

The Silver Lining

A landscape photograph showing a green field on the left with a tree, and a brown field on the right, under a cloudy sky. The image is split vertically, with the left side being lush green and the right side being dry, brown earth. A single tree stands on the green side. The sky is blue with white clouds.

*For if they do these things in a green tree,
what shall be done in the dry?*

Luke 23:31

May 2009

Sermon by Bro. Bruce Frank, Cissna Park, IL

Genesis 35:1-15 and Ephesians 1:15 - 2:22

As we read in the first reading of the time where God revealed a name, changed a name, created that name Israel, which resounds across the world today, I believe everyone in the world that is of any ability to understand the news, realizes that Israel is a name that is either loved or hated. Israel is a name only. As we read it here, it is a change that God just commanded. Yet it is a nation, a place, that God has promised to His chosen. He's given it to them. He gave it to Jacob or Israel's heritage. He reminded Israel that it was going to be so. Through the years, mankind has disputed this.

There are some things in life that just will not go away. Any promise, any gift given by God cannot be removed. Here is a gift that God gave to Jacob, Israel, gave to Abraham. Gave to those of the Israelite nation. We as men, try as we might, we will not change the gift that was given.

I really am not following what is happening there close enough to know whether the fighting that is going on today is justifiable in our minds or not. It doesn't really matter to me too much. That which I know is men will fail in taking away the land of Israel.

Out of that promise, out of that very name change, comes the people, the nation, those chosen and privileged in many, many ways throughout the ages of time. Until the time came when God saw that the response of the Israelite people was not proper. He sent His Son at a time when the Israelite nation was worshipping God in a way that was not pleasing. Not entirely. For we are individual people. There were those that were faithful. There were those that were responding to the prophesy, and were waiting and they saw the coming of Christ. As Christ grew and as He matured and as He taught, there were those of the Israelite people that responded and they heard His Word.

Here, as we read in Ephesians, as

Paul was portraying this, there becomes a thanksgiving, an appreciation and a joy in his heart. "Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;" Ephesians 1:15,16. It brings a comfort and a confidence to those that have the responsibility over us, as they see us responding to the Word, responding to the teachings of Christ Himself, and to the teachings of the Word in entirety. Then seeing the unified, loving Spirit, working together. This is the response that Paul is giving.

"That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints. And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places," v.17-20. There indwells our hope! A Christ that came because of God's request. It was God's design. It was God that asked Him, told Him, commanded Him - I don't know how that worked - come here on the face of the earth. Leave the heavens above and come here. He did so to become an example. He did so to become an offering. He did so to minister to our needs. Then, as a fulfillment, as a final crowning glory, so to speak, He took our sins, carried them to the cross and hung there on that cross, bearing them on His shoulders.

It is the understanding of that, the knowledge and the ability to comprehend that God offers to mankind - He offered it to the Israelite people first, He offered it to us as

Gentiles later and He is offering it today to any that will respond - the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward, who believe.

There is not a one of us here today that doesn't have the ability to believe. I think we do. Yet, as we back

Sermon continued on page 42

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

June

1. Goodfield, IL
2. Forrest, IL
3. Mansfield, OH
4. Sarasota, FL

Suggested Donation: \$14/subscription

Next correspondence due:

For June Issue

(16 Apr. News - 15 May News)

Due: 20 May 2009

The Silver Lining (Vol. 64, #5)
1389 County Road 1600 N
Roanoke, IL 61561

USPS 496780

Published Monthly By The Apostolic
Christian Church of America

Counselors:

Ron Schambach, Tom Stock

Official Apostolic Christian
Church Website
www.apostolicchristian.org

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(e-mail is preferred)

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Roanoke, IL, 61561
309-923-7192 (phone)
775-923-9987 (fax #1)
309-923-7359 (fax #2)

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

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

"A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished."

(Proverbs 22:3)

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

May 2009

Cultural Impact - Understanding the Times

Throughout history, the culture in which men live has shaped their approach to life and death in many ways. Almost every aspect of life is influenced by the culture in which we live. The food we eat, the clothes we wear, the way we earn our living, and even the way we worship is influenced by culture. It is essential to understand how the culture we live in impacts our life if we expect to discern the times. In times of rapid change, an awareness of how the changes may affect the church becomes even more important. Being aware does not mean that we advocate for change, but rather, that we understand the world around us in order to better apply the Scriptures to life. Evidence suggests that our culture needs core values based on the Bible like never before.

1 Chronicles 12:32 *"And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do ..."*

As elders and servants of the church, it is not only our intent, but also our responsibility to understand the times we live in and, by God's grace safely guide the Church until Jesus returns. In order to accomplish this goal we have searched the Word, reviewed our church history, shared personal experiences, sought out relevant research and together asked the Holy Spirit to provide godly wisdom to know how to humbly lead and feed God's children.

