

The Silver Lining

*If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above,
where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.
Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.*

Colossians 3:1-2

April 2009

Sermon by Bro. Tony Manz, Junction, OH

St. Mark 15:9-39

We've come again for Good Friday Evening, to consider this wonderful work that God accomplished many years ago. Whereby the most precious, perfect, beautiful thing that the world has ever known, became ugly and sinful, because of us. It is good for us to come with soberness, as we think about what Jesus did for us on the cross. What He became. Why He came. What we have as a responsibility before our almighty God. It's sobering and it's meant to be that way. For turning to the Word of God, we can be, each one, taught, given hope, given an understanding of who we are and what God asks of us in this very day.

When we consider the events of Jesus' trial, mockery and then His crucifixion, I am often reminded that these were men and women just like us that accomplished these things. They did not have in their own hearts a greater capacity for hate or for love than what we have. They were not acting in a way that was really inconsistent with the way that people have always acted. That is without the love of Jesus Christ being shed abroad in our hearts, without us embracing the benefits of repentance and salvation, that we will first of all be selfish. We will often be led astray. We will not be grounded and stand on something firm. We will not naturally do that which is right and well pleasing in God's eyes.

So as we think about these people involved in the events, the things that happened to Jesus, it would be easy for us to blame them. To think down or less of them. But that is not the point of this story. The point of this story is, there was a tremendous amount of love that God had for His people. He was willing to show it even unto the death and suffering of His Son. That's the message that we need to embrace. We also need to remind ourselves that we were involved in these events. It wasn't nameless people or someone like Pilate, whom the world seems to love to hate. But no, each one of us was involved in these events. We did it. Jesus died because

of us. Because we sinned.

As we go through what is carefully recorded here, the physical suffering of our Lord, let's keep in our mind, as we think about these things, that the soul's anguish was so much greater. They cannot compare. The physical agony has no comparison to what He was feeling in His heart.

We picked up the story here talking about Pilate. There were many that came giving false accusations. We can read in one place that their counsel didn't agree together (St. Mark 14:56). It took a while for them to come to some point where they could accuse Jesus of something.

Reminds us of Daniel. There was only one thing that he could be accused of and that was serving God with a perfect heart. So in the true sense, Jesus was the same way. There was going to have to be a way that Jesus would be falsely accused, because He needed to die. But it wasn't easy for them to find something.

So Pilate then had a dilemma, didn't he? What do I do with this man? He's obviously not guilty. The charges that they've tried, one after another, don't make any sense. They are not consistent with the punishment that is being asked. Yet there was pressure. There was pressure that he give in. That he do the will of the people. We can't fault him, really. Because we're often no better.

But the question is, could Pilate have saved Jesus? Could this one man have done the job that Jesus said twelve legions of angels could have done for Him (St. Matthew 26:53)? Again, no. Jesus had to suffer. The consistency of God's Word. The law, as it stood throughout the ages of time, demanded that blood must be the restitution for sin. So, when we sin, an absolute requirement is that Jesus must die.

Let's think about what He went through. It is not easy for us to be falsely accused, is it? It is not easy for us even to bear it when we know that we're wrong. We know that we did it. So often we can see the nature of people through children. It is absolutely

natural for us to deny it. 'No, it wasn't me. I didn't do it.' Here, Jesus could have said those very words truthfully. He had done nothing wrong. He didn't

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*"And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ."
(Acts 5:42)*

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

April 2009

Preaching and Teaching

Preaching and teaching are both respected yet distinct methods of communicating scriptural truths in the Apostolic Christian Church. Matthew records Jesus using both methods: "...when Jesus had made an end of commanding his twelve disciples, he departed thence to teach and to preach in their cities" (Matt. 11:1). The Apostles followed His example: "And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ" (Acts 5:42).

A general definition of preaching is to proclaim the Gospel or give a talk on a religious or moral subject. Selection of the subject and amount of preparation of the message varies with the individual and with the traditions of the particular denomination or group. Teaching is giving planned instruction for the learning of the listeners or guiding the study of a particular subject.

When preaching a typical sermon in the Apostolic Christian Church, the minister prayerfully opens the Bible without pre-selecting a particular chapter or topic. He then speaks on the passage of Scripture that falls open without premeditation or the use of notes. The congregation prays sincerely for God's blessing upon the Word and for the inspiration of the Holy Spirit upon the speaker. The message should not be "...with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power" (1 Cor. 2:4), "for the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword..." (Heb. 4:12). Exceptions to random selection of Scriptures are made at funerals, weddings, special religious holidays and other appropriate circumstances when the minister chooses a particular text and topic pertinent to the occasion.

Only brothers serve as ministers in the Apostolic Christian Church. This practice follows the scriptural directive given by the Apostle Paul regarding church leadership and pulpit ministry: "I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence" (1 Tim. 2:12). The Word instructs ministers to speak with power and conviction given by the Holy Spirit. They are to "...reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine" (2 Tim. 4:2) based on

study and sound interpretation of the Word (2 Tim. 2:15), always "speaking the truth in love..." (Eph. 4:15). We uphold this long-standing method of unpremeditated preaching for our regular church ministry.

Teaching, as done in our church, is similar to preaching, but often the speaker studies and researches a particular topic of his choosing or one assigned to him. The speaker often uses notes during delivery of the message. Examples are Bible classes, topical presentations and other Bible studies as well as elder exhortations during our General Conference. Teaching on a spiritual topic, as well as preaching are gifts from God. "Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering; or he that teacheth, on teaching" (Rom. 12:6-7). The knowledge required to teach a particular subject comes by way of the Holy Spirit: "For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit" (1 Cor. 12:8). Understanding for both preaching and teaching come from reading and studying the inspired Word of God: "Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ" (Eph. 3:4). We often hear or use the term "speaking by the inspiration of the Spirit" when referring to preaching in our church; however, it also applies to teaching, when prepared instruction is approached in a spirit of humility. The Spirit inspires teaching that includes research, study and other preparation, if the minister or assigned teaching brother prayerfully seeks the direction of the Spirit in these endeavors. It also affords the opportunity to address special needs of the church by selecting relevant and timely topics. It can foster a deeper understanding and enhanced application of scriptural principles by allowing a thorough coverage of the whole counsel of God on a particular issue.

Effective preaching and teaching require participation from both the speaker and the listeners. The speaker must humbly acknowledge that his own thoughts or wisdom are completely inadequate, "for the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God..." (1 Cor. 3:19) and that we are not "...sufficient of ourselves to think any thing

as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God" (2 Cor. 3:5). He must approach this sacred work in faith, seeking to glorify God and edify the hearers, putting aside any personal agenda. God alone knows the hearts of men "...for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart" (1 Sam. 16:7). Thus, He can provide for the many needs of the congregation, "...for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him" (Matt. 6:8). Without His blessing, all of our labors would be in vain. A primary duty of listeners is to come with a "...hunger and thirst after righteousness..." (Matt. 5:6) and to pray for their ministers (2 Thes. 3:1).

The Bible warns the Brotherhood against creating disunity by preferring one minister above another. "For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?" (1 Cor. 3:3-4). On the other hand, by submitting to the Holy Spirit, the minister avoids trying to please certain groups within the congregation. "But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts. For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God is witness" (1 Thes. 2:4-5).

Ministers and listeners must discern between those thoughts or ideas coming from the Spirit of God and those coming from the spirit of the world: "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God" (Acts 17:11; 1 Cor. 2:12). When a church unites in love, humility and obedience to God's Word, a full measure of the Holy Spirit inspires both its preaching and teaching. The lost will hear the Gospel message of salvation: "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?..." (Rom. 10:14-15); the believers will be nurtured in the ways of righteousness and truth; and God's name will be glorified as the various pillars of the mission of the church are being 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

Valparaiso Indiana Welcomes You

In the early 1960's several brothers of the LaCrosse, Indiana congregation felt moved to investigate the possibility of starting a church in the Valparaiso, Indiana area. Some were leaving the farm for other jobs, and several friends lived in the Valpo area. After prayer, meetings and consultation a small building suitable for church was purchased and one of the LaCrosse ministers began serving this small flock. As time passed the congregation grew to around 90 members. A new minister was chosen just before the first minister suddenly passed away.

When the congregation reached this size the small church was very overcrowded and plans were begun for a new building. The newly erected building was dedicated in 1986. It has an assembly room capacity of approximately 200. The dining room seats around 100. The church has ample Sunday school space and has a large in-house fellowship room with its own kitchen. The building is well maintained and we are blest to be financially stable.

Due to a loss of attendees for a number of reasons, the congregation has decreased in numbers to a current attendance of about 30 people. They have 5 Sunday school students. Two of them graduated from high school in 2008 which leaves 3 students, ages 13 to 16.

They have had several meetings to address concerns and have prayed over them. They have invited friends and neighbors and still continue to grow smaller. They have learned that prayers are always answered in God's time. They believe this is an opportunity for younger families to move into a stable congregation and

a church that is financially sound. New families would be immensely appreciated, and young children would be warmly welcomed.

Opportunities

Jesus teaches in Matthew 28:19-20, "Go ye therefore and teach all nations"...in Mark 16:15, "And He said unto them, go ye into all the world"...and in Luke 24:47, "And that repentance and remission of sins shall be preached in His name among all nations."

Valparaiso church members have been active with volunteering and/or finances for the following: World Relief, the Berean Jail Ministry, The Homeless Shelter, First Contact (a volunteer's clearing house for people in need), Northwest Indiana Women's Center (counseling with the Word that women not abort their babies), as well as providing food for local food pantries.

The Valparaiso area has many other things to offer. It has a population of approximately 25,000. The Valparaiso University consists of 5,000 to 6,000 students. They have a new Ivy Tech Community College. The regional Purdue North Central (PNC) Campus is 20 minutes from the area. It offers Associate, Bachelor and Master's Degrees. A regional campus of PNC has recently opened in Valparaiso with the flexibility to meet long term academic needs.

Valparaiso has many amenities, including restaurants, city parks, and a new public busing and transportation system. The largest employers in our area are the various steel mills. There are also opportunities in the medical field, as two new hospitals are planned to be built in the near future. This would provide openings for doctors, nurses, X-ray

and lab technicians, other medical workers and clerical and administrative personnel.

Truck drivers are always in demand. Because of the close location to I-65, I-80, I-94 and I-90, one of the brothers who was a trucker for several years spent more time at his home than drivers who lived in other locations.

Valparaiso is fifteen minutes from Lake Michigan and the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, and 90 minutes from downtown Chicago, with public transportation from the Valpo area available. The church is located on the edge of urban development, with rural areas very close by, offering small city, suburban, or country living. In addition, there are several excellent schools, both large and small. There are many new housing developments in the area, so a lawn maintenance and landscaping business would be a possibility for someone who is a budding horticulturist.

Your part

While they have gone through some difficult times, the church remains at peace, and they feel privileged to be part of, and are in unity with the Apostolic Christian Church of America. They would enthusiastically welcome and worship with brethren and friends from any area of the country.

If you're interested, or would like more information; contact one of the ministering brothers, Garry Bucher or Mike Thomas, or contact Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus from Remington. Even if you don't feel called to move in this direction, they heartily invite you to come and visit and ask for your fervent prayers on behalf of the future of the Valparaiso church.



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

Opportunity and Blessing in Haiti

The country is beautiful, the people are beautiful, but life here is difficult. We are approached by many people with numerous challenges in life. Please pray for the people who have no money, no food, no transportation, no work, no means to send children to school... and the list goes on. We can't help them all, but we are so thankful and blessed for those that God lays on our heart. We are grateful for our church brethren who provide a conduit for much of this assistance to take place.

Haiti is a country of interruptions. Everything seems to take longer here. We have great opportunities for God to teach us patience, forbearance... and we still have much to learn. It is exciting to see the deep, genuine love for Jesus that some of these people possess. We have a long way to go to be this dependent on Jesus, and for Jesus to be our all, and our everything.

Reaching the lost

We are blessed on numerous occasions to share the Gospel with those who are hungry for answers, hungry to learn about Jesus, but say, "We have no one here to teach us."

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

Being among the few whites here can often lend itself to an audience to share the Gospel. We are so thankful for the prompting and guidance of the Holy Spirit, and for the prayers of those back home.

Work opportunities

We have had the opportunity to receive work teams to put roofs on churches and schools. Also, several Indiana brothers are working with trade schools. They are dedicated to helping students learn a trade for life; such as masonry, carpentry, welding, sewing, cooking, and recently even computer classes. We regularly check up on these schools and are encouraged. We're privileged to work with the Haitian well-drilling team which many brethren from Tremont, Illinois are involved in.



Initial installation of the pump on a new well

Recently we had some difficult times as we restructured the program, but we can see that God's hand was truly in it and He has blessed the program beyond our hopes. Thanks to this restructuring and better accountability, we have been able to drill twice as many wells but the needed funding to subsidize these wells has also doubled. Please be prayerful. The wells impact thousands of families when they receive good clean drinking water. Even though there are still many who walk several hours a day to carry 5 or 10 gallons of water for their family, thanks to the willingness of our brethren, there has been much improvement.

Shipping sea containers

We are so thankful for the infrastructure in place for shipping sea containers. Two to three weeks after a container leaves Bluffton, we get a call from the customs official in Port-Au-Prince, and we deposit funds to pay for the inspection and transportation of the container. In 2-3 weeks it is unloaded in our yard. Included are donated items such as hospital supplies, food for the hungry and well-drilling supplies.

Language learning

One difficulty that we face is learning a second language. We utilize a combination of lessons with a native teacher as well as practice with those we come in contact with daily. At first, we find that this is often one of the hardest parts about living in Haiti.

Wonderful Haitians to work with us

Living in Haiti provides opportunities to have Haitians work with us daily. We are thankful for a full-time cook and cleaning lady who not only relieves us of daily chores so we can be more effective in our ministry, but also sprinkles us with bits and pieces about Haitian culture. It is a blessing to see Haitian Christians living for the Lord. Often we see them go through very discouraging times. One thing that consistently shows in their life is their trust in the Lord, who daily gives them grace for the difficult life here in Haiti. We are touched by how simple the Haitians live and yet how rich their spiritual lives are. Truly they minister to us, as much as we minister to them.

BRO. JAN AND SIS. VAL GUTWEIN & FAMILY

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

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

John 3:16

This single verse has been translated in over 1500 languages. This verse's expression of God's love to His believers is so very important. Yet this verse has never been translated to those who are unable to read or write. Many of the residents living at the Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped lack the ability to understand written communication. Fortunately our residents do not require a formal translation to understand this verse. The residents feel and express God's love every single day. The other day, we were discussing with several of our residents the Old Testament story of Lot and his wife as they fled Sodom and Gomorra because of the angels' promptings. The question was posed to them, “Who is the main person in this story?” They responded in unison and with enthusiasm, “Jesus!”. Everyone was thrilled. They had just shown the beauty of getting back to the basics of life. And the beauty of getting back to our Lord Jesus Christ.

With Easter just around the corner, some have pondered what the Easter holiday means to our residents. Would it be colored eggs and a bunny? Would it be Easter baskets and marshmallow peeps? Or would it be Jesus and His death on the cross with His resurrection three days later? No doubt the eggs, bunnies, baskets, and candy are appreciated by all of our residents. They take

great enjoyment in the seemingly small things of life. But by doing this, they teach us all a lesson that Jesus Himself taught us — to make the ordinary sacred. To take joy in the minor happenings of life. To be thankful for the ability to take part in activities and enjoy each other's company. But most of all, I have no doubt that their response to my question of “Who is the most important person at Easter?” would be a resounding “JESUS!”

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

Tim Sauder

Recently and frequently I am beset by a heavy burden for our lost society, but even more so for the children whose lives from the beginning are set on a collision course for trouble. I refer to a recent report explaining that a huge 40% of babies in the US are born to unmarried parents. While our secularized culture and attending media are reluctant to express any judgment or grief over the sin and consequences of sex outside of marriage, any “logical” person who is willing simply to look at the stats can see that this is bad news for kids. But the elevated “virtue” of tolerance somehow prevents our government authorities and the enlightened media and academic elites from truly addressing these root problems, these root sins. In fact, they may now even “celebrate” the creation of a household where a key parent is intentionally absent by design in a same sex union.

We at Gateway Woods see first hand the wounds and crippling effects of a two-person parenting job attempted by a single parent. It is a rare thing for us to have a resident on our campus or in foster care whose

parents are in their first and only marriage. Oh, how few of the kids we care for really know and have a solid relationship with both parents, especially fathers! Their family trees look more like fractured spider webs than firm branches.

Adding to single parenting the ingredients of an addiction and perhaps multiple partners moving through the home, the odds become more severely stacked against that child. Simple common sense backed up by all statistical measures of child wellbeing, tell us that children raised by a mother and a father do better in every way. It should be no surprise that these kids, as a whole, excel academically, are healthier, avoid drugs and alcohol, are less likely to drop out of school, have less delinquency, less likely to engage in premarital sex, less likely to live in poverty, are more likely to be employed — you name it.

We who believe and obey the Bible find encouragement and hope because we know the ultimate answer and we worship and serve a God who is a redeemer who seeks the lost and desires to “adopt” all who believe into His holy and eternal family. A theme verse for our adoption and foster care programs is Job 14:7 “For there is hope of a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that the tender branch thereof will not cease.” The real cure for a troubled child, a troubled parent or a troubled land still lies in the redemptive power of the gospel of Christ. We stand on that promise.

NEWS:

- We are pleased to announce the hiring of Sis. Laura Gerber (Latty, OH) as our new English teacher. Sis. Laura will be graduating from Ohio State University this Spring. She will start on August 1. Please lift her up in prayer as she adjusts to her new job position. We are very grateful for

God's continued provision in meeting our staffing needs.

- You are an important advocate 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 updates, and make sure that you're on our mailing list.

- Please mark your calendars for our next annual auction on Saturday, August 8, 2009. Information about this event will be available throughout the year.

- We are very thankful that God continues to provide us with the right staff. Because of our Adoption services expanding into Illinois, completion of the Pine House, and other ministry opportunities, there are a number of service positions waiting to be filled. Open positions include Counselor, Alternate Houseparent couple, 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**

The birds upon the treetops sing their song.
The angels chant their chorus all day long.
The flowers in the garden blend their hues;
so why shouldn't I, why shouldn't you, praise Him too?

We love to see the handiwork of God as everything outside begins to

bloom. The kids are enjoying the warm spring weather and love to go outside any chance they get. Which means we have come to another season of many dandelion bouquets, sandcastles and bug searches. It also means we will probably start going through a lot more band aids from scraped up knees!

While the area schools had spring break, we had a lot of our kids stay home with older siblings. It was sort of nice to have a week where we could breathe easy, but after awhile it starts to get lonely without them and we were happy to have them all back. We spent the last month finishing up the alphabet, going through X, Y and Z.

We currently have a need for a preschool teacher. It is a great opportunity to work in a Christian environment as well as be a part of a small church family. We ask that you consider relocating if you feel the Lord directing you. If you are interested, please contact Bro. Mike Moore. His phone number is (256) 777-3390 and his e-mail is ALM38@aol.com.

**ALABAMA, ATHENS
Louise Hall**

I need the prayers of those I love,
while traveling o'er life's rugged way.
That I might true and faithful be,
and live for Jesus every day.
I want my friends to pray for me,
to bear my tempted soul above.
And intercede with God for me,
I need the prayers of those I love.
Hymns of Zion #201

We have had plenty of opportunities to pray for those who are struggling this month. We think of Bro. Winifred and Sis. Eunice Kelly in the untimely death of their son, Bobby. Also we pray for Gary Vibbert who broke his back in a car accident. Gary is the son of Sis. Hazel Vibbert. We

lift up Bro. Arnold Lee Haggemaker who had a stroke. Bro. Arnold is a brother to Sis. Joyce Ray, Sis. Clarann Lynn and Bro. Ed Haggemaker. We also ask for prayers for our Bro. J.R. Hall who has been in the hospital doing different tests, unsure of what is going on. It is a comfort to know that even though we don't know the future of our lives, God does and is holding us in the palm of His hand.

We are always thankful for our visitors. This month we had Bro. Gary Brown and his wife, Sis. Jane (Forrest, IL), come and minister to us. We also were blessed to have a couple extra brothers who were willing to do our adult Sunday School. We thank Bro. Tom Steidinger (Fairbury) and also Bro. Dan Tucker (Bluffton). Bro. Dan and Sis. Tricia Tucker used to live here in Athens while she taught in the preschool. It was good to see them here again for a visit.

As summer is quickly approaching, we encourage travelers to stop by if you are headed to Florida or Gulf shores. We love having visitors and you are welcome anytime!

**ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Heather Hinrichsen**

"Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus."

II Timothy 1:13

We sincerely thank Bro. Neil Ramseyer (Bay City) for ministering to us this month.

