver Lining articles and informational presentations, etc.). If the motive were to elevate self or glorify man, this would be in error. Rather, the purpose is to glorify God, to provide information regarding opportunities and to encourage others to offer themselves for humble deeds of service, which is in accord with God's Word. *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven"* (Matt. 5:16). *"And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works"* (Heb. 10:24).

The Holy Spirit bestows a wide diversity of gifts and roles in order for the Body to be complete and fulfill all of its functions. These functions are also known as the four-pillar mission of the church. We are often reminded of the importance of giving balanced emphasis to each of these pillars (sharing the Gospel with the lost, nurturing the believer, preserving sound doctrine and serving others). No individual is gifted equally in all of these areas; thus all members are needed and must work together in harmony in order for all of the various functions to be carried out effectively. *"And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you"* (1 Cor. 12:21). Our diversities of gifts, personalities and backgrounds can be directed by God for the furtherance of His work on earth, if we submit to Him, live obedient lives and sincerely love and esteem one another (Eph. 4:16). These diversities are not intended to be used for selfish purposes or to justify independent interpretations and applications of the Word (2 Pet. 1:20).

We are warned many times in God's Word that there is to be no comparing, competition or division within the Body of

Christ. We are in error when we give more or less esteem to another member based on our own judgments or preferences. God is the Master who is over all. The Apostle Paul asked, *"Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? To his own master he standeth or falleth, Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand"* (Rom. 14:4). James further condemned this error by stating *"But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors"* (Jam. 2:9). God is the one who brings us together with our diversity and tempers us so that we can contribute to, rather than detract from the functions of the Body. *"...God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked"* (1 Cor. 12:24). Being "tempered" involves a moderating, intentional process by which one is made suitable to contribute to a larger purpose. We sometimes become so *"wise in (our) own conceits"* (Rom. 12:16), that we resist the "tempering" of our God to allow us to be cooperative and useful in the Body. Such behavior is divisive, and Paul writes: *"... there should be no schism in the body"* (1 Cor. 12:25).

Following Paul's concluding exhortation in 1 Corinthians 12 to diligently seek spiritual gifts, he points us to the most important condition for useful service: *"... and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way"* (1 Cor. 12:31). The more excellent way is charity (Christ-like love). Without charity as our motivation for service, it will be of no profit or eternal value (1 Cor. 13:1-3). Love for Christ is what constrains us to labor together in harmony within the Church (1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Cor. 5:14).

Finally, we must always keep in mind the ultimate goal of glorifying God in all of our endeavors: *"... whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God"* (1 Cor. 10:31). We must remember that Christ is the Head of the Body, and everything must focus upon Him. We are also taught: *"Let all things be done unto edifying"* (1 Cor. 14:26). When we all work together and strive to obey the whole counsel of God, our church will thrive and its mission will be fulfilled.

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@mtco.com



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

Apostolic Christian Prison Ministry

For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee? Or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? Or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

And the King shall answer and say unto them, verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

MATTHEW 25:35-40

Current involvement

As the Holy Spirit moves within our brethren, approximately twenty five of our churches have become involved in prison ministry to various degrees. These ministries involve city, county, state and federal jails and penitentiaries reaching both male and female inmates.

The ministries include individual counseling, worship services including sermons and song worship, pen pal correspondence, Bible distribution, Bible Study programs and distribution of a wide variety of items for the inmate's personal use and for their families.

Brokenness offers opportunity

The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

PSALMS 34:18

The opportunities to show the love of God and our Savior are abundant. Many lost souls are at a low point in their lives. They are discouraged, humbled, bewildered, and searching for answers. This broken state of mind makes some of them receptive to the call of God. As we know, God works through believers.

For the scripture saith, whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent?

As it is written, how beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

ROMANS 10:11-15

Berean Prison Ministry

The most extensive ministry within our Brethren is the Berean Prison Ministry. It became a Government approved tax deductible ministry in the year 2000. Two thousand Bibles are sent out per month to inmates in 45 of our States. This distribution is computerized to insure an inmate receives only one Bible.

In addition to worship services and counseling, the Berean ministry has an extensive Bible study program mailed to inmates. Lessons are sent back to Christian volunteers who grade the lessons. About 100,000 lessons are currently being graded per year. The Berean programs extend internationally to Russia,

Romania, Mexico, Africa, Jamaica, Haiti, and Grenada.

Can God use you?

We encourage anyone who is moved by the call of God to visit those in prison to contact any of the brothers and sisters who have been blessed so much by serving God in this way. The need is so great.

When you personally hear an inmate's plea for help and witness them weeping in despair, it can be heart wrenching and somewhat overwhelming. We are reminded of the Savior's words in Luke 10:2...

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

However, the joy and peace that is evident in the lives of inmates who have found the Lord makes all the efforts and emotional involvement so worthwhile.

May God continue to bless our Brotherhood's involvement in prison ministry to the saving of souls and the spiritual growth of all the believers, both inmates and volunteers, who participate in this work ordained by God.

For information on Apostolic Christian churches in your area who are involved in prison ministry or to learn more about how to serve, contact:

Berean Prison Ministry
PO Box 761
Peoria, IL 61652
309-672-0991
866-672-0991 Toll Free

You can also contact:
Bro. Earl Ringger
Mission Committee
309-747-2531



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

Oakville Flood Relief

On Saturday, June 14th 2008, after a valiant sandbagging effort by locals and volunteers from Connecticut to Kansas, the Iowa River breached the levee at Oakville Iowa. Flood waters rushed into the town and surrounding bottom covering approximately 17,000 acres of farmland, homes and businesses to a depth of between three and twenty feet depending on the location. In all, nearly four hundred homes were flooded. Thankfully, there had been sufficient time for the removal of most of the grain, livestock and household furnishings prior to the levee breach.

Not the result of a lack of man's efforts or concern, but by the divine will of an Almighty Creator, the lives of those affected have been changed forever. For some, moving to another location was their best option. For others, the monumental task of mudding out and rebuilding stood before them. In the Oakville Church family, nearly half of the congregation had suffered loss to some degree.

One of the many blessings associated with our brotherhood is the love and compassion we share for one another. *As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.* GAL 6:10

The overwhelming response of the brotherhood, through prayers, financial gifts and volunteer labors has been a great source of encouragement and support to those who have suffered such great loss and trial of faith. World Relief has been active in the organization of volunteers to assist in the clean-up and rebuilding process and in assessing the financial losses of brethren and

friends. To date, approximately \$865,000 in financial assistance has been dispersed through the generous gifts of the brotherhood. The homes of nine families within the brotherhood have been renovated and a new state of "normalcy" is beginning to take shape.

Winter Work Project 2009

The Winter Work Project in Oakville is now focused on the needs of the community. There are many more homes where help is needed in the rebuilding process. Needy families may not have the skills or financial means to accomplish the work of restoring their homes alone. According to government statistics, the median household income in the town of Oakville is just over \$29,000 per year. Most, if not all, did not have flood insurance. Payments from FEMA were received by homeowners based on the assessed value of their home prior to the flood. The maximum FEMA payment was \$28,800 with many receiving considerably less

For a family who had been living from paycheck to paycheck, the additional expenses related to restoring their homes are simply beyond their means. *But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?* 1 JOHN 3:17

God's word is very clear in giving us direction in our responsibility toward those in need. We, who have been most richly blessed in so many ways, are called to be faithful stewards of that which God has so abundantly showered upon us. We are challenged to open up our hearts and give to those in need. We have

opportunity to give both financially and of our time in volunteer labor. Through the use of volunteer labor, a substantial reduction in cost will be realized, making it possible for many to restore their homes. Please pray that God will move the hearts of many to be willing workers in this, His work, and that the eyes of those in need may see Him as their loving, compassionate provider.

Opportunity to serve

World Relief has organized an ongoing work project in Oakville and is seeking volunteer laborers to help in rebuilding flood damaged homes within the community. During the winter months, work will be concentrated inside homes that are enclosed and heated. There is need of both skilled and unskilled workers: carpenters, electricians, plumbers, HVAC, drywall installers and finishers, general laborers, painters, wood refinishers, clean-up and cooks assistants.

Volunteer accommodations are provided at the Oakville church. Dormitory style sleeping rooms with twin size mattresses and pillows are provided. Each volunteer should bring their own sleeping bag. Shower facilities are located in the church basement. Three meals are served each day Monday thru Friday. Saturday meals are breakfast and noon dinner. No meals are served on Sunday.

Those interested in working in Oakville should check for available dates and fill out the registration form, including skills, on the World Relief website www.acworldrelief.org or by contacting Bro. Stan Heimer, project coordinator.

Cell: 319-572-7452

Email: stanh65@aol.com

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
HOME FOR THE
HANDICAPPED
www.achh.org**

Even though we are looking forward to spring and warmer weather, the winter months give us an opportunity to catch up on indoor projects and allow the residents to enjoy a slightly slower pace of activities.

We continue to make progress on our moves into the community. We are near completion on the home that we plan to open in late January or February. The furniture should be in soon and then we will just be waiting for the paperwork from the state to approve the house and the men moving. We are learning to be patient and expect delays as the paperwork sometimes takes many weeks to pass from person to person.

As we begin 2009, we continue to keep our focus on Christ in order to serve according to His purpose. Although the future is sometimes uncertain as we look at staffing, funding, and other agency needs, we feel blessed by the support we receive and the prayers said on behalf of the agency, residents, and staff. Please feel welcome to take a look at our website www.achh.org for information on the agency and status of our right sizing project.

**GATEWAY WOODS
APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
CHILDREN'S HOME
Molly Steffen**

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

Lamentations 3: 22-23

Gateway Woods, like many other areas, recently experienced the Ice

Storm of '08. Picture the scene: it's below zero outside. The power has been out for some time now, and Gateway homes are running on generators. That means a few lights, one working outlet, and heating for the center of the home, but not the sleeping quarters. Still, we were quite thankful, imagining what it must be like for those without generators. Houseparents and other Gateway Staff, both on and off duty, worked well into that cold night in December to best meet the needs of others and themselves.

For our family, the hour was late when we were finally crawling into bed, our children bundled under several blankets, the residents of Pine House snuggled into their beds. It didn't seem long and the gentle buzz of the generator that had lulled us to sleep was the very object that awakened us...by its silence. For a brief moment, all grew quiet and cold. Until the alarm went off...and didn't stop. With frantic efforts to silence the alarm, my husband and I, along with the full-time Houseparents who were supposed to be off duty, searched for ways to end the shrill beeping. The owner's manual? A phone number to call? Finally, Bro. Shane found the back-up battery and ripped it out of its casing. Silence. Ahh...blissful silence. Exhausted and very cold, but relieved to be free of the spine-tingling, hair-raising alarm, we put on more layers and crawled back into bed. The battery powered digital clock/thermo- meter read 3 something a.m. and negative something outside.

As I lay in bed, trying to fall asleep, and thinking of the teenagers sleeping soundly in the wings of Pine House, I could not help but be thankful. They are quiet; they are sleeping, just as our own children are sleeping. And soon, by the grace of God, it will be morning. But before it was morning, before we even drifted into sleep,

the power came on. Not the generator. The power.

Praise God that He is the true source of power. Anything else we may try to lean upon for strength may work for a while, but ultimately, it's only just a generator, a shabby replacement for the true and awesome power of Almighty God, whose mercies are new every morning, and whose compassions, unlike electricity, never, ever fail. Great is Thy faithfulness.

NEWS:

- Pine House construction is now completed and our Staff and residents have taken occupancy of the house. We are so thankful for all who donated funds, materials and labor for this house. Donations toward the house are very welcome and needed, as we have not yet reached our funding goal.

- We are pleased to announce the hiring of Sis. Abby Klopfenstein (Leo) to become an Assistant Houseparent in the Hickory House with Bro. Ryan and Sis. Bethany Donaghy, Houseparents. Sis. Abby began work in January. Please continue to pray for her and the rest of our new Staff as they serve children and families in need.

- We are looking forward to our annual Gateway Woods Representatives Meetings. Our Ohio meeting is at Bro. Matt and Sis. Gail Steiner's (Rittman) home on Friday afternoon, March 6. Our second meeting is on our Leo campus on Saturday, March 14. This is a great opportunity for us all to learn together and sharpen our swords for the work. We are very thankful for all of our Representatives and we appreciate their ongoing prayers and support.

- We depend upon you to help us spread the word about God's work at Gateway Woods. Please continue to lift us up in prayer, check our website www.gatewaywoods.org often for up-

dates, and make sure that you're on our mailing list.

- We are very thankful that He continues to provide us with the right staff. Because of our Adoption services expanding into Illinois, construction of the Pine House, and other ministry opportunities, there are a number of service positions waiting to be filled. Open positions include Counselor, English Teacher, Alternate Houseparents, and IL Adoption Manager. Please see the notices in this month's edition of The Silver Lining for more information. 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!

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
PRESCHOOL
Athens, AL
Sarah Hodel**

We're back from a very refreshing two week Christmas break. The teachers all enjoyed their time off but it's always nice to come back to the kids. We love getting all their hugs!

This month we have learned the letters P, Q, R and S. Some of the kids are so eager to learn and they love to tell us and their parents all about it!

We've had a lot of kids out sick because of colds, earaches and the stomach flu. One of our little boys even wound up in the hospital from dehydration. We're thankful though, that all of them bounce back so quickly and are able to get better and come back to us.

The kids are starting to get a little stir crazy from being inside all winter. It won't be long before we can start going outside every day again. To help us through the winter blah's we had our annual pajama day. They love coming in and showing off their pj's and slippers. We all get to sit around,

be lazy and do fun things like eating popcorn for breakfast! Everyone always enjoys it!

**ALABAMA, ATHENS
Louise Hall**

Greetings of love from Athens! We want to thank Bro. Vic Bauman and his wife, Sis. Brenda (Smithville, OH), for coming and ministering to us this month. We were also blessed to have Bro. Mike Koch from Tremont doing our adult Sunday School.

Our Bro. David Art has accepted a position out in California that will take him away from us for awhile. We will miss having him in church and want to wish him God's blessings in this new step.

Bro. Don Ross has been in the hospital this month and we pray for God's healing hand on him. Also we think of the Ray family (Bro. Milton and Sis. Joyce, Bro. Mark) who have all been sick as well. We pray they all will start feeling better soon!

**ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Heather Hinrichsen**

Bro. Nick Gutwein (West Lafayette), Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern), Bro. Clark Stoller (Gridley), Bro. Jay Knapp (Tucson) and Bro. Brad Bauer (Tucson) visited the Phoenix church this past month. Also, Elder Bro. Tom Klotzle assisted our Bro. Jon Kokanovich with testimonies and baptisms January 17-18. We are grateful to all these Brothers for their labors of love and for sharing God's Word with us.

We extend our sympathies to the family of Sis. Kathie Labudde (Bro. Larry) on the passing of her brother, John Baumann, from Mansfield, OH.

"And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up;..."

James 5:15

Bro. Jim Beres and Sis. Kathie Labudde began chemotherapy again and desire the prayers of the church.

New Year's weekend brought over 40 young brothers and sisters to the Phoenix church. It lifts our hearts to see the love of fellowship that is expressed by our young people.

On January 18, three young ladies made a public testimony in the waters of baptism that they have chosen to follow Christ. We rejoice with our new Sisters, Amanda Knochel (Bro. Nathan and Sis. Kathy), T'kya Hoerr (Bro. Jacob and Sis. Wanda) and Emily Freed (Bro. Steve and Sis. Kelly).

Note of Thanks:

Thank you for the many prayers, cards, gifts, phone calls and loving words of kindness. I miss Arizona and all of you very much. My current address is Skyview Assisted Living Apartments, 1000 Court Dr, Apt 106, Morris, MN 56267.

*Your Sister in Christ,
Sis. Linda Yackley*

**ARIZONA, PRESCOTT
Denise Steidinger**

Our congregation was blessed with the service of the following ministering brothers: John Lehman (Wolcott), Scott Wegman (Taylor) and Paul Schmidgall (Morris). We appreciate the visits from them and their wives/families. We were encouraged by Bro. Scott to call God's telephone number, Jeremiah 33:3 "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."

On Wednesday, January 14, our Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix) and Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern) read to us the Memorandum. It was very encouraging and challenging at the same time, and we appreciate their service on our behalf.

Bro. Dan and Sis. Bethany Dubach

were blessed with another baby girl on January 9, Adessa Jo. She is welcomed home by siblings, Adelaye, Ayra, Ahna and Caleb.

Jim Furrer has spent time in the hospital this past month. Please pray for him and his family.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

We were blessed with a visit from Bro. John Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and his family on a recent Wednesday evening. It was wonderful to fellowship with them, and we sincerely appreciate them taking the time to be with us. May God add His richest blessing.

Our dear Bro. Paul Knoblock has passed from this earthly life to his Heavenly reward. What wonderful news for him to be sure; however, we are saddened to think that we won't have the pleasure of his smile again. Bro. Paul was a quiet, peaceful presence in our little church for many, many years and we missed him greatly when he moved to Iowa. We look forward to the day when we can greet him again in Heaven. We ask God to pour down His comfort and blessings on Bro. Paul's family during this time.

Our little church is enjoying welcoming back our college students and other holiday travelers and also our winter visitors as they begin to arrive. We are enjoying warm, sunny weather as we hear of the frigid temperatures in the Midwest and on the East Coast. Our prayers are with those who are enduring the cold weather and harsh conditions. May God's love keep you warm.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Yasmin Koehl

With joy and tears we welcomed a new month!

We excitingly greeted Natalia

Fulop, daughter of Bro. Denes and Sis. Joy Fulop, on her first Sunday in church! We prayed for God's hand to cover her as she grew and developed at the hospital for several weeks. Our prayers were answered when she was granted permission to go home. Her precious little face and the sweetness of a newborn bring such a special blessing to our congregation!

Our hearts were saddened to say farewell to Bro. Phillip and Sis. Tasha Petrovic and their children as they now make their home in Silverton, OR. Their presence will be missed, but the memories we've made will remain in our hearts. We pray that our Lord and Savior will bless and keep them in Oregon, and give them peace. We look forward to many visits in the future!

As we said farewell to the Petrovics, we were blessed to warmly greet and welcome Bro. Levi Wuethrich (Elgin, IL) into our midst. We pray Bro. Levi would feel our love for him and that his time with us would be blessed. We were thankful his parents were able to accompany him on his first Sunday. We appreciated ministering Bro. Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla) as he shared God's Word with us.

We were privileged to host the European Board. We were blessed and uplifted by the presence of Elder Bros. Dave Graf (Sis. Barb, Akron, OH), Phillip Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN), James Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville, IL), Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Oakville, IA) and ministering Bro. Gene Lehman (Sis. Verna, Wolcott, IN). We thank these dear brothers for faithfully serving us through God's Word.

KITCHENER, ONTARIO CANADA

Johanna Fortenbacher

"Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all."

I Corinthians 12:4-6

Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit) visited us and did just that with the input of the church; rotated different people for certain office duties in the church. Thank you to everyone who serves in any way possible which glorifies God. Bro. Ned Stoller (Alto) came to minister as well this month.

We all enjoyed our church Christmas Dinner and the caroling to neighbors later.

The weather is extremely cold here lately. Our church visited a Homeless Shelter one night. Seeing the conditions around there made me so thankful to go home in warm boots and mittens.

COLORADO, DENVER

Ann Gonglach

We were thankful to have Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathryn, Portland, OR) and Bro. Jeff Bahr (Sis. Janice, Kiowa, KS) minister to us on Christmas. We also appreciate our many visitors.

On New Year's Eve, we gathered to reflect on the past year. God has blessed us in many ways, one of which is five souls being added to the church. We also asked God's guidance and blessing for the year ahead.

We're glad to have Sis. Maggie Schrenk back with us, for a time. Her job as a traveling nurse has brought her to Denver before. Also, welcome to Sis. Stefany Edelman (Bern, KS), who is living here for a few weeks.

Elder Bro. Mike and Sis. Deb

Leman again spent several days in Barra Vieja, Mexico, holding Bible studies with a small group of believers there.

The engagement of Sis. Kristi Stoller (Roanoke, IL) to Bro. Joel Leman (Magdalena, Mexico) was announced. Bro. Joel is the son of our Elder Bro. Mike and Sis. Deb. They plan to be married on May 24. May they continue to be guided by the Holy Spirit.

**CONNECTICUT
ROCKVILLE
Amber Rocke
Laura Virkler**

Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be,
in working or in waiting,
another year with Thee.

Hymns of Zion #150

Another year has passed, and we find many reasons to count our blessings as we look forward to a new year. Though there may be fear and uncertainty in the world around us in these changing times, we try to trust and hope in God who can provide.

Our hearts rejoice as the angels do in heaven with our friend, Jason Reutter (Bro. Dean and Sis. Miriam), who has made a beginning in repentance. We wish him God's nearness and grace for the journey before him.

O God of wisdom, life and love,
Thine is the blessed plan
in holy bonds of love to join
the twain created man.

Hymns of Zion #286

We rejoice with our Bro. Josh Bahler and our Sis. Carole Hoffman as they made vows before the Lord in marriage. May their lives be blessed in this new beginning of faith! Parents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Lori Bahler and Bro. Arlo and Sis. Lynn Hoffman.

We also have two couples who are engaged to marry, as they have announced in recent weeks. Julie Reutter (Bro. Dean and Sis. Miriam) and Jesse Brennan have decided to marry and live their lives together. Chris Skinner (Everett, Sr. and Sis. Sherri) and Alison DeCarli (Tom and Alice) are looking forward to a summer wedding. We want to wish God's blessings on these marriages.

Two families have begun the new year with new additions to the family. Bro. Burt and Sis. Cherine Wheeler welcome a baby girl, Katie Pearl, into their family. Grandparents are Bro. Darrel and Sis. Norma Luginbuhl and Burt Sr. and Margo Wheeler. Our friends, Robert and Beth Hany, became new parents, welcoming a baby boy, Gavin Dietrich. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Pete and Sis. Jeanie Hany.

We had the privilege of having ministering Bro. Justin Moser and his wife, Sis. Robin, and their family from Altadena, CA, with us for Christmas day service. It is an added blessing to us for him to be used in preaching the Word when he visits his family here.