Jeremiah 3:15 *"And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding."*

Understanding the times often means that we need to understand our roots. Many of our customs and traditions have been shaped by our cultural roots. The hymns in our Zion's Harp are largely derived from classical music from the Baroque period with strong influence from the Germanic cultures. Our custom of wearing neckties dates back to a trend begun by King Louis XIV of France. Our custom of holding two worship services on Sunday, separated by a lunch hour, dates back to the days of travel by horse and buggy. The way we practice some of these customs varies significantly from how our forefathers lived. For example, just one hundred years ago, many of the

Zion's Harp songs had no musical staff printed with the words and in most of the Apostolic Christian churches in America, hymns and sermons were heard in the German language. An awareness of history helps shape an accurate view of the present. If we are prudent, we will not only be aware of our history, but also will anticipate how cultural change will impact the church and each member of the Body of Christ today and in the future.

Proverbs 22:3-4 *"A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished. By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, and honour, and life."*

Cultural changes typically proceed at a slow pace and are assimilated over generations, often with little awareness of the roots of the custom. Probably the most stressful cultural changes are those that take place rapidly, giving men little opportunity to adjust. Historically, rapid change was often the result of conquest. However, several other major "revolutions" have also prompted rapid cultural shifts. The invention of the printing press, the Industrial Revolution, and the inventions of telephone, radio, television and the current digital age have all provoked revolutionary shifts in cultural patterns of behavior. Some of these radical changes in culture have had a negative effect on the church, and some have been positive.

One example of a positive major cultural change began in 1604 in England. Amidst substantial controversy and pressure from Calvinist leaders (the Puritans), a group of 54 men was formed by King James 1 of England. Unbeknown to them, these men were about to ignite a cultural revolution. The Roman church had restricted access to the Word of God for centuries, keeping millions in darkness, even executing men who dared translate the Scriptures into everyday language. The King James scholars were divided into six small working groups, each group translating a portion of the Bible. Each one utilized his knowledge and training to compare and revise various existing translations with the original. They worked separately on the same passages. Once done, they came together as a committee to discuss their work, eventually coming to an understanding on the best wording. The result was the Authorized or King James Version of the Bible. Their work has impacted

the English-speaking world for nearly 400 years. It is the foundation of our legal system, has shaped our patterns of language and thought, is the basis of the ideals of freedom and democracy, created a demand for literacy and education, and most importantly – brought the Gospel to millions.

Understanding the impact of a changing culture is very relevant to a believer who desires to obey Christ's decree to share his faith. For example, in order to communicate the Gospel, one must speak the language and understand the local culture. Jesus prayed, *"I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil"* (John 17:15). Perhaps for this reason Jesus chose apostles from many walks of life ...fishermen, tax collectors, lawyers, tentmakers, doctors, and businessmen to name a few that are mentioned in the Bible. No doubt their varied experiences enabled them to relate to the people around them. The Apostle Paul demonstrated his awareness of culture as he communicated to the Greeks on Mars' Hill by quoting some of their literary works. In a world that is changing radically, we too must be aware of the dramatic impact that culture has on the church, and look to our Heavenly Father to provide the wisdom we need to navigate the narrow way.

The fact is that cultural trends are affecting our brotherhood, and impact our relationships and activities. Information overload, increasing pressures on marriage and family, a growing desire to find meaning in life, and isolation from community are all powerful trends in our culture today that need to have the light of truth shone upon them. Resting on the truth of the Word of God, we can minister to our changing culture without compromising biblical standards. In reality, a church built on the rock solid foundation of Jesus Christ is **uniquely suited** to fill the voids created by a radically changed culture. The Word of God is the only unchanging and enduring truth in this world. This is not a time to fear, but rather a time to follow Jesus' example and *"...preach good tidings unto the meek, ...bind up the broken-hearted (and) proclaim liberty to the captives..."* (Is. 61:1).

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

Being Sent: Principles & Attitudes

This is not meant to be a comprehensive overview on the topic of "being sent." Much could be written on the biblical basis and practice for the church sending brothers and sisters to serve.

This article will focus on some of the principles we should consider and some of the attitudes we should cultivate when being sent to a place of service, either within our culture or cross-culturally.

If God only sent perfect people, none of us would be sent. How thankful we are that God is willing to patiently work with us, just as Christ was willing to work with His disciples, gradually transforming them from proud and self-willed men into humble servants.

We do not present these biblical attitudes and principles to set an unattainable standard that keeps sincere people from being sent, but rather to inspire all of us to examine our hearts and ask God to help us change so we may be more useful to Him wherever He sends us.

Let's walk through several passages of Scripture and glean some of God's principles for being sent. First take a look at Isaiah chapter six, when Isaiah saw a vision of the LORD and answered His call to be sent. How can we apply this to being sent today?