Sis. Kathie Labudde (Bro. Larry) is in the hospital due to complication from cancer treatment and Bro. Brandon Labudde (Sis. Jodi) had emergency surgery. We are thankful they are both feeling God's healing

hand.

On March 17, Avery Jeanette joined the family of Bro. Mike, Sis. Angie, Jack and Violet Ringger. Grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. LouAnn Klopfenstein and Elder Bro. Steve and Sis. Myra Ringger (Bluffton North).

The Phoenix single group hosted the Single Focus Weekend on February 28-March 1. A blessing was received by all who attended.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT **Denise Steidinger**

Our congregation was blessed with the service of the following ministering brothers this past month: Bros. Lynn Fiechter (Bluffton, IN), Todd Stoller (Latty, OH), James Emch (Phoenix, AZ), Al Schambach (Remington, IN), Ron Heiniger (Bloomington, IL), Todd Zollinger (Silverton, OR) and Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ). We appreciate the visits from them and their wives/families.

We were also blessed with a group from Bluffton that came over spring break and helped us do a work project at a community food bank. Visitors from Elgin, Forrest, Bluffton North and Phoenix joined in also. It was a blessed time of working together, building bonds of love and helping a "neighbor in need".

ARIZONA, TUCSON **Lisa Knapp**

We were happy to host a work team the weekend of March 15 and equally happy to welcome Bro. Randy Gudeman (Francesville, IN) to our pulpit. He was willing to serve the Lord in ministry and his efforts were very much appreciated. We also thank Bro. Thomas Bahler (Rockville, CT) for his willing heart in ministering the Word to us with a

different work team. We trust that God always blesses the visiting ministers as much as he blesses us with their presence.

Our Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich and our deacon Bro. Herbie Knochel came to Tucson this past month and served our church Holy Communion. We once again thank them for their time and efforts on our behalf. Sharing Communion with them and some of our winter visitors made for a special Sunday.

It is with very mixed emotions that we congratulate Carl and Sara Kaufman on the birth of their perfect, healthy baby girl, Lacey Rose. She is their firstborn child and was gratefully welcomed by grandparents, Bro. Curt and Sis. Caroline Kaufman. Only a few days later, Sara lost her brother-in-law, Tom, to leukemia. We are thankful Carl, Sara and Lacey made it to California in time to see Tom before he passed away. We are keeping Sara's family in our prayers as they begin the difficult mourning process.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA **Catherine Brame**

"While I live will I praise the Lord:
I will sing praises unto my God while
I have any being."

Psalm 146:2

On February 1, the ladies of our congregation joined together for a breakfast of prayer and worship. These gatherings are a comfort and allow us a time of intimate sharing of the Word, our hopes and dreams. Thank you to Sis. Shirley Luthi, and all who assisted her in putting together this lovely event.

March 1 we had pause to celebrate how God continues to bless our congregation. The reading of the fi-

nancial report provided assurances that God's grace is strong and sure, and that we have been blessed with members who have excellent management skills.

On March 8, we welcomed visiting ministers. Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian, San Diego) joined us for a reading of the Conference letter. Bro. Mike Hohulin (Sis. Faye, Ft. Lauderdale) gave service from the pulpit that morning. We are grateful for such gracious sharing of the Word.

The Crown Ministries Money Management course has begun in earnest and we have two groups proceeding at this time. An additional group is planned for later in the spring. There is a great deal of excitement in this undertaking, particularly in these difficult times of economic duress.

As this is written, the finishing touches are being placed on dinner tables, and people are beginning to arrive at the celebration of the 50th wedding anniversary of Bro. Reuben and Sis. Crystol Luthi. It fills our hearts to know that what God has put together should survive in joy and peace for all of these decades. May God richly bless all the remaining years of your marriage.

Our prayers and love are with Bro. Bill, Sis. Mary Witzig and family as his health and strength continues to diminish. Bro. Bill is now receiving assistance from hospice.

We look forward to Communion on April 4, and the upcoming Easter celebration. Our Easter mornings are spent at the top of a beautiful hillside for an early song service, followed by breakfast at church. All who will be in the area are invited to join us.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO Yasmin Koehl

Another month has come and gone and yet with thankful hearts we appreciate the blessings we experienced with the many visiting brethren who attended mid week and/or Sunday services with us.

We appreciated the efforts of Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH) for his assistance to our Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic in reading the Memorandum.

Visiting ministering Brothers were Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA), Bro. Gary Endress (Sis. Evelyn, Bradford, IL), Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Sis. Pat, Congerville, IL) and Bro. Dan Dubach (Sis. Bethany, Prescott, AZ). We pray the Lord's blessing upon these Brothers for lovingly serving us and exhorting us in our faith as we strive heavenward.

Let us together walk hand in hand in unity and obedience to the Word of God that our brotherhood may be blessed and we may all experience true joy in Christ.

KITCHENER, ONTARIO CANADA

Johanna Fortenbacher

With the love of God inspired,
Let us walk the path of life;
Hand in hand O may love bind us
For each other's welfare strive.

Hymns of Zion #237, vs. 4

Bro. Vladimir and Sis. Margaret Fortenbacher marked their 50th wedding anniversary on February 22. We all really enjoyed an Open House for this occasion and were blessed by the many visitors that came for that day and those who joined us for worship on Sunday.

Traveling ministers this month were Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit), Bro. Vic Bauman (Sis.

Brenda, Smithville), Bro. Clint Schmidt (Sis. Magdalena, Winthrop), Bro. Duane Ruetter (Sis. Kay, Rockville), and Bro. Todd Graf (Sis. Lydia, Akron). Thank you all for sharing the Word with us.

COLORADO, DENVER Ann Gonglach

In March, Elder Bro. Mike and Sis. Deb Leman spent a few days in Ixtlan, Mexico, and shared Holy Communion with the brethren there.

We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Sis. Jeni, Bluffton, IN), with us and to hear the testimonies of George and Lily Zarkovacki who have joined our membership. We also rejoiced to hear the testimony of Kristy Schmidt (Bro. Rod and Sis. Cindy) and witness her baptism.

Joyful songs of praise we bring Thee,
our Saviour!
Of Thy goodness we will sing and Thy favors!
Heart and mind in ardor fill with Thy praises,
For our hope in Jesus.
Zion's Harp, #71

We are thankful that Sis. Ruth Pfeiffer is recovering well from cataract surgery and, consequently, her vision is much improved. She had the surgery the week of her 80th birthday.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE Laura Virkler Amber Rocke

"He hath remembered his covenant forever, the word which he commanded to a thousand generations"
Psalms 105: 8

God's faithfulness is such a com-

fort in time of need. The needs of a congregation go far beyond that which can be written in this brief article. However, we are so thankful for a continual avenue of prayer.

Our prayers extend to Sis. Nancy Gerber (Bro. Everett) at the passing of her brother, Bro. Jack Sauder (Sis. Marlise, Roanoke, IL). To his dear widow, and family, we commend our thoughts and prayers. Also losing a loved one is Bro. Kevin Grasso (Sis. Sara). His step-grandmother, Madeline Uccello, was very special to him and her presence will be greatly missed. May God provide Bro. Kevin with much comfort. Also, Sis. Martha Mangold (late Bro. Clarence) and Sis. Mildred Gerber (Bro. Melvin) lost a dear brother-in-law, Edward Kayan. We wish his wife, Hilda, and their children comfort in their time of sorrow. He was an uncle to many in our congregation.

There have been several under the care of a physician throughout this past month. They include Bro. Paul Foote (Sis. Roberta), Sis. Carol Crohan (Daniel), and Sis. Jen Hoffman (Bro. Arlo and Sis. Lynn). We pray that God will return them to good health.

We rejoice with Bro. Erik and Sis. Heidi Virkler at the birth of their son, Luke Clayton. We are so thankful that Sis. Heidi is feeling well, and Clayton is a healthy baby. Baby Luke is the grandson of Bro. Dan and Sis. Dorothy Virkler, and Bro. Kevin and Sis. Jane Ballasy, both from our congregation. May Bro. Erik and Sis. Heidi feel our love and prayers through this time of transition.

Our prayers also extend to our Sis. Alma Lanz as a large adjustment unfolds in her life. Sis. Alma will be moving from our area in the east coast to live with her daughter, Susan Bigelow, and granddaughter, Jaime Bigelow, on the west coast in

Oregon. Not only will it be an adjustment for her, but the many family members, especially son, Bro. Sherman (Sis. Joanne), who took great efforts in providing for her care. They are comforted that all is in God's hand, and know that she will be well provided for in her new home.

This month we were privileged with many visitors from Kitchener, Ontario, for the wedding of Bro. Jake Virkler (Bro. Terry and Sis. Cindy) and Sis. Ashlee Hunt (Kenneth and Sis. Karen). Several others from the Midwest were also able to attend Rockville for this joyous occasion. We pray for this young couple, that God would richly bless their lives together. We thank all those who have made the effort to be with us, not only this weekend, but throughout each year.

We humbly thank our Elder Brethren for their efforts on our behalf in the Mid-Winter Conference. May they always feel our prayers.

Begone unbelief, my Saviour is near,
And for my relief will shortly appear
By faith let me wrestle, and He will perform
With Christ in the vessel, I smile at
the storm.

Zion's Harp #87

This is such a comfort when our needs are so great, and our strength so weak. Have a blessed month.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

"And He changeth the times and the seasons."

Daniel 2:21

Last week I was thinking the trees would soon be budding, looked out the window and there were some little buds. Driving to work later that

day, one tree was already blooming.

Our caretakers for March are Bro. Gene and Sis. Joyce Strunk from Morton, IL. We have also enjoyed meeting some of their family who have come to visit.

Sis. Doreen Steffen reports we have caretakers for most of this year and she has started booking caretakers for 2010. Please see the article elsewhere for her contact information.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Jon Zeller (Sis. Christie, Morton, IL), Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IL), Bro. Shawn Metzger (Sis. Sandy, Philadelphia, PA), and Bro. Jerry Meeks (Sis. Christy, Sabetha, KS). Other visitors this month were from Philadelphia, PA; Fort Scott, KS; Lester and Burlington, IA; and Forrest and Morton, IL.

The weekend Bro. Ben was here he led a Bible Study on Deborah.

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. Sharing God's Word with us were Bro. Joe Braker (Sis. Shirley, Morton, IL), Bro. Ron Jones (Portland, OR), and Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Sis. Judy, Chicago, IL). We pray that our Lord will bless His servants.

We are thankful, too, for the winter visitors that step in and provide our noon meal. We have larger groups for a few months and we are very appreciative of their service.

"When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the Lord thy God for the good land which he hath given thee."

Deut. 8:10

**FLORIDA
NORTH FORT MYERS
Victor and Dorothy Beer**

It looks like the severe winter weather up north has made possible for many who decided to enjoy some warmer weather rather than stay home by the fires. Now during our March weather, we are all enjoying plenty of warm days, with still many of our northern brethren coming to fellowship with us.

As is our custom, we have Holy Communion in March and were blessed with many visitors to enjoy it with us. Our Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz, with the help of Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL), served us in this event. It was a wonderful time of worship for all.

How blessed we were with many visiting ministers this month. These were Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT), Bro. Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN), Bro. Doyle Frauhiger and Bro. John Baumgartner (Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Neal

Widmer and Bro. Rustin Meister (West Lafayette, IN), Bro. Trent Schrock (Leo, IN), Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL), Bro. Dan Beer (Milford, IN), and Bro. Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL).

Bro. Joe Gerber gave our church a great presentation of the Loving Shepherd Ministries in March. It gave us all a greater appreciation of the blessings of our heritage.

Our church enjoyed a potluck supper at our mid-week service this month, which was preceded by a travelogue by Sisters Elaine Young and Judy Bauer of Cissna Park, IL. Then after a wonderful meal and a song service, they showed us more travel photos of their travel in Africa. It was an inspiring evening.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA **DiAnne Brown**

Happy Spring Greetings. April is a month I've spent most of my life despising. It was April when my 18 year old brother was killed in an accident and it was April when my mother lost her battle with cancer. It was a month our family ignored, endured and breathed a collective sigh of relief when the page could be ripped from the calendar and discarded for another year.

Then, I found salvation through Jesus Christ and that has made all the difference. The depth of God's mercy in leading my mother and brother to baptism before their early deaths amazes me still. The painful bonds of despair were replaced with the peace of knowing it isn't forever, but for now. To think none of this would be possible, had Jesus not found us worth dying for. The miracle of Easter reveals the true meaning of being a Christian and often comes in April— somehow this

seems appropriate. Perhaps April would be a good time to consider who God has placed in our lives for us to encourage toward salvation.

It seems like they just arrived and already our winter visitors have begun a steady departure. We have enjoyed hosting our northern brethren and wish each of you God's traveling mercies as you return home. There were fewer numbers than in years past and we missed those who were unable, for whatever reason, to fellowship with us this winter. Thanks to everyone who has spent time with our congregation over the winter months. We appreciate you so much and are thankful for your presence.

On Sunday, March 8, the Sarasota Young Group was hosted by Bro. Larry and Sis. DiAnne Brown. The group met at Nokomis Beach to share fellowship, a cookout and a blessed time together. Time was spent discussing some interesting questions about moral decisions young people face in daily life. The conversation was lively and enlightening.

Bro. Jeff Streitmatter reported recently on the threats against one of the RGMMI congregations. We hold these courageous soldiers for Christ up to the Lord for protection and blessing by our merciful God. May He hold each of them in the palm of His hand until the violence subsides.

Sarasota was blessed with an abundance of visiting ministers this month. Sincere gratitude for their labors is extended to Bros. Paul Gasser (Sis. Joyce, Akron, OH), Victor Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville, OH), Ron Steiner (Sis. Ruth, Rittman, OH), Earl Beery (Sis. Suzanne, Rittman, OH), Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), Lenard Meyer (Sis. Charlotte, Chicago, IL) and Elder Bros. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL) and Ted Witzig, Sr.

(Sis. Cindy, Morton, IL).

May this April bring a renewed faith as we ponder the sacrifice of our blessed Savior and a reminder that this earthly existence is for now, not forever. The tomb is empty. He lives!

GEORGIA, ATLANTA **Melinda Gramm**

Afternoon church had to be canceled because the "Atlanta Snow Storm 2009" struck the first Sunday in March. The northern people laughed as the southern folks became overly excited about the flurries. Although it took awhile for them to stick, we did end up getting about 4 inches.

Reflecting back, the last few weeks in Atlanta have reaped an abundance of edification when it comes to studying the Lord's Word! We were richly blessed to have four different visiting brothers minister the Word to our growing congregation. Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North), Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville), Bro. James Knapp (Congerville) and Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville) brought the Word to us this month. The following saying is one that has stuck out to me: "If we have faith as a grain of mustard seed, we can move mountains of unbelief and doubt." Another that spoke to my heart, stated that "(when we die, we should) be used up and worn out for the Word of God." How true that is! If we are followers of the Lord Jesus, we should give ourselves completely to His work, so that when we receive our heavenly bodies, our earthly ones will be completely worn out for the Lord.

Bro. Rich Aberle is leading a Bible Study on the book of Revelation. It is mind-boggling to read of the things

that are in the future (could very well be in the near future).

Another Bible study recently led was on "Our Priorities." First to God (Matthew 6:33), second and third to our family and work (I Timothy 5:8), and fourth to sharing our faith (I Peter 3:15, Romans 10:13-15). May we remind ourselves of these before we get pulled into the busy flow of life.

Rejoicing, we are happy to report a miracle in our church family! Bro. Nick and Sis. Sandra Waibel welcomed their third son, Liam Nickolas, into the world on March 20. Big brothers, Elijah and Caden, are ready to teach him everything he needs to know about the boys' world. Liam's grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Janice Gutwein (Francisville) and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Marci Waibel (West Lafayette).

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

**Doreen Moser
Jenn Johnson**

"For, Lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth: the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land"

Song of Solomon 2: 11-12

How wonderful the season of spring. A time of renewal, new beginnings, seedtime, wonder and beauty of new life in the flowers, leaves and animals. What a Creator we have! May we always remember to praise and thank our precious Lord as we observe His creation.

New Beginnings

March 1, Bro. Josh Steffen (Bro. Dean and Sis. Carol) and Sis. Colby Sutter (Bro. Richard and Sis. Kay) were united in marriage in Taylor, MO. Many of the Belvidere congrega-

tion traveled to share the day with Josh and Colby. How wonderful it is to gather with our church family here on earth at a wedding, but can we imagine the wedding in heaven someday?

Our thanks to Bro. Gary Anliker and Bro. Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL) who came to Belvidere to spend the day and share the Gospel on March 1. We appreciate our ministers and their families who travel and who never tire of preaching God's Word.

Renewal

Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) shared his heart and love for the brethren as he asked us to search and examine our hearts as the time of Communion draws near. May we renew our love for the brethren as we share the bread and drink the cup and once again remember who gave His life for us.

Seedtime

Planting seeds of love for those in need, the Bible class hosted a fundraiser for the Belvidere and Elgin congregations. They will be traveling to Magdalena, Mexico, in June. It is always a blessing to spend an evening with precious brothers and sisters in the Lord. May the seeds of love that are planted grow in the hearts of those in need in Mexico.

May we remember as we plant the seeds in the garden or fields and endeavor to plant seeds of God's love, that we are just workers in God's vineyard, and He alone gives the increase!

ILLINOIS BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL Alissa Kieser Jacki Masters

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering."

James 1:5

Over the past few months our congregation has been asking for Godly wisdom as we participate in small group and all church Bible studies on the book of James. We have been taught so much in the book of James on how we should rejoice in trials, ask God for wisdom, be quick to listen and slow to speak; guarding our tongues. In our Bible study just last evening, our dear brother said that we will be remembered by the words we speak. We must speak the wisdom of God with humility. We continue to pray that our James Bible study will draw our hearts closer to God, as well as to those in our congregation, as we study the words written by James many years ago.

We rejoice with Sis. Erica Bruellman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Teresa) and Bro. Randy Stuerman (the late Bettie Goettsh and Robert Stuerman) as we witnessed their beautiful wedding on March 15.

Ryan Knapp of Grand Rapids, MI, is engaged to marry Rachel Dawson. Ryan is the son of Bro. Charlie and Sis. Paula Knapp. They are planning to be married on July 5 in Rochester, MN.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Nancy Kaufmann are pleased to announce the engagement of their son, Brant Kaufmann, to Kyli Wall, originally from Nebraska. They are busy planning a June wedding.

Double congratulations go to Bro. Ryan and Sis. Amber Prevo on the birth of their twin girls, Kate Amber and Olivia Mae, born on March 3. The twins are welcomed by their big sister Ava, and proud grandparents, Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev Bahr (Detroit) and Bro. Mike and Sis. Barb Prevo (Gridley).

Our love and sympathy is extended to Sis. Eileen Robert upon the death of her brother, Glenn "Shorty" Yergler of Gridley. He passed away February 18. This is the second brother that our dear Sis. Eileen has lost in the past five weeks.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Philip and Donna Nenadov

Thy conflict is our gain;
Thy death gives life immortal;
Thy bonds and fetters have
Unlocked our prison's portal.
Thy cross is our relief;
Thy wounds have healed our heart;
Thy blood has purchased us
The ransomed sinner's part.
Zion's Harp #224, vs. 2

As we are in the time of remembrance of when our Lord and Saviour came to the point in His life where He would lay down His life to fulfill His Father's plan, we can be so thankful that He didn't follow His own will, but freely gave of Himself to sacrifice His life for our sake. O what a Saviour we have! We can rejoice in our salvation each and every day! It's only because of Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection from the grave that we can have a joyful life in Him.

One Biblical commandment from the Lord was to remember Him and we did just that with Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary, Fairbury) assisted Elder Bro. Bruce in serving that evening. We are thankful for the opportunity to

come together as a body of believers to remember our Lord.

Two souls have expressed their desire to become a part of the body of Christ in the near future. Cory Joos (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jenny) and Kayla Kupferschmid (Bro. Brad and Sis. Cheryl) were announced as having peace with their God and await baptism. Our prayers and support are with them at this time.

We always enjoy having visitors, especially those who serve us from the pulpit. Our guest ministers this month were Bros. Steve Martin (Sis. Vicki, Eureka), Wayne Wiegand (Sis. Rosemary, Goodfield), and Mark Zimmerman (Sis. Cheryl, Eureka). May God bless them for their efforts of love and service.

Bro. Dick and Sis. Marilyn Tanner had another grandchild added to their family. Henry Simon was born to Craig and Kate Tanner who live in the Peoria, IL, area. As life was received in the Tanner family, it was also taken. Sis. Marilyn Tanner's brother, Bro. Mark Wiegand (Sandy, Goodfield) passed away. We are thankful that he found God's grace to surrender his life to our Lord during his illness and find that "Peace that passeth all understanding" in the latter days of his life.