Our prayers and support go out to those who have lost loved ones recently. Sis. Diane Stoller's father passed away in the past weeks, only a short time after her mother's passing. May God be near her and Bro. Dan and be a comfort during this difficult time. Sis. Shannon LaPlante (Bro. Steve) recently lost her stepfather, and our prayers and sympathy will remain with her. Our friend, Henry Aberle, passed away, leaving among his family members his aunts, Sis. Elsa Hoffman (Bro. Edwin) and Sis. Martha Luginbuhl (Bro. Robert). May these family circles be comforted in their losses.

Bro. Burt Wheeler recently spent some time in the hospital recovering from surgery, and we certainly wish

him a speedy recovery. For others who continue to struggle with illness and infirmities, may God grant healing and relief as He sees fit and provide the grace and strength to endure them.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

"Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted."

Matthew 5:4

We extend our sympathy to Matt, Wendy, Skyler and Rhett Fetter on the death of their mother and grandmother, Sis. Betty Fetter from Toledo.

Our caretakers for December were Bro. Bob and Sis. Doris Meiss from Peoria, IL.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Shawn Metzger (Sis. Sandy, Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Pat Zaugg (Sis. Julie, West Bend, IA), Elder Bro. Dave Graf (Sis. Barb, Akron, OH) and Bro. Byron Stoller (Sis. Carol, Gridley, IL). Other visitors this month were from Rockville, CT, and Gridley, IL.

Directions in the new Ministers' Book are good for those coming from the north or west. For those coming up I-95 from south of DC or from the eastern part of the area, you need to take I-95/495 to Exit 28A (New Hampshire Ave) for approx. 2 miles to Rt. 29 North. Go about 3 miles to Fairland Road and follow the directions in the Ministers' book.

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

let us know that as well. We would be happy to have an evening of fellowship and/or singing.

**FLORIDA
FORT LAUDERDALE**

Renee Mangold

We were thankful to have visiting ministers this past month. Visiting were Elder Bros. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL), Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS), Joe Braker (Sis. Shirley, Morton, IL) and Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL). We pray for God's blessings on His servants.

Another celebration of our Lord's birth has passed. We are mindful of the blessing we have to freely worship and pray that we never take that for granted. We gathered to sing Christmas carols at a nearby nursing home. And to celebrate the New Year, there was a service and then a gathering at the fellowship hall. We had several young people visiting at that time and their added fellowship and beautiful singing were truly enjoyed.

We are, again, thankful to Elder Bro. Earl Ringger and Elder Bro. Joe Braker for their willingness to serve the Ft. Lauderdale brethren their Communion service. Not that we need ever wait for a specific service, but it is an appreciated time that directs our prayers toward our hearts and souls to make sure we are on the right path in our lives.

Our prayers for sympathy are with the Sauders (Bro. Roger and Sis. Judy) on the passing of Sis. Judy's father, Bro. Harry Sutter. Bro. Harry worshipped at the Ft. Lauderdale church for many years and he will be missed. There is such a comfort in knowing that he is now with our Father in Heaven.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Bro. Harry Sutter want to thank each one for your

prayers, gifts, flowers, cards and love at the passing of our father and grandfather. May God bless you.

Richard and Kathy Sutter

Bro. Bob and Sis. Janice Sutter

Bro. Roger and Sis. Judy Sauder

**FLORIDA
NORTH FORT MYERS**

Naomi Vogel

Due to the extremely cold temperatures in the northern regions, it is apparent that many were anxious to come to sunny Florida. Our benches were nearly filled to capacity yesterday—around 150 in attendance. The singing was extra beautiful, the messages urged us to draw closer to God and to draw others closer along with us, and the fellowship was as warm as the weather! If you are weary of the winter weather, we “warmly” invite you to “come and taste and see” how pleasant it is here in Ft. Myers!

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH), Bro. Matt Gerber (Ixtilan, Mexico), and Bro. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN). May God richly bless all ministers and their wives for giving of their time and energy to help us on our journey through life here on earth and, some day, to life in heaven with our Dear Savior! We appreciate you, one and all.

We rejoice with Curt and Sis. Jane Huette as they welcome a new granddaughter into their family circle. Kavya Summer was born to Chris Huette and his wife, Deepa, on October 30 in Bloomington, IL. Paternal great-grandmother is Sis. Velda Huette of Forrest, IL.

The “Great Healer” has done a good job for all of our surgery patients—just a cane or two still evident. I'm sure your prayers helped also! With the advanced age of most of our congregation, this is truly amazing!

We had an informational presen-

tation about the Home for the Handicapped, which is located in Morton, by Elder Bro. Ron Messner from Washington, IL. Sis. Marge Baumgartner told us about their experience having a daughter in residence at the home. What a great service this is for those who need special love and care. Praise be to those who are willing to provide it! In these times of financial hardship, they sorely need some financial assistance from all of us.

**FLORIDA, SARASOTA
DiAnne Brown**

Warm, winter greetings loved ones. Praying this finds each of you blessed with abundant shelter and sustenance. Southern Florida has enjoyed a true winter (for us) with temperatures as low as the high 20's. While the north endures a bitter winter for the record books, our roadside produce stands are selling abundant bright red strawberries...ripe and sweet. Isn't God's world amazing?

Our nation and our people are facing historic challenges. Financial markets and businesses continue to falter, foreclosures are soaring and millions have seen jobs disappear or diminish, and the worst may be yet to come.

When faced with so much loss, we begin to take inventory of the things that have true value. I have always told our children there are only two things no one can take away from you....faith and education. All else is chaff that will burn away as we walk through the fires of these difficulties. May we find our faith purified and refined by these firestorms and remember to spend an extra moment in prayer for our families, our brethren, our church and our nation.

Our dear Bro. Tom Miller went to meet Jesus on January 11 and we extend our deepest sympathy to his brother, Bro. Terry and Sis. Beverly

Miller. He will also be missed by his nephew, Jeff (Janet) Miller, nieces, Wendy (Kevin) Burns, Sis. Stacy (Bro. Dave) Leman, and his two great-nephews and five great-nieces. Bro. Tom fought a gracious fight and often said, "If I beat the cancer...I win, if I don't...I still win."

Our sympathy is also with Bro. George (Sis. Betty) Siladie and Bro. Mike (Sis. Jeanette) Siladie on the death of their sister and aunt, Sis. Florence Donahue (Akron, OH). May God send angels to minister to them in their hour of need.

Hospital patients this month included Sis. Marie Reardon, who has returned home and Bro. Rich (Sis. Aldine) Martin. Bro. Rich will continue to recover from a hip injury at the Tarpin Point Nursing Home for the next several weeks. We petition our Lord for comfort and healing for these dear ones, according to His will.

Our annual business meeting was held on January 14. Bro. Frank (Sis. Angela) Kiefer was elected Trustee and replaces Bro. Gordon (Sis. Marilyn) Bryant. We thank Bro. Gordy for his many years of tireless and humble service as Trustee. Sis. Elizabeth (Bro. Jeremy) Calame and Sis. Lindsay Leigh Brown will serve in Sunday school and replace Sis. Kim (Bro. Aaron) Ott and Sis. Emily (Bro. Matt) Koehl; who both will serve as substitutes, along with Sis. Vera Martin. Sis. Debbie Sauder replaces Sis. Kelly (Bro. Todd) Hebert on the Kitchen Committee. Bro. Adam Ott will replace Bro. Doug (Sis. Robin) Wiegand as Fellowship Hall Coordinator. Bro. Mike (Sis. Jeanette) Siladie and Bro. Aaron (Sis. Kim) Ott will serve on the Lakewood Retreat Committee. We are thankful for these willing servants and ask God to bless their efforts.

On January 7, we had the privilege of hearing about the great work being done at the AC Home for the Handi-

capped from Elder Bro. Ron Messner. It is such a comfort for families to have this wonderful home and caring staff to tend to their loved ones.

With winter comes snowbirds and this one is no exception. The benches are full and one recent Sunday greetings were given from 25 congregations...what a blessing. Sarasota has also been blessed by many visiting ministers, including Bro. Rich Gramm (Sis. Samantha, South Bend, IN); Bro. Chris Huber (Sis. Sharon, Francesville, IN); Bro. Phillip Schulz (Sis. Kelli, Burlington, IA); Bro. Gary Anliker (Sis. Edith, Elgin, IL); Bro. Ron Isch (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS); Bro. Tom Bahler (Sis. Lanae, Rockville, CT); Bro. Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Fairbury, IL); Bro. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN); Bro. Ron Steiner (Sis. Ruth, Rittman, OH), Bro. Jeff Fischer (Sis. Gloria, Ft. Scott, KS) and Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Debra, Remington, IN). Please know your labor on our behalf is much needed and appreciated.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA Melinda Gramm

Georgia has been experiencing some colder weather than some of us are used to! Although it is always subject to change, some days we can pull off sweatshirts and enjoy the sunshine.

Isn't it interesting to see the considerable difference in people's behavior, since the change in our government? Sometimes I ask myself what they are really putting their trust in. May we lift both our government and our country up to the Lord in prayer. We read in 2 Chronicles 7:14, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will

forgive their sin." As people being called by His name, let us concentrate on humbling ourselves before Him, seeking His face and then encouraging those around us to do the same. For if God's people don't seek forgiveness, how will the nation? Let us be prayerful.

We wish to thank Bro. John Hartman (Sis. Rosemary, Fairbury IL) for ministering to our small congregation this month.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE Doreen Moser Jenn Johnson

"It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man."

Psalms 118:8

With a new year beginning, a new leader in our country, and many troubles facing our nation, may we trust in the Lord and not place our trust in man.

It has been a month filled with celebrating Jesus' birthday, and gathering together with our families and our church families.

"O give thanks unto the Lord for he is good; because his mercy endureth for ever."

Psalms 118:1

ILLINOIS BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL Betsy Zimmerman Alissa Kieser

We listened to the Sunday School students tell us the story of Christ's birth on December 21 at the Sunday School Christmas program. We thank the students and teachers for all their hard work in preparing for it and reminding us what the season is really about.

Bro. David "Tater" and Sis. Haley Kieser welcomed Briana Skye on De-

ember 18. She joins brother, Landon, and sister, Elle. Grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Wilma Kieser and Bro. Doug and Sis. Gerry Kruse (Morton). Bro. Dave and Sis. Brenda Kaeb welcomed a new grandson, Willis Scott, on October 26. He is the son of Bro. Tim and Sis. Christa Wiegand (Leo). Great-grandmother is Sis. Helen Hoffmann.

Four souls gave their testimonies of how God worked in their lives on January 3. We welcome our new brothers, Alec Gramm (Brad and Sis. LuAnn) and Randy Stuerman, and new sisters, Stephanie Sauder (Bro. Phil and Sis. Kathy) and Taylor Nazarczuk (Michael and Kay). Thanks to Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN) and Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO) for assisting on the pulpit that weekend.

Other visiting ministers were Bro. Nate Lehman (Denver, CO) and Bro. Bill Masters (Fort Myers, FL).

We rejoice with Dorothy Tewell, as she has made the decision to serve the Lord. We pray that she feels God's grace as she takes this important step.

We extend our sympathies to Sis. Diane (Bro. Dale) Stickling, whose mother, Sis. Betty Leuthold (Bro. Paul, Lester, IA), went Home to be with her Savior on November 7.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Philip and Donna Nenadov

"Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

Hebrews 4:16

It seems like there is much worry these days, over what is happening in the world all around us. People are afraid of the changes and instability that is causing so much turmoil in our

world. It is important to realize that we have this assurance that the Lord will provide help in the time of need. We just have to come in faith before our Father through His Son, boldly, to receive our comfort and help in time of need.

Our yearly meeting was held in which we elect brothers for various duties. Bro. Kurt Enhle replaced Bro. Steve Ehnle as trustee. Our new ushers are Bros. Kevin Wagenbach and Brad Kieser. Outgoing Bros. are Matt Elsasser and Steve Endress.

Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA) came to help our Elder Bro. Bruce with the Memorandum. Bro. Bruce reminded us that the word Memorandum is interpreted as a "note to jog the memory". We are thankful that we can have that note to "jog our memory" of our heavenly calling and then not only to be a hearer, but a doer of the same. May God bless these brothers for encouraging and admonishing the church, in love, to be more faithful.

It seems like we report births and deaths, baptisms and weddings, visiting ministers, and graduations. However, we know that even though we report the "public events" of our church, let us continue to pray that the Lord will comfort those whose daily events remain hidden from view. Only He can provide the grace to help in time of need.

Our lot is found in pleasant places;
A goodly heritage is ours,
To Him whence come all gifts and
graces,

Let us give praise with all our pow'rs.
He chooses us of His free grace
And makes us His peculiar race.

Zion's Harp #145, vs 1

God be with you 'til we meet again.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Rachel Meyer

Greetings from Chicago. The past several weeks have brought us frigid temperatures and a lot of snow. Because of the weather, we were not able to have Wednesday evening services on January 14.

December 31, 2008, found the Chicago church full for New Year's Eve services. Many previous "Chicagans" were with us and we appreciated every one.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank each one of you for your prayers and gifts of love since I had foot surgery. I continue to recover well and am glad to be back in church following a month's rest. My foot appears to be healing on schedule and I have started serious physical therapy to regain movement and range of motion. I appreciate each one of you.

Rachel M.

This morning I read the following - "Trying to love without first receiving God's love is like trying to water something with a hose that's disconnected from the faucet." I am not sure who wrote this but the words are wise. I John chapter 4, verses 7 and 8 says, "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love." The first pillar of our church is to spread the Gospel. That includes the love of Christ and our Father. Yet how can we fulfill that mission if we are not first "plugged in" to the heart of God? The love to which we must aspire is not the wishy-washy definition of love portrayed in our society today. Rather, it is the love that comes from a deep, abiding sense of being born again. Only then can we effectively reach out to those around us.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN

Jackie Eisenmann

Greetings from Champaign-Urbana! We have had the opportunity to listen to the general Conference recordings over the last month. We are truly thankful for all of our Elders' time and wisdom given to our church. May God continue to bless each one of them in their responsibilities.

Our prayers have been with our Sis. Karen Kaiser as she has experienced the passing of her mother, Sis. Anna Kaiser of Morton, IL. May God give Karen His comfort and His nearness. "Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved." (Psalm 55:22).

We were happy to hear of the engagement Bro. Mark Sauder of Champaign and Sis. Ashley Hoerr (Taylor, MO). Their parents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Janice Sauder (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Scott and Sis. Anna Hoerr (Taylor, MO). They are both students here in Champaign.

Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA) was here on Christmas day and had the service. We are always glad to have his family come "home" for a visit, and we are always blessed by Bro. Ben's willingness on the pulpit.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Vickie Maul Janie Waldbeser

We always appreciate the visiting ministers who lend themselves so willingly to bring forth God's Word to us. Our thanks to Bros. Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL), Tom Waldbeser (Atlanta, GA), Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) and Dan Moser (Elgin, IL).

Our hospital patients this month were Bill Drayer (Judy) and Sis. LouElla Hari. We pray God's healing hand will be upon each of them.

Our annual church business meeting was held January 7. We extend a thank you to the Brothers and Sisters who have diligently served and devoted their time to our church. We lend our support to the Brothers and Sisters who have been chosen to fulfill their new duties: Sunday school teachers - Bro. Todd Kaeb, Bro. Nick Walder, Sis. Angie Young and Sis. Renee Kaufmann; Trustee - Bro. Fred Maul; and Fellowship Hall committee - Bro. Melvin Young.

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

Proverbs 3:6

Note of Thanks:

A sincere thank you to everyone who made my 85th birthday special by sending a card which was most enjoyable. May God bless you for your kindness.

Sis. Aldean Kaufmann

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Holly Zobrist

"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses."

I Timothy 5:21

We rejoiced with our new brother, Caleb Zobrist (Bro. Mike and Sis. Susie), as he made a profession of his faith before many witnesses on December 20 and was baptized on December 21. It is always so encouraging to hear how the Lord works in the lives of different brethren.

Feeling the Lord's guidance and peace, Bro. Mike and Sis. Susie have moved to Magdalena, Mexico. As much as we will miss them, we know they'll be appreciated in Magdalena.

We had two new births in Congerville this past month. Cherie Mikayla is the first child of Bro. Mikel and Sis. Stephanie Steffen. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Rollyn and Sis. Brenda Kuntz (Forrest) and Bro. Mark and Sis. Joan Steffen (Goodfield).

Abiah Rose was born to Bro. Jim and Sis. Sarah Schrock. Welcoming her home is big sister Moriah. Also thankful for her arrival are grandparents, Bro. Steve and Sis. Gerri Schrock and Bro. Larry and Sis. Betty Bauman (Goodfield).

We've had a number of visiting ministers this past month. They include Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary, Fairbury), Bros. Jim Vierling (Sis. Linda, Eureka), Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy Roanoke), Wayne Leman (Sis. Julie, Roanoke), Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield), Brent Kellenberger (Sis. Beth, Kansas City), Nate Wieland (Sis. Suzanne, Goodfield), Mark Zimmerman (Sis. Cheryl, Eureka), and Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Deb, Denver).

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Amy Gasser Miriam Gasser

Christmas gatherings and other special occasions brought many visitors to Elgin, including ministers. We appreciated the labors of Bros. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH), Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL), Dan Koch (Tremont, IL), Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL), and Alan Schambach (Remington, IN).

On January 4, Sis. Miriam Sauder (Elder Bro. Charles) of Tremont, IL, passed away peacefully in her home. Her funeral was January 6. In addition to Bro. Charles, three children, and 13 grandchildren, Sis. Miriam is survived by one brother and two sisters. They are Bro. Ed Fritz (Sis. Sally) of Morton, Sis. Martha Moser (Bro. Lloyd) of Morton, and Sis. Mary

Gasser. Our family has appreciated your love, prayers, and many expressions of sympathy during this difficult time.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Dee Baer

Jodi Blunier

Bro. Jacob Rocke (Bro. Rob and Sis. Jan) and Sis. Julie Fehr (Bro. Dan and Sis. Diane) were united as one in Holy Matrimony. We wish them the Lord's blessings.

We rejoice with Kelton Wiegand (Bro. Brian and Sis. Tina) as he has received God's calling to repentance.

Sis. Dorothy Schmidgall grieves the loss of her sister and brother-in-law, Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Malinda Gerber (Roanoke).

We welcome additions to our baby room this month: Elise Noel Vierling - her parents are Bro. Brent and Sis. Kelli, siblings Nathan and Lena, and grandparents, Bro. Jim and Sis. Linda Vierling, and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy Leman. Mia Marie Kupferschmid - her parents are Bro. Darin and Sis. Tami, siblings Caleb, Garret and Nora, and grandparents, Bro. Rich and Sis. Maribeth Kupferschmid and Glen and Sis. Becky Bauman. Dane Michael Cottrell - his parents are Bro. Brian and Sis. Wendy, sister Lily, and grandparents, Bill Cottrell, Sis. Judy Cottrell, and Bro. Mike and Sis. Pat Rinkenberger (Congerville).

Hospitalized this past month were Joseph Zimmerman (Bro. Bob and Sis. Cathy), Sis. Norma Hangartner (Bro. Roy), Bro. Harold Schmidtgall (Sis. Ethel), and Sis. Evelyn Gudeman (Bro. Don).

We enjoyed a host of visiting ministering brothers this month: Bro. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis), Bro. Richard Gramm (South Bend, IN), Bro. Bill Dotterer (Lamar, MO), Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH), Bro. Kent Getz

(Elgin, IA), Bro. Randy Mogler (Washington), Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago), Bro. Les Kaeb (Francesville, IN), Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville), Bro. Dean Steffen (Belvidere), Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Elgin), and Bro. Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN).

We welcome Sis. Angie Kupferschmid back home from Lester, IA, where she had been living.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Ruth Schumacher wants to thank all those who sent memorials, food, flowers, cards, and those who said prayers and came to visit. May God bless you all.

Helen & Eli Fisher & family

The Joe Schumacher Family

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Elizabeth Fehr

Anna Schmidgall

What a blessed way to end an old year and begin a new year! We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Nate Wieland (Sis. Suzanne, Goodfield, IL), Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis, MN), Bro. DeWayne Dill (Sis. LaRae, Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Brian Waibel (Sis. Wendy, Champaign, IL), and Bro. Alan Schambach (Sis. Sarah, Remington, IN) preach the true Gospel message. It is always a blessing when families get together for the holidays and that means an extra blessing for us because these brothers' wives are all from our congregation.

Bro. Glenn and Sis. Kathryn Fehr welcome a new granddaughter into their family. Magdalena Lorraine was born on December 2, 2008. She is the daughter of Bryan and Megan (Mike and Cindy Frickey) Fehr of Fairbury.

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

Zion's Harp #79

Bro. Kent Steidinger and Sis. Beth Manz exchanged wedding vows on January 18. Thankful parents are Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish Steidinger and Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Gwen Manz (Junction, OH). We wish them God's blessings in their lives together and hope that Sis. Beth feels loved and welcomed to our congregation.

Asleep in Jesus! Peaceful rest,
Whose waking is supremely blest!
No fear, no woe, shall dim that hour
That manifests the Saviour's pow'r.

Hymns of Zion #111

Bro. Frank Schmidt, 94, passed away on January 5 at Fairview Haven. We are prayerful for his wife, Pearl; son, Gerald of Longmont, CO; and his two daughters, Betty Schmidt of Beardstown; and Patti Roach of Kankakee. Bro. Frank was the oldest brother in our congregation. Also, funeral services for Elmer Meints, 73, were held at the funeral home. Elmer passed away Thursday, January 15. He attended our church in the past.

"Haste and seek your soul's salvation..."

Zion's Harp #52

We rejoice with new converts who have turned their face toward Calvary: Britney Kafer (Bro. Ben and Sis. Carol), Tess Zehr (Bro. Quinn and Sis. Joan), Heidi Fehr (Bro. Randall and Sis. Janis), and Chance Edelman (Bro. Mark and Sis. Karie).

ILLINOIS, FORREST**Lisa Aberle****Jill Wenger**

We were blest with many visiting ministers this month. We thank Bros. Kerwin Edelman (Athens, AL), Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Darren Fehr (West Bend, IA), Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL), Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL), Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN), Nile Bucher (Bluffton North, IN), Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL), John Hartman and Paul Kilgus (both of Fairbury, IL) for their labors among us. May God always direct the words and meditations of their hearts to honor and praise Him.