- Recognize Christ as the King of glory over the entire universe — sovereign, majestic, thrice-holy, almighty, supreme, worthy to be feared and worshiped in all the earth (vv.1-4).
- Have an attitude of humility and continual repentance, increasingly aware of our own imper-

fections and nothingness before God and our need for mercy. Our hearts should also be broken by the sinfulness and lost state of all mankind (v.5).

- Be forgiven and converted, our sin atoned for by faith in Jesus Christ and His sacrifice on the cross; our lives set apart (sanctified) from sin to be useful for service (vv.6-7).
- Our calling should be based on the Word of the Lord, not merely our own feelings or desires (v.8).
- Go as human ambassadors of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (*Who will go for us?*), and for the church, representing Christ and His body on earth to the people we are sent to. We are on His mission, not our personal mission (v.8).
- Humbly trust God and be willing to go wherever we are sent through His choosing (*Here am I, send me*); neither being fearful and timid, which can spring from selfishness and unbelief; nor presumptuous and self-willed, which can be a result of pride (v.8b).
- Count the cost and ask God and others with experience to make us aware of the opposition and unbelief we may face in sharing the gospel (vv.9-10).
- Be willing to go as long as God wants, even if it's long term (*How long?*); we do not set the terms and conditions of our service (vv.11-13).

In the New Testament, the Apostle John references Isaiah's vision and tells us he actually saw Jesus Christ (John 12:41). In verses 23-43 we learn:

- Seek the glory of God, not per-

sonal glory that comes from men (v.23, 28, 41, 43).

- True fruitfulness comes when we are willing to die to our selfish life and even willing to lose our physical lives for Christ's sake; if we serve ourselves we will lose everything (vv.24-25).
- Be willing to "follow" Christ rather than lead ourselves (v.26a).
- Being with Christ in glory and being honored by the Father should be all the reward we seek for our service (v.26b).

Continuing into John chapter 13 where Jesus washes His disciples' feet yields more insights that apply to being sent. Christ calls us to follow His example and humbly serve our brothers and sisters (v.14).

- Be motivated by love, not pride and self-ambition (v.1).
- Lay aside our pride, position, privileges, and rights and become servants who are willing to do even the lowliest tasks (v.5).
- We are not greater than Christ, nor are we superior to (more important or valuable than) those who send us (v.16).

What is the result of being sent with these foundational attitudes? First, we will be useful and fruitful for God. We will find true happiness and fulfillment as we humble ourselves and become servants rather than seeking personal gratification (John 13:17).

Also, unbelievers who see us serving our brothers and sisters will know that we are disciples of Christ (vv.34-35). Our love for our brothers and sisters is the greatest testimony to the truth and power of the gospel in a world torn by selfishness and hatred (John 17:21, 23).



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

Brazos de Amor Orphanage in Mexico

The Brazos de Amor orphanage at Aqua Prieta, Mexico has around 35 children living on the campus. They are currently building group homes on site so the children can have a more family style environment rather than the large dormitory housing. Brazos de Amor, an outreach of Concern International, translates to Arms of Love.



This home provides a loving atmosphere for children. One example is the tender care they give to a young boy who had unsuccessful eye surgery and is now nearly blind and lives here. There is a school on the property which the young children attend. The older ones are taken into Agua Prieta and attend school there.

World Relief helps support this ministry through monetary donations, food, work team efforts and recently two vans were donated to them. Around 12 years ago, a van was donated to them which is still in use.

Work team

The ICC/Bradley young group was blessed to spend a week working and serving the Lord in Agua Prieta. We were grateful to have ministering Brother Tim Hohulin and his

wife Cathy with us on our trip, along with several parents and approximately 40 students. Our group spent time doing construction work, painting, cleaning, and laundry as well as serving meals and teaching the children about the Bible.

A normal day for our team started with devotions after breakfast. After putting God's Word first, the day's work began. As of now, the third group home is being built. Our church teams have helped with all three of them. Also, there is a home under construction for the caretaker of Brazos de Amor.

There are a variety of talents displayed in the teams here; our minister's leadership, work team leaders, carpenters, electricians, mechanics, language interpreters, plumbers, decorators, painters, shoppers for supplies and food, cooks and anyone willing to learn something new. Plus, everyone works on clean up! Work teams consist of more than work. It is a time of wonderful Christian fellowship. Playing with the children, singing with them and cooking for them are all acts of love.

Other ministries

In Agua Prieta, Concern International also has a trade school. They teach carpentry to men, cooking and sewing to the ladies, and computer skills. Another ministry of Concern International is Bible distribution.

Last year in March, the administrator of the home lost a young child in a traffic accident outside of the church which the children attend. He teaches Bible lessons to the children living at Brazos de Amor. This has made him think more of how God gave His son to die for our sins.

The privilege of serving

The children seem happy and certainly enjoy the attention of our teams. When the teams return home, they feel they have received more blessings than they were able to give. We thank God for the privilege of serving Him in Agua Prieta, and we praise Him for allowing us to use the talents He gave us.