Our prayers are with her and the entire family. Also, Sis. Elizabeth Kimble and Bro. Clarence Bruell's brother, Bro. Gilbert Bruell (Morton), passed away. May the Lord comfort their hearts in their time of loss.

Brock Elsasser (Bro. Jordan and Sis. Sharon) was married to Mindy Zimmerman. Mindy's parents are Jim and Nancy Gross from Pennsylvania.

We held a farewell singing for Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Judy Anliker for the time of service they brought to the Bradford congrega-

tion over the past several years. May the Lord be their rich rewarder and continue to bless them throughout the rest of their life.

God be with you 'til we meet again.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO Rachel Meyer

Greetings from Chicago. As I type today, I realize it is the first day of Spring. Although yesterday was gray, today I see a blue sky and shining sun. It feels as if God is smiling down on this world of chaos.

As I enjoy this morning, there are others who are in desperate need of a miracle. Our dear brothers and sisters in India are undergoing persecution, much of which is of a severe nature. Can you really comprehend being persecuted for professing to be a Christian? I cannot. Often when I hear of the persecution I find myself being more thankful that it is not me as opposed to being more diligent in prayer – and I am ashamed. Let us make praying for these beloved ones a high priority. They are counting on us.

February 28 was the night of the Sunday School Benefit Dinner and Program. The theme was "Dig Deep". The Bible Class shared about their trip to Magdalena, MX, and we enjoyed a delicious meal. It was an evening of fun and fellowship and we thank the Bible Class and all who helped with the festivities and program.

March 7 presented an opportunity for us to make kits for World Relief. There was much enthusiasm and fellowship as we all pitched in to help make someone's day a little brighter. These opportunities are a blessing.

We thank our Bro. Virg Metzger for presenting his Topical Bible

Study entitled, "God's Help in this Present Time." Cannot we all identify with facing fears during times that present much trouble and worry?

Our prayers are with our Bro. Darin Metzger as he suffered some complications from sinus surgery and had to spend a short time in the hospital. We assure him of our love and prayers.

The economy. Mortgages. Massive debt. Despair. Fear. Anxiety. Job cuts. Lives of unborn babies being lost in the name of science.

Jesus. Our cornerstone. Never failing. Never changing. Always loving. Fear not.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN **Jackie Eisenmann**

Greetings from Champaign-Urbana! Once again this month we were blest by several visiting ministers. We want to thank Bros. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL), Dennis Rassi (Bastrop/Austin, TX), and Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO) who came and presented us with Bible studies on Wednesday nights this past month. May God bless all of them for their willingness to be used in His service.

Our congregation is rejoicing with Bro. Mark Sauder from Champaign and Sis. Ashley Hoerr (Taylor, MO) as they were married in Taylor, MO, on March 15. Their parents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Janice Sauder (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Scott and Sis. Anna Hoerr (Taylor, MO). Mark and Ashley will be in Champaign a few more years, Lord willing, as Mark finishes his schooling. We are thrilled to have them part of our congregation!

Since all of our ministers were gone from "home" to attend the wedding, along with many from the con-

gregation, Bro. Fred Witzig (Indianapolis, IN) was willing to come and "fill in" on the pulpit for the day in Champaign. We thank you, Bro. Fred, for your service. Come again when all of us can enjoy your visit. May God bless you.

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

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Dale Stoller (Fairbury), Greg Stoller (Forrest) and Les Kaeb (Francesville). We thank them for their willingness to serve and pray that God may richly bless them for their labors.

We are prayerful for Sis. Aldean Kaufmann and Bro. Marvin E. Hari as they were in the hospital this month. Also Sis. Louise Manz is at Heartland Health Care in Paxton. We pray that God will restore good health and strength according to His will.

Thankful for the safe arrival of baby Heidi Grace are Bro. Dan and Sis. Pam Walder. Welcoming her home are big sisters, Joanna, Abigail and Katrina. Excited grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon Eisenmann and Sis. Wilma (late Bro. Charles) Walder.

We want to express our heartfelt thanks to Bro. Ken and Sis. Myrna Weerts for his thirty-three years of serving us in the ministry of the Lord. We wish them God's continued blessings.

Our March topical Bible presentation was about "Hospitality". We appreciated the many thoughts by Bro. Clark Stoller (Gridley). May God richly bless him for his labors.

We bid farewell to a dear Sister in Christ, Sis. Mary Anderson of Eureka, formerly of the Cissna Park congregation for many years.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE **Holly Zobrist**

We rejoice with Bro. Caleb Zobrist (Bro. Mike and Sis. Susie, Magdalena, Mexico) as he has recently announced his engagement to Sis. Livy Leman (Bro. Ben and Sis. Janet, Roanoke). We wish them God's richest blessings as they prepare to become one in Christ.

Sis. Mary Anderson passed from this life. Our thoughts and prayers are with her son, Bro. Jon Anderson, and his wife, Sis. Cyndee. She will be missed, but we can be thankful her race is finished.

We were thankful to have Bro. Greg Braker (Sis. Wendy, Lamar) with us this month. We are thankful for those who allow God to use them to minister to us.

Recently, I came upon two quotes that I found interesting:

God gave us two ears and one mouth. We should listen twice as much as we talk.

God made our mouths to shut and our ears to stay open at all times.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN **Amy Gasser** **Miriam Gasser**

On February 28, Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS) helped Bro. Ron serve Communion. We are grateful for their inspired meditations on the last supper and on the unfathomable suffering and cruel death of our Saviour. Bro. Jay ministered to us on Sunday as well. May the Lord bless him for his labors.

March 6 was the day Grant and Charlene McWilliams became first-time parents of a baby girl, Aria Louise. Elder Bro. Ron and Sis. Nancy Schambach are pleased to have a new granddaughter and hope to soon visit her in Alaska.

Sis. Nina Willaert marked her 100th birthday this year. Her family observed this milestone in a celebration shared with many at Resthaven.

We are encouraged and thankful that Alex Steffen has yielded his life to the Lord and begun his repentance. We will keep him in our prayers. He is the son of Bro. Gary and Sis. Lois. As we heard Sunday, the angels in heaven rejoice over one sinner who repents.

Bro. Darren and Sis. Krystin Schambach, Tobin, and Castalie have returned home after their two years in Belgium. Bro. Darren will continue to work for Caterpillar at the Aurora location. Tobin's little cousins are giving him an enthusiastic welcome!

A number of our brethren have had health struggles. Bro. Fred Dietz (Sis. Shaena) is recovering from jaw surgery. Bro. Albert Schambach has returned to his apartment after being hospitalized with double pneumonia. Sis. Kathy Stefan was in the hospital because of a stroke. May God grant comfort and healing according to His will.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Ken Lindoerfer, whose wife, Mary, passed away March 11 at Resthaven. In addition to Bro. Ken, Mary is survived by a daughter and two sons. May God console the bereft with His spirit of compassion. We are thankful for His faithful promise: "I will not leave you comfortless; I will come unto you."

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

**Dee Baer
Jodi Blunier**

We are thankful to hear of the Lord's leading two to become one. Bro. Ross Blunier (Bro. Ted and Sis. Donna) was announced to Sis. Whitney Anderson (Bro. Jon and Sis. Cyndee, Congerville); and Bro. Jona-

than Stoller (Bro. Jim and Sis. Janet) is engaged to Sis. Jena Fehr (Bro. Dan and Sis. Diane).

Bro. Landon and Sis. Martha Knecht brought home their first child, Selah Joy. Grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Lisa Knecht and Bro. Max and Sis. Suzanne Hoerr, Congerville.

We welcome convert Ashley Shoufler to our congregation. She has heard and heeded the call of the Saviour.

Hospital patients include Bro. Milton Leman (Sis. Gerry), Bro. Nelson Martin (Sis. Mary Ellen), Bro. Glenn Hackenjosh (Sis. Kay), Sis. Mabel Wittmer, Sis. Milly Prather (Bro. Jack), Bro. Ron Hartter (Sis. Janet), and Bro. Keith Blunier.

Sis. Doris Rocke (Bro. Norman) was quickly taken from our presence to eternity. Those who grieve her loss are her husband, Bro. Norman; two sons, Keith Mangold (Ann) of El Granada, CA; John Mangold of Grand Junction, CO; two daughters, Ann Mangold of Globe, AZ; Linda Manore (Dave) of Clinton Township, MI; two stepsons, Randy Rocke (Betty) of Columbus, OH; Bro. Kevin Rocke (Sis. Janine, Washington); two stepdaughters, Joyce Huber (Bruce) of Morton, IL; and Sis. Linda Rocke of Eureka; two sisters, Katherine Schmidgall (Albert) of Glendale, AZ; Carol Sinn, Fort Scott, KS; two brothers, Robert Scheitlin, Elgin, IL; and Bro. Albert Scheitlin, South Elgin, IL; one sister-in-law, Sis. Kathryn Hodel (Bro. Ray, Roanoke).

Bro. Joel Banwart (Sis. Sonia) said goodbye to his brother, Glenn Banwart of Weiser, ID.

Sis. Frieda Gerber lost her dear sister, Clara Knobloch, of Lester, IA.

We are thankful for the visiting ministers who came this month: Bro. Ron Isch (Lamont-Gridley, KS), El-

der Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury), Bro. Gary Sinn (Latty, OH), Bro. Ned Stoller (Alto, MI), and Bro. Nate Wieland (Goodfield).

Alan, Bethany and Emmy Jean Wettstein have relocated to Bloomfield, IA. We wish them well as they adjust to their new home and church.

Note of Thanks:

I wish to thank all you loved ones for sharing our sorrow in the loss of my sister, Clara Knobloch, and for the many who remembered me on my 94th birthday. God bless you one and all. I'm so thankful for my church family.

All in His love,
Sis. Frieda Gerber

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY Elizabeth Fehr Anna Schmidgall

Should I restrain the Spirit's course
For fear of man so feeble?

Zion's Harp #113, vs. 1

We are so thankful for our visiting ministers, who expounded God's Word to us this past month. Elder Bros. Wayne Anliker (Sis. Judy, Forrest, IL) and Bruce Endress (Sis. Elizabeth, Bradford, IL), and Bros. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL), Jerry Wagenbach (Sis. Bonnie, Oakville, IA), Ken Weerts (Sis. Myrna, Cissna Park, IL) and Nate Wieland (Sis. Suzanne, Goodfield, IL). May they all feel that: "The love of God dispels the fear, And makes my faith in Him more dear." (Zion's Harp #113, vs. 8)

Not of earth and not of heaven
Is my thought and my desire;
I wish that to me be given
Jesus Christ whom I admire.

Zion's Harp #231, vs. 1

We were blessed to witness the baptisms of our new sisters, Damaris Moser (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Kara), Michelle Kaisner (Bro. Don and Sis. Leona), and Tiffany Steffen (Corey and Sis. Beth). We wish them grace to fight the battle of faith.

Bro. Wes, Sis. Erin and Lucas Steidinger welcomed home little Kiley Rose born March 6. Grandparents are Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish Steidinger and William and Juanita Kaeb, Arrowsmith.

Our hearts go out to Bro. Nic and Sis. Lori Roth and family in the loss of Nic's grandfather, Bro. Lester Roth (Sis. Ruth), Forrest. May they feel God's nearness in this time.

Spirits of the just made perfect
Bid us to be strong and brave,
Saying, "Brethren, in His service
Be ye faithful to the grave.
Hallelujah! Stand in union
To the end of earthly strife
Till you sing the song of triumph
With us in eternal life!"

Zion's Harp #51, vs. 5

We have bid our fond farewells to ministering Bro. Dennis, Sis. Diane and Destini Rassi (convert) as they have felt the Lord's leading to move to Austin, TX. We wish them God-speed in their endeavor to help the small gathering there.

Bro. Carlos Meiss (Sis. Jane), Sis. Thelma Slagel and William Fehr were hospitalized this month. We pray for God's healing hand upon them.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Lisa Aberle
Jill Wenger**

We are thankful for the ministers who willingly came to share God's Holy Word with us this past month. They were Bro. Floyd Frieden (Elgin, IA), Bro. Brad Gudeman

(Bradford), Bro. Matthew Rassi (Chicago), Bro. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH), Elder Bro. Dave Graf and Bro. Paul Gasser (both of Akron, OH). We pray God will bless and reward each of them for their labors of love among us.

"For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers."

Titus 1:7-9

On Sunday evening, March 8, the mantle of Eldership was passed from our retiring Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker onto ministering Bro. Marvin Dotterer. We especially want to thank Elder Bros. Rick Plattner (Fairbury), Tom Stock (Cissna Park), and Ervin Knecht (Eureka) for their spirit-led encouragements and exhortations in this special ordination service for Bro. Marvin. We were also thankful for the love and support from the many visiting ministers and Elder Brothers who were present that evening.

We, of the Forrest congregation, give our sincere appreciation and heart-felt thanks to our shepherd, Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Judy, for so faithfully loving and caring for the sheep and lambs of His flock these past 19 years. May God be their rich Rewarder now in this time and, more importantly, in all eternity. Now as Bro. Marvin assumes the new Eldership duties, we pray a rich measure of God's blessings and wisdom upon him and his beloved wife, Sis. Nancy.

We extend a warm welcome to Bro. Adrian and Sis. Shawna, Micah,

Audrey and Kaden Bachman as they have relocated here from Nashville, TN, for a job opportunity.

May God be near baby Will Dotterer (Bro. Clint and Sis. Rebecca) and Bro. Wilbur Wiegand (Sis. Ruth) as they have spent time in the hospital this month. Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Brian Ricketts (Sis. Marie) as he faces serious surgery for a brain tumor. May they lean on the Lord for His comfort and strength through this difficult time in their life.

Jenna Dotterer (Sis. Kathy and the late Bro. Wendell) and Sean Zimmerman (Bro. Rod and Sis. Micki) have both found grace in God's sight to begin repentance. May they come humbly to the foot of the cross and give their all to Him.

Bro. Corbin and Sis. Heidi Anliker have been blessed with their first child, a daughter, Ashlyn Rose, born on March 19. Also thankful for her safe arrival are both sets of first-time grandparents, Bro. Tim and Sis. Charlene Hartter (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda Anliker.

Our sincerest sympathy goes to Sis. Ruth Roth on the loss of her beloved husband, Bro. Lester Roth. Those left behind to mourn his passing are his children: L. John (Karen) Roth, Shelbina, MO; Sharon (John) Payne, Fairbury; Bro. Ken (Sis. Debra) Roth, Forrest; and Tim (Diane), Germantown Hills; a son-in-law, Takis Paplomatas, Normal; four brothers, Elmer (Wilda) Roth, Chenoa; Bro. Earl (Sis. Marilyn) Roth, Scottsdale, AZ; Marvin (Dorothy) Roth, LaSalle; and Leonard (Marilyn) Roth, Forrest; one sister, Sis. Leona Leman, Fairbury; one brother-in-law, Bro. John (Sis. Shirley) Kilgus, Forrest; one sister-in-law, Wanda Roth, Mount Pleasant, IA; and 14 grandchildren.

We also extend our loving condolence to Sis. Mary Ifft (Bro. Duane) on the passing of her mother, Joyce Alford, of Fairbury. We pray that God will be near both these families in their time of sorrow and loss.

Notes of Thanks:

Just a note of thanks to everyone for the cards, prayers, visits and gifts since my fall. God bless you all.

Sis. Leona Leman

We would like to send our heartfelt thanks to everyone from all over, for the prayers and expressions of love and concern for our precious grandchild, Denise Slagel (Ryan and Jeanette Slagel of Salem, OR), who was seriously injured last December. With many prayers and God's healing hand, little Denise is now completely recovered. God still performs miracles! We give God all the praise.

Grandparents: Bro. Jim and Sis. Lucy Slagel and family

The family of Bro. Lester Roth would like to thank all those who sent memorials, food, flowers, cards and other expressions of sympathy. Also, thank you for the prayers and visits during Lester's illness. May God bless you all.

Sis. Ruth Roth

Takis Paplomatas and family

John and Karen Roth and family

Sharon and John Payne and family

Bro. Ken and Sis. Deb Roth and family

Tim and Diane Roth and family

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Amber Grimm

Rita Bauman

"For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered

for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps"

1 Peter 2:21

The weekend of March 7-8 two sisters were added to the fold. We rejoice with Sis. Christie (Justin) Bauman and Sis. Laura Wirtz (Bro. Mike and Sis. Lila). May they continue to follow in the footsteps of Jesus! We were thankful that Elder Bros. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) and Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sarah, Bloomington, IL) were able to share in this special weekend.

The angels rejoice over each sinner who answers His call. We're thankful that Sam Rokey (Kristen) has turned his life over to the Lord. We wish him the Lord's guidance and blessings as he begins this most important step in life.

Our congregation has been blessed three times this month with God's littlest angels. Twin girls, Macy Jo and Mariah Sharon, were born on March 17 to Bro. Mike and Sis. Amber Grimm. Welcoming their sisters home are big brothers, Jayden and Andrew. Thankful grandparents are Sis. Sharon Adams and the late Bro. Terry and Bro. Jeff and Sis. Ruth Grimm.

Josiah Lane joined first-time parents, Sam and Kristen Rokey, on March 20. Welcoming Josiah into their hearts and home are his grandparents, Randy and Beth Barnes, Eureka, and Bro. Ben and Sis. Shelley Rokey.

Those hospitalized last month were: Sis. Irene Rinckenberger (Bro. Joe), Bro. Ron Wiegand, Brenna Plattner (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Joan), and BJ Hinrichsen. May the Lord provide His strength and grace sufficient for each one to bear his cross throughout this life. Many of these dear ones are again enjoying good health. May we continue to pray a

prayer of healing and comfort for those whose health continues to be a daily struggle.

May God's comforting hand rest upon Sis. Vi Hohulin in the loss of her dear sister, Sis. Edith Getz (Morton, IL).

As we make preparation for Communion service this Easter Season, we were encouraged to take time to reflect upon the condition of our walk with Christ. If we have strayed in one way or another or have allowed any backsliding to occur, we need to take care of things so that we may share in the Lord's Supper with a peace in our heart.

Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO) assisted Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) with the Memorandum reading on March 18. Their teachings and instructions on the letter were very clear. May God reward these Brothers for their willing service.

Our Bible Class hosted a dinner and auction for their upcoming Mission Trip to Jamaica in June. We want to thank all those who came and supported the evening. May God be your rich rewarder. We look forward to be able to spend a week with our Sis. Erin Davis who is serving in Jamaica at this time. We prayerfully support her.

We appreciated the visiting ministers that came and spoke God's Word to us this past month: Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO), and Bros. Craig Stickling (Sis. Jacki, Peoria, IL), Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa, Bradford, IL), Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL), and Ted Schock (Sis. Heidi, Belvidere, IL). We thank each one for lending yourselves for our benefit.

May God bless the ministry of "Loving Shepherd" who willingly came to speak to Goodfield and Washington congregations on

March 22. We are thankful for the work that is being done by this organization.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Sis. Clara Nohl thanks each one for your prayers, gifts, cards, flowers and love at the passing of our sister and aunt.

Cecil Nohl & Family

Levi & Frances Klopfenstein & Family

Alice Nohl

Sis. Pearl Nohl

Bro. Lyle & Sis. Barb Moser & Family

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry A. Klopfenstein

Record keeping surely is useful as we analyze our activities, and find out how the Lord has blessed us. Surely, if we are faithful, His blessings are manifold, and such was the case in 2008. An end-of-the-year report was released in our Gridley congregation.

Seven weddings took place in our sanctuary. There were a total of eight births. At year's end, there were 13 converts, and we had nine persons baptized. Interestingly, we have 116 on the Dinner List.

On a sad note, two brothers passed away (in March). They were Bro. Ralph Klopfenstein and Bro. Ray Feucht. But their deaths were enshrouded in joy as they both had made preparation for the day of their death.

Six adults and three children moved to our congregation. We bid farewell to one couple, who moved to the Washington, Illinois, church.

Bro. Roy and Sis. Bertha (Pulfer) Funk, of the Eureka Home, celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on February 21, 2009. They resided in Gridley until they moved

to the home in January, 2007. They had eight children: Randy Funk, Rhonda (Larry) Bauer, Bruce, Sis. Charlene (Bro. David) Wagenbach, Lori, Jerry, Karen and Bro. John. They have three grandchildren, Diane, Sis. Candice and Sis. Rachel Wagenbach. Bruce was killed in a car accident on April 12, 1990.

We were blessed with Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart of Champaign helped with this service. Truly it is a meaningful ceremony as we were drawn to a special remembrance of the broken body and shed blood of Christ Jesus. His death was the ultimate sacrifice for sin. Oh, that people everywhere would avail themselves of this wonderful plan of salvation. The solemnity of taking Communion is enriching, and a wonderful encouragement to live more faithfully for the Lord Jesus, and to follow His teachings, and those of the Apostles. It can only be done by the grace of God.