Sunday, January 4, was the wedding day of Bro. Byron Nussbaum and Sis. Janice Ifft. Sis. Janice's parents are Bro. Elmer and the late Sis. Emma Ifft. We wish this happy couple much joy and happiness in their newly married life. Jared Stork (Bro. Paul and Sis. Dawn) and Jenna Honegger (Bro. Lloyd and Joyce) recently announced their engagement and approaching marriage. May God's blessings be upon them as they plan for a future together.

We extend a sincere thank you to Bro. Ken Edelman (Sis. Carol) and Bro. Ken Roth (Sis. Deb) in teaching our youth in the Sunday School for the past 10 years. We welcome Bro. Ron Mueller Jr. (Sis. Vicki) and Bro. Joel Brown (Sis. Lana) into Sunday School as teachers and pray that they can help sow that good seed.

Bro. Craig and Sis. Leah Steidinger became first-time parents with the birth of Twyla Jean. Happy grandparents are Bro. Harlan and Sis. Jean Knapp and Bro. Glen and Sis. Holly Steidinger. Another little boy, Will Andrew, joined the family of Bro. Clint and Sis. Rebecca, Sophia and Noah Dotterer. Waiting to love him are grandparents, Bro. Ron Sr. and Sis. Loida Mueller and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Nancy Dotterer. Lit-

tle Riley Joshua was welcomed home by parents, Bro. Ron Jr. and Sis. Vicki and siblings: Reagan, Royce, Rollie, Chloe, Remington and Reuben Mueller. Riley's grandparents are Bro. Eldon and Sis. Darlene Steidinger (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Ron Sr. and Sis. Loida Mueller.

We are thankful to report another new convert. Trevor Edelman (Bro. Karl and Sis. Bethany) has felt a need for a Saviour and has started his repentance.

Sis. Dorothy Bachtold (the late Carl) was hospitalized, but now recuperating at Fairview Haven. Sis. Lavonne Lanz (Bro. Elmer) is again having a lengthy hospital stay for medical treatments. Bro. Larry Bachman (Sis. Donna) is having extensive treatments at a wound center. Our prayers is for our Heavenly Father to grant grace and strength for these dear ones and their families who lovingly care for them.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD**Amber Grimm****Rita Bauman**

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God..."

Ephesians 2:8

Our hearts rejoiced on the weekend of January 3-4 as we witnessed the testimony and baptism of Bethany Bauman (Bro. Ben and Sis. Marge). We are thankful that she is now our sister in faith and has partaken of God's precious gift of salvation.

We thank the ministering brothers who came to share God's Word with us. They were Elder Bros. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL), Ben Walder (Sis. Juanita, Congerville, IL), Bros. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL), Tom Leman (Sis. Marlene, Denver, CO), James Knapp

(Sis. Lisa, Congerville, IL), and Dave Zehr (Sis. Vicki, Gridley, IL). May God richly reward these brothers for their labors among the flock.

Two families from our congregation have been blessed with babies. On January 13, Max Jeffrey was born to first-time parents, Bro. Jeff and Sis. Janel Wiegand. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Mel and Sis. Marilyn Blunier and Bro. Ron and the late Sis. Barb Wiegand. Being doubly blessed was Bro. Greg and Sis. Missy Post having twin girls on January 26. Kassidy, Aidan and Kody welcome their new sisters, Kiley Joan and Cheyenne Marie, along with their grandparents, Bro. Les and Sis. Helen Bauman and Bro. Gary and Sis. Kathy Post (Tremont). May He strengthen those that He has entrusted children with, to raise them with a love for Him.

"Put your hope in the Lord, take courage and be strong."

Psalms 27:14

Our thoughts and prayers are with those from our congregation who have been in the hospital during this last month: Sis. Verla Wiegand (Bro. Daniel) and Sis. Carol Martin. There are also others with health concerns who appreciate the support and prayers of their loved ones. May God restore each one according to His will.

Note of thanks:

We wish to thank everyone for their gifts, cards and especially your prayers during Russ' recent surgery. May God richly bless each of you for your deeds of kindness.

Bro. Russ and Sis. Jane Descarpentrie

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY**Perry A. Klopfenstein**

We were saddened over the passing of Sis. Winifred Schlipf. She died

on January 1 at age 81. She had been a resident at the home in Eureka. She is survived by her husband, Bro. Ralph S. Schlipf, to whom she was married one month shy of 60 years. Other survivors were two sons, Bro. John M. Schlipf, Gridley, and Mikel A. Schlipf, Peoria; and four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Sis. Winifred will be missed in our assembly. She had an inviting personality, and was a humble, loving person who took an interest in everyone. The twosome of "Ralph and Winifred" is no more. Surely, that is how they were referred to often as they related to multitudes of brethren and friends in their relief work to the needy.

Equally saddening was the loss of Bro. Tom L. Miller, who died on Sunday, January 11, at the Venice Hospice House in Venice, Florida. He suffered from skin cancer. He was 66. He is survived by his brother, Terry D. Miller of Roanoke. He had one nephew and two nieces, along with numerous cousins. Many of us still called him "Tommy" and we delighted in his always pleasant, smiling demeanor.

Bro. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL) was a visiting minister, and we are thankful for his labors.

Wendy Stoller had very serious surgery recently. This was to reposition her sternum bone which had been pressing against her heart. It is truly marvelous what physicians can do, but ultimately it is God who does the healing.

We offer our sympathies to Gerry Sievers, who lost her brother, Armand Yergler of Pekin; and to Bro. Jerry Christensen, who lost his brother, Thomas Christensen, Jr., of Morton.

Time passes on, and brings ongoing change. Nothing stays the same except for God's Word and Spirit, a wonderful anchor. Governmental

leaders change, too, and now in the United States a new administration is in place, following Inauguration Day on January 20. Our job as believers is to pray for civil leaders "that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life, in all godliness and honesty." To pray for such a motive is noble!

ILLINOIS, MORTON
Annette Tanner
Julie Bahr

Our Wednesday evening Family Worship Night was led by Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. The topic was "Ways We Worship". God's Word influences His people and provides a unique ministry for each one of us to know Him as King! I wonder "Do You Know Him?"

In song, the men's quartet "Testify" from Gridley and Roanoke blessed us at our monthly hymn sing. Thank you for sharing!

Our sympathy is shared with the family of Imelda Winniger (the late Paul) who passed away January 3. She is survived by one son, Jim, and two daughters, Gloria Kirby and Betsy Mitchell.

On January 21, Sis. Stella Zimmerman (late Bro. Harvey) went to her Heavenly reward. Our loving sympathy is shared with her children: Sis. Wilma Ward, Sis. Doreen (Bro. Duane) Elsasser, Sis. Eleanor (Bro. Robert) Pfloderer, Sis. Marilyn (Bro. Glenn) Dill, Bro. John (Sis. Janis) Zimmerman, and Sis. Diana (Bro. Terry) Rassi. One brother survives also, Bro. Vernon Stoller, from Oakville.

On January 11, Sis. Morgan Kaiser's engagement was announced to Bro. Travis Leman from Roanoke. Sis. Morgan is the daughter of Bro. Allen and Sis. Brenda Kaiser. Bro. Travis is the son of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Julie Leman from Roanoke.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Valerie Steffen have a new little granddaughter to

love. On January 15, Marlie Jade entered the home of Brad, Susan and Kaiya Jo Steffen.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Sis. Ruth Schumacher wants to thank all those who sent memorials, food, flowers, cards and those who said prayers and visits. A special thank you to all the Morton ministers for their love and support, and also to the nurses and staff at Restmor for their love and care. May God bless you all.

Eli and Helen Fisher and family
The Joe Schumacher family

ILLINOIS, PEORIA
Pam Fritzenmeier

We are experiencing some real winter weather this year. Our Wednesday night, January 14, church service was cancelled due to the snow and extreme cold. We are thankful for the warm Christmas and New Year's family and friends gatherings and the gift of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Bro. Harlan Thomas passed away December 21. Please pray for his dear wife, Sis. Mazie, and daughters, Sis. Barb, Lois (Alan) Boaz, and Peggy (Jeff) Cooke and families. We heard at our annual business meeting of Bro. Harlan's dedication to our church family as our treasurer for 22 years. On December 26, Bro. Harry Sutter (Ft. Lauderdale) passed away and his funeral was in our Peoria church on December 31. We extend our sympathy to his daughter, Sis. Judy (Bro. Roger) Sauder (Ft. Lauderdale).

On December 21, Bro. Dean and Sis. Holly Ramseyer and family hosted a walk through open house in appreciation for the love and support shown to them after their Old Church House Inn fire. Just as the builders restored their home beautifully, Jesus wants to do a work in us to bring

glory to Him.

We are blessed with a new convert, Chelsea Streitmatter. She is the daughter of Bro. Doug and Sis. Cindy and we rejoice with them.

Sunday evening, January 4, was our family hymn sing at the Fellowship Hall. We believe God was glorified by the congregational singing and that of our pre-K, Kindergarten, first and second grade classes and the Gridley men's group, Living Waters.

Our visiting ministers were Bro. Brad Baurer (Sis. Sandy, Tucson), Bro. Roger Sauder (Sis. Judy, Ft. Lauderdale), and Bro. John Bradle (Sis. Jill, Roanoke). Each one was used of the Holy Spirit to teach us and we thank them.

Several in our church family have new responsibilities. Bro. Russ (Sis. Peg) Rumbold is our church treasurer. Bro. Ralph (Sis. Karen) Hofstetter joined the board of trustees. Newly elected Sunday School teachers include Sis. Lena (Bro. Wes) Kieser, Bro. Gary (Sis. Gina) Kempf, Bro. Doug (Sis. Cindy) Streitmatter, Bro. Ryan (Sis. Sheri) Menold, Bro. Chad (Sis. Julie) Herman, and Bro. Billy (Sis. Jenny) Schick. Bro. Mark (Sis. Jan) Hohulin will serve as the Skylines Home treasurer. Outgoing teachers are Sis. Brenda (Bro. Randy) Kieser, Brothers Kyle (Sis. Jane) Scholl, Dean (Sis. Teresa) Thomas, Dean (Sis. Holly) Ramseyer, Geoff (Sis. Angie) Ginzler, and Jesse (Sis. Jill) Schroeder. Bro. Carle (Sis. Debby) Hoerr finished his trustee term. God bless your servant hearts.

Bro. Bob (Sis. Betty) Miller is undergoing treatments and needs our prayers. Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard, serving in Haiti, are in need of funds to complete housing for their family. Bro. David Sceggel and Bro. Jonathan Aupperle are serving in Mexico. Please pray for all our missionaries for safety and wisdom as they strive to show God's love and

bring the lost to Jesus.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

**Linda Joos
Connie Christ**

When pure and upright hearts,
by flames of love ignited,
Are by the bond of faith,
more firmly yet united.

Zion's Harp #79

On January 18, the engagement announcement of Bro. Devon Knobloch (Bro. Keith and Sis. Lisa) and Sis. Leah Stickling (Bro. Craig and Sis. Jackie) of Peoria, IL, was shared with our congregation. Our prayers are with them as they prepare for their life as one in the Lord.

We have been blessed with many visiting ministering brothers this month. These included Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL), as well as Bros. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Ned Stoller (Alto, MI), John Grimm (Columbus, OH), Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL), Brad Metz (Bloomington, IL), and Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL). We truly do appreciate the willingness of brothers coming and being used by God and His Holy Spirit to bring His precious Word.

We rejoice with Sis. Joyce Blunier (late Bro. Dale) as she welcomed another grandchild on December 5. Bro. Chad and Sis. Janel Hillman, of Goodfield, IL, and big brother, Tyler, have added a precious little girl, Jolin Leah, to their family circle. May God bless all parents as they strive to love and nurture their children in the fear of God.

We have several in our congregation who are battling the weaknesses of this fleshly body. Garrett Herrmann (Bro. Roger and Sis. Darlene) had a tonsillectomy; little Emily Jean Hanson, 7 week old daughter of Bro. Jared and Sis. Julie,

was hospitalized, and our dear Sis. Julie Dapper has been hospitalized in a Chicago hospital for additional chemotherapy. Our prayers continue daily with all those enduring physical afflictions.

Our prayers are also with our Sis. Esther Herrmann, who is a resident of Peoria Skylines, as she has lost her dear brother, Ben Broquard, of East Peoria, IL. May we remember to pray for all the sorrowing and grieving hearts.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

**Jamie Hodel
Judy Sauder**

One of Thy children is coming home,
open Thy merciful arms,
One of Thy children's too tired to
roam,

Open Thy merciful arms.

Send out a shepherd; open the gate,
Jesus has called and His sheep must
not wait.

Oh, what a joy to be traveling home;
Open thy merciful arms.

Gospel Hymns #784

Many in our congregation have bid a final farewell to loved ones. Our prayers are with Bro. Rick (Sis. Shirley) Gerber, Sis. Beth (Bro. Brian) Moser, and Ed Gerber in the passing of their parents, Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Malinda Gerber. Our prayers are also with the Fischer family in the passing of Sis. Dorothy Fischer (Bro. Richard); with Sis. Jan Sauder (Bro. Bob) who lost her sister, April Monge; and also Sis. Jennifer Mangold (Bro. Matt) in the passing of her brother-in-law, Corey Jergenson.

We were thankful to have visiting ministers with us. Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Deb) shared the Word with us this month. Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. MaryAnn) was also with us Wednesday evening, January 7, to share the Memorandum with our congregation.

On January 3, Scott Aeschleman (Bro. Steve and Sis. Jill) married Alisha Sanders. Alisha's parents are Bruce and Marsha Sanders of Lee's Summit, Missouri.

On January 11, the engagement of Bro. Travis Leman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Julie) to Sis. Morgan Kaiser (Bro. Alan and Sis. Brenda) of Morton was made known. We pray they will feel the nearness of God as they plan for their wedding.

Jerry and Raylene Getz became grandparents again on November 14 when Norah Lynne was born to Nate and Holly Gerdes. Also welcoming Norah home are older brother, Corbin; grandparents, Rick and Diana Zimmerman of Peoria, and Stan and Deb Gerdes of Toluca. Bro. Duane and Sis. Rachel Schroeder welcomed another grandchild on January 5. Arrawen Joy was born to Bro. Jordan and Sis. Katelyn Schroeder. Welcoming Arrawen home are big sister, Jaycee, and maternal grandparents, Bro. Jeff and Sis. Brenda Thames of Washington.

Jason Rassi (Bill and Jan) is being deployed again to serve in Afghanistan. We pray God will be with him and his family as he serves our nation.

Note of Thanks:

To my dear church family:

I would like to thank everyone for their many prayers and gifts of love. I am truly overwhelmed by your love and your kindness. It has been a wonderful blessing to feel the Lord's healing power through the many prayers offered on my behalf. May He richly bless each and every one, and may you all have a joyous new year.

In His Love,
Charlene Monk

I would like to thank all of you who remembered me on my 90th birthday and at Christmas.

May God bless you for your

thoughtfulness and love shown to me.

Sis. Doris Bowald

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Teresa Rowell

Janice Sauder

"I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."

Jeremiah 29:11

This verse is the last thought that our dear Elder Bro. Charles Sauder's wife, Sis. Miriam, had before she succumbed to a serious illness and died 10 days later. Are we ready to meet our Lord for our expected end, or is our end uncertain because we haven't taken advantage of His marvelous grace and sought Him in repentance? Sis. Miriam's illness should definitely make each one of us think about our own "end". Our deepest sympathy is extended to her family, Elder Bro. Charles, Bro. John (Sis. Misty), Bro. Jim (Sis. Rachel), Sis. Carrie Ito (Bro. Akihiro, Shioda, Japan), and her grandchildren.

We also mourn with Sis. Arlene Huette, Sis. Donna Wyss (Bro. Bruce, Goodfield), Sis. Teresa Schock (Bro. Dale, Bloomfield, IA), Sis. Rita Wettstein (Bro. Jon, Bloomfield, IA) and Sis. Marsha Koch (Bro. Earl, Tremont), and their families in the death of their husband and father, Bro. Ken Huette.

We are thankful to have brothers among us willing to preach God's Word to us. Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Sis. Judy, Forrest) and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. Lavonne, Sabetha, KS) were here for Sis. Miriam's funeral, and Bro. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville) was here for a Sunday service. We pray an extra measure of God's grace on these dear brothers.

And, of course, in this world, we

will always have those who are suffering illness or surgery. Our prayers are with Sis. Betty Hild, Sis. Vera (Bro. Walt) Aberle, Sis. Lori (Bro. Si III) Wagenbach, Sis. Melba (Bro. Jerry) Hangartner, Sis. Josephine Schaefer and Elder Bro. Charles Sauder as they battle the afflictions of the flesh.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Elizabeth Heinold

Linda Folkerts

"Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer"

Romans 12:12

As we enter a new year, we have much to be prayerful about. Even when our country is going through economic hardship and strife, may we as believers try to stay focused on that wonderful hope that we have through Jesus our Saviour.

Our congregation was thankful to see the safe return of Bro. John and Sis. Ellen Cox, as they had gone to Mexico for treatment for Sis. Ellen. May they feel our love and prayers.

We extend our sincere sympathies to Bro. Ed Fritz and Sis. Martha Moser of our congregation in the passing of their sister, Sis. Miriam Sauder (Elder Bro. Charles) of Tremont. May God comfort this family with His love and peace.

We wish God's blessings of love to Alex Gerber and Summer Zell as they were married on December 28. Their parents are Bro. Neil and Sis. Leesa Gerber and Phil and Kathy Zell of Charlotte, NC.

Even as Jesus blessed the young lad's five loaves and two fishes and fed the 5,000, so has God blessed and fed our congregation so lovingly through our ministering brothers. This past month we have been blessed with visiting ministers, Bro. Brad Eisenmann

(Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL) Bro. Doug Wagenbach (Sis. Lillian, San Diego, CA) and Bro. Steve Stieglitz (Sis. Jane, Leo, IN), and we thank them for their service.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

**Grace Gerber
Stefanie Kipfer
Jan Schwartz**

“And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him.”

Matthew 2:11a

Christmas and New Year's are an amazing time to reflect on the year, our lives, our purpose and reassess who and what we are worshipping and placing our trust. As with any year and month, we are reminded of many reasons to stay on our knees to rejoice over souls finding salvation and to petition on behalf of our hurting brothers, sisters and friends. Our Sunday school students did an excellent job of reminding us of this in the annual Christmas program. It was a joy to hear the children sing.

The Bluffton church also found joy when Rob Parker, grandson of Bro. Ralph and Sis. Lucinda Steffen, decided to commit to serving the Lord this month. Jenna Neuenschwander also made that decision for her life at the turn of the year. Jenna is the daughter of Bro. Rex and Sis. Becky Neuenschwander. We hope and pray that they can find the peace of the Lord in their every day as they begin a life-long walk with the Lord.

We were also happy to welcome home Bro. Spencer Lewis for a year-long sabbatical from Ixtlan, Mexico. His faithful service is appreciated and we look forward to seeing the Lord use him in Bluffton in the next year.

Our Sis. Alicia Steffen, daughter of

Bro. Craig and Sis. Jean Steffen, has decided to relocate to Taylor, MO. We are going to miss her, but know that she will be used by the Lord in many ways while she is there. Taylor is blessed to have her make that her home church.

As a congregation, there have been many occasions to be on our knees to lift up the hurting in our church and community. This month, Landon Bertsch, 4-year-old grandson of Bro. Stan and Sis. Cindy Bertsch, underwent surgery. Bro. Steve Reinhard faced time in the hospital. Elise Van Horn, daughter of Bro. Dean and Sis. Marlene, also was in the hospital for an infection. Sadly, Bro. Jesse Terhune spent time in the hospital. In addition, Bro. Bill Carrico (Sis. Heidi) underwent surgery and was in the hospital. Ryan Harris, grandson of Mae Strahm, is currently in the hospital after a serious motorcycle accident. We also grieved with Sis. Marcia Steffen (Bro. Eric) and Sis. Shelly Reinhard (Bro. Kevin) who both lost their fathers this month.

This past month, there were also families who rejoiced with the birth of babies. John and Sis. Shelley Brickley welcomed their grandson, William Allen Ault, on December 17. William's parents are Adam and Jessica Ault. Also on December 17, Atticus Xavier Merchant was welcomed by his parents, Ben and Amber. Atticus' grandparents are Bro. Rick and Sis. Joyce Yergler. Bro. Brady and Sis. Jacki Ripple became first-time parents on December 29 when Myah Sue Ripple entered the world. Bro. Mark and Sis. Wanda Moser also rejoiced when their granddaughter was born. On January 16, Bro. Rich and Sis. Amber Pfister welcomed Silas Alan who joins his siblings, Kaitlyn, William, Seth and Kendra. Silas is also welcomed by his grandparents, Bro. Al and Sis. Becky Pfister and Bro. Bill and Sis. Lou Ann

Rager. We pray that these babies can grow and know the Lord.

Regardless of the reasons for turning to the Lord in prayer, we worship and adore not only the babe, but also our Savior Jesus Christ.

INDIANA BLUFFTON NORTH

**Jessie Longenberger
Sherry Pfister**

“Then shall thou call, and the Lord shall answer, thou shall cry, and he shall say, here I am.”

Isaiah 58:9

We rejoice with Bro. Phil and Sis. Maureen Stettner as they welcome a new grandson, Baker Phillip, born on December 18. Parents are Bro. Jeff and Sis. Margo Waibel and he joins a big sister, Summer. Great-grandmother is Sis. Goldie Stettner.

Bros. Steve Longenberger (Sis. Kathy) and Jarrod Gerber (Sis. Amy) both had back surgery this past month. Sis. Gladys Fiechter (Bro. Walter, dec.) has undergone surgery for a broken hip, and Bro. Eugene Maller (Sis. Delores) is hospitalized for pneumonia and a mild heart attack. We continue to uphold these loved ones and their families in our prayers.

Condolences to Sis. Jan Moser (Tom) in the passing of her aunt, Sis. Mary Mae Bocka from Mansfield (Bro. Harry), on December 30.