Most importantly, we developed Godly relationships with the children and with each other. We dealt with various illnesses on our trip, but during that experience we realized how dependant we are on our Lord. Through our daily work together we learned that as the body of Christ, each of us has special gifts to present in service to Jesus.



We pray that our involvement here can continue. Presently there is unrest in Mexico, and because of this, work teams to some locations have been cancelled. During our stay in Agua Prieta, we experienced no problems. Even if you are unable to go and help, you can help by earnestly praying for the safety of our workers. Our group came home with a greater understanding of the blessings that we have been given, and a deeper perception of the expectation placed upon us to give them back to God. "Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift."

2 CORINTHIANS 9:15

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us"

Ephesians 3:20

A Church Representative Day was held on March 21 for all the brothers and their wives who represent our services in their individual Apostolic Christian Churches. We had a wonderful day together. It was a half day of presentations, videos and sharing. Tours of some of our homes were given the other half of the day.

We were able to share the services offered by the ACHH agency and what it means to families and residents when they make the decision to seek residential care. The specific financial needs of our agency were addressed. We are indeed feeling the effects of our State's current financial crisis. Several parents and residents told their stories via video of the difficult decision to seek placement, entrusting the care of their family member to others. The joys and the trials of that transition were shared.

The tours included stops at four different homes. Our residents gave a warm welcome to their visitors, the church reps, with excitement to know that others are interested in them and their home. Our staff was so appreciative of having our supporters come and see what they do.

We heard great feedback from our visitors also. Visiting someone in their home, having a snack together, listening to their story, seeing their room and learning about their life helps to know someone on a much more personal level.

Another program is being planned for the church representatives who were not able to be at the March program. We appreciate your prayers as we seek to help more people understand

the work to which we have been called.

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Clint Plattner

Sis. Bethany and I recently made the decision to move on from house-parenting here at Gateway Woods. It has been a difficult decision to make. We have been blessed in so many ways as a result of being here. The thought of leaving is full of mixed emotions. We still do not have a grasp on all that

we have learned during our time here as I believe the harvest will continue for a lifetime. We are at peace with our decision even though there are a lot of pieces that still need to come together. This can cause a certain amount of fear and apprehension as we think about the future.

Before going to sleep the other night I opened and read in Numbers 13. Moses had just sent a group of men into Canaan to check things out and bring back a report about the land. They came back and reported that there were certainly great things in this land, but that there were also people who lived there. And these people were big and strong and not likely to just hand over their land. Most of the men were crippled by their fear and announced, "We are not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we."

Of the group that went, only Caleb and Joshua looked at the problem through eyes of faith in God and boldly declared, "Let us go up at once, and possess it: for we are able to overcome it." After reading this I again realized that fear is such a natural response to the unknown. It was a great encouragement and reminder that God desires us to walk in His strength and trust Him to work on our behalf no matter the circumstances that we face. I hope you are encouraged as well.

NEWS:

- Staff children and residents were

able to reflect on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ during our Easter Program in April. This was the first time that some of our residents were able to celebrate the true meaning of Easter. Praise God for sending His Son Jesus Christ!

- We want to express our appreciation to Bro. Steve and Sis. Bonnie Kaeb for their years of service on the Gateway Woods Board of Directors. Bro. Steve served on the Board for 8 years and Sis. Bonnie was a key role in coordination for our annual auctions. May God bless them both for years of sacrificial service.

- 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. In an effort to be as efficient as possible, we are gathering as many email addresses as we can in order to send out our new e-newsletter. Please send a message to mail@gatewaywoods.org.

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

- 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 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!

- Finally, with spring in the air, Gateway Woods is gearing up for summer - which means volunteers! The

brothers and sisters who serve during the summer are so crucial to our program, children and campus. Accordingly, we have hired Bro. Dustin Huber (Bloomington, IL) as the Summer Volunteer Coordinator. If you are interested in volunteering, please call us at 888-443-4283 or visit our website www.gatewaywoods.com where you can apply on-line to be a volunteer.

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

The last month has been busy with Easter activities, quite a few birthday parties and a surprise fire drill when the toaster burnt some pop tarts! We love to see the kids' reaction when we talk about the Easter story. Some of them don't quite grasp it, but some will sit in awe when they see pictures of Jesus on the cross. Their hearts can be so tender as they take it all in and want to know about what happened.

Our theme for the month of April has been plants. We put our seeds in the pots of dirt and after some tender loving care it's exciting for the kids to see the little green sprouts come up. One class did an experiment with putting a potato in water and watching the roots grow. That was fun for them, too.

As usual, there is always something being said that makes us laugh. Like the time that one little boy said he comes to "pretty school". Or when another little boy who had just been told something he didn't like to hear said (with a scowl on his face), "Don't talk to me like that. I'm a grown man." Another time we were sitting down to listen to our Bible story. The day before our story had been about the wedding where five were wise and five were foolish, and the flannel board was covered with pictures of girls. One little guy piped up with a heavy sigh and said, "Are there any boys in this story?" One thing is for sure, they keep us on our toes!