One of the verses in the hymn "Golgotha" (Zion's Harp, page 226, verse six) fit the occasion of Communion:

In humility, dear Saviour
Thou for me, I know, hast died.
Though I was Thy foe. Redeemer,
Thou for me was crucified.
Silence Keep I, Humbly weep I!
Thus through Thee I'm justified!

We offer our sympathies to Sis. Linda Kinder over the passing of her father, Bro. Elmer Bachtold of Forrest. Also, we extend condolences to Bro. Ron Harris and family over the passing of his father, Don Harris of El Paso. Likewise, we also are sorry for Sis. Shirley (and Bro. John) Kilgus on the death of her sister, Sharon Remmert of the Peoria area.

Henry Finck was in the hospital and is home recovering. Josephine

Vercler, the mother of Bro. Tim Vercler, is recovering from pneumonia. She has been gathering with us for worship. Andrew Howell, son of Sis. Eloise Howell, is recovering from surgery.

We offer our sympathies to Wilbur Hany, who lost his wife, Loretta Hany. He has been gathering with us for afternoon services, for which we are glad.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Annette Tanner

Julie Bahr

Our visiting minister this past month was Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley). Bro. Clark gave our Family Worship topic, "Joseph and His Brothers." In the midst of all the turmoil today, we have to know that each individual and each moment of every day has a significant part in God's great plan for our lives. While we may presently see all the things confronting our families today, we have to be reminded to let Christ become our baggage carrier! In faith let Him give us that supernatural peace only Christ can give.

On February 25, Sis. Dorothy Belsley (late Bro. Edward) passed from this life. She is survived by her daughter, Karen Zeigler.

Sis. Edith Getz (late Bro. Jake) went to be with her Lord on March 2. Surviving are two sisters, Sis. Violet Hohulin of Eureka and Lillian Stahley of Cape Girardeau, MO.

On March 2, Sis. Mary Phillips passed away. She is survived by her daughter, Peggy (Bro. Robert) Joos.

Bro. Gilbert Bruell went to be with his Lord on March 12. He is survived by one sister, Sis. Elizabeth Kimble of Peoria, and one brother, Bro. Clarence (Sis. Sharon) Bruell of Sparland.

The engagement of Sis. Brittany

Kaiser to Bro. Ryan Leman was made known on March 15. Sis. Brittany is the daughter of Bro. Allen and Sis. Brenda Kaiser, Morton. Bro. Ryan is the son of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Julie Leman, Roanoke. How blessed to marry within the "Precious field of God."

ILLINOIS, PEORIA **Pam Fritzenmeier**

We have two engagement announcements to report. On Sunday, February 22, Sis. Tina Coburn (Bob and Sis. Michelle) was announced to Bro. Josef Davidovics (Irma). Andi Gerst (Bro. Jim and Sis. Diane) and Jacob Meister (Bro. Spark and Sis. Rhonda) are also engaged to be married. We pray for God's blessings as these dear couples prepare for this special time in their lives.

James and Brittany (Feucht) Lyons were blessed with a beautiful baby boy on February 4. His name is Parker Timothy. Big brother, Bradley, welcomes him home, along with grandparents, Bro. Tim and Sis. Robyn Feucht, and Dan and Kathy Rybolt.

The weekend of February 28 and March 1, we were blessed to witness testimonies and baptisms as two more lambs were added to the flock. Bro. Bill (Sis. Joan) Schick, Magdalena, made the day special by his ministry as Karl Weyeneth (Bro. Merle and Sis. Mary) and Rebecca Dingleline (Bro. Ed and Sis. Sara) became our brother and sister in Christ.

Sunday evening, March 1, we were privileged to sing praises to God at our monthly hymn sing. We thank our special guests, our 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sunday School classes and Amazing Love, Bloomington.

Our thanks to Bro. Erik Givens (Sis. Deb, Princeville) for bringing us

the Word of God on our Wednesday evening family night.

Elder Bro. Tim Funk, retired Elder Bros. Charles Hemmer and Willis Ehnle, and ordained deacon Bro. Ken Hoerr, read the Memorandum to the Peoria congregation Wednesday evening, March 11. How we pray for our Elders, as they discern the will of God for our church.

Lighthouse Academy held a spaghetti dinner/auction fundraiser Saturday evening, March 14. Thank you to all who participated in this worthy endeavor to help fund Christian education. Our precious children are the future church!

The annual World Relief meeting was held Saturday, March 14, at the Princeville Fellowship Hall. This reporter attended and found myself frequently wiping tears as we heard of the severe hardship endured by innocent children, and saw the empty hopelessness in their eyes. How thankful we were to see smiles of joy on the faces of those rescued. We heard that we are living more comfortably than 75% of the world. May we be willing to give in whatever means God calls.

Several in our congregation have had to part with loved ones. We express our sympathy to Sis. Mabel (Bro. Peter) Weber, whose brother, Glenn Banwart, 88, passed away on February 24 at Weiser, ID, after a short illness. On March 11, Sis. Marjorie Powers passed away. Our sympathy to her children and her brother, Bro. Donald (Sis. Velma) Hoerr, and family.

Please pray for those in our congregation suffering from bodily afflictions. These include Bro. Roger Zehr, Sis. Julia Dapper, Sis. Wilma Hoerr, and John Gilles, Sis. Karen Dunbar's son-in-law.

The believers in India need our fervent prayers as they suffer perse-

cution for their belief in Jesus. Also, please pray for Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard and family, Haiti, and Bro. David Sceggel and Bro. Jonathan Aupperle, Magdalena, as they bring the good news of salvation to a lost world through their ministry of love.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Bro. George and Sis. Ruth Huthmann would like to thank everyone who has supported us through their prayers, cards, and love during this difficult time. God bless you all.

Sis. Kathy Huthmann

Rick and Susan Scott

Bro. Ben and Sis. Heidi Hartter

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

"Holy Faith, our Rock and Refuge, Give us courage to be true and to fight a valiant conflict..." (Zion's Harp #72, vs. 7). Our dear Sis. Julie Dapper clung to the Rock of her salvation and won that victory on March 19 when she passed from this life to eternity. Our loving sympathy and prayers are with Sis. Clara Marie Gerber and Julie's beloved family including her siblings, Bro. Ernie Dapper (Sis. Marcelle) of Minnesota, John Dapper, Lavina Muehlhauser, and Sis. Christine Locher (Bro. Leonard), all of California.

"Joy here alternates with woe, Lift on high from earth below thy heart and mind." (Zion's Harp #91). Our hearts rejoiced as we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of our new brother and sisters in Christ on March 21 and 22. They are Sis. Emily Braker and Bro. Stephen Braker (daughter and son of Bro. Glen and Sis. Audrey), Sis. Melinda Martin (Bro. Ed and Sis.

Gladys) and Sis. Ashley Herrmann (Bro. Doug and Sis. Angie). We appreciated the labors of Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO) assisting in this work.

Other visiting ministers this month included Bros. John Grimm (Columbus, OH), Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL), Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), Cory Metzger (Wichita, KS), Jeff Fischer (Fort Scott, KS), Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and John Lehman (Wolcott, IN). We pray God will bless these brothers for their willingness to be used by the Spirit to bring forth the Word. May we be doers of the Word and not forgetful hearers.

Our prayers continue with those of our congregation who are battling the physical afflictions. Bro. Nate Martin (Sis. Esther) was hospitalized and had surgery, Paul Streitmatter (Mary) spent some time in the hospital, and Kassie Stahl (young daughter of Bro. Rod and Sis. Cathy) was also hospitalized. Bro. Jim Knobloch (Sis. Helen) has moved to Peoria Skylines. May God continue to heal and provide grace for every need.

On Saturday, March 14, we hosted the Western Regional World Relief Meeting. It was a blessed day for many that gathered as we were reminded of the many ways we can help our neighbors.

Dustin and Julie Blunier were blessed with a precious baby girl, Avery Kay, on March 11. Sis. Joyce Blunier (late Bro. Dale) is thankful for her safe arrival and is enjoying another precious grandchild. Also enjoying their very first grandchild are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Mary Stoller, as their daughter and her husband, Sis. Rachael and Bro. Matt Ringger (Indianapolis, IN), welcomed little Ian Matthew into their hearts and lives on March 13. May God bless

these new parents with His grace and godly wisdom.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

**Jamie Hodel
Judy Sauder**

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

Psalm 115:15

Many in our congregation have bid farewell to loved ones in the past month. Gene Zimmerman (Diana), the father of Bro. Dennis (Sis. Marybeth) Zimmerman and Sis. Linda (Bro. Steve) Pfister, passed away on February 21. Our prayers are also with Sis. Gina (Bro. Rob) Luginbuhl in the passing of her sister, Libby Hammond of Lexington, IL, on February 25. Sis. Leona (Bro. Melvin) Weyeneth's sister, Sis. Esther Terry of Sabetha, KS, passed away on March 2. Bro. Jerry Fischer went to be with the Lord on March 4. Bro. Jerry leaves behind his wife, Sis. Marge, and their children: Bro. Keith (Sis. Dori), Bro. Kevin (Sis. Annette), Lavon (Keith) Funk, Cheryl (George) Sanford, and Sis. Crystal (Bro. Chad) Getz.

“...How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!”

Romans 10:15

On February 25, Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) was with us for our February Family Worship. Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam, Latty, OH) and Bro. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA). We are so thankful for the willingness of our ministering brothers.

We rejoiced in hearing many en-

agements in our congregation this month. On February 22, we heard of the engagement of Sis. Olivia Leman (Bro. Ben and Sis. Janet) to Bro. Caleb Zobrist (Bro. Mike and Sis. Susie). On March 1, Sis. Amber (Sis. Sue) Rocke's engagement was made known to Bro. Bryan Vercler (Bro. Tim and Sis. Sonya) of Gridley. Then on March 15, the engagement of Bro. Ryan Leman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Julie) to Sis. Brittney Kaiser (Bro. Alan and Sis. Brenda) of Morton was made known.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Patsy Kaeb became grandparents again with the birth of little Alea Cosette Messner. Alea was born to Bro. Daniel and Sis. Kasey of Zurich, Switzerland. Paternal grandparents are Elder Bro. Ron and Sis. Pam Messner (Washington). Amelia Grace came to bless the home of Bro. Matt and Sis. Melissa Kaufman. Amelia's older sisters are Sophia and Lucy. Grandparents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Janet Leman, Linda Kaufman, and Warren and Sara Kaufman.

“Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh...”

Ecc. 12:1

On Wednesday, March 11, we were thankful to hear a program from our scripture memory class. What a blessing for these children to be hiding God's Word in their heart at a young age.

Note of Thanks:

I want to thank family, friends, and neighbors for their love, beautiful cards, gifts, visits, and phone calls I received which made my 90th birthday very special. God bless you.

Sis. Lois Pfister

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

**Teresa Rowell
Janice Sauder**

We want to thank Elder Bros. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) and Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) for their assistance with the reading of the Memorandum to our Tremont congregation. On March 7, when Elder Bro. Ben Walder (Congerville, IL) came to help with our Communion service, we were reminded of this scripture: II Corinthians 5:21 "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." Also visiting us this past month were Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Paul Kilgus (Fairbury, IL). May God bless them all for their loving counsel and exhortations on the Word.

Fred Endress is improving after his hip surgery, for which we are grateful. Also having spent time in the hospital was Bro. Glenn Stuber. We pray God can continue to be with all those who suffer illness, and will comfort, restore and heal according to His will.

Bro. Joe and Sis. Marcella Steiner rejoice at the birth of another granddaughter, Mara June. Her parents are Bro. Troy and Sis. June Wagenbach of Princeville, IL. Also helping to welcome her home are siblings: Kendra, Nolan, Shayna, and Bryson.

"Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep."

Romans 12:15

We think of this verse when different ones in our church family experienced either great joy or great sorrow the same weekend.

We rejoice with Bro. Mark Sauder

(Bro. Howard and Sis. Janice) and Sis. Ashley Hoerr (Bro. Scott and Sis. Anna, Taylor, MO) as they exchanged their wedding vows on Sunday, March 15. We wish God's blessings on their marriage as they continue their schooling in Champaign, IL.

With sad hearts we extend our sympathy to Sis. Alice Patton at the loss of her brother, Ben Miller of Tremont. We also want to remember, with sympathy, Bro. Walt and Sis. Vera Aberle at the passing of their granddaughter by marriage, Sarah Aberle. May God truly provide for her husband, Josh, and their five children. We also include Sis. Carol Aberle, Bro. Ron and Sis. Lynnette Menold, and Sis. Sara Menold in our prayer for sympathy as Sarah was their niece and cousin.

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

Romans 12:12

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

**Linda Folkerts
Elizabeth Heinold**

"And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."

Luke 9:23

This message was so powerfully brought forth at our monthly Bible Study as Bro. Willis Ehnle (Sis. Lois) shared the importance of what the word "deny" entails and how we need to "throw ourselves away" and give ourselves wholly to God. On Sunday, March 15, we enjoyed having Bro. Joe Klotzle (Sis. Sue, Altadena, CA) with us. He spoke of looking forward to our long home in

heaven and the "race that is set before us" (Heb. 12:1). We thank these brothers for their service.

Bro. Kevin Rocke's stepmother, Sis. Doris Rocke (Eureka, IL), was called to that long home on March 16. We extend our sympathy and prayers on behalf of Bro. Kevin and his family.

We have loved ones in our congregation who need our prayers with regard to health issues. We are hopeful that Sis. Dolly Schick, Sis. Ellen Cox, Sis. Vicky Hodel and Sis. Sue Ruppert can feel the prayers of our church family and many others.

Note of Thanks:

We want to thank our Washington friends and many others who remembered us during Leslie's illness and continue to show us love and support to this very day. Leslie has been in the presence of Jesus for over six months. We miss her so much. We are so thankful for God's promise that soon, oh very soon, our family will be whole once again. Your prayers, cards, gifts, meals – just overwhelming. We love you all so much.

Bro. Steve and Sis. Vicky Bucher and family

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

**Grace Gerber
Stefanie Kipfer**

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

Ecclesiastes 3:1

In this past month, the Bluffton church has seen a time of change as we had the opportunity to witness the ordination of our Bro. Lynn Fiechter (Sis. Ronda) as our new co-elder. We were blessed by Bro.

Doug Harmon (Sis. Lanna, Toledo, OH) who shared the message in the morning and Elder Bros. Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra, Bluffton North), Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North) and Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo) who exhorted and encouraged Bro. Lynn, his family and our church body. It was a wonderful opportunity to come together as a church family to celebrate God's direction.

Sadly, Bro. Denny Fry's (Sis. Deb) father passed away. Our prayers are with him and his family.

Our prayers have also been with Mat Groce as he continues to struggle with healing; Emma Everett, the granddaughter of Bro. Dick and Sis. Rita, who had heart surgery; Sis. Connie Kaehr (Bro. Lyle) as she deals with issues with cancer; and Sis. Genny Isch (Bro. Stan) as she undergoes surgery and faces cancer as well. There are times when it is difficult to understand all that God has in store for us; however, we rest in the knowledge that His ways are sovereign.

His goodness was displayed to our church with the addition of two converts in the Bluffton congregation. Heidi Sinn (Bro. Dave and Sis. Joleen) has made a beginning in her faith. We rejoice with Scott and Sis. Rita DeHoff as their son, Jeff, decided to become a follower of Christ. Our prayers for them is that they can find a firm foundation built upon the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

We are also rejoicing with Bro. Terry and Sis. Jean Neuenchwander as they announced the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Rachel, to Bro. Chandler Gerber. Chandler is the son of Bro. Todd and Sis. Michelle (BN). We wish God's richest blessings as they start their lives together in the Lord.

As an example to our engaged

couples and the whole church, we celebrated the 50th wedding anniversary of Bro. Dave and Sis. Maxine Ringger this past month. We are sure that over the span of 50 years, they have been able to testify to God's purposes and timing.

Experiencing a time of rejoicing, these families have added new bundles of joy to their lives. Bro. Krent and Sis. Elizabeth Frauhiger welcomed Kreed Ray into their family to join their other children, Riley and Zander, on February 24. Kreed was also welcomed by his grandparents, Bro. Dean and Sis. Holly Frauhiger and Bro. Derryl and Sis. Peggy Aschliman. Bro. Derryl and Sis. Peggy also welcomed another grandchild this month, Naomi Rose Drayer, daughter of Bro. Matthew and Sis. Tiffany (Bluffton North) on March 6. Bro. Allen and Sis. Susan Stoller welcomed a grandson to their family on March 2 when Ridge Calahan Stoller was born to parents, Bro. Andy and Sis. Jenna (Bluffton North).

In every season of life, we have the opportunity to rejoice in God and His crucified Son, Jesus Christ. May our lives always strive to give Him the glory and honor He deserves!

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Jessie Longenberger
Sherry Pfister**

O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands
have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy pow'r through-out the universe
displayed.

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to
Thee;
How great Thou art, How great Thou

art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to
Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou
art!
Hymns of Zion, #302

Along with his family, our congregation mourns the loss of Bro. Eugene Maller who went to be with the Lord on February 28. His wife, Sis. Delores, survives along with two sons, Bro. Edward (Sis. Ronda) and Gary (Kim), 10 grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren.

On February 26, Bro. Trent and Sis. Kelli Bucher became proud grandparents of little Graham Roger. His parents are Eric and Kasey Bucher. Bro. Andy and Sis. Jenna Stoller welcomed a new son, Ridge, on March 2. Little Naomi Rose was born to Bro. Matthew and Sis. Tiffany Drayer on March 6. Bro. Steve and Sis. Myra Ringger were thrilled to welcome a grandson, Ian Matthew, on March 13. Ian's parents are Bro. Matthew and Sis. Rachael Ringger (Indianapolis).

We rejoice with more new births as several young men have made their beginning in the Lord. Lucas Gerber (Bro. Steve and Sis. Gayla) and Clark Giltner (Bro. Rocky and Sis. Melinda) have come to seek their salvation. We keep these precious souls in our prayers that they will remain strong and determined in following their Lord.

Our Sis. Patti Troxel is recovering well from her bilateral knee surgery. She thanks all for their kindness to her throughout her recovery.

In following the Lord's guidance for their lives, two couples' engagements were announced. Bro. Mike Craighead and Sis. Mona Graham were announced to be married on March 18 during the Wednesday service. Bro. Chandler Gerber (Bro.

Todd and Sis. Michelle) was announced to Sis. Rachel Neuen-schwander (Bro. Terry and Sis. Jean, Bluffton East). Many good wishes to these couples as they seek to honor the Lord in their marriages.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Mildred Clauss
Jacki Huber

“Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection not in books alone, but in every leaf in the spring-time.”

Martin Luther

After the cold winter season most of us welcome the warmth of spring and the loveliness of bulbs pushing through the ground and the buds bursting forth on trees! Even though we observe these wonderful sights every year, let's never cease to be amazed at the “miracles” we see all around us!

Our congregation enjoys “Family Hymn Sing” the first Sunday evening of each month. Two of our young people recently gave presentations on their experiences from last summer. Sis. Kendra Neihouser volunteered in the mission work in Mexico and Bro. Luke Gudeman served an internship in India. They each gave very interesting reports on how much they learned! It is interesting to learn of the different cultures; and especially to learn how God's grace is greater than any cultural limitation and hearts are being drawn to Jesus Christ who died for the sins of all mankind and in whom salvation is found. (Acts 4:12)

Bro. Brian and Sis. Jacki Huber recently returned from a work project in Jamaica. They were thankful to have an opportunity to spend some time with Bro. Chad and Sis.

Pam Huber and their family who are serving in mission work there.

It was a blessing to have Bro. Rustin Meister from the West Lafayette church to visit recently and we thank him for a timely message from God's Word.

Bro. Randy Gudeman led our Topical Bible Study this month focusing on Revelations Chapters 1-2-3 and it was an inspiring lesson. We can learn much as we consider Christ's message to the churches; and although we may not fully understand, blessings are promised to those who read and who obey.

A mentoring seminar was conducted here recently for all of our ministers to better acquaint them with AC Counseling and Family Services. Bro. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington) and Bro. Scott Aberle (Washington) gave the presentation. We are blessed to have these services available because there are so many complex issues in life today.

On March 14, Dustin Wuethrich (Bro. Rick and Sis. Judy) and Sarah De Wees (Patrick and Karen) exchanged their wedding vows and we wish them God's blessings and much happiness.

Bro. Larry Nuest was recently hospitalized for surgery; but he is now at home and we pray he will have a good recovery.