On the evening of January 18, our congregation joined with Bluffton East to commemorate the Apostolic Church's founding in Bluffton 150 years ago. Many memories were shared as thanks were given to the Lord for His care and guidance over the years.

**INDIANA
FRANCESVILLE
Mildred Clauss
Barb Huber**

For our congregation, "2009" had a blessed beginning. When we assembled around the Word on New Year's Eve, the sermon, the blending of our voices in song and the recitations given all reflected the wonderful message of hope! (Titus 2:13) And because of that "Hope" we are assured of God's divine Providence over us; and when problems come to our lives, His grace will be greater than any problem. We wish to thank our visiting ministers: Bro. Mike Thomas and Bro. Garry Bucher (Valparaiso), Bro. Mark Wettstein (LaCrosse) and Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Remington) for their uplifting words and for their presence!

Today our nation witnessed the inauguration of her 44th president, and I believe each of us is thankful to our God for the freedoms we enjoy in this great land of America. But as I listened to all the promises for change and solutions to the problems of our world for the coming years, I thought of the frailty of mankind! Unless we desire righteousness and ask for God's daily grace, we cannot live above greed and deceitfulness and all the pitfalls of evil that plague our society today. So, we who are redeemed need to be prayerful and to walk closely to the Lord, for we know that even though our earthly freedoms can be jeopardized, the freedom we have in Christ Jesus no man can take from us. Let's keep our minds focused upon Him who will keep us in perfect peace (Isaiah 26:3)! And let's continue to pray for those who are in authority over us.

Bro. Chad and Sis. Pam Huber and their family have returned to their mission work in Jamaica. It was a blessing to have them in our midst for a short furlough. Bro. Chad gave a re-

port to the church of the Lord's daily provision for their work amongst the people there. We pray for God's grace and courage as they commit themselves to His work in that area.

Several from our congregation have recently spent time in the hospital, including Bro. Paul Clauss (Sis. Wilma) for tests, Sis. Ruth Wuethrich (Bro. Chris Lee) for surgery, Sis. Emilie Anliker was treated for pneumonia and Vannesa Murray (daughter of Bro. John and Sis. Jessica) spent time in Riley Hospital for tests. Each of them is now at home enjoying the blessing of recovery!

A group of ten willing workers have returned from a trip to Haiti where they assisted Bro. Jan and Sis. Val Gutwein with construction on the Simone Orphanage. Those making the trip were Bro. Les, Bro. Ryan and Sis. Leah Kaeb, Bro. Brian, Sis. Tami and Sis. Jenna Putt, Melissa Edwards, Sis. Danielle Wuethrich, Bro. Rick Wuethrich and his daughter, Chariti, who came from Phoenix to join the group. We thank God for His watchful providence over them as they traveled.

**INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS
Sandy Lichtle
Penny Schroder**

On December 21, Bro. Jonathan Wales (Don and Sis. Carol, Kansas City, MO) and Sis. Melanie Levy (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue) announced their engagement. We are happy for them and pray for God's blessings on them during this time.

We pray for a speedy recovery for little Ruth Gutwein (Bro. Sam and Sis. Carrie) who broke her leg over the holidays.

On January 3-4, Katrina Baltic (Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty) shared her testimony and was baptized in Rittman, OH. We rejoice with her as she continues in her walk with the

Lord.

Jacob Ziolkowski (James and Kathleen) from the Remington area began repenting this past month. He is currently a student at Indiana University and has been worshipping in Indianapolis. We are thankful to have him with us and pray for his continued spiritual growth.

Bro. JR and Sis. Tiffany Sauder welcomed their first child, Aubrey Marie, into their family on January 15. Thankful grandparents include Bro. John and Sis. Peg Sauder (Morton, IL) and Bro. Jon and Sis. Wendy Schwab (Wolcott, IN).

We were blessed to have brothers from the AC Counseling and Family Services share with us at a Marriage Seminar the weekend of January 16-17. The message was both encouraging and challenging for all those who attended. We pray a blessing on those who spoke and on their families also.

Additionally, we want to thank Bro. Ted Witzig Jr. (Sis. Donna, Morton, IL) for sharing the Word with us on January 18. We appreciate his willingness to be used in the Lord's service.

**INDIANA, LACROSSE
Bethany Johnson
Julie Rocke**

It has been bitterly cold here this week and it is hard to stay warm. We have had to stay inside with the heat turned up and put on our warmest clothes when venturing out. We have warm hearts, though, as we read of God's love and mercy and as we fellowship with one another at church.

We have had the privilege of listening to the Memorandum with Elder Bros. Curt Frank and John Laukhuf (Latty, OH) and being exhorted to look into our heart and lives and see if there are changes to make to be more Christ-like and to see where we can be

of more service in our church. We wish to thank the Elder Brothers for their efforts of love as they put together this Memorandum and as they strive to lead our churches in the ways of the Lord.

Jonathan Rocke (Bro. Brad and Sis. Julie) had an out-patient surgery this month and we are thankful he has recovered so quickly.

Our congregation would like to thank the many visiting ministers that we had in the past month. It is always nice around the holidays to have these brothers come "home" and serve us on the pulpit. They were: Bro. Lucas Frank (Sis. Crystal, Detroit, MI); Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI); Bro. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA); Bro. Ken Weerts (Sis. Sharon, Cissna Park, IL); Bro. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN); and Elder Bro. John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia, Latty, OH).

INDIANA, LEO
Elizabeth Schrenk
Abigail Schrenk

"I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope."

Psalms 130:5

May our hearts and minds be waiting with great anticipation and expectation what the Lord will do in our lives this coming year as we put our hope in HIS Word.

Bro. Jeff and Sis. Margo Waibel welcomed the birth of Baker Phillip born December 18, 2008, with great anticipation. Little Baker is arriving home to big sister Summer. We offer our prayers to this couple as they raise their little family to love Jesus.

We had the privilege of having Bro. Kirk and Sis. Keri Plattner (Knockpatrick, Jamaica) visit with us over the Christmas season. We continue to pray for their ministry in Ja-

maica as they serve our Heavenly Father.

We thank Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI) and Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jackie, Francesville, IN) for visiting us during this past month. We thank these brothers for bringing forth God's Word to us in a clear manner.

On New Year's Eve we gathered for a time of fellowship and singing as we welcomed in the New Year.

Our annual Business Meeting was held on January 11. Ballots were taken for new positions of leadership within the congregation. We want to thank those brothers and sisters who have faithfully given of themselves to bless our congregation.

INDIANA, MILFORD
Pam Beer
Carol Hurd

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

Ecclesiastes 3:1

On December 2, Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Heide Price were blessed with a son, Jaden David. He is welcomed home by siblings, Trevor and Brittany. His grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Pam Lehman and Bro. Phil and Sis. Jane Price.

Note of Thanks:

We want to thank you for your prayers, outpouring of love, acts of charity shown to us. When Shelby was first diagnosed with cancer, one of her doctors asked me what kind of support system we would have. I replied, "We have the best in the world!" Dear ones, you have proven to us again that this is true.

May God richly bless each one of you.

Bro. Nelson Beer

Bro. Randy & Sis. Deb Beer
Bro. Brett & Sis. Renee Lanz
Bro. Daren & Sis. Rita Metz
Bro. Chris & Sis. Rachel Laukhuf

In spite of the survive weather, the Milford congregation was able to meet for their annual business meeting on January 8. The following were elected: Trustee – Bro. Tom Price; Sunday School teachers – Bro. Randy Beer (Bible Class), Bro. Cory Laukhuf and Bro. Troy Wuthrich (downstairs), and Sis. Cara Laukhuf (upstairs); Secretary – Sis. Carol Haab; Usher – Bro. John Hurd; World Relief Committee – Sis. Gwen Steffen; Food Committee – Sis. Barbara Beer.

The Milford congregation thanks those who are willing to fill these needs. May God bless them and those who have held these offices.

INDIANA, REMINGTON
Jenni Honegger
Marcella Tyler

Greetings from Remington! Bro. Ron Isch (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS) brought us the Word on New Year's Eve at our joint service with Wolcott. As we reflect back on 2008, we realize how many blessings God has bestowed upon us. Some may have suffered flooding, illnesses or loss of a family member, but we can continue to look to our Heavenly Father for guidance and understanding. I sometimes wonder what we would do if we didn't have God in our lives. How would we get through those tough times? As we begin a new year, may we never forget that God knows all and has a plan for each and every one of our lives. May God bless all of us as we begin the year 2009.

We rejoice with the angels that Stuart Kilgus (Elder Bro. Dan and Sis. Jenna) has found the grace and humility to begin his journey of repentance. We are thankful that God

is still working in the hearts of men and that the miracle of salvation has been given freely to all who humbly accept this great and wonderful gift. We pray that Stuart will feel the love and support of the church as he receives the blessings that come from a humble and contrite spirit.

Bro. Clyde Waibel (Sis. Mary Sue) continues his battle with cancer, and we will continue to uphold him in prayer. If you would like to keep informed of Bro. Clyde's progress, we invite you to visit the following website:

<http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/clydewaibel>. Although the Internet may contain many dangers, it can also be a wonderful tool for brethren to keep in touch with each other across the miles.

We also recently held our annual elections for Sunday School teachers and other positions within the church. We are so appreciative of each one who has served and will continue to uphold in prayer those who will begin new terms. Regardless of in which area we serve, whether highly visible or behind the scenes, let us remember: "So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another." Romans 12:5

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**Rachel Langhofer
Joshua Martinez**

Someone recently noticed that last year our South Bend ushers went under-unemployed. Our church had one wedding, no funerals and no baptisms. To explain these statistics, we'll note that in recent years our Young Group has been decimated by love and marriage, our older members are in excellent health and the vast majority of prospective Young Group replacements are still in diapers or of primary school age. Babies compose the fastest growing segment

of our church family!

We had many visitors this past month visiting friends and family during the Christmas season. We would like to thank Bro. Wayne and Sis. Julie Leman (Roanoke, IL) and their three children for blessing our congregation with their love and fellowship. We were also delighted to welcome home for a visit our dear Bro. Buicky Boriboune who continues his studies at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana.

We were blessed with a very white Christmas and New Year. Many of our brethren traveled during this time as well, so our annual Christmas program was rescheduled a couple of times. The Christmas program was finally held in place of morning service on January 11. Our Sunday School and some adult groups sang of the coming of our Saviour. Bro. Rich Gramm read from St. John 1:1-14. He reminded us of the great love of God in sending His Son. "And the Word was made flesh..."

It is with this reminder of Jesus' presence in our hearts that we wish you God's blessings and protection in this New Year. We also extend an open and happy invitation to join us in worship should your travels bring you close to our area.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Marguerite Hoerr

December 28 was a day of celebration for Bro. Lyle and Sis. Marilyn Zeltwanger's 50th wedding anniversary. This event brought many visitors to our Valpo church and we felt ourselves very privileged to serve lunch that Sunday.

Two days prior I'd had a fall on the ice and was using a walker. I called Sis. Lois Bucher, who had offered to help previously because it would be a busier Sunday noon than usual. She came early with three daughters, a

daughter-in-law and two granddaughters and they skillfully served our lunch with me mostly just looking on. Sis. Leona Bucher has been my guide and stay ever since we moved to Valpo, so she was there helping to her utmost, too. The help from the rest of our sisters was overwhelming. The value of Christian friends cannot be measured.

This particular Sunday we were enriched with many visiting ministers. They were Bros. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA), Kevin Banwart (Sis. Sandy, West Bend, IA), Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Francesville, IN), and Lyle and Marilyn's son-in-law, Herb Knochel, Jr. (Sis. Laurie, Phoenix, AZ). Our singing was beautiful, the messages from the pulpit were so enriching and when we think it all came together for Lyle and Marilyn, we know they felt most blest; and so did the rest of us.

The following Sunday was a large contrast to the one mentioned. We were back to our little tight knit group and we sang a farewell hymn for Bro. Ken and Sis. Carol Bucher who will spend most of the winter in Ft. Myers, FL, and to Bro. Lyle and Sis. Marilyn who will spend their winter in Phoenix, AZ. We'll stay close to them in heart until they return again in the spring. A bright spot on this Sunday for us was that we had a visitor of our own — our grandson, Matt Hoerr, from St. Paul, MN.

Bro. Ed Lester, Sr. has had his shoulder surgery and is receiving therapy. According to his cheerful smile, we judge he's getting along quite well, but talking to Sis. Caroline makes us aware that the recovery period has been kind of rough. We continue to remember him in our prayers.

Bro. Garry and Sis. Lois Bucher took a much deserved vacation, and whenever Bro. Mike Thomas is alone, he usually asks for help. Bro. Todd

Feller (Sis. Karen) was gracious enough to come from LaCrosse to share the pulpit with him. Bro. Todd retired from the ministry a couple years ago, but has been put back into service more than once when our ministers need assistance. We ask God to bless him for generously sharing with us.

I was privileged at my age to spend a few minutes with the Bible class in Sunday school this past Sunday. As is usually the case, I learned far more from them than they learned from me. It was a blessed experience. It made me keenly aware of the importance of our Sunday school teachers and how much they are appreciated.

Winter time in Indiana isn't always the best for traveling, but if any of you would be inclined to visit us in Valpo some sunny winter day, remember we are on IN State Rd. 49, just 2 3/4 miles S. of U.S. 30. Our services are 10:30 and 12:30 each Sunday. We would welcome you with open arms.

**INDIANA
WEST LAFAYETTE
Hollie Meister
Darlene Walder**

We are thankful that Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Wolcott, IN) came to share God's Word with us this month.

We gathered again this month for Family Praise Night. Everyone enjoyed singing beautiful praise songs, delicious food, and fellowshiping with one another.

Our congregation continues to pray for Sis. Reva Waibel who was hospitalized this month. We pray that God will give her all she needs.

**INDIANA, WOLCOTT
Donita Edelman
Lynell Blume**

We have had several visiting ministers over the holidays and in the

past couple of weeks. We wish to express our thanks to each one for giving of themselves so willingly on the pulpit. May God bless Bros. Mark Wettstein (Sis. Karen, Lacrosse, IN), Neal Widmer (Sis. Kris, West Lafayette, IN), Ron Isch (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS), Dale Banwart (Sis. Missy, Congerville, IN), and Todd Graf (Sis. Lydia, Akron, OH) for sharing the Word of Life with us.

Harold Lehman (June) and Hannah Bahler (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Heidi) have repented for their sins and have been announced as having peace with God and man. We anxiously await their testimonies and baptisms.

"Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted."

Matthew 5:4

We wish to extend our love and prayers of sympathy to Harold and June Lehman in the passing of their son, Ronnie, on December 22. Ronnie is also missed by his two brothers, Bro. Dave and Bro. John (Sis. Ruth Ann). When death takes away our loved ones, it leaves a sorrow that can only be comforted by thoughts of meeting them some day in Heaven. May the Lord bless this dear family who so faithfully and tenderly cared for him. It was a special blessing to have Ronnie's uncle, Bro. Nate Lehman (Sis. Yvonne, Denver, CO), here to conduct the funeral service and offer comforting words of God's hope and love.

On January 5, we held our annual business meeting. We thank those who have carried out duties within the church in the past year and pray God's grace and wisdom on those who have assumed new responsibilities.

We have missed Sis. Colleen Jacoby (Bro. Jon) who was a surgical patient this month. May the Lord continue to heal and restore her.

Our hearts rejoice when we hear that another loved one has turned her heart to the Lord. May God grant Michelle Furrer (Bro. Troy and Sis. Lisa) much grace as she works out her soul's salvation.

On January 9, Michael and Kelly Minniear welcomed a new baby girl into their family. Madison Grace is welcomed home by big sisters, Kelsey, Cassidy, and Kaelin, who are anxious to help care for her. Happy grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Glenna Minniear and Howard and Marlene Strasburger.

Also witnessing the miracle of birth are excited first-time grandparents, Bro. Jon and Sis. Wendy Schwab. Aubrey Marie was born January 15 to Bro. J.R. and Sis. Tiffany Sauder (Indianapolis, IN). Aubrey's other set of grandparents is Bro. Jon and Sis. Peg Sauder (Morton, IL). We wish both of these families God's blessings and the grace needed to raise children for the Lord.

**IOWA, BLOOMFIELD
Christy Wiegand**

In sorrow and pain
Thy trust do retain,
In Jesus the merciful Savior.
Zion's Harp #46

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Jon and Sis. Rita Wettstein and Bro. Dale and Sis. Teresa Schock and their families. Sis. Rita and Sis. Teresa's father, Bro. Ken Huette (Tremont), passed away on December 19. May they find comfort in Jesus' love.

As we ushered in a new year, we were reminded that we set our life by God's clock, not our own.

God's time is right,
There's none so wise as He,
His hand upholds the whole wide
world;
He knows what's best for me.

*(God's Clock #4,
The Children's Harp)*

IOWA, BURLINGTON

**Karla Gerst
Dixie Messner**

The afternoon of our annual meeting, we read from I Corinthians chapter 12 where Paul talks about the diversities of operations and how each of us is given a gift whether it be healing, teaching, the working of miracles, etc. We each are needed in our own way. We want to thank those that have fulfilled their terms and offer our support to Bro. Leo Banwart and Bro. Lloyd Massner as they take over positions as trustees and to Sis. Mary Massner as she works on the women's committee.

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) with us for Christmas services. Also visiting us this month was Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall and Bro. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA).

Sis. Maye Heiniger and Naomi Eisenmann spent time in the hospital. God's healing hand was over them and they are back home again.

IOWA, ELGIN Maria Rocke

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

Zion's Harp #112

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl, Rockville, CT) here along with our Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA) to share the Memorandum letter with us on January 17. Also here to labor for us that weekend was Bro. Pat Zaugg (Sis. Julie, West

Bend, IA). On December 25, Bro. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA) was here to share our Christmas Day service with us. We thank these dear brothers for their labors.

We held our New Year's Eve service on December 31. We rejoice as we look back over the past year. The Lord has certainly provided for our small flock with many additions to our congregation!

Our annual business meeting was held on January 7. We thank those who have given of their time and talents: Bro. Wade Halverson (trustee), Bro. Charles Schneider (sound system), and Sis. Gloria Frieden (Silver Lining). We trust the Lord will bless those who have been elected to fill their duties: Bro. Jim Knobloch (trustee), Bro. Ben Frieden, Bro. Phillip Wyss and Bro. Caleb Knobloch (sound system) and Sis. Maria Rocke (Silver Lining).

Having brethren here from the Tremont congregation, our thoughts and prayers are with Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL) and his family as he recently laid to rest his dear wife, Sis. Miriam. May we all look to our Heavenly Father to grant us the strength to press on.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE Willa Clark

"Let not your heart be troubled:..."

John 14:1

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

John 14:27

"These things have I spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome

the world."

John 16:33

Although we may have known these familiar verses since childhood, they become more vital as we begin a new year, with a change in government and a huge uncertainty about what that change may mean to us as Christians. Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL) shared with us the reassuring promises Jesus gave His disciples and extends to us.

With unease in the world around us, one thing is sure, when we give God complete control, His peace and joy fill our lives.

"Ask and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full."

John 16:24

"If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love:... These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full."

John 15:10-11

Jesus wants us to live joyfully in His love.

We are thankful for every visitor in our small congregation, especially the ministering brothers and their families. In the past month our visiting ministers have been Bro. Ron Joos (Sis. Christy, Bloomfield), Bro. Jeff Thames (Sis. Brenda, Washington) and Bro. Marvin Leman (Sis. Jane, Bradford).

Sis. Alecia Moser, daughter of Bro. Tom and Sis. Dawn Moser, was hospitalized a few days following surgery during winter break. We thank God she is recuperating and able to be back in classes at Iowa State University.

IOWA, IOWA CITY**Diana Butikofer**

We appreciate Bro. Bruce and Sis. Bonita Frank (Cissna Park, IL) spending a Sunday with us and trust God will bless Bro. Bruce for his willingness to serve us.

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

This winter has been extremely challenging with excessive ice, snow and bitterly cold temperatures resulting in many activities being postponed or cancelled. How thankful we are when we can assemble around the warmth of God's Word. Visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Bro. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA), Bro. Larry Bahr (Ft. Scott, KS) and Bro. Randy Mogler (Washington, IL). May they all feel the inspiration of the Holy Spirit as they preach the Gospel of salvation.

Adverse weather caused our annual Christmas program to be held on January 4. What a blessing to gather together to listen to our Sunday School children enthusiastically share the story of Jesus with songs and recitations.

Curtis and Cathy Doorneveerd welcomed a precious daughter, Lucy Ann, born on December 13. Big brother Jackson and grandparents, Bro. Lynn and Sis. Kathy Doorneveerd, are thankful for a little girl to love.

Mason Dean was born on January 5 to Bro. Dustin and Sis. Michelle Knobloch. Isaac, Emma and Abby are excited for a new brother. Rejoicing in Mason's safe arrival are grandparents, Bro. Meff and Sis. Wilma Knobloch and Ron and Sis. Sandra Feucht.

We want to remember our loved ones that spent time in the hospital.

May God's healing touch be with Sis. Sherryl Knobloch (Bro. Larry), Luke Metzger (Bro. Jared and Sis. Carla), Evan Mogler (Bro. Dwight and Sis. Donna), Caleb and Joshua Rinkenberger (Bro. Isaac and Sis. Melissa) and Sis. Zelma Knobloch.

Our congratulations is extended to Amy Ter Wee (Jerry and Mary) and Darren Herzog as they plan for their April wedding. May God be with them as they make preparation for their future.

Faithful until death remain!

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

Zion's Harp #105

Sis. Eunice Knobloch passed into eternity on December 20 at the age of 84 years. We extend our sympathy to Sis. Gladys, Bro. Art (Sis. Elgeva), Dale (Sis. Mary), Sis. Irene and Sis. Lauretta Knobloch as they grieve the loss of their sister and sister-in-law.

On December 23, our congregation bid farewell to Bro. Paul Knobloch who passed away at the age of 88 years. Bro. Paul is survived by two sons, John (Lupita) and Joe (Linda), and one brother, Bro. August (Sis. Florence), one sister, Sis. Louise Anliker, and one sister-in-law, Sis. Zelma Knobloch, as well as a host of nieces and nephews. May God provide comfort and precious memories to all that have experienced loss of a loved one.