We currently have a need for a

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

**ALABAMA, ATHENS
Louise Hall**

This is the story of long ago - of a man who owned a little store.
He said, "I was proud to have my name up over the door."
It was some two thousand years ago, as I recall,
Located in Jerusalem, across the street from Pilate's hall.

I thought I had everything anyone would need,
And folks would come from miles around, regardless of their creed.
The only thing I had I didn't think I could ever sell,
Was in a corner on a shelf - three rusty spike nails.

And then one day a big Roman soldier came through the door.
As he walked up to me it seemed he shook the floor.
I said, "Can I help you sir?" with a voice I guess seemed frail.
He looked at me with a sneering grin and said, "I want to buy some big, big nails."

"Three rusty spikes is all I have." He said to me "That will do.
For the job I have, three's enough - now how much do I owe you?"
He put the money in my hand and I was glad to make the sale.
Then I wondered and asked him, "Sir, what can you do with just three nails?"

He said, "Did you ever hear of a man

called Jesus the Nazarene?"
"You mean the one who goes about doing good?"
He said, "Yes, that's the man. Well, today I intend to show the world that I am boss,
For with these three old rusty spikes I am going to nail Jesus to the cross."

I stood there almost numb - you'll never know how I felt.
I said "Please, Sir, don't do that!" as on my knees I knelt.
He just turned and walked away, and I got up and followed him.
I said "Please, Sir, I'll buy them back", but he just looked at me and grinned.

But in the distance I could hear the howling mob through the tears that filled my eyes
"Away with him! Crucify him!" I could hear their angry cries.
Over the top of all the noise and groans of agony,
I could hear the sound of the hammer as that big Roman soldier nailed Jesus to the tree.
-The Three Nails

We heard that on Easter Sunday from the Sunday School as they did their program for us. We are so excited, though, to know that there is much more to the story. To know that He arose! What a joy to know that Jesus LIVES!

We have had many people that need our prayers this month. Sis. Ola Mae Barnes had eye surgery and was out of church awhile. Granny is the mother to Sis. Louise Hall and Sis. Barbara Coulter. Bro. J.R. and Sis. Louise Hall's daughter, Janice, fell and hurt her back. We also think of Joey Hall (Bro. Tim) who had foot surgery and Sis. Corrine Thomas who had eye surgery. Our prayers go out to all of them for a speedy recovery. We also want to pray for Sis. Naomi Hall as we think of her daughter, Brenda, who has been sick and is not doing very well.

We have had many visitors and church has been pretty full. We espe-

cially want to thank our visiting minister this month. Bro. Matthew Rassi and his wife, Sis. Bridget, came and brought their whole family along for the weekend. It was a blessing to have them here.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX Heather Hinrichsen

Bro. Nick Gutwein (W. Lafayette), Bro. Nile Bucher (Bluffton North), Bro. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington), Bro. Matt Steffen (Princeville), Elder Bro. John Lemman (Bern) and Bro. Dan Goric (Rockville) brought us God's Word this month. We thank these brothers for their visit and for their labors of love.

Our prayers and sympathies are with Bro. Mike, Sis. Valerie, Brett and Sophia Howell in the passing of Sis. Valerie's mother, Sis. Sherryl Knobloch (Bro. Larry) of Lester, IA. Other family members from our church are Sis. Nancy (Knobloch) and Bro. Leon Baumgartner.

Those having surgery or requiring hospital stays are Sis. Marie Kieser (Bro. Charles) and Bro. Ron Hoerr. Please pray for Bro. Ron and family as his healing process is experiencing setbacks.

On April 5, Allison Cay was born to Bro. Adam and Sis. Whitney Ebert. Welcoming her home is big brother Odin, and grandparents, Bro. Tom and Sis. Diane Ebert and Bro. Nick and Sis. Suzanne Gutwein (W. Lafayette).

On a chilly Easter morning, we gathered to watch the sun rise as Elder Bro. John Lemman reminded us of what the Son has done for mankind. The call for repentance and conversion and songs of praise echoed off the mountains. Thank you to all who make our sunrise service possible.

"...if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever."

1 Peter 4:11

Elder Bro. John Lemman reminded us in a special afternoon Easter service of the responsibilities and privileges of a minister of the Gospel. The Phoenix church sought God's will and direction in electing a new minister and that brother was revealed to be Bro. Keith Hinrichsen (Sis. Tammy). Our prayers are with Bro. Keith, Sis. Tammy, Sis. Kelly and Bro. Joseph (Washington D.C.) as their family enters into this new area of service to the Lord.