Recently our annual business meeting was held and new brothers and sisters were chosen to fill the expired terms of others. Our newly chosen Sunday School Teachers are Bro. Roger Pelsy, Sis. Stephanie Huber and Sis. Shannon Huber. Bro. Ben Metz will serve on the Missionary Committee. Three new ushers are Bro. Jacob Tanner, Bro. Jim Denton and Bro. Alan Pelsy. Bro. Dennis Leman was chosen to serve as Church Trustee and Bro. Mike Putt will serve as Trustee for our Fel-

lowship Center. The new Parkview Haven Board member is Bro. Dale Pelsy. All of these various responsibilities require effort and dedication and it is wonderful when a willing spirit is present (II Cor. 8:12). May the Lord bless these loved ones as they serve.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank my family and friends for all the cards, gifts, flowers and phone calls for my 90th birthday. May God bless each of you every day!

In His Love, Velda Overmyer

INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS
Sandy Lichtle
Gail Bradford

We rejoice that our dear friend, Zachary Baumgartner, son of Bro. Greg and Sis. Missy Baumgartner, has been announced for peace. We are encouraged to pray for each other always, and most certainly at these defining moments of our Christian life. So we uplift young Zachary and his family as he looks forward to baptism.

We have more reasons to rejoice. One reason is the birth on March 6 of Christian Beckett Schafer, son of Bro. Luke and Sis. Andria Schafer. He joins his brothers, Noah, Adrian and Jude. Happy grandparents are Bro. Scott and Sis. Gigi Schafer (South Bend) and Bro. Ed and Sis. Annette Bahler (W. Lafayette).

Another reason is the birth on March 13 of Ian Matthew Ringger, first child of Bro. Matt and Sis. Rachael Ringger. We look forward to meeting him and seeing his delighted grandparents, Elder Bro. Steve and Sis. Myra Ringger (Bluffton North) and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Mary Stoller (Princeville, IL).

We welcome Clint Blume to our congregation. Clint recently moved here from Wolcott, IN. His parents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Lynell Blume. We will do our best to make him feel at home.

On the rare Sunday when all four of our home ministers were away, we appreciated the services of Bro. Allen Stoller (Sis. Susan, Bluffton) and Bro. Doyle Frauhofer (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North) who shared the Word with us. We also thank Bro. Kevin Knapp (Sis. Dixie, Bloomington, IL) who also ministered to us this month.

We recently came together as a congregation to plan for future facility needs, focusing on how our church building can be used most effectively to enhance worship, fellowship and outreach. We reminded ourselves that no matter what the setting, wherever two or three are gathered together in His name, Jesus is with us!

INDIANA, LACROSSE

Bethany Johnson
Julie Rocke

Greetings of love from LaCrosse! We have had quite a lot of rain lately and many fields, yards and even some of the roads nearby have been flooded. There is mud everywhere! It brought to mind a recent sermon on mud. The ministering brother spoke on how walking through this world, we get mud on our spiritual feet. He encouraged us to stop and clean off the mud so we can have a clean walk with the Lord.

We failed to mention that Bro. Joe Feller (Sis. Jackie) had knee surgery in December. He is healing up and we are thankful that God has put His healing hand on Bro. Joe.

Bro. Rudy, Sis. Rosario and Nathan Troxel are here on an extended

stay from Ixtlan, Mexico, visiting Bro. Rudy's parents, Bro. Tom and Sis. Luann Troxel, and his family. We are enjoying the time with them, getting to know Sis. Rosario better, and playing with their precious little Nathan. We hope they feel the love and friendship of home while they are here.

INDIANA, LEO
Elizabeth Schrenk
Abigail Schrenk

"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."

Lam. 3:22-23

Greetings to all, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. As the season of Easter draws near and reminds us again of Jesus' faithfulness, we give Him praise for the things He has done in our lives.

We were blessed on March 1 by the Indianapolis Choir coming to sing for us. It was a weekend filled with praise and fellowship. Three ministers accompanied the choir and shared the pulpit on Sunday. We want to thank Bros. Ron Bollier (Sis. Edie), Greg Stieglitz (Sis. Lisa), and Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy) for their willingness to give of themselves on our behalf.

Bro. Bill Waibel (Sis. Carol, Bay City) came to Leo to visit their family. We thank them for sharing the Gospel with us.

Belated congratulations to Sierra Dennie from GW Oak House, at the arrival of her little baby boy. James Jacqueline Davis Dennie was born on February 25 and we praise God for their safekeeping.

Our prayers are with Bro. Pete Maxfield and his family as his hip

was recently replaced. Also in the hospital this past month was retired Elder Bro. Dave Bertsch (Sis. Marie). We pray God will continue to be near them in the days to come.

The trustees have been working together to create a church website. Live and archived services are now available at www.leoacchurch.com.

INDIANA, MILFORD

Pam Beer
Carol Hurd

"For now we see through a glass darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as I am known. And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity."

I Corinthians 13:12-13

On February 25, Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter read these words as he met with the Milford congregation in preparation for Communion. Bro. Bill also reported on the Elder Brother Conference.

Sunday, March 1, the Milford congregation enjoyed our monthly singing.

Tuesday, March 10, Bro. Bill led a Bible study based on John 14. "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."

March 14 was the day of the Silver Thimble Club's annual auction. The Milford congregation once again gathered in support to raise money for the club's charitable work.

The Milford congregation extends our sympathy to Bro. Bob (Sis. Sue) Cockburn, as his older brother, Ken Cockburn, Pennsylvania, passed away.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Jenni Honegger
Marcella Tyler**

After a very long and cold winter, it is so uplifting to see the signs of spring in the air. The birds are returning, the early flowers are coming up through the ground, and the warm sun is shining – all these are God-given signs that new life will again blossom on the earth. Praise be to God for the loveliness of His creation!

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Ron Isch (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Bro. Ken Weerts (Sis. Myrna, Cissna Park, IL). We are thankful for their labors on our behalf and for the precious Spirit of inspiration which guided their words.

Our combined Remington and Wolcott Cheer Circle group recently held its annual auction. Many home-made baked goods and household articles were sold to support the Cheer Circle's charitable efforts throughout the year. How blessed we are to have such a fun opportunity to share our abundance with others less fortunate. We pray that "the seeds of goodness" sown in people's hearts as a result of these ladies' loving efforts will "bear fruit for harvest day" (to paraphrase from Hymns of Zion # 46, The Golden Harvest).

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**Rachel Langhofer
Joshua Martinez**

"Sing unto the Lord with thanksgiving; sing praise upon the harp unto our God: Who covereth the heaven with clouds, who prepareth rain for the earth, who maketh grass to grow upon the mountains."

Psalms 147:7-8

Greetings of love from South Bend! We're excited at the impending arrival of spring!

We'd like to announce one of our first fruits of spring in the form of sweet baby girl Layla Adele born to Benji and Ila Woolet on March 19. We rejoice with Ila's parents, Bro. Marty and Sis. Lavilla Langhofer, as they joyfully welcome their 12th grandbaby.

On March 20, we welcomed Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue Beebe back from an eight-day work team trip to Haiti. We love and appreciate their labors on our behalf and look forward to hearing about the work being done in the Lord's name in that impoverished island.

We'd like to lift up in prayer Jane Czerwinski, her husband, Tom, and young son, Guinness. Jane is the daughter of Bro. Bill and Sis. Gail Bradford (Indianapolis, IN). Jane lives in South Bend and is very ill.

"Hearken unto this, O Job: stand still, and consider the wondrous works of God."

Job 37:14

I write this article sharing the same chair with my three boys (ages 1, 2 and 4), two sitting on my lap, the oldest hanging onto my back and typing with one finger. I look forward to the warmer days ahead with joyful anticipation, when I can send them outdoors to "consider the wondrous works of God" and burn off some of their unending supply of energy!

We fathers have the God-given responsibility to provide our sons with a vision of manhood. What is a real man? From the lives of Adam and Jesus we find the answer. A real man is one who: rejects passivity, accepts responsibility, leads courageously and expects a greater reward... God's

reward. A great recent find for me has been the \$5 kid-size shovels sold in the gardening section of a department store. Digging holes in the back yard is great exercise and a great avenue for some quality father-son digging time.

Bro. Rich Gramm recently had the Sunday afternoon service. He read from Ecclesiastes 2 and St. Mark 16:14-20. Bro. Rich reminded us that Solomon's wealth and power, and even his wisdom, did not lead to contentment or fulfillment. Jesus' disciples learned what true contentment was, and they were then encouraged to go share it with the world. The commandment was, "Now you know, so now you must go". God's blessings to you!

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Gwen Bucher

This has been a quiet month for the Valparaiso church. With several couples and Bro. Art Heinold going south for vacations or the winter, our attendance has been very small. We are looking forward to the end of winter, warmer weather and no snow. Hopefully it will also be the end of the flu and cold season so all can attend church again.

We offer our sympathy and prayers to Bro. Ed and Sis. Caroline Lester at the loss of her brother, Bill Ames, and also to his brother, Bro. Tim and Joyce Ames. We are also praying earnestly for healing for Sis. Carol Bucher (Bro. Ken) as she suffered a stroke in Florida and is involved in therapy.

INDIANA WEST LAFAYETTE

**Hollie Meister
Darlene Walder**

We are prayerful for our Purdue students that are in Magdalena,

Mexico, over their spring break. We are thankful for their efforts and praying for their safe return.

We were thankful for our visiting ministers this month. They were Bros. Mark Wettstein (Lacrosse, IN), Garry Bucher (Valparaiso, IN), and Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL).

Our sympathy and prayers go out to Bro. Leon Waibel in the passing of his wife, Sis. Reva. We would also like to remember the rest of the family in prayer: Bro. Gerry (son) and Sis. Marsha Waibel, Bro. Nick (grandson) and Sis. Sandra Waibel, Bro. Nathan and Sis. Kelly Pritts (granddaughter), and Bro. Austin Waibel (grandson). May God comfort you in this time.

Bro. Leon Waibel is also experiencing some health issues. We pray that God would comfort and strengthen him during this time.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

**Donita Edelman
Lynell Blume**

We appreciate our ministering Brothers who proclaim the Word of God and are used to fill our cups to overflowing. We wish to thank Bro. Ron Isch (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Bro. Mark Wettstein (Sis. Karen, LaCrosse, IN) for visiting us this month.

We spent a blessed evening together on March 6 when Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) presented to us "A Christ-Centered Approach to Helping Others." We were reminded that we, as a body of believers, can do so much to support and encourage others. We thank Bro. Ted for sharing this topic with us.

"... Except a man be born of water and of the spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

St. John 3:5

Three dear souls gave their testimonies of faith and were baptized March 7 and 8. Our new sister and brothers in faith are Hannah Bahler (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Heidi), Harold Lehman (June), and Randy Lehman (Bro. John and Sis. Ruth Ann). May they ever feel the loving Saviour near them and be granted His grace throughout their lives. Elder Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandy, Alto, MI) was here to assist our Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus in this important work.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Vi Kyburz and Levi Klopfenstein (Fran) in the passing of their sister, Sis. Dorothy Belsley, from Morton, IL.

Our prayers are with Judy Heinzelman (Frank) as health problems have prevented her from assembling with us. We miss her and hope she can assemble with us again soon, as the Lord so wills.

The Miracles of Easter

The sleeping earth awakens,
the robins start to sing,
The flowers open wide their eyes
to tell us it is Spring.
The bleakness of the winter
is melted by the sun,
The tree that looked so stark and
dead,
becomes a living one.
These miracles of Easter,
wrought with divine perfection,
Are the blessed reassurance
of our Saviour's Resurrection.

What a refreshing time spring is with warmer weather and God's beautiful creation coming to life again!

IOWA, BLOOMFIELD

Christy Wiegand

Upon an old cross now He was crucified,

Forgive them, O Father, He said 'ere
He died.
His tomb was sealed up with a stone
right away,
but nothing could stop Him from rising
that day,
On Easter's bright morning He won
victory,
eternal salvation for you and for me.
This Lord is my King and His praises I
sing,
Salvation He brings, He is King of all
Kings.
(This Lord is My King, R.L. Stoller)

Praying each and every one can have the Lord as the King of their life this Easter and always.

We hosted our annual invite a couple potluck weekend on February 21-22. We were blessed with visitors from Burlington, Iowa City, Lester, Oakville, West Bend, Kansas City, Sabetha, Winthrop, Goodfield, Morton, Forrest, and Latty. Special thanks to ministering Bro. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend) for preaching the Word of God to us on Sunday.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Carol Wettstein and their family. Sis. Carol's sister, Sis. Jane Stoller (Eureka), passed on to her eternal reward. May the Lord grant comfort and peace to the hearts of those that trust in Him.

"Peace, Peace, Wonderful Peace, coming down from the Father above..." We are thankful for Ryan Schock as he is at peace with God and man. May the Lord help him to cling to that peace throughout his life.

We welcome three new families to our congregation. Bro. Doug, Sis. Rachel, and Joseph Stoller moved here from Smithville. Bro. Phil, Sis. Kristin, Jessica, Kaylie, Elana, and Logan Wettstein moved here from Eureka. Bro. Alan, Sis. Bethany and Emmy Wettstein moved here from Eureka. We pray each family will feel the Lord's blessing and will feel

welcome as they become part of our church family.

IOWA, BURLINGTON
Karla Gerst
Dixie Messner

All things bright and beautiful,
 All creatures great and small,
 All things wise and wonderful
 The Lord God made them all.

Each little flow'r that opens,
 Each little bird that sings,
 He made their glowing colors,
 He made their tiny wings.

Hymns of Zion #207

I had to think of this hymn as I saw the little crocus buds showing and the temperatures dropping. As it warms up they will start to bloom as though the cold never hurt them. Only God could protect something so little from freezing. It is so good to see spring start to show her color.

We were thankful to have Bro. Dale Frank (Oakville) with us again this month. He is always a welcome guest when he and Sis. Tina come to visit their daughter and family.

Our congregation joined the Oakville congregation to hear Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall and Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Bloomfield) share the Memorandum with us. It is a time of encouragement, admonishment and love shown to us from the Elder body. We need to pray for them often.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE
Rhoda Plattner

We are very thankful for several visiting ministers in the last couple of months. In February, Bro. Glen Funk (Sis. Sally, Wichita, KS) and Bro. Virgil Metzger (Sis. Mary, Chicago, IL) came to minister to us. We were also glad to have Elder Bro.

Gerry Hertz (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS) with us in March to assist our Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield, IA) read the Memorandum letter.

We are saddened at the passing from this life of the mother of Sis. Dawn Moser (Bro. Tom), Eunice Ethel Mengler, in January; and Bro. Man Huynh's father in March. We pray and trust that God would comfort these hearts.

The promise of spring is upon us and we are rejoicing in this.

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Diana Butikofer

We were blessed to hear the Memorandum read and explained on March 14. Elder Bro. Ben Walder (Sis. Juanita, Congerville, IL) was here to help Bro. Joe Gerst. Bro. Ben and his family stayed for Sunday and we appreciate his willingness to preach God's Word to us. Bro. Dale and Sis. Tina Frank (Oakville, IA) were here on March 8. May the Lord bless their efforts and willing hearts.

IOWA, LESTER
Polly Metzger
Gloria Moser

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

II Timothy 4:2

We extend our gratitude to our visiting ministers who willingly shared the Gospel message. May God bless Bro. Mark Wettstein (Lacrosse, IN), Bro. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN), Bro. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA), Bro. Randy Mogler (Washington, IL), Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Larry Bahr (Ft. Scott, KS)

for their labors of love.

On March 14, Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH) assisted our Elder Bro. Dennis Warner with the reading of the Memorandum. May we take wise counsel to heed the warnings that are sounded that our precious faith may be preserved.

Brett and Melissa Metzger welcomed a precious boy, Grayson Jacob, into their family on March 17. Bro. Marvin and Sis. Joleen Metzger are thankful for another grandson to love.

We rejoice with Elizabeth Schaeffer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Pam, Morris, MN) as she has begun her repentance. Our prayer is that God will grant her the needed grace to establish a firm foundation on Jesus Christ.

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

Hymns of Zion #74

Clara Knobloch passed away on March 5 at the age of 91 years. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Elsie Leuthold and Bro. Ezra (Sis. Marie) Knobloch and many nieces and nephews.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Brant and Samantha Besonen and family as they grieve the loss of their dad and grandpa, Dan Besonen. Bro. Jim and Sis. Betty Leuthold and Jerry and Mary TerWee are mourning the loss of their brother-in-law, Gerald Menholt. May we look to our loving and merciful Father to provide comfort in our time of sorrow.

Mary TerWee (Jerry) and David Warner (Bro. Stan and Sis. Sue)

spent time in the hospital. With prayerful hearts, we commit all who are suffering bodily afflictions to the Great Physician that He will heal according to His will.

We trust that God's blessings and guiding hand will be upon Bro. Micah and Sis. Marcy Gherian, Zachary, Jenneka and Abel. They are relocating to the Akron, Ohio, congregation.

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

Note of Thanks:

We would like to express a sincere Thank You to those who have supported our family during Sis. Zelma's illness and passing. The prayers, cards, visits, food, memorials and kind deeds are very much appreciated. May God bless you all for your thoughtfulness. Keep the faith.

The family of Sis. Zelma Knoblock

IOWA, OAKVILLE

Sharla Wiegand

We continue to be thankful for the visiting ministers who come to Oakville, either for special occasions or as volunteers in the flood rebuilding effort. Bro. Bruce Frank (Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH) and Bro. Joe Klotzle (Altadena, CA) all brought forth the Word to us. Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA) came to help in reading the Memorandum. May each one be blessed for their willingness to serve.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Sue Schneider

Janet Fehr

We will start the month off with announcing three precious new births in West Bend. Curtis Philo Fehr was born to Bro. Matt and Sis. Rachel on February 19 and joins siblings, Loren, Annie, Kyle and Edison. Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy Fehr (Portland, OR) and Bro. John and Sis. Paula Schmidt are his happy grandparents. On March 6, Kadin Drew joined the family of Bro. Jordan and Sis. Heidi Knapp and brother Mason. Helpful grandparents are Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorna Knapp (Burlington, IA) and Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon Fehr. Last, but not least, Joe and Karla Tyrrell welcomed firstborn, William Dwight, on March 13. Grandparents, David and Cheryl Morrow, share their joy.

We thank Bro. Art Mueller (Sis. Marlene, Belvidere, IL) for spending a Wednesday evening with us on February 25. May God richly bless him for his efforts and labor of love.

On March 1 it was announced that Andy Bruellman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Teresa, North Ft. Myers, FL) has found peace with God and man and we look forward to hearing his testimony and witnessing his baptism on the weekend of April 4-5. We rejoice with Andy and his family.

That same weekend, Bro. Wes Moser (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA) shared God's Word with us as his family and a number of other families from Lester spent the weekend in West Bend. It seemed especially nice to share a "quiet" Sunday with a group of varying ages from a neighboring congregation.

On March 8, Bro. Joe Gerst (Sis. Connie, Iowa City, IA) brought the Word forth through the Holy Spirit, for which we were grateful. Also that weekend, the Oakville/Burlington

Bible Class came to spend some time with our West Bend Sunday School students. Old and new friendships were made as well as many memories that may last a lifetime.

We were blessed with the presence of Bro. Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucy, Eureka, IL), Bro. Kent Getz (Sis. Betty, Elgin, IA) and Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, Portland, OR) on March 15. We appreciated hearing each one expound on the Word of the Lord, and could experience His Almighty power.

Sis. Helen (Bro. Leonard) Anliker was a hospital patient this month as she underwent knee replacement surgery. We are thankful to report she is steadily improving.

Our sympathy goes to the families of several in our congregation who are suffering the loss of a loved one. Glenn R. Banwart passed away in Weiser, ID, on February 24. Sis. Joyce Banwart, Sis. Doris Banwart and Sis. Lucille (Bro. Dwaine) Schmidt were all sisters to Glenn. Sis. Hulda Wirtz, Lucille Wirtz and Sis. Betty Wirtz lost a brother-in-law when Ellsworth Spencer passed away. Nettie (Ervin) Banwart lost her sister, Clara Knobloch, on March 5. Clara was from the Lester congregation. May God comfort all the sorrowing hearts.

Always looking forward to Spring, Communion, and Easter, our thoughts go to the Hymns of Zion song (pg. 45), "The Resurrection".

Why come ye at break of morning,
To the Lord's grace in such deep
mourning;

Who'll roll the heavy stone away!
'Tis away; oh, do not murmur!
Ye faithful ones, come nearer.

Oh look therein! See angels in the
cleft!

Bring joy to you bereft, Hosanna, ho-
sanna,

Why seek with tears the Master here?

He is not dead, rejoice, He lives!