If Jesus goes with me, I'll

go...Anywhere!

'Tis heaven to me, Where'er I may
be, If He is there!

Tabernacles #36

Sis. Angie Kupferschmid has returned to Eureka, IL, after living in our Lester area for eight years. We

have appreciated her cheerful spirit and willingness to teach our Sunday School children. Our wish is that God will continue to bless and guide her.

On January 11, Bro. Daniel Messner (Bro. Henry and Sis. Charlene) and Sis. Stephanie Schaefer (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Denise, Morris, MN) were united in marriage at Morris. We want to warmly welcome Sis. Stephanie to our church family and pray that God will bless them as they establish a Christian home.

"Let all those that seek thee rejoice
and be glad in thee: and let such as
love thy salvation say continually, Let
God be magnified."

Psalms 70:4

We rejoice with Jeff and Betty Popkes that through the process of repentance they have found peace with God and man. May God's abundant grace be with them.

The betrothal of Sis. Elyse Meyer (Bro. Denis and Sis. Jill) and Bro. Kent Moser (Bro. Donn and Sis. Joyce) was shared on January 18. May God bless them as they as they prepare to become one in Him.

Kelli Bajema (Bro. Rod and Sis. Twyla) graduated from college in December with a Nursing degree. May God give her the compassion needed to care for the patients entrusted to her.

At our New Year's Eve church service, we heard the statistics for 2008. In our Lester congregation there was 14 baptisms, 15 births and 10 deaths.

There will be Apostolic Christian Church services at the Shields Valley Community Center in Clyde Park, Montana, the weekend of June 27 and 28. Contact ministering Bros. Gene Metzger and Wes Moser for details.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Bro. Nathan Knobloch would like to thank every-

one who remembered them during his failing health and death. The many acts of kindness were greatly appreciated. May God richly bless each one.

Sis. Irene Knobloch and family

IOWA, OAKVILLE **Sharla Wiegand**

Thanks to many volunteers, some of our church families have moved back into their homes that were flooded. We welcomed Bro. Jerry Isch (Philadelphia, PA) and his family who came to volunteer for two weeks in January. His sharing in the ministry was appreciated.

Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Wolcott, IN) brought forth the Word on New Year's Eve. Bro. Steve Pamer (Akron, OH) ministered to us on January 7 and Bro. Phil Schulz (Burlington, IA) on January 14.

A new life was begun on December 28 as Evan Allen Frank became the first-born child of Bro. Kevin and Sis. Lindsay Frank. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Tina Frank and Bro. Jeff and Sis. Monti Wagenbach.

A dear sister passed from this life into eternity. Sis. Esther Vierling, age 94, took her last breath on January 8. Her nephew, Bro. Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL), helped with funeral services. May we be found faithful to our last day.

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

"...The blessing of the Lord be upon you..."

Psalm 129:8

Bro. John and Sis. Wendy Fehr welcomed precious Phillip Wayne into their family circle on December 18, 2008. Heather, Michael, Brandon,

Crystal, Garrett, and Tiffany are Phillip's helpful siblings. Grateful grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon Fehr and Bro. Art and Sis. Eula Mogler. Another new little bundle of joy entered the lives of Bro. Carl and Sis. Sara Gerber when sweet Ellie Jo entered this world on December 22, 2008. Her older playmates are Noah and Claire. Ellie's thankful grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Diane Gerber and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gail Massner.

Funeral services were held in Lester, IA, for Sis. Eunice Elaine Knobloch following her death on December 20 here in West Bend. Sis. Eunice lived in our area at different times during her later years, and spent her last days in the West Bend Care Center. She is survived by six siblings: Sis. Matilda (Bro. Elmer) Fehr of West Bend, Sis. Dena (Bro. Calvin) Weiss from Sabetha, KS, Sis. Gladys Knobloch, Bro. Art (Sis. Elgeva) Knobloch, and Dale (Sis. Mary) Knobloch, all from the Lester congregation, and Sis. Betty (Bro. Clarence) Dietrich of Silverton, OR. She also left behind two sisters-in-law, Sis. Laretta Knobloch and Sis. Irene Knobloch, also from the Lester area, plus numerous nieces and nephews. As a single sister, Sis. Eunice's life was centered around Christ and helping others. Our sympathy is extended to each of her family members and her friends.

The passing of time has brought the passing of several more of our loved ones. Bro. Paul Knobloch (Lester, IA) passed away in December. He will be missed by many, including his sister, Sis. Pearl Anliker, from West Bend. Audrey (John) Zaugg lost her grandmother and Lucille Wirtz lost her sister in January. May God be with and comfort the heart of each mourner.

We're thankful to report Sis. Helen Zaugg is recuperating at her as-

sisted living home following a short hospital stay.

Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. Virgil Metzger (Sis. Mary, Chicago, IL) visited West Bend the end of December. Bro. Curt and Bro. Virgil clearly brought forth God's Word and its truths. We thank them for their visit and their labors.

We have had a typical Iowa winter here with lots of ice, snow, wind, and cold weather. Church services were canceled on December 21 because of this, and our Sunday School Christmas program postponed until the 31st. It was worth the wait, as the children did so well telling and singing of our Saviour's birth. For this we thank the teachers and students for their efforts in reminding us about this miracle.

JAPAN, SHIODA **Carrie Ito**

Our church enjoyed a visit from Elder Bro. Akito Inoue (Sis. Marie) for the New Year's Day Service. The New Year is a special time in Japanese culture, so it is so good to be reminded of spiritual things during this time.

Words cannot express our appreciation for all the kindness shown to us during the passing of my mother, Sis. Miriam Sauder. May God reward each one who blessed us during that time and since.

JAPAN, TOKYO **Jana Klaus**

2009! As we start this new year, may we say with the prophet Jeremiah "It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness." Lamentations 3:22-23.

We had no baptisms, new babies, weddings or funerals in our Tokyo church this year, but we do feel we

were blessed with a good sized attendance all throughout the year, including several families with children coming quite regularly. We look forward to again experiencing the Lord's faithfulness in this new year. We extend a big thank you for prayers and support on behalf of our churches here and to all those who came to worship and fellowship with us from across the seas.

On the first Sunday of the year, the traditional Japanese new year's soup called "ozoni" was served at lunch time. "Ozoni" is made up of a variety of vegetables, small pieces of chicken, and always the special ingredient, pounded rice blocks, all in a mild soy sauce broth. It's a custom around new year's time to have family or company "rice pounding" gatherings to make these special rice blocks. Our children get to experience it at the kindergartens here, too.

A few of us couples who know English have started the Crown Financial Bible Study, meeting once a month as work schedules would make for difficulty in meeting once a week. We plan to share with the rest of the church that which we learn, so we pray for a blessed time of drawing closer to the Word and to each other through this experience. For those of you who have done this, you know the first session is mainly sharing your testimony of how you came to the Lord. We found this to be an extra special time of sharing because even though we all had been working here together for a number of years, it was the first time for some of us to hear each other's testimony. It is truly heartwarming to hear the miracle of a life being led to the Lord, whether it be that he or she grew up knowing the teachings of the Bible, or just learned them as a young adult. We were once again reminded that God is at work all around the world, doing "wondrous things."

Sis. Marie Inoue's great niece,

Cecelia Neihouser (Bro. Brad and Sis. Barb, Francesville, IN) came to experience Japan for a week and worshipped with us the last Sunday of December. We enjoyed meeting her and welcome her back anytime.

We extend our deepest sympathy to our dear Sis. Carrie and Bro. Akihiro Ito (Shioda) as Sis. Carrie's mother, Sis. Miriam Sauder (Elder Bro. Chuck, Tremont, IL) passed away on the first Sunday of the year, January 4. Our prayers are for continued comfort to the whole family as they adjust to life without their precious loved one, and for lives to be drawn to the Lord, both in the States and over here in Japan, as they contemplate on the peaceful life and death that Sis. Miriam displayed, by God's grace and mercy. What peace and joy a person can feel knowing that the life or death of a loved one was a stepping stone in bringing someone to the Lord!

KANSAS, BERN

**Jill Meyer
Rita Menold**

Bro. Paul and Sis. Joan Kaeb welcome a new grandchild with the addition of Jaci Jo, born to Bro. Neal and Sis. Kim Kellenberger (Champaign, IL). The birth of Holden Michael brought much excitement to the home of Michael and Yalana Edelman, as he joins his three sisters, Molly, Kendall and Brecken. Grandparents are Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda Edelman and Darrell and Sue Schuette.

We are thankful Bro. Jeff Bahler (Sis. Heidi; Wolcott, IN) could be with us on Christmas Day and for Bro. David Hartter (Sis. Beth; Sabetha, KS), who brought forth the Word on the following Sunday.

God is in every tomorrow,
Therefore I live for today,
Certain of finding at sunrise,

Guidance and strength for the way;
Power for each moment of weakness,
Hope for each moment of pain,
Comfort for every sorrow,
Sunshine and joy after rain.

—taken from *Streams in the Desert*

How thankful we are that God's grace is sufficient for our every need! May we ever rely on Him daily, following Him in obedience, that this grace may abound.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT Martin Hohulin

Greetings from Southeast Kansas. At this writing the winter has been kind to us in comparison to other places. There has been no snow, two mornings of 2 degrees, and one of 6 degrees. We have had many days where the temperature was in the 60's and 70's with bright sunshine.

During the holidays, our ministers took their wives and families to visit grandparents and relatives. Our first guest minister was Elder Bro. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kansas City, MO) on December 21. On New Year's Eve services our only minister was Bro. Justin Moser (Sis. Robin, Altadena, CA) along with their children. They were visiting Sis. Robin's parents, Bro. Rich and Sis. Karen Kellenberger. After services we were all invited to Bro. Lonnie and Sis. Debbie Banwart's for a big lunch to await the arrival of the New Year. Bro. Justin Moser is a grandson of the late Bro. Phillip and Sis. Bertha Metzger of Sabetha, KS.

Wedding vows were exchanged on December 27 by Michael Boge and Gloryanna Wilson. Parents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Jan Boge and Carol Wilson, all of Fort Scott, and Matthew Wilson Sr. of Dixon, TN. The couple is making their home in Lawrence, KS. We extend our best wishes and God's blessings to this dear couple.

On Sunday, January 11, Bro. Rex

Frieden (Sis. Vera, Lamar, MO) journeyed to Fort Scott to share the pulpit with our ministers, Bro. Larry Bahr and Bro. Jeff Fischer. Bro. Rex and Sis. Vera brought with them Bro. Larry and Sis. Marcy Schmidgall, also from Lamar. They were all invited to Bro. Larry and Sis. Julie Bahr's for supper to help celebrate Sis. Ruth Bahr's (Bro. Larry's mother) 81st birthday. While it is impossible to remember all the birthdays in the Silver Lining, it seems fitting to make note of those who have exceeded the life expectancy mentioned in the Bible.

Sis. Karen Kellenberger (Bro. Rich) submitted to another foot operation in January 6. It was hard to believe that she was in church the next evening for services. Her very able mother, Sis. Hazel Geyer, from Peoria, IL, took the train to Kansas City where she was picked up and brought to Fort Scott to assist Karen during her recovery. It is always a blessing to have Sis. Hazel with us in our fellowship.

KANSAS, KIOWA

**Jenny Stewart
Janice Bahr**

The Sunday School had their annual New Year's Eve party. The whole congregation was invited to attend. We had many snacks and games. We brought in the new year with hymns of praise to our Father in heaven.

Sis. Mildred Farney was our hospital patient for the month. Our prayers are with her. May she regain her health and strength.

We have finished the Conference tapes. What a true blessing they were for us. We are now holding our regular Wednesday evening services.

With February being a month of remembering the ones we love, let us also remember our Father in heaven and the powerful love He has for all of

His children.

The love of God is greater far
Than tongue or pen can ever tell;
It goes beyond the highest star
And reaches to the lowest hell.
The guilty pair bowed down with care.
God gave His Son to win.
His erring child He reconciled
And pardoned from his sin.
Oh, love of God how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forevermore endure
The saints and angels' song.

Hymns of Zion #289

KANSAS LAMONT-GRIDLEY Ester Knobloch

Our congregation enjoyed the fellowship of many who came to visit loved ones over Christmas and the New Year. Those on the pulpit were Bros. Jeff Bahr (Kiowa, KS), Brandon Emch (Kansas City, MO) and Cory Metzger (Wichita, KS). We thank them for ministering God's Holy Word to us.

May our hearts each day be opened
Unto Thy good Word, O Lord!
Lest our calling be neglected,
Lead us on with one accord!
Let Thy Spirit, we implore Thee,
Teach us how we may adore Thee.
Close to Thee let us remain,
Till Thy likeness we attain.

Zion's Harp #217, vs. 2

KANSAS, SABETHA Rebekah Beyer Carrie Grimm

During this Christmas season we enjoyed the Sunday School's song presentation at the Christmas Program on December 21. Christmas Day services were also well attended. It is with thankful hearts that we can gather with family, friends, and Brothers in Faith to remember the birth of our Lord Jesus and the salvation He gave to us by dying on the

cross for our sins.

"But God forbid that I should glory
save in the cross of our Lord Jesus
Christ..."

Galatians 6:14

Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA) was our visiting minister for New Year's Eve services. Bro. Galen Rokey (Sis. Nancy, Bern, KS) was with us on Sunday, January 11. Our prayers and thanks are with these Brothers as they continue to minister God's Word on our behalf.

Our annual Church Business Meeting was held on January 13. Our encouragement and prayers are with those who have been elected to positions in the function of our church.

Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be.
In working or in waiting,
another year with Thee.

Another year of mercies,
of faithfulness and grace.
Another year of gladness
in the shining of Thy face.

Another year of progress,
another year of praise,
another year of proving
Thy presence all the days.

Another year of service,
of witness for Thy love;
another year of training
for holier work above.

Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be.
On earth, or else in heaven
another year for Thee.

Hymns of Zion #150

KANSAS, WICHITA Emma Miller

In mid-January, we were blessed by a visit with some Minnesota snow birds. We extend a welcome to all who stop and worship with us as they are

traveling to their destinations.

We have an occasion to rejoice with Kathleen Setsor as she has completed her college requirements for a baccalaureate degree in education while she was busy as a housewife with three active children.

Bro. Brent Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO) ministered to us in Wichita. We enjoyed meeting his wife and their two lovely daughters.

We welcome Bro. Howard Warner back to our assembly after his being unable to worship with us for a period of time. He is frail but he overlooks his physical discomfort so he can partake of his spiritual needs. Also, Sis. Lillian Bowers is able to come to church in her wheelchair. We praise the Lord for their examples of faithfulness.

On a recent Sunday, the pulpit duties fell on Bro. Max Reimchisel due to our regular ministers being absent. Both Bro. Glen Funk and Bro. Cory Metzger were worshipping with their families in other locations. Bro. Max read from Matthew 6:19-34 which deals with the blessings that come to believers if they walk with the Lord. He summed up his meditation by referring to Deuteronomy 28:47-48 in which we are told "Because thou served not the Lord thy God with joy and gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things; therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies which the Lord shall send against thee." Today that opportunity is still here. We have the opportunity to serve God with joy and gladness of heart. When Bro. Max asked a brother to announce the closing hymn, the brother chose #9 from the Zion's Harp which again reinforces the theme of the love and joy that is ours if we serve the Lord. Surely that brother was listening to the meditation.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Barb Huber

"Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures forevermore."

Psalm 16:11

We are thankful for the joy He does bring into our lives....the true joy which is our strength and encouragement. (Nehemiah 8:10) We're thankful for the joy that is brought to us each Lord's Day through the ministers who come to share God's Holy Word so willingly and faithfully. Visiting ministers who came recently were: Bro. Ken Weerts (Sis. Myrna, Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Tony Manz (Sis. Denise, Junction, OH), Bro. Fred Domka (Sis. Connie, Mansfield, OH), and Bro. Wayne Leman (Sis. Julie, Roanoke, IL). May God bless and reward each of you, your dear families, and all those who traveled with you for your many efforts and labors of love. We feel so unworthy, but the Christian fellowship is truly a blessing for our small assembly.

Again, we extend a warm welcome to anyone who may be in our area or traveling through to worship with us. You may contact the Germann's (859) 223-0294 or Bro. Lester Huber (859) 745-2541. Church services are no longer being held at the Comfort Inn. Directions to the church are:

From Lexington: I-75 exit #110 (US 60), east about 6 miles to Road #1923 (Combs Ferry Road), right about 5 miles to Road #3371 (Becknerville Road), left about 1/2 mile on the right.

From Winchester: Road #1958 (Bypass) south to Road #1927 (Colby Road), west about 3 miles to Road #3371 (Becknerville Road), left 2 miles on the left.

MEXICO, IXTLAN

Matt Gerber

"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."

Col. 3:23-24

We're thankful that the annual Christmas program brought a number of excited children, many of who came for the first time. The teachers here often have a unique challenge on the day of the Christmas program. Imagine practicing songs with your class for a month before the program, and then on the day of the program only one child who practiced comes and ten new children come who don't even know the song! But we know the important thing is not the children's singing performance—it's the opportunity for them to come and share in the joy of Jesus' birth. Even though this happens every year, we were caught off guard by all the little ones, but some last minute efforts allowed us to serve food to all the children and adults. Willing hands served hungry bellies, and God provided enough for all.

The whole church was encouraged and blessed by the visit of Bro. Keith and Sis. Ruth Herrmann, Bro. Grant Herrmann, and Sis. Brittany Streitmatter. Bro. Grant had spent the summer here, so everyone was glad to see his face again. They worked on projects in the school, such as building a cabinet and putting up carpet to reduce echo problems in the classrooms.

Elder Bro. Mike and Sis. Deb Leman visited the believers in Barra Vieja this month.

MÉXICO, MAGDALENA

Kali Zobrist

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

“It is of the Lord’s mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is the faithfulness.”

Lamentations 3:22-23

God’s faithfulness to us is brought out in the wonderful story of Jesus’ birth, as we were reminded this year during the Christmas Program the kids shared on December 20. What joy it brings us to remember that God did not want us to suffer in sin, but instead sent Jesus to ransom us!

As we welcome a new year, we can look back and see God’s great faithfulness in the past twelve months, and be reassured that His provision will continue. And it has. We have enjoyed three work teams this month from Fairbury and Gridley, Cissna Park, Morton, and Silverton, and Forrest. They continued labor on the new church building as well as maintenance and clean-up around Casa Vida y Esperanza’s campus. It has been a joy to have Christian fellowship and also labor together in God’s work. We look forward to the months and years to come to see God’s faithfulness continued.

God is faithful. Such a comfort through the changes that life brings. The last month brought the arrival of Bro. Mike and Sis. Susie Zobrist and their family, including their daughter, Sis. Kali, and two sons, Zachary and Nathan. We also said good-by as Sis. Jenean Schambach followed God’s call back to Illinois. Please pray that all those experiencing these great changes would learn to depend on our Lord, the One who never changes. The Zobrist family was originally from Congerville, Illinois, and, after the international move, the next

order of business is to learn Spanish. Sis. Jenean will be greatly missed, as she has served here for almost two years in the garden project and also in the kitchen.

We also said good-bye to Bro. Samuel Albert from Hungary, who has shared his construction skills, time, and smile with us the past few weeks.

MICHIGAN, ALTO

Rose Watson

Terri Huber

On December 20, 2008, Justin Pratt (Jeff & Julie Pratt, Jason & Angie Sixberry) was united in holy matrimony to Sarah Cochrane (Bruce & Diane Cochrane, Watertown, WI). We wish the young couple God’s blessings in their new life together. Justin is working at Universal Forest Products, and Sarah is continuing her graduate studies at Illinois State University.

Big excitement has arrived in the Jackson family. The first grandbaby on both sides, Brooklyn Marie, made her arrival in January to the welcoming arms of her parents, Brad and Laura. Local grandparents, Bro. Paul Jackson, Margaret Jackson, and Jay and Robin Barnhart are absolutely smitten!

It is our pleasure to announce the engagement of Cyndi Blough (Bro. Marv and Sis. Liz) to Gibby Johnson (Allyn & Kim of Woodland, MI). The couple is planning an April 4 wedding and will reside in Lake Odessa, MI. Again, our prayer is for God to be a very real presence in all newly established homes.

Somewhat unexpectedly, we get to welcome newborn Landyn Thomas Oesch into the home of Bro. Andy and Sis. Listyn. He was supposed to be news for next month’s column, but God saw fit to give him a January birthday! Landyn’s grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Michelle Oesch and

Tracy Capman.

I Corinthians 12:18 reminds us “But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him” and in chapter 1, verse 10, we read that God wants us to “be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.” With this unity of purpose in mind, we can approach the annual business meeting expecting to do God’s will, rather than just as a duty. It pleased God to place the following members into their new positions: Sunday School Superintendent, Bro. Matt Oesch; Usher, Bro. Ben Kaeb; Food Committee, Sisters Julie Blough and Donna Oesch; Secretary, Bro. Jake Gerst; and Trustee, Bro. Ryan Huber. We sincerely thank those whose terms have ended for their willing participation and work on behalf of the Church.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

Sarah Knochel

Janelle Ramseyer

Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
Take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of Thy love.
Take my feet, and let them be
swift and beautiful for Thee.

Hymns of Zion, #106

Our annual business meeting was held on Wednesday, January 14. We are thankful for those who are willing to be of service for the many duties needed to care for the physical house of God. Bro. Neil Mosher was selected for Treasurer replacing Bro. Joe (Sis. Dort) Ramseyer. Sis. Winifred (John) Gorney was added to the Cooking Committee replacing Sis. Sue (Bro. Derrell) Steffen. Bro. Fred (Sis. Dolores) Munsel was selected for Trustee replacing Bro. Ken (Sis.

Pam) Schlatter.