Note of Thanks:

Our Dear Church Family,

On a recent Sunday morning as St. John 13 was read and meditated on, tears came to our eyes as our hearts were once again reminded and overwhelmed with thanksgiving for all of you and all your support through prayers, visits, cards, gifts, and so many services since my auto accident. We pray His abundant happiness, joy, and blessings upon you, His disciples, who exemplified His and your Christ like love to us in so many ways as we journey on.

Our Heartfelt Love & Thanks,

*Bro. Leon and Sis. Nancy
Baumgartner*

St. John 13:15,17,34,35

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT Denise Steidinger

Our congregation was blessed with the service of the following ministering brothers this past month: Bros. Ed Knecht (Silverton), Jim Koehl (San Diego), Matt Steffen (Princeville) and Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix). We appreciate their willingness and the fellowship with them and their wives/families.

We were blessed to hear the testimony of Rowena Furrer on Sunday, April 19, and welcome her back with open hearts and arms as she had her membership restored.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

I am thrilled to report that we had an engagement announcement in our little church recently. Those of you in larger congregations can't imagine how rare this is for us! It was a special day when Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA) was able to be here to announce the engagement of his daughter, Sis. Lauren, to Bro. Jamin Steffen. Jamin is a graduate student in pharmacy at the University of Arizona and Lauren is an undergraduate student studying pharmacy. We are so happy to be able to share in the joy and excitement this engagement brings. Many in the Tucson church are making plans to attend the wedding in June. We pray that Lauren and Jamin will draw even closer to God as they plan their wedding, but much more importantly as they prepare for their marriage. Our heartfelt love and congratulations to you both.

Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix) and Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand spent some time with us on a recent weekend to share the results of the minister survey for the Tucson church. God bless you both for your time and efforts.

Many of our winter visitors have gone and we are starting to have smaller numbers on Sundays and Wednesday evenings. The arrival and then departure of our winter visitors is always a time of adjustment for us; change doesn't seem to be to our liking, does it? We miss them already but pray they are home safely with their home churches and keeping us in their prayers as we are them. We are having warm days this week with temperatures in the 90's after a cool windy spell last week. We feel blessed as we are still hearing of snow and cold elsewhere.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA Catherine Brame

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside

the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil: my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever."

Psalm 23

April was a month where we all focused on dwelling in the house of the Lord forever. It was a month of joyous celebration as we praised God for the gift of salvation through the celebration of Communion; the celebration of new life in Christ; and, the celebration of the graduation of a brother into the heavenly kingdom of God.

We grieved the loss of our Bro. Bill Witzig (Sis. Mary) on March 27 following a long illness. Bro. Bill was a charter member of our congregation and will be greatly missed. We continue in prayer for the comfort of his family as they move through the loss of this dear husband, father, grandfather, uncle and friend.

April 4 found us celebrating Communion together. As we were reminded, Communion is for those who have submitted their lives to Christ and sought His pardon and His grace. It is for those of us who have sought His redemption and salvation. We thank Elder Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandy, Alto, MI) for his assistance with Communion and his willingness to share from our pulpit.

Sis. Cheryl Hermann provided a presentation on the World Relief medical team trip to Indonesia on Sunday, April 5, following services. We thank her for sharing her insights and information.

Our early Easter morning mountain song service was well attended, followed by breakfast. The hills are beautifully alive with spring growth

during this time of year and we are blessed to have this tradition. We were thankful to have Bro. Doug Wagenbach (Sis. Lillian, San Diego, CA) share the resurrection message for our Easter morning church service.

Aaron Yaussi is recovering following his surgery and we continue in prayer for him, looking forward to his return to our fellowship.

A Note from the Witzig Family:

Dear Friends,

We thank you for your show of kindness and concern for our family during Bill's illness and passing. While we grieve his loss in this present world, we know that he is rejoicing with the angels at being present with the Lord.

Sis. Mary Witzig and Family

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO Yasmin Koehl

As a smaller body of believers, we found an abundance of joy with visitors who have taken time to worship with us as well as the love and support we can feel and find within our own congregation.

This month has brought us many opportunities to rejoice as we've seen the Lord continue to shower His abundant grace and mercy.

We are overjoyed to have another convert in our midst. Kassendra Yen has heard God softly and tenderly knocking at the door of her heart. We praise God she has heeded His call and opened the door for Him. We pray she may feel the fervent love our congregation has toward her and her family, as well as the prayers we are lifting up on her behalf.

Our congregation has been richly blessed by the support, love and presence of Bro. Levi Wuethrich who has become a part of our lives and church here almost six months ago. His family, ministering Bro. Chris and Sis. Carla Wuethrich (St. Louis, MO) and his siblings, were all here visiting Bro. Levi. Our church thoroughly enjoyed getting to know his family and look forward to

many more visits, Lord willing. We especially were thankful for Bro. Chris' labors of love on our behalf as he brought forth the Word of God. May the Lord bless you, Bro. Chris, and keep you until we meet again.