JAPAN, TOKYO

Jana Klaus

Greetings of love from Tokyo. We have come to the end of another school/work year at the coming of Spring. That means many school graduations and sometimes company changes. This year we have two Jr. High graduates and two kindergarten graduates in our church congregation. The Jr. High graduates are Yuiko Kobayashi, an English student of Sis. Marie Inoue and a very faithful Sunday School student, and Caleb Klaus (Bro. Andrew and Sis. Jana). They both finished up 9 years of the required Japanese schooling. Yuiko plans to continue on in high school studies at a boarding school for the blind. We hope she keeps coming to Sunday School as she is such a blessing. Caleb plans to do his high school studies using an English home school program. Even though he turns 16 this year, he will not be getting a driver's license yet as the driving age in Japan is 18. He can usually get to where he wants to go, though, by his trusty bicycle. Our two kindergarten graduates are Yukako Suzurikawa (Kenichiro and Yoko) and Elizabeth Klaus (Bro. Andrew and Sis. Jana). They will both start 1st grade at the local elementary schools, joining older siblings. May the Lord be with each one in their new endeavors!

We had a blessed Holy Communion service on Sunday, March 15. Our Elder Bro. Akito Inoue served us after reading the whole story of the Passover, Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, Judas' betraying him, and dear Peter's denying him, to bring us into remembrance of the trials our dear Lord endured. Then we had our usual special time

of exchanging greetings and words of thankfulness and encouragement with each brother and sister.

We look forward to the new year beginning in April and with it, many guests/family from America planning to visit.

KANSAS, BERN

Sheri Edelman

Jill Meyer

We enjoyed fellowshiping with those from other congregations during our recent invited guest weekend. Thank you to all who were able to come and join us!

The Sabetha and Bern churches met to listen to a World Relief presentation about our brethren in Eastern Europe. We appreciate Bro. Pete Aberle of the Tremont congregation for coming and sharing with us!

Bro. Richard Strahm (Sis. Edie), Bro. Trent Menold (Sis. Rita) and Bro. Joe D. Rokey (Sis. Kathy) were our hospital and/or surgical patients this month. Our prayers are with them all for a full recovery!

We are glad to have Bro. Waymer Esslinger worshipping with us again after a fall and recovery.

As spring has arrived, we are so thankful for each sunny day and every blooming flower. We thank God for all He does for us!

Spring brings a bit of Heaven
To a resurrected earth,
For everywhere the eye can see
Are signs of bright rebirth.

*Taken from "Bits of Heaven" by
Clay Harrison*

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Martin Hohulin Sr.

Once again the Death Angel visited our family. In February I had reported the death of my younger sister, Sis. Ruth (Hohulin)

Huthmann. On February 17, her husband, Bro. George Huthmann, was called from this life to his eternal reward. They left behind three daughters, Sis Kathy Huthmann of Peoria, Susan and Richard Scott of Morton, and Bro. Ben and Sis. Heidi Hartter of Germantown Hills, as well as four grandchildren under the age of four. He was a member of the Peoria Apostolic Christian Church and a tireless worker in the Peoria Jail Ministry.

Our Elder Bro. John Lehman visited us on Wednesday evening and announced we would have Communion on March 7. He also spoke about the recent Elder meeting. On the evening of the 7th, Elder Bro. John (Sis. Connie) returned and served us Communion and was assisted by our local ministers, Bro. Larry Bahr and Bro. Jeff Fischer. It was very humbling to remember how Christ loved us so much He died and shed His blood for us so we could have eternal life. It was a blessed evening. Bro. John stayed overnight and delivered a message to us on Sunday. We thank him for his love and kindness.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Betty Lemons returned from a trip to Phoenix, AZ, where they visited his ailing mother, Sis. Clara, and husband, Bro. Floyd Banwart. It is always a blessing to have them return to Fort Scott.

Have you ever considered the enormous blessing we have in the network of fellowship from church to church? Except for the German Baptists, Old Order Amish, and Conservative Mennonite, this practice is unknown in most churches. I am not an authority on these groups, but have come in contact with them in Central Kansas and Southwest Missouri. Thirty-one Old Order Amish families have moved into our county in the last seven years. They will hire a driver and a van to take them to dis-

tant funerals and weddings. They have church services every other Sunday and move the benches from house to house. Do we appreciate our comfortable places of worship?

Some younger members and friends from Fort Scott and Wichita boarded the train in Kansas City for a trip to Galesburg, IL. They were met with a church bus from Princeville. They sang on Saturday night and Sunday afternoon. On Sunday, Bro. Jeff Fischer (Fort Scott) and Bro. Cory Metzger (Wichita) had services at Princeville. The group returned by train Sunday evening.

KANSAS, KIOWA

**Jenny Stewart
Janice Bahr**

Our prayers this month have been with the Aaron Farney family. Aaron Farney passed from this life on February 25, with leukemia. We ask for God's comfort for his wife, Erline; and his sons, Steve and Danny; his daughter-in-law, Stacey; and his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Spring is upon us with a time of renewing and recommitting our lives to Christ. We are preparing for Communion with our Lord. It is also a time we celebrate the resurrection of our dear Lord and Savior, Jesus, and the new life He can give us if we, but only, ask.

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

Matthew 7:7

KANSAS LAMONT-GRIDLEY Ester Knobloch

We enjoyed the blessed fellowship of our brotherhood during a single

group Invite-a-Friend weekend and an all church Invite-a-Guest weekend. We were encouraged in our walk of faith by the examples of those who came to worship with us here. Our visiting ministers were Bro. Galen Rokey (Bern, KS) and Bro. Ron Allenbach (Kiowa, KS). We thank them for bringing forth the Word of Truth.

Sis. Dorothy Young has spent some time in the hospital. We pray that God will be near her and grant her a measure of strength according to His will.

KANSAS, SABETHA

**Rebekah Beyer
Carrie Grimm**

Greetings of love from Sabetha! We are anxiously awaiting spring-time and the new green grass that carpets the land along with the many other blessings that God brings with the changing of seasons.

On March 7, we laid to rest Sis. Ester Terry (the late Bro. Charles). Sis. Ester had lived to the age of ninety-one. Most of her latter years were spent in the Apostolic Christian Home. May the Lord be with her family as they grieve their loss.

Spending time in the hospital this month were Sis. Cornelia Aberle (Bro. John), Cheryl Wenger (Dan), and Sis. Sally Strahm (Bro. Lynn). Our prayers are with them as healing progresses.

Convert Ryan Grimm (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Nita) is at peace with God and man and desires baptism. How thankful we are that God continues to call souls out of darkness and give them that Peace that passes all understanding!

Since we have joint Wednesday evening services with the Bern congregation, we have had the opportunity to hear the ministry of Bro.

John Baumgartner (Sis. Lori) and Bro. Brad Strahm (Sis. Michelle). They were recently put into the ministry at Bern and we extend many prayers and encouragement to them and their families as they carry out the work of the Lord.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

Twenty-eight days ago I was writing the Wichita News for the Silver Lining. The time just flew and I miss the extra four or five days that make up the rest of the months. That thought made me think of #188 in the Zion's Harp hymnal which begins with these words, "The time flies on and death draws nigh; Unite us Lord, with Thee on high! Prepare us now to live with Thee Forever in eternity!"

On February 8, Bro. Jerry Meeks and his family from Sabetha worshipped with us in Wichita. Bro. Jerry shared the pulpit duties for our benefit. The next Sunday, Elder Bro. Jay Luthi and his family from Lamont-Gridley spent the day with us. Bro. Jay discussed the events that took place during the winter Conference. At the close of the afternoon's service a brother summed up the discussion with these words, "Grace and Peace."

A believer shared the following with me:

The light of God surrounds us
The love of God enfolds us
The power of God protects us
The presence of God watches over us
Wherever we are with God, all is well.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Barb Huber

Greetings in the precious faith of our dear Lord and Saviour! "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good

soldier of Jesus Christ.” (II Timothy 2:3)

It was a special Saturday evening, on March 14, when we gathered together to partake of Holy Communion with Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH) serving us the Lord’s supper. We were thankful for the opportunity to remember our dear Saviour who gave His life, shed His blood, and allowed His body to be broken for each of us. Elder Bro. Andy also shared the Memorandum. May the Lord bless dear Bro. Andy and Sis. Roberta for their love and untiring efforts in the Lord’s service. Other visiting ministers who came the past several months were Bro. Arthur Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH), Bro. Mark Wettstein (Sis. Karen, La-Crosse, IN), and Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI) and his family. We’re always strengthened and encouraged through the preaching of God’s Holy Word. May the Lord bless each of our dear Elders and ministers for their faithfulness to serve and share in the Lord’s vineyard.

Other brethren who blessed our fellowship were represented from the following churches: Eureka, IL; Francesville and Wolcott, IN; and Detroit, MI. It’s always a blessing to have visitors worship with us.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with our dear friend, Dan Henderson, as he has had surgery on his ankle. May Dan feel God’s healing power and be restored to a full recovery soon.

We extend a warm welcome to anyone who may be in our area or travelling through to worship with us. You may contact Bro. Lester Huber (859) 745-2541. Church services are no longer 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

“Then saith [Jesus] unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.”

Matthew 9:37-38

This month we rejoiced in the privilege of prayerfully sending off Bro. Efrain and Sis. Ana Cabrera and their two young children, David and Lilly, to Barra Vieja for a week and a half to encourage the believers there and share the Word. It is so encouraging to see a whole family willing to follow God’s call to go, enduring a long trip (12 hours by bus one way), extreme heat (sweating is as common as breathing), mosquitoes, a change of diet (lots of seafood because Barra is right on the ocean coast), stepping out of their comfort zone to interact with new people, and facing all the unexpected challenges that come up when traveling and ministering. We praise God that He would give us the opportunity to be a sending church, even in small ways. We hope someday we can be sending out and supporting missionaries from our own brothers and sisters and families whom God might call. The harvest in Mexico is ripe and the fields are vast, so let’s continue to

pray for God to send laborers.

Bro. Loren and Sis. Betsy Schrenk came with their eye team at the beginning of the month. It was busy with consultations and surgeries. To God’s glory the surgeries went well.

In mid-March, Elder Bro. Mike and Sis. Deb Leman visited for a few days and we shared Communion. We were blessed to reflect on our Savior Jesus Christ—His struggles, temptations, sufferings, obedience, and the redemptive and unifying purpose of His death. Every year at Communion we are thankful for how God renews our commitment to one another and our feeling of unity as brothers and sisters in Christ.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY Sarah Knochel Janelle Ramseyer

Our prayers are with Bro. Robert Knochel as he recently spent time in the hospital and now is residing in a local nursing home for therapy and recuperation.

We are so thankful that evidence of Spring is starting to appear after a very long winter. We are thankful for God’s provision so far this year and our prayer would be that He would continue to bless and provide for all who would call upon His name.

“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

MICHIGAN, DETROIT Tamra Coughlin Kay Rauhe

Our church joyously celebrated Sis. Carrie Ramseyer’s testimony of faith in Jesus Christ and baptism (Bro. Mark and Sis. Kelly) on March

1. Visiting ministers for her special weekend were Bro. Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, St. Louis) and Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lynn, Indianapolis).

Otherwise, this seems to have been a quiet month for our church family in terms of news, which seems to reflect the words of Paul to his spiritual mentee Titus in 1 Titus 2:1-4. "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."

We also rejoice with Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Bev Bahr on the safe arrival of their twin granddaughters born to Bro. Ryan and Sis. Amber Prevo in Illinois. Kate Amber and Olivia Mae joined the family with big sister, Ava, on March 3. Bro. Mike and Sis. Barb Prevo from Gridley, IL, are the paternal grandparents.

We do wish to extend our thanks to visiting ministering Bro. Ned Stoller (Alto) who led worship services at Woodhaven this month.

Just a gentle reminder that our Silver Lining subscriptions are due in the month of April.

**MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS
Mary Mogler**

"For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee."

Titus 1:5

Even as the Apostle Paul directed

Titus to appoint elders in the churches, so it was as Bro. Duane Rocke was ordained Elder of our congregation. It is our continued prayer that through this work the gospel can be spread and God will be glorified. As one of the Elders assembling with us was moved to exhort: We are to be about our Father's business and desiring to pattern ourselves after Jesus' example of serving others rather than ourselves. Truly, when God is the focus and not man, the church will flourish. Our prayers and love are with Bro. Duane and Sis. Bonnie, and their children as they serve in this capacity. Sharing the weekend with us were Elder Bros. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL), Art Nohl (Morris, MN), Paul Messner and ministering Bro. Dean Messner (both of Winthrop, MN). We thank Bro. Art and his wife, Sis. Sandra, for their years of willing service to our congregation. We appreciate their effort to travel the miles to be with us; their prayers, counsel and fellowship were a blessing unto us.

Lest I forget Gethsemane;
Lest I forget Thine agony;
Lest I forget Thy love for me,
Lead me to Calvary.

Hymns of Zion

It was a blessed weekend as we shared Communion as brothers and sisters in Christ, and were again reminded of Christ's love for us and the sacrifice of His shed blood. Our Sunday school children also brought us to Calvary by way of recited verse and songs of praise the following day in our annual Easter program. Only at the cross can our burden of sin be rolled away.

We were happy to welcome Sis. Ethel Bednarski back from her winter home in California, and Sis. Vera Schmidt, who for an extended time has been unable to assemble with us.

It is a joy to greet them and have them join us in worship.

**MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Sheila Reuter
Susie Wulf**

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO), Bro. Jedd Rocke (Goodfield, IL), Bro. Rod Bajema (Lester, IA), Bro. Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN), and Bro. Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL). May God bless them for their labors.

Bro. Andrew and Sis. Kara Messner were blessed with a baby girl, Laura Ann. Welcoming her home are siblings, Cody and Holly.

Issac James was born to Bro. Quinn and Sis. Kristi Messner. Welcoming him home are siblings, Dawn, Brandi, Trent and Troy.

We rejoice with Elizabeth Schaefer as she has turned from this world of sin unto a life of living for the Lord.

Hospitalized this month was Sis. Eileen Nohl. May God give her the strength she needs to carry on.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Harold Luthi; wife, Bernice, their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Harold passed away on February 24.

**MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Julie Schmidt
Lindsay Schmidt**

How sweet the privilege of prayer,
When we our cares and sorrows share
With Him who understands,
Our Father's house has large supplies
He owns and rules the earth and skies
And bounteous are His hands.

Hymns of Zion #205

Several from our congregation have been under the physician's care. We offer up prayers for those

who have undergone surgeries or spent time in the hospital. Sis. Melva Messner, Bro. Roy Howk, Bro. Marvin Messner, and Samuel Stresemann (Randy and Jean). May the Great Physician continue to care and provide for them.

Our song leaders have felt the need to add another brother to help with leading. This responsibility has fallen on Bro. Landon Messner (Elder Bro. Paul and Sis. Jan). Our prayers are with him.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY **Brittany Fehr**

Our annual business meeting was held earlier this year, and a number of brothers and sisters were elected to positions. Replacing Bro. Joe Fehr (Sis. Joan) as treasurer is Bro. Brandon Emch (Sis. Maria). Bro. Greg Snyder (Sis. Kara) was made a trustee, and Betty Sinn and Sis. Jamie Marti were put on food committees; Sis. Holly Wales has finished her term on a food committee. Sis. Elizabeth Conzo and Bro. Scott Kellenberger have received support to begin terms as Sunday School teachers, and Bro. Joe Fehr (Sis. Joan) is about to complete his term as teacher. We would like to thank those who have finished their terms and ask God's blessings on those just beginning.

Bro. Craig Martin (Sis. Terri, Princeville, IL) and Bro. Gene Lehman (Sis. Verna, Wolcott, IN) were our visiting ministers. May God richly bless each of them for their labors.

MISSOURI, LAMAR **Rebecca Dotterer** **Dana Kellenberger**

This month we were blessed to have many visitors, including ministering Bros. Steve Pamer (Akron,

OH), Roy Koehl (Morris, MN), Tim Zimmerman (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA) and Beirne Messner (Morris, MN). We were also thankful to have Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA) here to assist with the provings and baptism of two souls: Ben Braker (Bro. Roy and Sis. Judy) and Heidi Stoller (Bob and Sis. Janice). We are thankful to have brothers bring forth the true Word of God.

Our thoughts and prayers are with our Bro. Raymond Luthi (Sis. Violet) on the passing of his brother, Harold Luthi (Morris, MN). We also remember Bob Stoller (Sis. Janice) and Sis. Carol Braker (Bro. Jerry) on the passing of their sister-in-law, Sis. Jane Stoller (Eureka, IL). May the Lord comfort them in their time of loss.

We are thankful Bro. David Dotterer (Sis. Carol) is home recovering after a recent hospital stay. Our prayers have been with him and his family during this time.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS **Meagan Wuethrich**

It's so refreshing to see the sun shining longer, the robins coming back, and the grass turning green. Such beautiful reminders that God's promises are 'new every morning'. While the seasons and years change, He is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and His Spirit is still working. Like the coming of spring, we see the evidence of the Holy Spirit in other believers, hear the Word brought forth by our faithful ministering brothers, and feel Him working in our hearts. We thank our visitors, Elder Bro. Tom and Sis. Karol Stock and their family (Cissna Park, IL), and Bro. Kenny and Sis. Mardell Dietz (Bradford, IL), for ministering to our spiritual senses

with their labors of love, and our other visitors this month that added not only to our fellowship, but also to the beautiful evidence that His promises are ever-new.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR **Kathy Eberhardt**

Tell the truth, tell our friends about Jesus. Let's stay on course for Jesus. Several questions were worth pondering from a recent sermon by Bro. Ron Heiniger (Sis. Kayleen, Bloomington, IL). Are you on a one-way street or a two-lane highway? We need to be on a two-lane highway. God desires our love in return for His. Are we showing appreciation of God's love by loving others and serving Him in our daily walk?

We are so blessed (Psalm 32:1-2) and should honor and give praise to God. The ACTS acronym can help remind us how we should pray.

A-doration

C-onfession

T-hanksgiving

S-upplication

We also were reminded by Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN) that we should be a willing servant of God's Word. Each one of us is currently in the process of writing our obituary. We get to choose every day what we want to write on the pages of our life. What will be the testimony of our lives? We would like to thank our visiting ministers and their wives for serving us.

The most important step of life: commitment to do the will of God, wherever you are. Bro. Elder Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN) and Elder Bro. Kent Heimer shared the Memorandum with us. It was given in love and told us to take it in love.

Hospital patients this month were Sis. Alexandra Hoerr (Bro. Scott and Sis. Anna) and Sis.

Charlene Sutter. May God grant them healing.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Charlene Sutter in the death of her brother Don Winfield.

The Lord needs each one of us to be laborers in the Harvest. What kind of missionary are we? How many times do we walk right past someone and fail to exemplify Christ? Service in the Lord's army is voluntary, but there are eternal consequences for the failing to enlist.

God desires each of us to be a bride without spot or blemish. Are we making God joyful ("fulfill ye my joy") in our relationships? The key to J. O. Y. is Jesus First, Others Second and Yourself last.

We were blessed with two marriages in our congregation in the last month. On March 1, Bro. Josh Steffen (Bro. Dean and Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL) and Sis. Colby Sutter (Bro. Rich and Sis. Kay) were united in marriage. On March 15, we witnessed the marriage of Bro. Mark Sauder (Bro. Howard and Sis. Janice) and Sis. Ashley Hoerr (Bro. Scott and Sis. Anna).

A question for those of us who are married — do others see Christ when they look at our marriage? We have had many visitors from many places for these two weddings. Thank you all for coming; it has been a real blessing to our Taylor church family.

The following is a list of recent visiting ministers: Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS), Bro. Art Mueller (Sis. Marlene, Belvidere, IL), Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL), Bro. Trent Schrock (Sis. Heidi, Leo, IN), Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL), Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL), Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL), and Bro. Ron Joos (Sis. Christy, Bloomfield, IA). If I have failed to

mention a visiting minister, please forgive me.

We are rejoicing with the angels. Our friend Caleb Sutter (Bro. Rich and Sis. Kay) is taking up his cross to follow Jesus.

We look forward to this weekend for our Communion service with Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH).

Sis. Kayla Eberhardt has finished her schooling in West Lafayette, IN, and has found employment in Indianapolis. We wish her God's blessing in her job.

The following thank-you letter was given to me to be printed from Jane Reiman:

To our dear friends and family from the Apostolic Christian Church:

Thank you for all your prayers, cards, support, gifts of money, love, and deeds of kindness while Lester Wayne Reiman was ill and residing in the nursing home. The death of our dear husband, dad, and grandfather was a very difficult time in our life. Your encouragement and prayers were appreciated during this time of great loss. He was able to feel all your love and he found Jesus before he died.

In Christian Love,
Jane Reiman, Edie Reiman, Melissa Reiman, and Janet Schaer

**NEW YORK
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG
Hope Graves**

We were blessed with two visiting ministers this past month from our Rockville, CT, congregation. They were Bro. Dan Goric (Sis. MaryLou) on March 1 and Bro. Duane Reutter (Sis. Kay) on March 22. We shared a potluck dinner together followed by a singing when Bro. Dan was here and enjoyed the many additional vis-

itors that came to assemble with us that weekend. May the Lord bless these brothers for sharing from God's Word with us.