Our prayers continue to be with our dear friend, Bill (Lori) Bateson, as he has had yet another back surgery. We trust that our dear Heavenly Father will be Bill's comforter as he recovers and gains strength.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT
Tamra Coughlin
Kay Rauhe

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

Psalm 122:10

Winter continues as the snow falls yet again on a cold Michigan night. It makes one truly thankful for the blessings of an insulated home, heat sources, and even a cozy blanket to help ward off the chill! May we pray for opportunities to share our blessings with others in need. This past weekend we were reminded in one of our sermons of how being greeted warmly by our Christian brothers and sisters upon entering the house of the Lord is so much like arriving home after a long day at work! What a respite to the soul and we are thankful for our opportunity to worship God on the day of rest He gives us each week!

In spite of the cold and the snowy weather, Bro. John Jackson made the effort to travel from Bay City to conduct church service at Woodhaven. We appreciate his service as well as those who traveled with him from Bay City to assist with the singing: Bro. Gene Meylan and Bro. Darrell and Sis. Sue Steffen. Thank you for making the effort to support this ministry!

Our thoughts are with Craig and Sis. Pat Baran and their children, Sis. Kristi, Cody and Karlee, as they experienced the physical parting with

their father and grandfather, John Baran, at the start of the year. Our congregation also expresses our sympathy to Sis. Ann Tachar's surviving children, Gordon and Sandy Tachar and Ruthie Tachar, upon her passing away.

Our prayers for healing are extended to Bro. Leonard Hitz, Kay Maibach, and Dorothy Leman (Charles).

We look forward to rejoicing with Carrie Ramseyer and her family, Bro. Mark and Sis. Kelly, Caleb, and Grace, as she plans to share her testimony of faith in Jesus February 28 and baptism on March 1.

We are prayerful for our Elder Bro. Mark Bahr as he travels to Chicago for the new round of Elder forums. We pray the Holy Spirit's guidance be present with him and the others during their discussions.

MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS
Mary Mogler

We appreciated the fellowship and additional voices raised in praise as visitors from Purdue and University of Illinois came to enjoy our beautiful Minnesota winter. God had surely blessed us with abundant snowfall and cold. We are happy to share it with all who may wish to visit and take in God's glorious handiwork and winter activities.

Congratulations to Emily Messner (Todd and Sis. Renee) as she graduated from college with a Biomedical degree. May God direct her as she makes decisions regarding her future.

We held our first mid-week services in Rochester in January and enjoyed an evening of worship and fellowship. Services are being held the 3rd Wednesday and are held at 310 16th Ave SW, which is walking distance from the Mayo campus. Con-

tacts are:

Sis. Anne Wagenbach
(507) 993-6916
alwagenbach@aol.com

or

Bro. Jim & Sis. Deb Tilbury
(507) 281-2875
tilbury@us.ibm.com

MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Shelia Reuter
Susie Wulf

We are thankful for the many visiting ministers this month: Bro. Jim Koehl, Bro. Kent Mogler, Bro. Rex Frieden, Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi, Elder Bro. Dennis Warner, Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall and Elder Bro. Doug Shock. May God bless them for their many labors on our behalf.

Bro. Mitch and Sis. Janell Koehl were blessed with daughter, Karlee Jo. Welcoming her home are siblings, Clark and Kendra. Eric and Sis. Bridget Backman also had a little girl. Bethany Rose was welcomed home by her sisters, Paige, Natalie and Anna.

We witnessed the baptisms of four dear souls this month: Bro. Virgil (Mildred) Sauder, Bro. Harlan Koehl (Bro. Arnie and Sis. Sharon), Bro. Ken Messner (Bro. Sid and Sis. Cheryl), and Sis. Heidi Wulf (Bro. Stan and Sis. Pam).

Bro. Daniel Messner (Bro. Henry and Sis. Charlene, Lester, IA) was united in marriage to Sis. Stephanie Schaefer (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Denise). May God be their threefold cord.

We rejoice with Scott (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy) and Alyssa Wulf as they have begun their repentance. May they seek the Lord for grace and strength to become converted unto His image.

Our sympathy goes to Bro. Aldean and Sis. Charlotte Luthi in the pass-

ing of his mother, Myrtle Luthi.

Our dear Bro. Larry Nohl passed away on Friday, December 19, 2008. Our prayers are with his wife, Sis. Bonnie, and children, Bro. Doug (Sis. Amber), Sis. Shelia (Bro. Greg) Reuter, Todd (Jamie), and daughter-in-law, Sis. Christy Nohl. He is also survived by his mother, Sis. Sophie Nohl, and siblings, Kenny and Jackie Nohl, Sis. Ruth and Sis. Lynda Nohl.

Bro. Richard Schmidgall passed away on January 8. Our prayers are with his wife, Sis. Corrine, and children, Sis. Nancy (Bro. Jim) Kaufmann, Bro. Robert (Sis. Kathryn), Sis. Brenda (Mark) Knobloch, Bruce (Penny), Sis. Lois (Bro. Chuck) Massner and Sis. Peggy (Bro. Tony) Ascherman, and son-in-law, Roger Evink.

Bro. Otto Schaefer passed away on his birthday, January 14. He is survived by his two sons, Charles (Judy) and Roger (Jill), and five grandchildren.

Our prayers are with Bro. Mike (Sis. Diane) Schmidgall and Bro. Randy (Sis. Pam) Sutter as they recover from knee surgery.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to express a sincere thank you to those who have supported our family during Larry's illness and passing. The prayers, cards, visits, food, gifts, and kind deeds are very much appreciated. May God bless you all for your thoughtfulness!

The Family of Larry Nohl

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Julie Schmidt
Lindsay Schmidt

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

We must be washed from sin.
 Our garments must be clean and
 white,
 If we would enter in.
Hymns of Zion #61

Our area has had lots of snowy weather in the past month which has caused several cancelled church services. Looking at the beautiful fresh snowfall we can be reminded that each of our garments must be washed snow white so that we may enter into Heaven.

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

Isaiah 55:9-11

Each small snowflake that covers the ground is intricately and beautifully made. Every snowflake is unique. If God cares so much about the perfection of each tiny snowflake that falls to the earth, that we can hardly see, we know that He does care for each one of us. God is concerned about whatever we are going thru whether it be sorrow or joy, a trial or a triumph; God cares and His ways are higher than our ways.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those in our congregation that have been hospitalized this month. May God continue to accomplish His will in the healing of Sis. JoAnn Messner (retired Elder Bro. LeRoy) and Bro. Clint Schmidt (Sis. Magdalena).

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY
Brittany Fehr

We are very thankful that our dear friend, Mark Mattix, who is currently in the hospital, has given his heart to the Lord in repentance! We continue to lift him up in our prayers. Also, many of us are looking forward to, Lord willing, attending the proving and baptism of convert Kara Kraft in Lamont-Gridley! She lives and works in our area, and we appreciate that she often worships and fellowships with us.

May God bless ministering Bro. Jim Koehl (Sis. Hilde, San Diego, CA) and Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS), who recently ministered to our congregation.

MISSOURI, LAMAR
Rebecca Dotterer
Dana Braker

We are thankful for the safe arrival of two more souls to our congregation. Bro. Grant and Sis. Rachel Rinkenberger welcomed Shayla Lenae to their family on December 17. Her siblings at home are Erica, Jared, and Luke. On January 10, Bro. Greg and Sis. Wendy Braker announced the arrival of Landon Ray. His brothers are Levi, Isaac and Kyle. We wish these families much grace to raise their children in the way of the Lord.

This month Bro. James Koehl (San Diego, CA) was here to bring forth the Word. We have been blessed to hear the truth and pray it will always continue to be so.

Bro. Kyle Kellenberger and Sis. Dana Braker's engagement was made known to our congregation. Their parents are Bro. Orlan and Sis. Mary Kellenberger and Bob and Sis. Janice Stoller, all of Lamar.

May God grant us all grace to continue striving for that Heavenly goal.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS**Meagan Wuethrich**

A special thanks and God's blessings to ministering Bro. Ed Fritz (Sis. Sally, Washington, IL) who labored on our behalf this month, as well as many other of our brethren who came to fellowship with us. It encourages all of us to see a few extra faces each Sunday, and extra voices to help with the singing!

We rejoice and praise the Lord that Berniece Stuber's arm is healing well, and she and her husband, Harold, are able to fellowship with us again.

II Chronicles chapter 20 was read in church recently, just a few days after I had read it in my personal devotions. Both times verse 15 stood out to me as a beautiful reminder of where our hope and overcoming strength lies. "...Thus saith the Lord unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's."

MISSOURI, TAYLOR**Kathy Eberhardt**

Here are two questions to ask ourselves: Are we running into the arms of Jesus when we are in trouble? Who is in charge of our ship?

Bro. Dewayne Dill (Sis. LaRae, Minneapolis, MN) visited our Taylor church on the last evening of 2008. His meditation was on Psalm 100. Make a joyful sound unto the Lord, all ye lands.

We wish God's blessing in the approaching marriage of Luke Hoerr (Sis. Shelly) and Jill Wagenbach (Curt and Mary Beth, Princeville, IL).

Our Sunday School classes enjoyed serving the church with a soup supper. Thank you, children, for your willing hands.

We had our annual meeting to select brothers and sisters for new positions. May all serve with willing hearts and helping hands. Sis. Diane Sutter received support for the food

committee position. Bro. Dan Sutter accepted the position of church trustee.

We appreciated the Word brought forth from Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL).

We welcome Sis. Alicea Steffen (Bro. Craig and Sis. Jean, Bluffton) to our congregation. Sis. Alicea plans on giving a helping hand at His Ranch.

**NEW YORK
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG
Hope Graves**

The church was able to enjoy the Sunday School Christmas program which was held on December 28. Thankfully, the weather was better that day and all were thankful that church didn't have to be canceled again.

The end of 2008 brought a blessing to Tony and Erin Aubel in the arrival of baby Aiden Jacob on December 29. Aiden is welcomed home by big sister Morgan and brother Isaac. It is always a miracle when the Lord brings a new life into this world. May we each do our part to be a proper example to these precious children.

We assembled together on New Year's Eve to thank the Lord for His blessings given to us over the past year and to pray for His presence in our life in the coming year. It is always wonderful to be able to spend the last day of the year fellowshiping with each other and singing praises instead of being involved in the way the world chooses to celebrate. May the Lord bless and provide for each one's needs in 2009 and bring each closer to Him.

We were able to spend an evening of singing on January 7 at Bro. Gerald Lehman's home and then with those that make their home at Steepleview apartments. We usually enjoy this time with them when we do our Christmas caroling, but had to delay

until we had better weather.

Our prayers extend to Marlene Virkler who was hospitalized this past month and with Ambrose Bush who again had surgery. Our hearts go out to Bro. Donald Farney who traveled to Boston for surgery on January 21. The surgeons were unable to perform the desired operation as expected and we know that this was very disappointing news to Bro. Donald and his family. The prayers of the church extend to all of them and pray that the Lord will be near them each moment of every day and help to ease Bro. Donny's discomfort in the days ahead. We love Bro. Donny and Sis. Alice dearly and have been blessed with their presence in church and are so thankful for their relationship with God.

Pray, pray when things go wrong,
and gloomy fears around you throng.
The loving God your voice will hear,
look up to Him, He's always near.
Pray, pray, be calm and still,
Whatever comes must be His will.
His promises like buds unfold,
naught that is good will He withhold.
Pray, pray though your eyes grow dim
Go with your troubles straight to Him.
Pray, pray for God understands,
have faith, leaving all in His dear
hands.

Tabernacle Hymns #40

As we pray for one another, may we also remember to pray for the new leadership in our land. We pray that there may always be God-fearing people to help govern our country and carry out the Lord's will.

**OHIO, AKRON
Mara Henico
Rachel Pamer**

Make us truly humble,
From the world retired,
Gentle, mild, with peace inspired!

Zion's Harp #68, vs. 4

We are thankful that three new babies have been welcomed into our church family this month. Yulia was born to Bro. Sandor and Sis. Gyongi Hegedus. Older brothers and sister are: Ruben, Sanyi, Daniel, Janos, Samuel, Zoltan, and Alina. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Sandor and Sis. Kathy Bako of our congregation. Bro. Andy and Sis. Mary Steidl welcomed their first son, Amos Andrew. Older sisters are Mya, Naomi and Gwen. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Martha Bauman (Rittman, OH). Paternal grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Nan Steidl of Akron. Bro. Tom and Sis. Christine Demrovsky welcomed a fourth son, Jacob Pierre, into their family. Older brothers are Thomas, Ethan, and Kyle. Paternal grandparents of our Akron congregation are Bro. Andy and Sis. Vera Demrovsky.

After a recent work team to Haiti, we are thankful that Bro. Ron Palitto, Bro. Wayne Klotzle, Bro. Greg Henico Sr., Bro. Christopher Indermuhle, and Tom Reljin returned safely. We trust that God will bless their efforts in His name, and that we would all remember to be a grateful people.

Bro. George Fulop was in the hospital several days with pneumonia. We are thankful he is home and feeling better and hope that he and his wife, Sis. Katherine, will soon be able to again attend church.

As another year is dawning, our prayer truly is that it would be "Another year of proving [God's] presence all the days." Hymns of Zion #150, vs. 3b

OHIO, COLUMBUS Sarah Rufener

Our congregation is very grateful that Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Sis. Becky, Lamar, MO) and Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine,

Mansfield) could be with us to read and discuss the Elder Brother Memorandum letter on January 17. We trust that God will bless them richly for their efforts. It was good to bring to remembrance items that were covered during the Brotherhood Conference and our prayer is that we may think on these things while drawing closer to our Lord and Savior.

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

Philippians 4:8

Other ministers who have traveled to Columbus to preach the Good News this past month are: Bro. Larry Wenninger (Sis. Joyce, Latty) and Bro. Tim Gerber (Sis. Wendy, Mansfield). We are very thankful for their willingness to preach the Word in Truth and in Spirit.

Columbus church is also thankful to announce the engagement of Sis. Sarah Rufener to Bro. Mike Crist of Smithville, OH. We pray that God will bless them richly over the coming months and trust that they may draw closer to their Heavenly Father, who is rich in all wisdom, power and understanding.

OHIO, JUNCTION Vicki Boroff

We are pleased to share that Travis Schlatter (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Laurie) has peace with God and man. We wish him God's many blessings as he is baptized in the near future.

We were also thankful to have Bro. Pat Zaugg (Sis. Julie, West Bend) and Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary Ann, Fairbury) bring the Word to us.

Barb and Rob Brink, along with Chip Etter, are thankful grandparents of Thor Etter, born December 9 to first-time parents, Thor and Casey.

Our love and prayers go to the family of Sis. Kathryn Emch in the loss of her husband, Bro. Harold. Bro. Harold was a retired minister. We wish the entire family the Lord's comforting hand during this time of grieving.

We were happy to witness the marriage on January 18 of Sis. Beth Manz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen) to Bro. Kent Steidinger (Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish) of Fairbury. We wish them God's blessings as they begin their new life together.

Bros. Mark Manz and Alvin Manz were recent hospital patients. We pray for His healing hand upon them.

We are thankful to welcome a new sister into our fold. We enjoyed hearing the testimony of Sis. Joan Bauer.

OHIO, LATTY Amanda Wenninger Carmen Eisenmann

The holidays always bring visitors, and Christmas Day was no exception. Bros. Steve Stieglitz (Sis. Jane, Leo, IN) and Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL) were present with us and ministered on our behalf. Thank you for your efforts, brothers.

Two babies made their appearance before the end of the year, as well. Paityn Saige joined the family of Brett and Justine Klopfenstein on Christmas Day. Welcoming her at home are Isaiah, Gracelynn and Kaiya. She was not well enough to go home right away and spent some time in a Columbus hospital. Paityn's paternal grandparents are Bro. Leon and Sis. Deb Klopfenstein. Kali Lynn joined the family of Bro. Chad and Sis. Jennifer Keysor on December 29. Her siblings include Dylan, Andrew, Kaleb, Alexis and Kelsey at home.

Grandparents are Bro. George and Sis. Sharon Keysor.

A new year brings duties to fill in the church. Newly elected Sunday School teachers are Bro. Chris Laukhuf (Sis. Rachel), Sis. Sherri Rager (Bro. Eric), and Sis. Katie Stoller (Bro. Corbin). Bro. Mick Laukhuf (Sis. Lisa) is a new church trustee. Bro. Ryan Stoller (Sis. Kori) is a new Fellowship Hall trustee. Sisters Deb Klopfenstein (Bro. Leon) and Connie Krzesinski (Bro. Keith) were elected to serve on the Kitchen Committee. Thanks to all of the outgoing people who served in addition to our newly elected members. May God bless you all for your efforts.

OHIO, MANSFIELD Esther Baumann

Our sympathy and prayers to the families who have recently lost loved ones. Sis. Mary Mae Bocka passed away on December 30. She is survived by her husband, Bro. Harry, and three children: Annette Goines (Ray), Paula Them, and Fred (Penny); and a sister, Sis. Dorothy Durkin.

Bro. Frank Graszl was called out of this life on January 4. He is survived by four children: Shirley Roberts, Frank Jr. (Ruth), Richard (Barbara), and Thomas (Marty).

Bro. Mike Baumann (Sis. Florina) and Sis. Kathie Labudde (Bro. Larry, Phoenix, AZ) lost their brother, John Baumann.

Continue to pray for Bro. Ed Dawson (Sis. Judy) as he recovers from a recent hospitalization.

Note of Thanks:

Words fail us to express our heartfelt thanks for your many prayers, cards, flowers, meals, visits and other expressions of love during Delores's surgeries and recuperation. Only with the Lord's help and the many,

many prayers was she able to overcome the battle. She is thankful to be able to worship again at church for short periods of time. May the Lord richly bless each of you for your good works.

In Christian love,
Bro. Mick & Sis. Delores Hill

OHIO, RITTMAN Linda Zollinger Laurie Beery

We are thankful for the safe arrival of Esther Nichole born to Bro. Shane and Sis. Suzanne Hartzler on December 24. Esther is also welcomed home by Carla and grandparents, Bro. Dean and Sis. Jan Hartzler and Bro. Carl and Sis. Carol Steiner. Bro. Ben and Sis. Susie, Karson and Marissa Rufener welcomed Gabriel Benjamin into their home on December 26. Grandparents of Gabriel are Bro. Dan and Sis. Karen Rufener and Bro. John and Sis. Emily Rufener (Smithville, OH). Amos Andrew was born to Bro. Andy and Sis. Mary Steidl (Akron, OH) on January 3. Mya, Naomi and Gwen and grandparents, Bro. Don and Sis. Nan Steidl (Akron, OH) and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Martha Bauman, are excited for his arrival.

Arriving on January 4 was Julia Marieborn to Jason and Dara Winchell. Grandparents are Lee and Betty Winchell and Bro. Doug and Sis. Diana Bauman. On January 7, Henry Merle was born to Bro. Shawn and Sis. Judy Acker. Noah, Aaron, Anna and Ella are excited for a new brother. Grandparents of Henry are Boyd and Barbara Acker and Elder Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie Hartzler. First-time grandparents, Bro. Tim and Sis. Joni Ramsier are rejoicing in the birth of their grandson, Peyton Jonathan, born to Bro. Jon and Sis. Kelly Zollinger (Smithville, OH) on January 7. Paternal grandparents

are Bro. Ken and Sis. Becky Zollinger (Smithville, OH).

We welcomed Bro. Caleb Beery (Bro. Earl and Sis. Susie), Bro. Justin Rufener (Bro. Leon and Sis. Lori), Sis. Roxanne Gerber (Bro. Joe and Sis. Ann) and Sis. Katrina Baltic (Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty) into the fold on January 4. We were thankful that Elder Bros. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL), Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN) and Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) were able to be with us for this special weekend.

Also, serving us in the ministry recently were Bro. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN), Bro. Steve Pamer (Akron, OH), Bro. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH), Bro. Joe Dotterer (Bloomfield, IA), Bro. Todd Stoller (Latty, OH), Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) and Bro. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN).

We rejoice that Nathanael Steiner (Bro. Dave and Sis. Lynn) has turned his heart to the Lord in repentance. May he feel the nearness of God as he seeks to do His will.

Thoughts and prayers have been with Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary Ellen Saylor, Carter Miller (Bro. Marlin and Sis. Tonya), Bro. Dwaine Indermuhle (Sis. Joan), Bro. Wayne Rufener (Sis. Nina), Sis. Erma Ingold, Sis. Eldora Steiner and Sis. Velma Rufener (Bro. Jeff) who have spent time in the hospital recently.

OHIO, SARDIS Faith Beard

Glory be to God in heaven,
Praise to Christ, our Saviour great!
By the power of Thy Spirit,
A new man Thou didst create.
Angels see in joyous rapture
God's own Word in deed fulfilled;
And amid our glad embraces
Is this child of God revealed.

This new being now arises,
Having died with Christ before;

What in Adam's fall had perished
 Christ the Saviour did restore.
 Dearest child, we bid thee welcome
 In our blessed brotherhood;
 From the wild tree thou art grafted
 On this holy tree and root.

Out of water and of Spirit,
 Thou, O child, art born today;
 You've escaped the old oppressor,
 In God's covenant you'll stay.
 Of one vine we all are branches;
 Of Christ's body members we;
 And for Satan's gall so bitter,
 Streams of life our drink shall be.

Zion's Harp, no. 34, vs. 1-3

We were blessed with such a joyful weekend on January 10 - 11 as we witnessed the testimony and baptism of Bro. Dave and Sis. Val Fisher. Here to help with this work was Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Sis. Nancy, Elgin, IL). Also, serving us on the pulpit that weekend were Bro. Tim Ramsier (Sis. Jonell, Rittman, OH) and Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago, IL). Bro. Matthew also worshiped with us the previous weekend during a family visit.

Bro. Denny and Sis. Doris Miller rejoice at the arrival of a new granddaughter. On January 13, Kara Mae was born to Steve and Kati Miller and big brothers, Dillon and Brandon.

We are also thrilled for another baby with a different kind of entrance into our church family and community. On September 21, Bro. Garth and Sis. Hannah Maibach arrived home for the first time with their son, Colby, after his having spent the first 4 ½ months of his life at the Columbus Children's Hospital after a premature birth. We praise God for his healing hand as Colby has grown and thrived quite well and now seems the normal alert, demanding newborn!