"Who are they before God standing, Countless throngs in heavenly light?" We lift our prayers in thanksgiving that our convert, Brittney Wagenbach (Bro. Doug and Sis. Lillian), has found true peace and desires to one day stand before our heavenly Father, clothed in white and called a sister to Christ, if faithful to His Word she remains. We anticipate her baptism with joy and much prayer as she erects a covenant with the Lord, and that through her obedience to the Word, and love for Christ and the church, others may be convicted and also turn to the Lord in repentance.

As we look forward to a baptism, we also anticipate a wedding, Lord willing. Sis. Linda Fulop (Bro. Denes and Sis. Joy) was announced to Bro. Troy Steffen (Bro. Dean and Sis. Carol) of Belvidere, IL. We bring both Bro. Troy and Sis. Linda before God's throne in prayer as they, through faith, feel the Lord directing their lives as one and look forward to serving Him together. May we as a brotherhood turn to the Lord continually, be obedient to His Word in all things, and united serve our Lord and King so that we may also stand together in front of the throne of God with robes of white and crowns upon our heads and to feel the tender hand of God wiping the tears from our cheeks and welcoming us home.

KITCHENER, ONTARIO CANADA Johanna Fortenbacher

We want to thank Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) for coming here and serving us the beautiful Holy Communion.

This cup is the blood of my new
cov'nant,

Which for many sinners I have shed;
Therein lies the promise and the
power
of each one who unto sin is dead.
Hymns of Zion #26, vs. 4

Bro. Todd Graf (Akron, OH) came and shared a moving sermon to us.

Note of Thanks:

We want to thank everybody for the anniversary cards you gave. We were surprised we got so many! May God bless you all.

Bro. Vladimir and Sis. Margaret Fortenbacher

COLORADO, DENVER
Ann Gonglach

“For the body is not one member, but many.”

I Cor. 12:14

We had a blessed Easter season together, celebrating Christ's death and resurrection. The Sunday school and young group presented a wonderful program in Scripture and song to us and we enjoyed worshipping together on Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Bro. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend, IA) was here to minister to us again this year.

Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. (Sis. Donna, Morton, IL) from the Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services came to present information to us on the topics of Spiritual Gifts, Increasing in Love for One Another by Understanding Personality and A Christ-Centered Approach to Helping Others. He also talked to the young group about our self-worth in Christ.

We are thankful for ministering brothers who sacrifice their time to come to Denver and share God's Word with us. May God bless them and their families.

Little Josefynna Braun (Sarah) underwent another stomach surgery recently. She and her family have been in our prayers.

CONNECTICUT
ROCKVILLE
Amber Rocke
Laura Virkler

What's needful most keep well in mind,

Within His fold remaining.

Be eager for His bread refined,

Life's fount thy soul sustaining.

With faith in Him look heavenward:

Repentant seek His loving heart,

His arms for thee are open.

Zion's Harp #107

Many of us are out in our lawns or gardens making preparations for the new season upon us. We were encouraged in our Communion exhortation to do likewise in our spiritual walks of life. We look forward with great anticipation to share the Lord's Supper with each other in several weeks.

We rejoice with several of our converts as they have found peace with God and desire baptism. Our prayers are with Kevin Gottier (Guy and Sis. Beth) and Jane Schultz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Lois) as they prepare for this blessed moment in their lives. Lord willing, baptisms will be on Mother's Day.

We also rejoice with Rob and Amy Tarantino at the birth of their son, Boden Patrick. Kami is his older sister. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Harriet Zahner. May the Lord provide this family much grace as they undergo this transition, and continue to grant health and strength to both mother and child.

We were so blessed on Easter Sunday to have so many friends among us. As our congregation filled up, the singing was beautiful. We must have the faith that God continues to work in the souls of men. Also filling up our pews were the many loved ones who have returned from their extended stays in warmer climates. May they feel our love, and hearty welcome home.

Our prayers extend to Di Kupferschmid as she continues to recover from her surgery. Also recovering

from a recent accident is Kent Bahler (Bro. Phil and Sis. Michelle). May God continue to provide healing for them both.

“Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all.”

II Thessalonians 3:16

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer

Our caretakers for April are Bro. Howard and Sis. Louise Getz from Morton, IL.

Sis. Doreen Steffen reports a good response to last month's ad for caretakers for 2010. There are only a few months remaining; see her contact information in the Ministers' Book.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Tim Gerber (Sis. Wendy, Mansfield, OH), Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Sis. Bonnie, Bloomington, IL), Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda) and Bro. Dana Indermuhle (Sis. Joy), both from Sardis, OH; and Bro. Jerry Isch (Sis. Linda, Philadelphia, PA). Other visitors this month were from Tremont, and Forrest, IL; Rittman, Sardis and Smithville, OH and Morris, MN.

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 eve-

ning of fellowship and/or singing.