We are always happy when the sugaring season arrives and we can see the sap buckets hanging from the trees lining the roadways. This is always a good sign that spring is on its way! It reminds us what a great God we serve that even the maple trees can produce such a rich product as maple syrup!

**NEW YORK CITY
Secaucus, New Jersey**

"Nor forsaking the assembling of ourselves together..."

Hebrews 10:25

We have been blessed over the last four years by the number of visitors, as well as those who are in NYC just for a season who have come and worshipped with us in Secaucus. We would like invite all to join us and worship with us in Secaucus in 2009. Lord willing, we plan on having services on May 31, July 26, and September 27. As always, if you are in the area on other Sundays, you are always welcome to worship with us in Philadelphia, PA, which is not that far away.

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

OHIO, AKRON
Mara Henico
Rachel Pamer

We give Thee thanks,
 Oh Lamb of God,
 That on the cross beam
 Thou hast bought
 For us salvation, peace, and grace
 With Thee in heaven's resting place!
 We give Thee thanks!
Zion's Harp 199, verse 2

As we approach the time of year of our Lord's crucifixion and resurrection, doesn't it make us a thankful people? Any trial or burden that we bear here pales in comparison to what Jesus bore for us. We look forward to remembering our Lord's suffering by partaking of Holy Communion.

Our prayers are with Daisy Holtzapple and her son, Mark, in the passing of Bud Holtzapple, a much-loved father and husband. How thankful we can be that God understands partings and is able to provide the comfort that each needs in the trials of life.

There have been many of our congregation who have been hospitalized in the last month. Bro. Leon Graf, Kathy Demiter (sister of Sis. Sarah Henico), and Preston and Alexis Demiter (Bro. Doug and Sis. Maria) were all admitted. We are thankful that God has restored health and strength where it was His will.

OHIO, COLUMBUS
Sarah Rufener

Columbus church is very thankful to announce that God has provided new servants to the ministry, Bro. Scott and Sis. Hope Schambach. We rejoice that they have accepted God's call to the ministry and can be co-laborers with our own Bro. John and Sis. Julie Grimm. Our congrega-

tion is humbled by God's provision for our small flock and we rejoice that the Lord has heard our prayers. Elder Bro. Mark Masters performed the ordination; the evening was such a special blessing to the church.

"Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power: that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ."

II Thessalonians 1:11-12

OHIO, JUNCTION
Vicki Boroff

We are pleased that Greg Gasser, Columbus (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue), has made the most important decision of his life. We wish him God's grace as he begins his repentance.

We were also grateful to have Bro. Mark Steiner (Sis. Sue, Smithville) bring the Word to us. We also appreciate the efforts of Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl, Rockville) who helped our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter with baptisms.

We enjoyed the testimonies and baptisms of Sis. Beverly Schlatter (Elder Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily), Bros. Chet Manz (Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy), and Travis Schlatter (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Laurie). We are thankful and wish them God's abundant blessings.

Silas Robert was born January 19 to Steve and Rose Foltz. Silas has two older sisters, Emily and Ava. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Gus and Sis. Dorothy Dietrich.

OHIO, LATTY
Amanda Wenninger
Carmen Eisenmann

Haste and seek your soul's salvation;
 Heed the Word of God today!
 Haste to flee His condemnation;
 Seek the straight and narrow way.
 Evil are the worldly pleasures,
 Leading to eternal fire;
 Seek the everlasting treasure,
 Ere the day of grace expire.
Zion's Harp, #52, vs. 1

Our congregation has been blessed with having two more souls turn their lives to Him, one at each end of the age spectrum. Angela Klopfenstein, the daughter of Bro. Jerry and Sis. Cherry Klopfenstein, and Harlan Riggerbach (Sis. Dolores) have begun on the path that leads to eternal salvation. Holly Stoller (Bro. Todd and Sis. Pam) has expressed peace with God and man and is awaiting her baptism date on May 2 and 3. We rejoice with them all and may God continue to grant them grace for each day!

Trevor and Whitney Webster of Titusville, FL, welcomed their first-born child, a girl, on March 5. Grandparents, Bro. Ed and Sis. Alice Wenninger, are excited to have Adria Grace Webster in the family circle now.

OHIO, MANSFIELD
Esther Baumann

We rejoice with Jesse Dotterer (Bro. Gaylord and Sis. Betty) and Laura Bruner (Dan and Jo) as they announce their engagement. We pray for God's protecting arm of love to guide them as they move to New Zealand after their wedding.

May God richly reward Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Lisa, Eureka, IL) for serving us in the ministry.

"And he said unto me, My grace is

sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness...for when I am weak, then am I strong.”

II Corinthians 12:9-10

Wherever God chooses to lead us today, let us remember that His strength is made perfect when we are weak.

OHIO, RITTMAN
Heidi Rufener
Laurie Beery

Ring the bells of Heaven! There is joy today,
For a soul returning from the wild!
See the Father meets him out upon the way,
Welcoming His weary, wandering child.
Gospel Hymns #622

We are rejoicing with Jenny Rupp (Bro. Ken and Sis. Carol) as she turns her heart to the Lord in repentance. What an encouragement it is to see new lambs in Jesus' flock!

Our congregation has been blessed with several new babies. On February 17, Jenna Lynn was born to first-time parents, Bro. Ken and Sis. Brenda Gasser. Grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Ellen Gasser and Bro. Joe and Sis. Mim Stoller. Brayden Andrew arrived on February 19, welcomed by parents, Amy Steele and Lamin Drammeh. Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Martha Steele. Jace Alan was also born on February 19 into the family of Bro. Marc and Sis. Jodi Beer (Milford, IN). His big brothers are Justin and Jared; grandparents are Bro. Rick and Sis. Dawn Dotterer and Bro. Lee and Sis. Sandy Beer (Milford, IN). Bro. Sam and Sis. Joy Gardner welcomed a little girl, Kora Lily, on February 26. Grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Bonnie Ingold and Bonnie Gardner. A note of apology that we

missed reporting the birth of Samuel Robert on December 16 to Travis and Jan Higgins. Samuel's older brothers are Garrett, Mason and Lucas. Grandparents are Jim and Sis. Joyce Thompson and Gary and Peggy Higgins. We are thankful for the safe arrival of each precious little one.

Bro. Aaron Steiner (Bro. Matt and Sis. Gail) and Sis. Holly Stoller (Bro. Ed and Sis. Verla, Smithville) believe that God has drawn their lives together. We wish them His rich blessings as they plan for their marriage.

Hospitalized recently were Bro. Wayne Rufener (Sis. Nina), David Acker (Bro. Brian and Sis. Darlene), Bro. Harlan Ramsier, Trace Katanic (Bro. Mike and Sis. Heather) and Sis. Mary Ellen Saylor (Bro. Bill). May God restore and heal where it is His will.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Julius Giet on February 23. He is the father of Sis. Virginia Widmer (Bro. Dan). Sis. Jane Stoller (Bro. Jim, Eureka, IL) passed away on February 25. Sis. Jane is a step-daughter of Sis. Claribel Anliker. We extend our sympathy and prayers to the families of these two loved ones.

Sharing God's Word with us this month were ministering Bros. Fred Domka (Mansfield), Mark Steiner (Smithville), Ron Palitto (Akron) and Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis). We are thankful for their service to our Rittman congregation.

OHIO, SARDIS
Faith Beard

We were thankful for the safe return of a group of brothers, sisters and friends from a week spent in Oakville, IA, for flood relief. This week was a wonderful blessing and learning experience for all.

Serving us from the pulpit this

month were father and son from Mansfield, OH, Bros. Michael Baumann, Sr. (Sis. Florina) and Michael Baumann, Jr. (Sis. Lilly). We appreciate the efforts they and their families made in visiting.

Hospitalized for several days this month was Maria Marrow (Jeff and Rebecca). We are thankful that Maria is now home and able to return to school soon.

John and Sis. Almeda Brake are saddened by the loss of John's brother-in-law, Tom Zimmerman (Catherine). Also we express sympathy to the family of Carl Grossenbacher, who passed away after an extended illness. Our older brethren remember Sis. Clara, Carl's mother.

As we celebrate the Easter season, it often comes to mind how so many in this world don't know the true meaning of Easter, yet truly this should be our most valued holiday. The poetic words of the late Bro. Henry Beer attempt to describe that great Victory over death by Jesus Christ for all mankind:

Fierce and deadly was the anguish of the bitter cross He bore.
How did soul and body languish, till the toll of death was o'er.
But that toil, so fierce and dread, bruised and crushed the serpent's head.

Near this tomb with voice of sadness chant the anthem soft and low;
Loftier strains of joy and gladness from tomorrow's hearts shall flow.
Death and hell at length are slain, Christ hath triumphed, Christ doth reign!

Hymns of Zion #143, vs. 2,4

Approaching in a couple months is the New Martinsville, WV, annual memorial service, scheduled for June 27-28. All are invited and welcome to attend this weekend. For further details and/or accommoda-

tion needs, please contact Bro. Ken Indermuhle. Visiting ministers are always welcome.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Ruth Gasser
Edith Miller**

“...repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

Acts 2:38

On March 8, we witnessed the baptism of Brad and Nicole Klotzle (Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley) and Bryce Indermuhle (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Shari), having heard their testimonies the evening before. We wish our new brothers and sister much grace as they now go forth serving the Lord. We appreciated the efforts of our visiting ministers on that weekend. Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH), Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH) were with us for this blessed occasion. Also visiting another Sunday was Bro. Tim Ramsier (Rittman, OH). May each of our visitors experience God's blessing as they allow themselves to be used of the Lord.

We rejoice when the Lord brings two souls together through faith. The engagement of Bro. Aaron Steiner (Bro. Matthew and Sis. Gail, Rittman, OH) and Sis. Holly Stoller (Bro. Ed and Sis. Verla) was announced. We wish this couple the Lord's guidance as they plan their May wedding.

We are thankful for the Lord's healing to those who have experienced illness or surgery. Sis. Juliet Nieman (Bro. Derek), Emily Maibach (Bro. Rudy and Sis. Barb) and Carla Zollinger (Bro. Marvin

and Sis. Pam) were in the hospital recently, but are again feeling better.

We bid farewell to Bro. Doug and Sis. Rachel Stoller and their young son, Joseph, as they have felt the Lord's direction to relocate to the Bloomfield, IA, area. We will surely miss them, but wish them God's blessings as they assemble with the Bloomfield congregation.

OHIO, TOLEDO

**Teresa Rywalski
Rebecca Beard**

“Now it is accomplished I'm no longer mine...” (Zion's Harp #209). We were reminded of this precious song at the recent baptism of Bro. Jim Harmon (Norma). May he feel our prayers as he continues his walk with the Lord.

Sharing the baptism weekend on the pulpit were Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) and Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sis. Alice, Sardis, OH). Also joining us on another weekend was Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH) and his family. We trust that God will bless these Brothers for their willingness to serve.

We have two new babies to report this month. Riley Elizabeth Harris is the newest granddaughter of Sharon Harris. Lance, Ashley, and Lance Jr. are thankful for her safe arrival.

Isaac, Haven, and Micah Shields are excited to finally meet their new baby brother, Joseph Levi. May God grant His wisdom to Bro. Brad and Sis. Holli as they raise these little ones in His love.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Renee Angstrom

Sharing the Word this month from Silverton was Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty), Bro. Don Sinn (Sis. Linda) and Bro. John Wiegand (Sis.

Jane). We appreciate their support and bringing forth the Word.

Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian, San Diego, CA) and Elder Bro. Art Metz shared the reading of the Memorandum with us. We were given encouragement and directions through these difficult times we all face. We were thankful for the blessed weekend.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Cindy Metzger

On February 21, Adrielle Mary was born to Bro. Craig and Sis. Juanita Schurter. Grandparents are Leonard and Cheryl Schurter and Bro. Don and Sis. Linda Sinn.

We appreciate the willingness of our visiting ministering brothers this month: Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian, San Diego, CA), Bro. Ron Jones (Sis. Liz) and Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy), both of Portland, OR.

PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

“Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ...”

Ephesians 5:20

We were blessed and thankful to be able to spend an evening working together on a World Relief project this month. What a wonderful experience to be able to share with our children and be reminded of God's blessings and our responsibilities to care and share with those in need. We are also thankful for the safe return of our Bro. Daryl and Sis. Norma Luginbuhl, who traveled to Haiti as part of the S.E.E.D. initiative.

We rejoice with Bro. Jamin Steffen (Bro. Bob and Sis. Marcia,

Bluffton) and Sis. Lauren Wiegand (Elder Bro. Ben and Sis. Michelle) as their engagement was announced this month. We wish them God's blessings and nearness as they begin this new season of life together.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE
Mike and Monica Fritz

It was with heavy hearts that we recently bid farewell to Bro. Adrian and Sis. Shawna Bachman and their children, Micah, Audrey, and Kaden, who have felt led by the Lord to move back to Forrest, IL. While it is difficult to say farewell, we are thankful that they have a loving church home where they have been received again, and we pray that the Lord will continue to direct and bless their lives, and we are thankful for the time we were blessed to have them in our midst.

We have been richly blessed by God's Living Word which has been brought to us by our numerous visiting ministering brothers. These have included: Bros. Paul Eisenmann (Sis. Elaine; Burlington, IA), Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth; Wolcott, IN), Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue; Francesville, IN), Lenny Meyer (Sis. Charlotte; Chicago, IL), Byron Stoller (Sis. Carol; Gridley, IL), and Gary Anliker (Sis. Edie; Elgin, IL). We are also thankful for the fellowship of brethren and friends visiting from Chicago, Congerville, Elgin, Eureka, Gridley, and Tremont, IL; Francesville, Remington, and Wolcott, IN; and Burlington, IA.

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: Sabetha, KS (4/19); Eureka, IL (4/26); Sarasota, FL (5/3); LaCrosse, IN (5/10); Rittman, OH (5/17); Bern, KS (5/24); and Tremont, IL (5/31). 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 usually 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

Should I restrain the Spirit's course
for fear of man so feeble?

Though Satan's hosts are raging here,
should I not be more faithful?

Awed by a mortal's frown, shall I
conceal the Word of God Most High?

Should praise of man be more to me
than God's most blessed favor?

And though man might reject His
word,

the Truth remains forever;
Unchanging, sure, it does impart
a comfort to the poor in heart.

Zion's Harp #113

Our Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic exhorted us to pray for the ministry on the Sunday our congregation expressed support for our first new local minister, Bro. Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane). They and their daughter, Destini, have moved here from Fairbury. Their new address is 1033 Hwy 71 West, Bastrop TX 78602, and their phone number is 309-275-7775. We pray that we can help each other on our journey to heaven, and that our love for one another can be a witness to those who are lost.

We were also encouraged by visiting ministers, Bros. Gene Lehman (Sis. Verna, Wolcott), Ken Eisenmann (Sis. Sharon, Cissna Park), Ed

Strahm (Sis. Ramona, Bern), Calvin Schneider (Sis. Jeanie, LaCrosse), Gary Tonner (Sis. Diane, Bluffton), and Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (San Diego). We enjoyed additional visitors from Congerville, Toledo, Junction, and Bay City.

The following is the minister schedule for May: (3) Alto; (10) West Bend; (17) Minneapolis; (24) Mansfield; and (31) Lamont/ Gridley. We extend a warm welcome to anyone who may be in the area to worship with us, on Sundays or mid-week. 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.

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 east-bound 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 took them to the west side of town, rather than east. We advise following the directions herein 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. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judith, Silverton, OR) and Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Sis. Nancy, Elgin, 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 Bloomington, IL; Morris, MN; Silverton, OR; and Eureka, IL.

We would like to encourage those who plan to come south for a spring or summer 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: (April 19, Sabetha, KS); (May 3, Chicago, IL); (May 17, Roanoke, IL); (June 7, Goodfield, IL); (June 21, Bradford, 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.

TEXAS, ZAPATA
Mary Plattner

We reflect on our winter months this season and are encouraged by

the love and support of all the brethren that make Zapata their winter home. We appreciated all the ministering brothers who came this winter and the visitors that spent time in Zapata. The love and fellowship was a blessing for us.

Anyone coming to Zapata during the summer months is encouraged to call prior to coming as the residents travel during the summer months to one of the churches in Texas or to the Midwest. We certainly welcome summer visitors.

VERMONT
**NORTH CLARENDON/
NORWICH**

Nathan and Miriam Reutter

"O Lord my God, I cried unto thee, and thou hast healed me."

Psalm 30:2

Our thoughts have been with Bro. Kirby Reutter as he has undergone a cornea transplant this past week. Thankfully his surgery went well and we lift him up in our prayers that he can be granted a full recovery and restored sight.

This past month we have had much support from our Rockville, CT, congregation. The ministers who came to serve us were Bro. Duane Reutter (Sis. Kay), Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Diane), and Bro. Warren Zahner (Sis. Bonnie). May God richly bless these dear brothers and their wives for their dedication and love shown to us by furthering the gospel message of salvation!

If you are interested in fellow-

shipping 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 hand-made from our dear Sisters in Ixtlan, Michoacan, Mexico, please contact Sis. Areli Reutter at Home: 802-862-0830 or Cell: 860-878-9346 or by email at:

areutter@hotmail.com

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

Athens Teacher

There is currently a need for a teacher at the preschool in Athens, AL. It is a great opportunity to work and serve in a Christian atmosphere and support a small church. For more information please contact Bro. Mike Moore. (256)777-3390 or ALM38@aol.com



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Biblical Financial Stewardship, Part III

How much a person should give to charitable causes is a very personal and confidential decision. There are so many organizations that depend on donations to finance their ministries. Clearly, the needs are unlimited but our resources are limited. One would receive a wide variety of answers to the question, "How much should I give?" Fortunately, God's Word gives us clear direction on this all-important matter of giving.

There is no question or doubt that God desires His children to place a high priority on giving. Jesus told His disciples, "freely ye have received, freely give." (Matthew 10:8) The Apostle Paul reminded the Corinthians that "God loveth a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7) And in Acts, Paul tells the elders of Ephesus that they should "remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35)

An attitude of giving is simply a natural consequence of living out the principle that we do not own our possessions – we are stewards of that which God owns and has entrusted us to manage. Perhaps we were accustomed to asking God the question, "Lord, what do You want me to do with my money?" But once we acknowledge that He owns it all, our prayer changes to, "Lord, what do You want me to do with Your money?" That's stewardship versus ownership.

Attitudes for Giving

We first need to understand that God's Word tells us "how" we give is just as important as "how much" we give. Without a proper attitude, our gifts – no matter how large or small – will not bring the intended blessing. And although our motivation for giving can be hidden from men, it is well known to God because His Word is a "discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12)

1. Our giving should be done willingly and cheerfully.

"Every man according as he purposed in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7)

The word "grudgingly" in this verse means "with sadness, grief, sorrow, or heaviness." It describes one who gives with a reluctant attitude, preferring rather to use his gift for personal pleasure. What's interesting here is that the recipient still receives the blessing of the gift, but the giver's blessing is reduced.

2. Our giving should be with humility and pure motives.

In order for our giving to receive the greatest blessing, our motivation must be with the purest of intentions.

Jesus Himself taught this very important principle:

"Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: that thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly." (Matthew 6:1-4)

(Note: the word "alms" in this passage means "acts of compassion or beneficence toward the poor" and is not restricted to just the giving of money.)

The principle can be simply stated as follows: When we give the resources that God has bestowed on us to help others, we can have as our reward either the glory and praise of men or the blessing of God; but we cannot have both.

3. Our giving should be a high priority.

In the Old Testament, God instructed His people that the firstfruits of the harvest were to be given to Him: "The first of the firstfruits of thy land thou shalt bring unto the house of the LORD thy God." (Exodus 34:26) This theme is repeated and extended to all our "substance" in Proverbs: "Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase." (Proverbs 3:9) The next verse reveals the blessing that will come from obeying this command:

"So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine."

Paul gave the Corinthians a simple yet effective method for applying this principle in their daily lives:

"Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come." (1 Corinthians 16:2)

Setting a priority on our giving means "taking from the top" instead of "surrendering the leftovers."

How Much to Give?

Even among those who have a heart to give, there is a wide diversity in the answer to the question above.

In the Old Testament, God commanded His people to give a tithe, or ten percent, to the Lord. This was so important that he condemned them for not tithing properly:

"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation." (Malachi 3:8-9)

The noteworthy characteristic of a tithe is that it is systematic and equitable. Whether an individual has little or great wealth, the tithe results in giving that is proportional to his or her income.