Our annual business meeting was held on January 18, and the results of the elections were recently made known. Bro. Milan Indermuhle (Sis. Cheryl) was elected to become our

Sunday School Superintendent as Bro. Bob Dotterer's (Sis. Laura) term was ended a year early due to him taking his place in the ministry. Bro. Rob Figel (Sis. Angie) has completed his term as Treasurer, and Bro. Matt Brake (Sis. Dawn) was voted to take his place. Bro. Alan Blough (Sis. Renee) has completed his duties as Trustee, and Bro. Allen Indermuhle (Sis. Janet) was elected to serve a term. Bro. Matt Brake (Sis. Dawn) served his term as Secretary, and Bro. Garth Maibach (Sis. Hannah) was elected to take his place. Bro. Dave Fisher (Sis. Val) has become our new usher as Bro. Garth Maibach (Sis. Hannah) has completed his term. And Sis. Brenda Nenadov (Bro. Mark) had joined our kitchen committee as Sis. Cheryl Indermuhle (Bro. Milan) has finished her term. We thank those in the outgoing positions who have put forth much effort to help our church business function smoothly, and pray for those with new positions that they also may be able to wisely continue on with the necessary decisions.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Ruth Gasser
 Edith Miller**

The holidays brought several visiting ministers to our church at Smithville. We wish to thank Bros. Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH), Tim Ramsier (Rittman, OH) and Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) for serving us from God's Word. May God be their rich rewarder.

"Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

John 3:5

We are thankful to report that Jill Marty (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Marie) has heeded the words of our Saviour, and

has made a beginning in her repentance and conversion. We wish her much grace in her new walk of faith.

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

Genesis 2:18

The engagement of Bro. Mike Crist and Sis. Sarah Rufener (Columbus, OH) was made known to us. Sis. Sarah's parents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Susan Rufener. May God be with this couple and provide guidance and direction as they plan their wedding and marriage.

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

Psalms 127:3

Bro. Jon and Sis. Kelly Zollinger were blessed with their first child, Peyton Jonathan, on January 7. Thankful for his safe arrival are also grandparents, Bro. Tim and Sis. Joni Ramsier (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Ken and Sis. Becky Zollinger. May Godly wisdom be given to these and all parents as they seek to bring up their children in the fear of the Lord.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Herbert Bauman, as his brother-in-law, Bro. Lloyd Gerber (Roanoke, IL), passed away.

Sis. Gail Riggerbach (Bro. Don) was in the hospital for a short time. We are thankful she is at home again.

OHIO, TOLEDO

**Teresa Rywalski
 Rebecca Beard**

Greetings of love to all!

Our prayers and thoughts are with Jim Harmon as he has been announced to have peace with God, man, and himself. We look forward to his testimony of faith and his baptism.

Sis. Betty Fetter has won the race

and gone home to meet her Savior. Her gentle ways will be missed by all of us. She leaves behind her children, Andy, Matt (Wendy), and Laurie (Mike) Jackson, and several grandchildren. May they always recall the loving example their mother set for them.

Bro. Glen Whittaker spent some time in the hospital recently. We are thankful that he is able to assemble with us once again.

Bro. Alan Manz graduated from the University of Toledo this past semester. May he feel God's blessings as he enters the engineering field.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Renee Angstrom

Sharing the Word this month from Silverton was Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty), Bro. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie), Bro. Harvey Kuenzi (Sis. Jennifer) and Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane). We appreciate their support and bringing forth the Word.

After a delay due to weather conditions, we had our Sunday School Christmas Program. The children shared with such enthusiasm the story of the birth of Jesus. We appreciated the visitors that came and shared the special program with us.

Hospitalized this month was Harrison Kuenzi (Bro. Nathan and Sis. Sarah). We pray for his continued healing.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Cindy Metzger

We want to welcome Bro. Phillip, Sis. Tasha, Ashlyn and Brandon Petrovic to our Silverton community. We pray that their family will feel God's love for them through our congregation.

Due to poor weather conditions, our Christmas program was moved to January 4. A special thank you to the Sunday School children, the teachers

and the parents who worked diligently in presenting the wonderful story of Jesus' birth.

Rudy Dettwyler (Esther) was recently hospitalized due to a heart condition. May the Great Physician provide healing to our dear one.

Sharing the Word of God with us this month were Bros. Ron Jones (Sis. Liz) and Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy), both of Portland. We are thankful and appreciative for our ministering Brothers.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

Mike and Monica Fritz

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder at the recent passing of their brother-in-law, Bro. Frank Graszl of Mansfield, OH. We pray that the Lord will comfort Bro. Frank's family at this time of loss.

We have been richly blessed through the efforts of our visiting ministering brothers, for whom we are so thankful. Our recent visitors have been: Bros. Lenny Meyer (Sis. Charlotte; Chicago, IL), Ted Luginbuhl (Sis. Stephanie; Smithville, OH), Ken Eisenmann (Sis. Sharon; Cissna Park, IL), and Brandon Emch (Kansas City, MO). We have also been encouraged by the fellowship of brethren and friends visiting from Chicago, Cissna Park, Elgin, and Eureka, IL; LaCrosse, IN; Kansas City, MO; and Junction and Smithville, OH.

If you are traveling in or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. The following churches are scheduled for services in the near future: Burlington, IA (2/22); Chicago, IL (3/1); Elgin, IL (3/8); Oakville, IA (3/15); Bluffton North, IN (3/22); and Fairbury, IL (3/29). 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

"He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him."

John 14:21

The following ministers and their wives visited and served us recently: Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Sis. Sandra, Eureka), and Bros. David Marquart (Sis. Lori, Taylor), Mark Steiner (Sis. Sue, Smithville), Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Fairbury), and Bill Dotterer (Sis. Sharon, Lamar). We also enjoyed visitors from Eureka, Bloomington, Forrest, Morris, Regina, McAllen, and Oakville.

The following is the minister schedule for March: (1) Morton, (8) Alto, (15) Bluffton, (22) Goodfield, (29) Bern. 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. Quite a few people have tried using the GPS system to find the church; but they found out that GPS doesn't know where it is, and ended up getting lost. We advise following the directions instead of GPS.

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 and their wives, Bro. Craig Stickling (Sis. Jackie, Peoria, IL) and Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Sis. Debra, Peoria, IL), for taking their time and effort in expounding to us the written Word of the Lord. May God continue to richly bless them. We also thank our visiting brethren from Cissna Park, IL.

We would like to encourage those who plan to come south for a vacation to consider the valley for a Sunday of worship and/or making the valley your home while you are in Southern Texas. 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: (February 15, Rittman, OH), (March 1, Silverton/Portland, OR), (March 15, Chi-

cago, IL), (April 5, Morris, MN), (April 19, Sabetha, KS), (May 3, Elgin, IL).

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

VERMONT CLARENDON/NORWICH Nathan and Miriam Reutter

"Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein."

Mark 10:15

This past month we were reminded of how much God loves it when we become as little children. Their beautiful, humble, trusting and loving ways are such examples for us as parents and grandparents, aunts and uncles. Our children here in Vermont had such a sweet message to bring in the Christmas program they presented to us. The message of salvation was shared with such unwavering and trusting faith. It was humbling to witness.

Many thoughts and prayers are with our dear friend, Claire Fellows (Emery), and her family with the passing of her sister, Barbara Chasse of Florida. We pray that God would comfort this family in their time of sorrow.

Bro. Kirby and Sis. Areli Reutter were delighted to welcome into their home a new foster child, Nathan, age 10. Little brothers, Isaac and Keith,

are happy to have a big brother around now. May God provide wisdom and patience to these parents to train these dear souls in the way that they should go. Our Sunday school continues to grow and it's such a blessing!

We are thankful to those who have come to minister to us this past month. They were: Bro. Dan Goric (Sis. Mary Lou), Bro. Duane Reutter (Sis. Kay), and Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl), all of Rockville, CT.

If you are interested in fellowshiping with us here in Vermont, and would like information about service locations and dates, please contact Bro. Chad and Sis. Jenny Virkler (802-293-2724). We love to fellowship with believers whether it is during the week or on the weekend. Please let us know if you are planning on being in our area so we can accommodate you. Service times are as follows:

Mid-week services

(Contact local brethren)

Sunday Morning Service 10:10 AM

Sunday Afternoon Service 12:15 PM

Sunday school is held during the morning service.

If anyone is interested in purchasing beautiful head-coverings handmade from our dear Sisters in Ixtlan, Michoacan, Mexico, please contact Sis. Areli Reutter at Home:

(802-862-0830) or Cell:

(860-878-9346) or at

<http://sites.google.com/site/headcoveringsfrommexico>.

Inventory is available upon request. This is a wonderful opportunity to support those of the household of faith (Galatians 6:10).

Official Apostolic Christian Church Website

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

www.apostolicchristian.org



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. This position offers a competitive salary and generous benefits.

Jeff Schumacher
Residential Program Director
PO Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
(219) 627-2159

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

Anyone interested in receiving a printed sermon, please send info to:

Printed Sermons
102 Lake View Drive
Fairbury, IL 61739
(815) 692-3616
jschneider54@verizon.net

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

We currently have outlets for Bibles, Bible Story Books, Hymns of Zion, Gospel Hymns, and Tabernacles.

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

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

Light From The Word

now available by downloadable PDF from the
Apostolic Christian Publication web site
www.acpublications.org

After entering the web site, click on the item located in the left hand frame entitled, "Light from the Word Reprints". The entire set of editorials are available in a complete download (*June 1987 through February 2009*).

BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

Sharing The Word In Love

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

All books, including Bibles, in English and other languages, plus Bible Story Books which have been approved by the Apostolic Christian Mission Committee, are available for those who wish to distribute them in the name of Jesus Christ.

The book inventory is computerized, and the personnel at Bluffton can drop ship to nearly any address.

To order, contact,

Apostolic Christian Church
Bible Distribution

PO Box 30
1254 S. Main Street
Bluffton, IN 46714
Phone and Fax 260/824-5587
E-mail: bibledist@onlyinternet.net

Eye Glasses Needed

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

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

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

Please send all donated items to:

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

Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services

515 East Highland St, Morton, IL 61550 309-263-5536 (local#) 309-263-6841 (fax)

877-370-9988 (toll free) www.accounseling.org

Biblical Financial Stewardship, Part II

Many of us have been adversely affected by the economic upheaval that has recently impacted our nation and the world. We have watched helplessly as our savings, retirement accounts, and other assets have been greatly devalued. In an attempt to discern the causes of our present financial uncertainty and learn how to react to them, people are looking to financial counselors and economic experts. But God's Word not only identifies the root causes of financial distress, it also clearly reveals the remedy.

The Bible has many warnings about putting our trust in money and earthly possessions. The Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy that he should *"charge them that are rich in this world, that they . . . [not] trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy."* (1 Timothy 6:17)

Jesus told his disciples, *"Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!"* (Mark 10:24). And before telling the parable of the rich landowner who made foolish decisions with regard to his possessions, Jesus said, *"Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth."* (Luke 12:15)

Debt

One huge contributor to financial troubles is debt, which a dictionary defines as "money that a person is obligated to pay to another." This includes borrowed money, bank loans, credit card balances, home mortgages, and past due bills.

Contrary to what some may think, the Bible does not forbid debt, but it does reveal what is harmful about debt. The author of Proverbs wrote, *"The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender."* (Proverbs 22:7) The person who enters into a debt becomes a "servant" to the lender. In a sense, the debtor surrenders his freedom until the repayment has been completed. He is not free to decide where to spend the portion of his income that must go to retire the debt. And the

greater the debt, the more confined is the debtor's servitude. Paul warned the Corinthians, *"Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men."* (1 Corinthians 7:23)

We are told that a staggering amount of debt is tied up in credit card accounts. Part of the problem is simply deception – using a credit card is spending money we don't have. Just one glance at a statement with an overdue balance will reveal the exorbitant price that credit card companies charge for that practice.

A simple but very practical test will determine if you are using credit or if credit is using you. If you can avoid finance charges by paying off the entire statement balance when you receive it, your credit card spending is under control. If not, seriously consider cutting up your cards and living more within your means. Most of the occurrences of the word "content" in the New Testament are in reference to possessions. Paul wrote to Timothy, *"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content."* (1 Timothy 6:6-8)

Forsaking Counsel

Another major contributor to financial troubles is failure to get advice. For someone who habitually buys what he "wants" instead of what he "needs," this is a recipe for disaster. God's Word says, *"The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise."* (Proverbs 12:15)

Here are three of the most powerful sources of counsel when making financial decisions:

1. The Counsel of Scripture.

Written by the inspiration of God, the Bible transcends time and cultural changes. Its principles are as valid and applicable today as the day they were recorded. Its purpose has been to communicate God's plan, purpose, and direction for all generations. *"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword . . . and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."* (Hebrews 4:12) In seeking counsel for a particular financial decision, our first thought should be, What does God's Word say? If we find a direct answer, we need

search no further. If there is no specific advice, then we should move on to the second source – godly people.

2. The Counsel of godly people.

God has wisely invested a wide variety of gifts and talents in His children. The Body of Christ is to function in a similar manner as a human body, where the members help, advise, chasten, encourage, support, and pray for one another. For those who are married, the first source of advice is our spouse. Subordinate to that, but still important from a biblical perspective, is the advice of parents. Then there are a host of specialists to whom we can turn, who have an expertise in the area of our financial decision. We read in Proverbs, *"Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established."* (Proverbs 15:22)

3. The Counsel of the Lord.

One of the most important sources of wise counsel is the Lord. Isaiah wrote that *"his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor."* (Isaiah 9:6) The Psalms frequently refer to God as a counselor:

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

"Thou [the LORD] shalt guide me with thy counsel." (73:24)

"I will bless the LORD, who hath given me counsel." (16:7)

God's counsel is received through prayer, meditation on His Word, and listening for the Spirit's voice. Whenever we are faced with a major decision, we need to find a quiet place where we can spend uninterrupted time praying, reading Scripture, and seeking the Lord's counsel. And be patient, since sometimes that involves waiting for His direction.

A final word of advice, to both those who seek counsel, and those who offer counsel: Continually ask the Lord for wisdom. *"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally . . . and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering."* (James 1:5-6)

Child Placement Manager Opening



As Gateway Woods expands our Christian Adoption Services into Illinois, we are in need of an IL Child Placement Manager. Applicants for this job must:

1. Be a member in good standing of the Apostolic Christian Church with approval of his/her local elder.
2. Have at least a Master's Degree in Social Work from an accredited school and three years work experience in social work administration OR a Master's Degree in a human services field from an accredited school and five years of work experience in human services administration.
3. Have a dedicated interest, love and sensitivity for youth and families.
4. Possess good motivational, organizational, teaching and communications skills.
5. Have ability to establish positive working and interpersonal relationships and use a team approach.
6. Have treatment philosophy compatible with the mission of Gateway Woods - Apostolic Christian Children's Home.
7. Have commitment to ongoing personal and professional growth.

For further information and a job description, please contact:

Bro. Jeff Schumacher
Administrator
PO Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
1-888-443-4283 (GATE)
jeff.schumacher@gatewaywoods.org

Bro. Lynn Stieglitz
Counseling Elder
15417 Doty Rd.
New Haven, IN 46774
260-657-1033
lynnstieglitz@lightningnet.net



Stories Of Faith & Courage Experiences of Apostolic Christian Believers Set of Three Volumes

Volume 1

30 Historical Accounts of brethren in Eastern Europe as they suffered persecution for their faith

Volume 2

22 True Accounts of courage, suffering, and overcoming. Includes stories of American brethren serving as noncombatants in the military as well as Eastern European families who escaped to freedom.

Volume 3

33 True Accounts depicting family and prison life of brethren during the World Wars and behind the Iron Curtain in Hungary, Yugoslavia, Romania, and the Ukraine.

Order from:

Heritage Press, 3420 W. Akron Road, Edelstein IL 61526
curricularesources@juno.com Phone 309-249-6281
or order on-line at: www.melttheheart.com

Volume 1, European accounts	\$10.00 plus shipping
Volume 2, American and European accounts	\$10.00 plus shipping
Volume 3, European accounts	\$12.00 plus shipping

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

Sermon continued from page 2

thers. But you have been saved by the precious blood of Jesus Christ, as a lamb without blemish and without spot. (I Peter 1:18,19)

These sacrifices were made. Much blood was shed in this chapter that we read. But you and I can claim the blood of Jesus. We can claim His promises and the truth of God's Word. We don't have to rely upon our own strength and our own might. We don't have to disguise ourselves. We don't have to come up with a plan. Praise God, He has a plan! He is able to deliver us from this battle and bring us to a good end. That is what we rest upon. That's why we trust Him more.

Was reminded this week how incredibly grateful we need to be for the truth of God's Word. I was speaking to someone that I work with who has the unfortunate situation of having a family member who is involved in a very serious drug addiction. This man, Mark, is at a point now, where it is starting to hit him that he has destroyed his life. He's at that point where he wants to ask for help but it is still hard for him to do. Many of us have had experiences in that situation, where it just tears your heart out to have a family member that you want to help. You are in that situation where really the only help that you can give them, is to make sure that you do nothing that enables them to continue in that lifestyle. That's not a great situation for a family member to be in.

We talked about Mark's behavior and the fact that he says things, and because of the history and because of the way that the person behaves, you know that you have to question what they say. As a family member, you want to give them the benefit of the doubt and you want to believe that they are saying the truth. Then you have those experiences where, obviously, what they said was not true. That's tough.

All of us deal with truth in our lives. How grateful we are that this

living Word, that is so freely available to us, is the truth of God. It wasn't just some idle writings but it was given by the Spirit of God through prophecy and it is true. We can hold on to that and we can be grounded in that. As we go through those storms of life, by God's grace, our anchor can hold.

So the first question we can ask ourselves (after reading II Thessalonians 2), have I been called of God? Have I been called of God? "Whereunto he called you by our gospel..." II Thessalonians 2:14. It humbles me to stand before you and say that God has given you the gospel of His calling this day through His servant. But I believe that because I read it in God's Word and it is plain before us. If there's any question today, have I been called by God, the gospel message goes forth. You have been called by our gospel. We read it together.

Called to what? "...to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ." v.14. All of us today, who hear the Word, have been given all that we need so that we can obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Do we have the desire? Are we ready to receive it? So that's really the next part of it, isn't it?

Receiving. What did we read here together? Verse ten says, speaking of those who will perish, "...because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved." So the call has gone forth. Now we ask ourselves, am I ready to receive it? Will I receive the truth that God sent?

Jesus Christ, in the high priestly prayer, St. John 17, talks about the fact that He fulfilled God's plan. He carried out what God asked Him to do. He said, I have given unto them the words which Thou gavest me. Jesus Christ was sent from God with these words. Why? Because God had to communicate to you and I. He had to bring the words so that you and I could know the truth that we talked about. The truth is given. Jesus said, I have given them the

words which Thou gavest me and they have *received* them and have known surely that I came out from Thee. They have believed that Thou did send me.

There's the gospel message. Sinner, today, are you ready to receive the words? If you receive the words of Jesus, you will be able to know surely that Jesus came out from God and believe that God sent Jesus to the earth for you. It's really that simple. It's really that plain. Receive the Word. Believe. That is the salvation that Jesus Christ brought to this earth. That is why the Apostle Paul gave his life to spread the gospel, the good news, to as many as would receive it. Because it is the will of our heavenly Father, the God of earth and heaven, that all men might be saved.

It is also the truth of God's Word that some will receive not. They received not the love of the truth that they might be saved. In other words, if we will just receive the love of the truth, then we can be saved. Unfortunately there is another part of that that says, if we are not willing to enter in at the strait gate, then we will follow the broad path that leads to destruction. (St. Matthew 7:13,14) Jesus Christ Himself gave us those words. Enter in at the strait gate, so that we can know the full salvation. So we either are saved or we're not saved. It is that simple. I am so thankful for the simplicity of the gospel, that the truth goes forth. If we receive Him, we can be saved and we can walk with Him.

These scriptures that we read together, talk about extremely serious things. They talk about the deep mysteries of God. They talk about the fact that there is great deception in the world. There is more great deception that will come. We are to be comforted by these words and we are to consider the fact that we don't have to be troubled. We don't have to be deceived. That day shall not come except there come a falling away first and that man of sin be revealed. (II Thessalonians 2:2,3)

What time are we living in? Jesus Christ warned His disciples. He said, watch and pray. Watch and pray and be ready for that time when the Lord will come again. (St. Luke 21:36) We believe that that warning is just as true for us today. That it is more urgent for us today and that the times are more serious for us, that we need to consider the time that we live in. We need to consider that deception is in the world.

So we look at the Old Testament teachings. We think about the fact that God's Word tells us those things are given to us for examples. So we look at King Asa and we look at King Josiah. We look at the singers who were told to be at the gate and keep on singing. Eventually they abandoned their post.

We are warned here that deception will be in the world. We say, well, how is it then that I won't be deceived? "Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle. Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, Comfort your hearts, and establish you in every good word and work." II Thessalonians 2:15-17. God Himself is the God of hope. In the midst of our toughest times, He will give us hope and comfort us and establish His work in us. Aren't we grateful that sometimes, He chooses to do that through one of our brothers and sisters? Aren't we grateful for those times that we can be encouraged, we can receive the hope that we need, just by friendship. Just by someone being there at a time when we really needed some hope. God will give us what we need. He will comfort our hearts. He wants to use us. May we be willing. May we have that desire. May we never cease to pray that our love might grow in every way. May we never cease to pray.

God wants us to come and ask Him for help. We read the Psalms of

King David. Sometimes he simply says, help God. Help God! God wants us to cry out to Him. God is the rock. We know that He shall not be moved. May we be comforted and established, believing that God's timing is perfect and he that now letteth will let (v.7). It's okay. When times are difficult, He will be there.

I've been thinking this week, about the time in my life when Satan was especially cruel. He doesn't have to play by the rules. He doesn't care how he chooses to come at us. My wife and I are looking forward to celebrating our 25th wedding anniversary and we believe that God brought us together. We have that faith and that confidence. There was a time when it was revealed to us that one of our children had a genetic disease. The only way for a child to have that genetic disease is if both parents carry the cystic fibrosis gene. We didn't know much about cystic fibrosis. We had a lot to learn. We were getting a lot of facts and learning a lot of things fast. There was that moment when Satan came and said, obviously it wasn't God's will for the two of you to get married, because this wouldn't have happened.

Satan is a deceiver and he is a liar. He was lying then. In a dark moment, one of you showed up at our front door. I don't recall, but I don't think, dear sister, you had anything in your hands. But you came to offer support and it was powerful and it was awesome. May we be encouraged and may we believe that God is able to bring us through the darkest hour. That He is able to bring us to a good and blessed end.

The incredible light and power of God! Verse eight says, "And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume..." That liar, Satan, the Lord shall consume "...with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:" God's light is so bright. We sang together about the brightness of the sun in hymn 166 (*Morning Hymn, Zion's*

Harp) this morning and yet how much more the brightness of the Son of God! Far greater than the brightness of the sun. He shall destroy with the brightness of His coming. The truth of the Word, the brightness of Jesus Christ, shall destroy wicked and evil. His light shall reveal and illuminate all that we need. Let's trust Him more, walking on in joy. Being grateful for the saints that have gone on before that we look forward, believing that we've got more to go to heaven for than we ever had before. Trusting that He will deliver us as we look to Him. May we be comforted, may we be established, may we go forth with a desire to walk in His ways.

Concluding remarks by Elder Brother Jon Kokanovich

I think hymn 121 (Hymns of Zion), *Watch and Pray*, is such a fitting hymn for this morning. What did Josiah not do? He didn't pray! He had had this wonderful religious experience that he had been an important part of. I suspect he assumed that God was going to be with him because of what he had done in the past. Bad assumption! He didn't ask the Lord for direction.

He also got in some battle he had no business being in. He rejected godly advice from somebody he might not have thought was very godly. You and I wouldn't have thought that King Necho was a godly person. But he didn't consider that and he didn't pray. It cost him his life. I don't know that we need to jump to the assumption that it cost him eternal life. I don't think that's fair. But it cost him his earthly life. We need to *really* pray and we really *need* to consider godly advice.

There is this thought today that I think we have all been a part of, that Christ can come at any time. That's partly true, isn't it? Because He can come for you any time. But we read clearly today, as clear as it is in any place in the Bible I know of, that He's not coming until, in my words,

Sermon continued on page 44

Sermon continued from page 43

the antichrist is revealed. Now that might not be to everybody. But that's what the Word of God clearly says.

For Apostolics - I hope you are still going to love me after this and I want to say it as kind and loving as I can - what did we read today? What is a common thing that all of us, I think - maybe you haven't but I have - said? 'Well, that's not written in the Bible. That tradition, that custom isn't clearly written in the Bible so I don't have to do it and it must not be very important.' You've heard me say before, Sunday School is not written in the Bible. It doesn't say anywhere in the Bible, 'Thou shalt have Sunday School'. We've all been blessed by Sunday School.

But all of us, from time to time, have some challenge with this tradition or that tradition, that through the years has really been good but

from time to time doesn't hit us very well. True? What did Brother Jim read to us this morning? The truth of the matter is we don't know exactly what he was talking about. Well, or that would be an excuse for us that we don't know what he was talking about. True? "Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle." II Thessalonians 2:15. We have lots of good things that have been *good* for us for a hundred and fifty years. Then, this was written well before a hundred years. Whatever traditions or whatever it was that they had, he wanted them to hang on to. Because he knew it would be good for them. We need to be careful, I think, when we get a little, when I get a little, discouraged about this or that because it doesn't help us fit in in this society or that society.

I think we need to especially be careful about the ones that are *clearly* written. The one I have in mind I think you all know. It *clearly* says, greet one another with a holy kiss. (Rom.16:16, I Cor.16:20, II Cor.13:12, I Thess. 5:26) Four times. It's a challenge for us, isn't it? We worry about what other people think, don't we?

Asa was worried about what he thought and maybe what other people thought. Josiah was a whole lot more worried about what he thought than what God thought, because he didn't take the time to pray. Let's not make the same mistake. We have more to go to heaven for than we had yesterday. And the other choice makes no sense at all. May the Lord bless the Word.

2009 Athens/Tennessee Memorial Day Weekend

*Watch and pray that when the Master cometh, If at morning, noon or night,
He may find a lamp in ev'ry window, Trimmed and burning clear and bright.
(Watch and Pray," Hymns of Zion, #121)*

We invite everyone to attend the 2009 Athens/Tennessee Memorial Day Weekend scheduled on Saturday, May 23 and Sunday, May 24. The theme for this year's weekend comes from Mark 14:38—"Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak."

On Saturday afternoon, Lord willing, an auction will be held at the Tennessee Fellowship Area beginning at 2:00 p.m. followed by supper at 6:00 p.m. and then a minister speaking on the first topic of "Watch and Pray." For the auction, donations will be appreciated. On Sunday beginning at 10:00 a.m., everyone is invited to attend church services at the Athens, Alabama Apostolic Christian Church. Afternoon activities will reconvene at the Tennessee Fellowship Area at 3:30 p.m. with singing, a minister speaking on the second topic—"Struggles and the Rewards," supper and evening singing.

Below is additional information on the weekend including directions, motel accommodations, plans for a charter bus from the Central Illinois area and contact information. For planning purposes, we'd ask that you notify one of the contact options listed below if you are planning to come. Additionally, we'd ask for your help in spreading the word to others who might be interested in attending.

The Tennessee Fellowship Board

Directions: The Tennessee Fellowship Area is located in Southern Tennessee off of Interstate 65 at Exit 14 (Pulaski). From the North, you will be turning left onto Hwy 64 after exiting and traveling approximately 1/2 mile. Turn left immediately before the bridge onto Old Hwy 64 and you will see the Fellowship Area on the left. If you are traveling from the South, take Exit 14 (Pulaski) and turn right onto Hwy 64. Follow 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: If you are interested in riding a charter bus to the Tennessee Fellowship Area from Morton, Ill., contact Ed or Barb Kaiser at (309)263-8944 or e-mail them at ed.kaiser@comcast.net.

Contact Information: Please notify one of the following contacts if you plan to join us for the weekend. Additionally, communication was sent to each church, and you may opt to notify your church's contact, who in turn will 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.

Volunteers Needed

Winter Work Project In Oakville

- * Carpenters
- * Plumbers
- * Electricians
- * Drywall installers and finishers
- * HVAC
- * Painters
- * General laborers
- * Clean-up
- * Cooks assistants
- * Willing hearts

*Accommodations, including sleeping,
showering and all meals are
provided at the Oakville church.*

For more information, contact Bro. Stan Heimer.
Cell : 319-572-7452

Email : stan65@aol.com Or www.acworldrelief.org

Teacher Position Available

Gateway Woods is excited to announce an opening for an English teacher at Gateway Woods School. Student census will be expanding with the addition of the Pine House. Gateway Woods School is a fully accredited educational facility serving 5th-12th grade students who have difficulty in public school. Qualifications include a Bachelor's Degree in Education and/or an active teacher's license. Special Education Certification and previous teaching experience is especially useful, but not required. Also you must be a Sister in the Apostolic Christian Church. If you hold these qualifications and have a heart for children, please ask the Lord if this is the position He has in mind for you. We offer a competitive salary and generous benefits. For more information please contact one of the brothers listed below.



Tim Wiegand
Director of Education
PO Box 151,
Leo, IN 46765
1-888-443-4283

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

Assistant Houseparent Needed

Gateway Woods has appreciated the Lord's blessing of being fully staffed with Assistant Houseparents for some time now. We are expanding our Residential Program, so we will have an opening for a single sister to work in a full-time ministry with troubled children. The Assistant Houseparent position offers competitive wages and generous benefits and a close relationship with brothers and sisters whose hearts and lives are dedicated to a mission with an eternal reward. If you feel the call to explore the possibilities, please call one of the brothers listed below:



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

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

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

Lynn Stieglitz
Counseling Elder

*"We have always considered our position a ministry for our entire family not just a job for us. Relationships built during this time can last for a lifetime."
- Bro. Jason & Sis. Joy Kilgus, Houseparents*

Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services

515 East Highland St,
Morton, IL 61550
309-263-5536 (local#) 309-263-6841 (fax)

877-370-9988 (toll free)

www.accounseling.org

*Christ-centered counseling for
depression, anxiety, relationship problems, etc...*

- Telephone consultations with a counselor
- Information about mental health issues and relationship problems
- Referrals to qualified counseling and family services in your area
- 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

POSITION AVAILABLE Assistant to the current Administrator

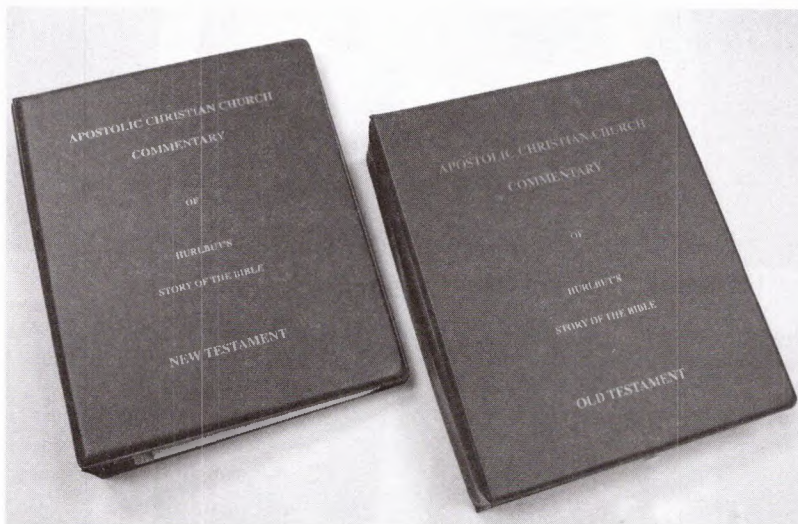
Parkview Haven Retirement Home of Francesville, Indiana, is seeking an Assistant to our current home Administrator. If you prayerfully feel the Lord's leading and have a desire for this position, please contact Gene Huber Sr. through the following listing:

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



805 W. Cuyler Street, Box 52
Eureka, IL 61530
Ph. 309-467-3611
Hours: Mon.—Fri. 8:30 to
11:30 CST/CDT

**Online ordering available at
www.acpublications.org**



Are you teaching from the Hurlbut's Stories of the Bible?

Don't go without these study guides and commentary

- Old and New Testament versions
- Includes references, introduction to the lesson, people of the lesson, setting, conditions of the time, theme, application and questions
- These were produced by Brothers from the Apostolic Christian Church

How to Order:

Online at www.acpublications.org During Business Hours: call 309-467-3611

After Hours: Call 309-467-3611 leave a message, or fax to the same number.

~*****~

Order blanks available: at each Church, on our website, by calling AC Publications, or by emailing office@acpublications.org

CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 2009

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 February 12th, 2009 - www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/

Project	Year 2009	Coordinator	Capacity				
Les Cayes SEED Agriculture Aid	Mar 13-20	Dale Frank 319-766-3661 dfrank@louisacomm.net	12	Les Cayes AWA Water Aid	Apr 24-May 1	Troy Stuber 309-925-2603 troystuber@verizon.net	4
Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Mar 20-27	Rich Bertschi 309-467-6110 lemangm@mtco.com	12	Les Cayes MEBSH Medical	May 1-8	Keith Knepp 309-467-4691 kknepp@mchsi.com	8
Les Cayes MEBSH Maintenance	Mar 27-Apr 3	Jon Zeller 309-266-9009 jzeller@mtco.com	12	Haiti MEBSH Caribbean Eval.	May 15-23	Tom Hitz 734-454-9229 tchitz@sbcglobal.net	Invitation
				Les Cayes FRW	Jun 5-12	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488	4

Haiti and Jamaica Work Team Code Definitions

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

USA World Relief Committee

For area work or disaster projects, please contact the following USA committee member:

* Bro. Kent Heimer	<i>Counseling Elder</i>	Taylor, MO	Cell# 573-248-5701
* Bro. Paul Kaeb	<i>Chairman</i>	Bern, KS	Cell# 785-547-5269
* Bro. Chuck Kellenberger	<i>Sec/Treasurer</i>	Elgin, IL	Cell# 224-629-6531
* Bro. Les Schambach	<i>Administrator</i>	Elgin, IL	Cell# 630-247-5271
* Bro. Arnold Gerst		Taylor, MO	Cell# 217-242-8996
* Bro. Tom Neuenschwander		Bluffton, IN	Cell# 260-307-6026
* Bro. Ray Slagel		Fairbury, IL	Cell# 815-848-3714

JAMAICA

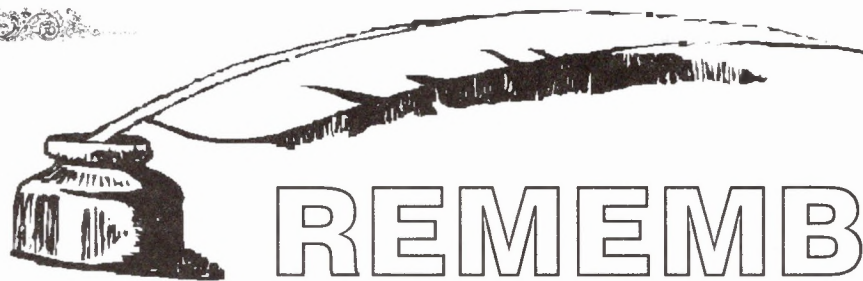
Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of February 12th, 2009 -www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/

Project	Year 2009	Coordinator	Capacity				
Kingston School CCCC Open to all	Mar 7 - 14	Roger Stoller 309-747-3228 rstoller@dtmspeed.net	40 (Open)	Jamaica Deaf Village CCCC	May 22 - 30	Ted Hirstein 309-266-8769 hirstein@mtco.com	40
Kingston School CCCC Gridley SS Only	Mar 21 - 28	Roger Stoller 309-747-3228 rstoller@dtmspeed.net	40 (Full)	Jamaica Deaf Village CCCC Goodfield SS	Jun 6 - 13	Andy Bauman arbauman@mchsi.com	40
Montego Bay School CCCC Bluffton SS	Mar 21 - 28	Gene Gerber 260-824-4601 ggerber@meyerbuilding.com	40 (Full)	Jamaica Deaf Village CCCC Akron, Rittman, Smithville SS	Jun 20 - 27	Jay Maibach jmmaibach@embarqmail.com	40

MEXICO

If anyone is interested in leading a team to Mexico, contact Bro. Mike Fiechter at 260-597-7330 or mfiechter@onlyinternet.net
Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of February 12th, 2009 -www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-mexico/

Location	Year 2009	Coordinator					
Agua Prieta Construction	Mar 7-14	Kevin Gerber 260-565-3313 kevgerber@yahoo.com		Agua Prieta Construction	Mar 21-28	Aaron Beery 330-927-6926 beeryaaron@embarqmail.com	
Magdalena Construction	Mar 7-14	Dustin Huber/ISU Illinois State University 309-825-0864 dustin.huber@verizon.net		Reynosa Medical	Apr 1-8	Cheryl Herrmann cherrmann@verizon.net	
Agua Prieta Construction	Mar 14-21	Steven Sauder/ICC-Bradley Illinois Central College/Bradley 309-657-2067 stevensau@gmail.com		Magdalena Construction	May 30-Jun 6	Seth Beer Phoenix Bible Class 602-918-1722 sethbeer@gmail.com	
Magdalena Construction	Mar 14-21	Joe Darlington/Purdue Purdue University 815-245-7913 joedarlington@gmail.com		Magdalena Construction	Jun 13-20	Brent Knobloch 815-923-4736 bmknob@mc.net	
Reynosa Construction	Mar 21-28	Tristan Herrmann/U of I University of Illinois 309-712-6902 tristanherrmann@gmail.com		Agua Prieta Construction	Jun 20-27	Brad Leman 260-273-1953 crazyhorsebrad@gmail.com	
Magdalena Construction	Mar 21-28	Pete Aberle Tremont Bible Class 309-925-5969 dpabfrms@hotmail.com		Magdalena Construction	Jun 20-27	Aaron Klopfenstein Indianapolis Bible Class 317-596-8739 aaronklop@sbcglobal.net	
				Magdalena Construction	Jun 27-Jul 4	Kent Mogler 651-452-8586 kent.mogler@comcast.net	
				Juarez Medical	Sep 16-23	Cheryl Herrmann cherrmann@verizon.net	



REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

History Book

The printing of the second edition of *Marching To Zion* was completed at the end of January. All the pages were folded and sent to a bindery. Sekan Printing of Fort Scott, Kansas, informed us it will take up to eight weeks to bind the 10,000 books that have been ordered. The books will then be shipped directly from Fort Scott to each of our local congregations, and to Apostolic Christian Publications, Eureka, Illinois. Several of you have inquired regarding the completion of this work. We are advising you as best we can.

Sekan Printing Company is owned by Bros. Lon and Don Banwart, who are the sons of deceased Elder Raymond Banwart. They also published the first edition of *Marching To Zion*.

Statistics

Up-to-date statistics of our church population was completed on the basis of the most recent *Minister's Book* which includes the year 2008. Comparisons were made in two-year periods back to 1994. In 1994, the church had 12,217 members compared to the 2008 total of 12,880. The 2008 total

was 40 members above that in 2006.

41 churches had growth during 1994 to 1998. Some congregations had significant gains, while others had losses.

It is interesting to note that there are 15 congregations with membership over 300. The largest churches with respect to membership are:

<u>Bluffton, Indiana</u>	925
<u>Peoria, Illinois</u>	515
<u>Rittman, Ohio</u>	487
<u>Roanoke, Illinois</u>	472
<u>Eureka, Illinois</u>	468
<u>Morton, Illinois</u>	456
<u>Bluffton North, Indiana</u>	400
<u>Tremont, Illinois</u>	367
<u>Rockville, CT</u>	360
<u>Gridley, Illinois</u>	357
<u>Forrest, Illinois</u>	355
<u>Goodfield, Illinois</u>	325
<u>Morris, MN</u>	315

Bloomington, IL 306

Lester, Iowa 306

Membership totals in these 15 congregations comes to 6,414, or 49.8 percent of the denominational total of 12,880. There are nine churches with membership ranging between 200-300; 15 with membership between 100-200; 14 with membership between 50-100; and 19 with 30-50 members. Three churches had 22 members or less.

In the United States, the Christian faith has a great many denominations. The *Encyclopedia of American Religions* listed 1,200 in 1978 (page vi in the Introduction). A later study by the same author raised the total to 2,630 (in the U. S. and Canada).

Quote

"In the course of time, both people and events fall into oblivion, more and more."

Karoly Eotvos, author of *The Nazarenes*

By Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next Issue: Misc. History

The Light Of Hope

“Victory In Death”

Retired Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

When I was in Sunday School, my teacher told us that when we die we sleep until resurrection day, but that since we are sound asleep even thousands of years seem like only a split second, or words to that effect. I wondered about that then and I wonder about that now. I learned later that this teaching is called soul-sleep.

Another person in our church told me that when we die, our souls rest under the altar, based on Revelation 6:9, “I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God.” Although most believers are not slain for the word of God, it was assumed that under the altar in heaven is where we will rest, waiting for the resurrection.

When one of our loved ones dies in the Lord, we take great comfort in hearing over the pulpit that our dear one has gone to heaven and is enjoying everlasting bliss. We read in I Corinthians 2:9, “Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for them that love him.”

We may also hear that we will now accompany our loved one to his or her final resting place and that our next meeting will be at that meeting in the air, based on I Thessalonians 4:16, 17, “The dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”

The Apostle Paul wrote in Philippians 1:23, “For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire

to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better.” This sounds as if he expected to be with Christ immediately upon his departure, that is, immediately upon his death.

The Lord Jesus said to the thief on the cross, Luke 23:43, “Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.” In this case the Lord Jesus set a time, today. He didn’t say, “Someday you will be with me in paradise.”

I believe that this matter would be clarified if we remember that there is a difference as to what happens to our bodies at the time of death, and what happens to our souls or spirits. In regard to our bodies, they have fallen asleep at the time of death. I Corinthians 15:6, “After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.” The Apostle Paul was writing about the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ and spoke about the witnesses who had died as having fallen asleep, that is, their bodies were asleep.

When the Lord Jesus Christ spoke to the thief on the cross, He was speaking of the soul or spirit, certainly not of His body nor of the thief’s body. Three days later when Mary was about to touch Him, He said, “Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father.” John 20:17. His resurrected body had not yet gone to heaven. Evidently, Christ had some work to be taken care of in heaven before his resurrected body could be touched by human hands. It probably had to do with

the application of the atonement in the temple in heaven. John did see a temple in his revelation of heaven. Revelation 11:19, “And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament.”

The Apostle Paul in I Corinthians 15:44 writes about our bodies, “It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.” I believe we all understand that our spiritual body is not our spirit or soul. It is a resurrected body similar to Christ’s resurrected body. John writes, “We know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him.”

The words soul and spirit are sometimes used interchangeably, but there is a difference. The word soul emphasizes the personality while the spirit is defined as the non-physical part of human beings, which includes the soul, in my mind.

Everything considered, Christ gives us the victory in death. If I understand the scriptures correctly, our spirits and souls, if we are in Christ, go directly to be with God and the Lord Jesus Christ, in heaven. As to our bodies, that’s a different story. We must wait until the resurrection before we live in our new, spiritual bodies, but we don’t have to be living in that body to have full comprehension of our surroundings in heaven. Our victory in Christ is over sin and over death and over Satan. Rejoice!

希望の光

THE SILVER LINING
1389 County Road 1600 N, Roanoke, IL 61561



*****CAR-RT LOT**C-003
LS Seq: 1457 P2 PK87
NICK KAEB
304 E HICKORY ST
FAIRBURY IL 61739-1233

*Suff'ring oft collects our senses;
From all worldly thought it cleanses
That our soul may not be lost;
Tells us God's word to remember,
And in our hearts' inmost chamber
Guards as does an angel host.*

Zion's Harp

245. THE FRUIT OF SORROW 39, 40.

1. Fin - al - ly from hot - test smelt - er Faith re
2. Thru deep suf - fring we in - her - it In our
3. Suf - fring brings re - bel - lious mem - bers To sub
4. Suf - fring oft col - lects our sens - es, From all

... its seal and shel - ter As the god
... and mind from their spir - it Our dear Mas
... sion, from their slum - bers Wak - ene
... ly, thought at cleans - es That