The teachings of the New Testament do not command God's people to tithe. In fact, Jesus used the word "tithe" in rebuking the scribes and Pharisees for their self-righteous acts (see Matthew 23:23). And when Jesus told the parable of the Pharisee and the publican, the self-righteous Pharisee proudly mentioned his fasting and tithing in his prayer (see Luke 18:12).

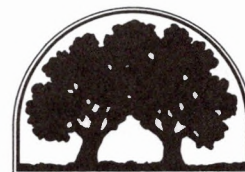
What the New Testament does offer are these two recommendations:

1. Our giving should be in proportion to the material blessings we receive.

2. Our giving should be sacrificial in nature.

To answer the above question it is critical that we first be submitted to God and His will for us. We also need to be discerning of God's leading through the still, small voice of the Holy Spirit. Finally, we need to ask for God's specific direction in giving and to open the doors that will show us His direction for our giving.

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:

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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

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

Sermon continued from page 2

say it. As a lamb dumb before His shearers, so opened He not His mouth (Isaiah 53:7). He went willingly. Suffered these false accusations.

It only got worse. Here they were clamoring to crucify Him. If I understand correctly, that is the one means of death that throughout the ages of time has been most feared, because of the horribleness of it. Because of the length of the torture and the suffering. Not one person has ever faced a death like that and not had some fear. We know that because we know ourselves and we are not different from others.

So there was some fear. But not fear of the one who was motivating these people. Jesus had withstood Satan to the face. He knew who he was. I am often impressed with the number of times that the evil spirits cried out, 'This is the Son of God' (St. Matthew 8:29, St. Mark 3:11, St. Mark 5:7, St. Luke 4:41, St. Luke 8:28). They knew who He was. Jesus was God Himself. So He knew who Satan was. Could recognize him.

So there was some natural fear. But beyond all that, Jesus had spent the night praying. He knew what was coming. He knew that these physical tribulations were just a small part.

Sometimes I wonder, when Jesus went through these things, how much additional pain there was, for Him to look at each individual soul that was involved and to know, 'I love that person'. God is love (I John 4:8). We read that. God knows so much about each individual one of us. Jesus knew many of the people that were here. He could see what they were thinking. He knew their life. He knew the successes, the joys, the disappointments. Because of that love, I truly feel that throughout this whole process, he felt pity. Pity for us because we didn't understand. Many of us didn't understand what we were doing. What the consequences were. That doesn't mean that we weren't responsible. We didn't understand completely what it was putting Him through. So even as Jesus went through this awful torment, He knew that these people didn't understand and He felt pity. I think that's why He said, "...Father,

forgive them; for they know not what they do..." St. Luke 23:34.

I don't think there was anyone there present that didn't know they were trying to kill a man that day. But they didn't really know what they were doing to Jesus. So for each one of us, it's a good question. Because for us to say that we have not sinned, the Bible would make it plain that we are a liar. That all have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). So the question remains to be answered for some, what have you done to Jesus? Have you acknowledged that and have you repented for it? God calls us in love to that very thing. That we would think about what Jesus did for us on the cross and be willing to admit our part that we played through sin and to ask forgiveness.

What a beautiful story, that the one who went through this awful pain, was so unlike us in nature, that He welcomes those that come in repentance. He doesn't love to hate, as so many people do, and hold a grudge and nurse it. But Jesus stands ready to forgive. He was willing to forgive throughout the entire process and is so ready to forgive today. That all that would come in faith, believing that His shed blood was sufficient, He welcomes with open arms.

There was an accusation made. They thought that the biggest problem that Jesus presented in that day and time was that He was going to accumulate power to Himself. That the chief priests and the scribes were going to lose some of their influence. So the accusation was that He was the King of the Jews. They couldn't have been more wrong. Jesus was probably the least interested person in earthly power that there has ever been. What He's interested in is us. He's interested in us having access to God's power. A spiritual power. One that doesn't manifest itself through people doing what we say because we have the authority to do it. But that there is power to overcome sin. There is power in the blood. Jesus Christ, through His death and suffering, did something for us as individuals, that I don't know that we can ever fully understand what a difference Jesus

makes.

When we think about grace, when we think about God's Spirit, when we think about the resurrection that Jesus went through and then made it possible that we also could be resurrected with Him, it's hard for us to comprehend all that He did for us. But we do know that there is power available.

So the encouragement is that we don't wait. Because we are not, of ourselves, going to become stronger by waiting. We are not going to be able to bring more services, more skills, but the plea is, just come today. There is power waiting. God will take you and He will make you into what He wants. So many times we read, especially in these accounts, "And the Scripture was fulfilled..." St. Mark 15:28. I take great comfort in those Scriptures, because we know that God is faithful. It is encouraging to us when we can see a promise made years and years before, by people that, as they made the statement, didn't understand what they meant. They didn't understand what was coming to pass. But God knew. He knows that each one of us needs faith and our faith needs to be reassured. So all these beautiful examples of how the Scripture foretold what was coming, and Jesus was not willing to deviate from God's will. He was willing to let all of it come upon Him, that the Scriptures could be fulfilled and that we might have faith.

We'll close with this. Jesus had to cry out, "...My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" St. Mark 15:34. There was a time, most of His life, that He addressed Him as His Father. I could be wrong. I don't know of any other instances where He referred to Him as 'My God'. Loved ones, let's each think about it. If it comes to the point when our life is ended and we are still addressing this Creator God as 'My God', we are in trouble. We need to come today. We need to establish a relationship now, that He can be our Father and He will welcome us as His child.



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:

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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

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BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

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the people perish:
but he that keepeth the law,
happy is he."
Proverbs 29:18*

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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
World Relief

Expression of Gratitude for Assistance in Eastern Europe

Apostolic Christian World Relief working through its European Committee has been assisting our Nazarene brethren in Eastern Europe for several decades. Our initial focus lay in providing for people's basic needs of food, clothing, and shelter and even today our underlying motto remains that "no one must live cold or hungry!" However, by God's provision and the generosity of our Western brethren, the last 20 years since the fall of Communism have allowed many programs to become established through which our Nazarene brethren can meet, not only their basic needs, but also to enhance the future prospects of their families and congregations.

The ravages of spiritual persecution, oppressive Communist regimes, and non-existent economic opportunity to get ahead in life have decimated the populations of these once large and vibrant groups of Nazarene congregations in the countries of Hungary, the former Yugoslavia, Romania, and Ukraine. Our over-riding goal in all European Committee programs is to help re-establish and stabilize these Nazarene congregations family by family.

In appreciation

In recent months, other Silver Lining articles and various presentations have prompted an outpouring of support for our Eastern European brethren, for which we sincerely thank God and our faithful brethren. This support has allowed many programs of proven value to continue providing the blessings of sustenance and stability.

In nearly all congregations, many of which are small, isolated and rural, a segment of brethren are elderly, destitute, require special medication, or are faced with desperate or emergency circumstances.

For these situations we provide "regular" monthly or quarterly financial aid coupled with emergency/medicine funds.

Many Nazarene brethren are also faced with fuel bills each cold winter for either natural gas or firewood which often exceed their meager budgets. Without outside assistance, the choice could literally be between food or heat. Once again, the generosity of our Western brethren in recent months has provided sufficient funding not only for the current heating season, but also to build reserves for the coming year.



Self-help loans

A program to provide self-help loans to qualified brethren which enables them to establish or enlarge a small family business has proven to be quite successful. This allows them to be less dependant upon outside assistance, work at home with their families, provide employment for grown children, enhance family stability, and hopefully through God's blessing, to retain the coming generation within the true faith. Self-help loan programs are currently in place in Romania, Ukraine, and Serbia and include wood-working shops, small farm machinery purchases, metal-working, service stations, and general stores as examples. Loan repayment proceeds provide funding for additional loans to other qualified individuals.

An equally successful program

also in Serbia (former Yugoslavia) provides for small monetary grants for couples with a newborn child, newly wed couples, and small loans to fund material costs for a couple to improve a newly purchased home. The objective, once again, is to encourage young families and assist them in practical ways to establish a way of life within the heritage of their fathers.

Other programs

Other specialty programs are administered through the Antioch aid organization in Romania including school supplies, bicycles for those who cannot afford vehicles, monthly food packages for needy families, honey bee hives as self-help projects in return for a portion of the honey, and chain saws for those who can harvest their own firewood for winter heat. Small livestock projects have provided great value to those for whom growing their own food is their only choice.

In Ukraine, funding from our brethren has provided many farm machinery upgrades for those involved in agriculture. In nearly all cases these tractors, harvesters, and implements are placed in the care and responsibility of appropriate individuals but used over a large area for the benefit of many families.

The Eastern European brethren, without exception, express their gratitude to God for blessings provided, and that this gratitude be forwarded to the World Relief organization and to those who so faithfully support them. If you have interest or questions about the work in Eastern Europe please contact:

Rod Stoller
European Committee Treasurer
1118 Charlotte Circle
Van Wert, OH 45891
(419) 238-2845

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)*

Everyone is invited 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 is planned at the Tennessee Fellowship Area beginning at 2:00 p.m. followed by supper at 6:00 p.m. and 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 an option to ride a charter bus from the Central Illinois area.

If you plan to come for the weekend, we'd ask that you please notify one of the contact options listed below by Monday, May 4 to assist us with weekend planning. 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.

Summer Worship Services in Colorado

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

July 19 - Best Western Alpenglo Lodge - Conference Center

Located downtown Winter Park (78665 U.S. Highway 40)
Office: 888-726-8088 (Toll free) www.wplodging.com

July 26 - Best Western Alpenglo Lodge - Conference Center

Located downtown Winter Park (78665 U.S. Highway 40)
Office: 888-726-8088 (Toll free) www.wplodging.com

August 2 - Ponderosa Conference Center (Fox Run Room)

Located near Colorado Springs at Larkspur
15235 Furrow Road
Larkspur, CO 80118
(719) 481-2482 www.visitponderosa.com

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

Interested in Houseparenting?



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

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

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

"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

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- Materials and presentations on other specific topics
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NOTICE:

The Washington, DC congregation would welcome your help. They purchased a house in Silver Spring, Maryland, and are holding services there every Sunday.

Due to the small number of members and friends, and because most live a distance from church, they are looking for volunteer caretakers to live in the house and perform routine household and yard maintenance chores. Caretakers should plan to stay 3-4 weeks.

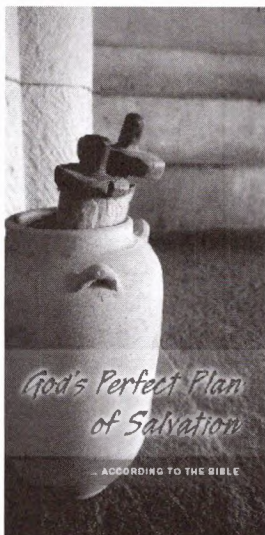
Caretakers could be couples, singles or families who would enjoy fellowship with the DC congregation and spending time near the Nation's Capitol and other points of interest on the East Coast.

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



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Principles of Salvation

RECOGNITION OF SIN

Admit that you are a sinner.
 "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." ROMANS 3:23
 "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." 1 JOHN 1:8

THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH

Unless you recognize your sinful state and make a change, your soul will be eternally lost.
 "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." ROMANS 6:23

BELIEVE GOD AND RECEIVE HIM

BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH
 You cannot earn salvation. You need the Saviour. Believe God and His Word.
 "...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." ACTS 16:31

"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." HEBREWS 11:6
 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should be boast." EPHESIANS 2:8-9

REPENT

Feel regret for sin, change your mind, and turn from sin to God. Demonstrate the change in your heart by your actions.
 "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." LUKE 13:3
 "Bring forth the fruits meet for repentance." MATTHEW 3:8
 "...repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ." ACTS 20:21

CONFESSION OF SIN AND FORGIVENESS

Confession of sin is a frank of repentance and it brings to light those sins that keep you in bondage.
 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 JOHN 1:9
 "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed." JAMES 5:16

BE CONVERTED... AND BORN AGAIN

This is what God does for you. This is the new birth — a miracle of spiritual life performed by the Holy Spirit through faith in the sacrificial, atoning blood of Jesus Christ.
 "...Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." MATTHEW 18:3
 "...Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." JOHN 3:3

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord." ACTS 3:19

RESTORE PEACE WITH OTHERS

Restoring peace with others means going back to someone we have offended to a knowledge our wrong doing, ask for forgiveness and if appropriate repay for the loss. Because you repent, Christ has paid the price for your sin you will desire to be in peace with man as well as with God, which includes forgiveness of others.
 "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men." ROMANS 12:18
 "Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace." ROMANS 14:19
 "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." MATTHEW 18:35

Gods Perfect Plan of Salvation tract is now in stock

- This pocket-sized tract has been developed which can be used to share God's plan of salvation with others.
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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 April 9th, 2009 - www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/

Project	Year 2009	Coordinator	Capacity				
Les Cayes MEBSH Medical	May 1-8	Keith Knepp 309-467-4691 kknepp@mchsi.com	8	Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Jun 5-12	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 topnotch@home.ffni.com	4
Haiti MEBSH Caribbean Eval.	May 15-23	Tom Hitz 734-454-9229 tchitz@sbcglobal.net	Invitation				

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

Official Apostolic Christian Church Website

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

www.apostolicchristian.org

JAMAICA

Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of April 9th, 2009 -www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/

Project	Year 2009	Coordinator	Capacity				
Jamaica Deaf Village CCCD	May 22 - 30	Ted Hirstein 309-266-8769 hirstein@mtco.com	40	Jamaica Deaf Village CCCD Akron, Rittman, Smithville SS	Jun 20 - 27	Jay Maibach jmmaibach@embarqmail.com	40
Jamaica Deaf Village CCCD Goodfield SS	Jun 6 - 13	Andy Bauman arbauman@mchsi.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 April 9th, 2009 -www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-mexico/

Location	Year 2009	Coordinator					
Magdalena Construction	May 30-Jun 6	Seth Beer Phoenix Bible Class 602-918-1722 sethbeer@gmail.com		Magdalena Construction	Jun 20-27	Aaron Klopfenstein Indianapolis Bible Class 317-596-8739 aaronklop@sbcglobal.net	
Magdalena Construction	Jun 13-20	Brent Knobloch 815-923-4736 bmknob@mc.net		Magdalena Construction	Jun 27-Jul 4	Kent Mogler 651-452-8586 kent.mogler@comcast.net	
Agua Prieta Construction	Jun 20-27	Brad Leman 260-273-1953 crazyhorsebrad@gmail.com		Juarez Medical	Sep 16-23	Cheryl Herrmann cherrmann@verizon.net	
				Magdalena Construction	Nov 21-28	Rod Schmidt 303-774-7913 rschmidt@Acosta.com	

Volunteers Needed**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 : stanh65@aol.com Or www.acworldrelief.org



REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

On a historic, and very interesting occasion, two Elder Brothers from the church in Hungary were at our Eureka, Illinois, congregation on April 29, 2007. After the morning and afternoon sermons, they spoke concluding remarks. Following are excerpts of Elder Bro. Szabados Ferenc, of Ersekcsanak, Hungary, who spoke in the morning. That church, with 200 members, is 90 miles south of Budapest, along the Danube River. Bro. Tom Bako, Akron, Ohio (who has a Hungarian background), served as the translator, and the remarks were heard in the English language. It was a blessing, and the "same faith" was evident!

Bro. Ferenc: Loved ones, we have heard events in the Bible. The words of the prophet ring in my mind that we could read of this morning which are the following. To sanctify the house of the Lord and to sanctify your hearts. What does this mean? If we strive to enter into the house of the Lord, we have to prepare first. I believe each and every one of us prepared our hearts before we came to church this morning. Each and every one of us started our day with prayer. We thanked the Lord for being with us throughout the night and for blessing us with a new day of life.

I believe that we beseeched the Lord that He would teach us through His servants, through the power of His Spirit. We could only prepare properly for this day if we sought the things of above, of heaven and not the things of this earth — if we emptied our hearts of the cares of this world — we left behind the lust of the flesh — if we had a true thirst for the living Word of God. We've already experienced that the

Lord has fed us with spiritual food that He saw fit to feed us with.

In the second reading, in the second book of Peter, we also were given good advice and counsel. How should we understand that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day? We, as humans, are controlled by time. We can read in the Scriptures and we even have some hymns that teach us that in heaven there is no time. We really can't even comprehend this and we don't know what it is like to live without time, the restriction of time. But here in this life, time is a gift. Many times it is difficult for us to be good stewards of our time. It is truly a wise man who can take advantage of time while it is yet the day of grace. If we put matters in order of importance while we have time, then we will do well.

I am sure here in Eureka, as in most of the United States and for us back home in Hungary, there never seems to be enough time. Many days it seems like we just don't have enough time to finish all the things that we wanted to. Many times, some things are left undone. It is important for us to make sure that the most important things are done in a given day, and the least important things remain undone. Especially those things that are a danger to our souls — let's leave those things undone.

We can read here in the second book of Peter, and there is some good advice for us here in the third chapter pertaining to the dangers of the end times — when there are different winds of doctrine about us which are deceiving. We all know that in times past, particularly in the days of the apostles, there was severe persecution of the church.

We know in modern times there have been persecutions. But, now in the day that we live in, Satan has a particularly effective weapon that he uses. This is the weapon of deception. This is when he comes in sheep's clothing but inside is a ravening wolf. He wants to lull us all to sleep in some way.

I guess you can kind of compare this to when an anesthesiologist would put a patient to sleep before surgery. First, we are given something to make us numb so we don't feel the pain. Have we ever noticed something similar to this in our spiritual walk of life? Have we ever noticed, as well, that many times we are concerned and we suffer pain over things that we shouldn't be concerned over and that shouldn't bother us? We know that the Scripture says that in those days a brother will not teach his brother, but we are all taught of the Lord. May the Lord continue to teach each and every one of us, and may He bless His holy Word.

Church History Book

The second edition of *Marching To Zion* is now available. In early April, books were sent to each of the congregations for distribution; and to Apostolic Christian Publications, Eureka, Illinois. It totals 810 pages, and contains histories of all the existing and defunct churches. A dozen new local churches are included in this edition. Also, the large growth of World Relief and other service projects are recorded. The current price is \$20.

By: Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next Issue:
Misc. History

The Light Of Hope

“God's Justice And Mercy”

Retired Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

The story is told about Abraham Lincoln that, during the Civil War, a young soldier fell asleep while on guard duty. The penalty for this was death. The soldier's mother came to President Lincoln and begged for the life of her son. Lincoln responded by saying, “For me to grant your request would not be justice.” The mother replied, “Mr. President, I am not asking for justice, I am asking for mercy.” The president sacrificed justice and granted her request.

In the Old Testament in Ezekiel 18:20, it is written, “The soul that sinneth, it shall die.” Also, in the New Testament in Romans 6:23, it is written, “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

In Romans 3:23 we read, “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” Therefore, it appears that in order for God to maintain justice we must all be condemned. The question is, “How can we be forgiven and God still maintain His justice?”

In Deuteronomy 32:4, Moses was speaking about God to the people of Israel when he said, “He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.” Indeed, God is righteous and He is just. How, then, can He forgive us and still maintain

justice?

In II Corinthians 5:19 it is written, “To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them.” Here we see that God Himself, in the person of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, suffered death for us in our place. Since the Judge Himself has died for us, it is all right for Him to forgive us, so far as justice goes.

What kind of death are we talking about? The result of sin, as I understand it, is both physical and spiritual death. Since Christ took on human form, He could and did suffer physical death for us. Also, on the cross He cried out, “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” Matthew 27:46. In verse 45 it says, “Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour.” It certainly appears that Christ experienced hell for three hours, for you and for me, so that God can forgive us and still maintain justice.

The question arises, “Could Abraham Lincoln have died in place of the young soldier and still maintained justice?” I doubt it. In human affairs, the person who commits the transgression usually must pay the penalty in order for justice to be maintained. However, when God Himself steps into the pic-

ture, in the person of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, it is different. He had no sin of His own and was and is, the perfect redeemer. Thus, justice is maintained.

In the case of the young soldier, there was a choice between justice and mercy. However, in the case of God dealing with us human beings, God chose both justice and mercy. In spite of all the explaining I have done I still feel that there is something I am missing. I cannot grasp the bigness of God, the fact that He fills the entire universe with His presence. I cannot quite grasp His holiness nor His power. Romans 11:33 reads, “O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!”

Since God has been so merciful to us, perhaps we could do better in serving Him by doing all we know to do by following the Bible more closely. Perhaps we can be a little more dead to self. I believe that we should be merciful with one another and never say, “I'm right. You're wrong.” Rather we should say, “I'm wrong and you're wrong. Only God is right and we want to do what He says, the best we know how.”

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*Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace,
whose mind is stayed on thee:
because he trusteth in thee.
Trust ye in the Lord for ever:
for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength*

Isaiah 26:3-4