**FLORIDA
FORT LAUDERDALE**

Renee Mangold

We were thankful to have visiting ministers, Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL) and Bro. Mark Zimmerman (Sis. Cheryl, Eureka, IL) this past month. We pray that God will continue to provide blessings to all those who answer His call to service.

Our thanks to Bro. Joe and Sis. Shirley Braker for their service during the winter months. They are very appreciated by all of us.

We were inspired by God's Word during the Good Friday and Easter services and felt blessed to hear again the sacrifices our Lord made for all sinners and the wonderful hope of salvation for all those who answer His call. Our prayer is that many more loved ones will answer that call during this time of Grace. At the end of Easter day we gathered at the fellowship hall for our annual dinner/picnic.

**FLORIDA
NORTH FORT MYERS**

Victor Beer

Our small church has really been blessed with late winter visitors. They have been basking in our very mild spring weather, most days the temperature being in the 80's. However our annual very, very dry season is also with us, but that in turn has kept the mosquitoes down. We could hardly ask for more.

This last month our visiting minister was Elder Bro. Ted Witzig of Morton, Illinois, with his wife, Sis. Cindy. We were all very encouraged in being reminded by Bro. Ted and Bros. Marvin Steffen and Bill Masters sharing the wonderful story of our salvation. The great sacrifice of our Lord Jesus never grows old in meaning and the Holy Spirit's urging us to be all we can be in Jesus or heavenly sacrifice.

There has been a rash of health

problems in our congregation this month. Our 'Get Well' prayers have been for Sis Maxine Hodel, Sis. Mary Ann Stoller, Sis. Carol Bucher, Sis. Jeanie Haerr, Sis. Carolyn Siegle, Sis. Maxine Novotny, Bro. Norm Schock, Bro. Stan Vogel, Bro. Mel Getz, and Bro. Ed Gerber. Some are recovering and some are undergoing tests to find a solution to their problem. Sis. Carolyn writes: I wish to express my sincere and deep appreciation for all the prayers, cards, flowers and concern since my fall, surgery and therapy. I can never convey how thankful I am for all the love and support I received. May God bless each one.

On Easter Sunday, we served brunch instead of lunch and had a blessed day of hearing the Easter story and fellowshiping with each other. We can never overdo showing God our appreciation for the sacrifice of His Son and for Jesus who suffered and died for us so that we can have the promise of everlasting life if we avail ourselves of the opportunity to receive that blessing! What better time to make that commitment than at Easter! However, today is a good day to do that, too!

**FLORIDA, SARASOTA
DiAnne Brown**

Happy May Greetings! It's the time of new beginnings...animal babies peeping and bleating, flowers stretching to wake and bloom, a tender green sprout breaking through the sod. What a wonderful world.

Recently we heard about when King Saul was hunting David and stopped to rest in a cave (1 Sam. 24). Amazingly, David and his men were already hidden deep within the cave, seeking refuge from Saul. As the king slept, David cut a remnant from his skirt. The men pressured David to kill the king but instead, he felt remorse over even cutting the garment. Later, David approached Saul, bowed deeply and showed him the remnant. The king knew his life was spared and proclaimed that David

would become king.

The message of restraint is so powerful. David might have killed King Saul, but his willingness to use self-control and let God work brought greater victory. We saw how God laid David's enemy at his feet and David's restraint pleased God. We must wonder how many times we take immediate victory and eliminate the opportunity for a greater victory, had we only waited upon God.

Communion was shared on Saturday, March 28, with Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann, Elder Bro. Paul Messner and Bro. Jeff Streitmatter leading the service. It's always special, but the nearness of the Easter holiday gave an added reverence.

A "Mystery Dinner" was given on Sunday, April 5, in the fellowship hall. What a blessed time of fellowship. It's hard to tell who enjoyed it more...the children, the diners or the servers. If the smiles and laughter are an indication, it must be a tie between all three. Special thanks to Sis. Paulette Cochran and all who made this evening such a success.

Saturday, April 11, was the Annul Sunday School picnic and it was a joyful blessing to all be able to attend. The children enjoyed an egg hunt, fun and games and had a wonderful time of fellowship with each other. There was visiting for the adults and delicious food for everyone. Our Sunday school group always does an exceptional job of planning this celebration.

Singles Bible Study was held at the home of Sis. Deborah Sauder on Saturday, April 18. They continued to study the book of John and shared refreshments. We pray for God's continued blessing upon this group and know it will do much to develop stronger ties between these dear brothers and sisters. Bros. Dale Eisenmann and Jeff Streitmatter provided leadership for the meeting.

Hospital patients over the last month included Bro. Terry (Sis. Beverly) Miller, Bro. Art (Sis. Marie)

Keller, Stephen Roscher and Sis. Maria Bartoni. All have returned home and are recovering nicely. Please keep them in your prayers. A card of encouragement would mean so much to Sis. Maria and you can write to her at: 145 Poinciana Drive, Ellenton FL 34243.

Visiting ministers this month included Elder Bros. Ted Witzig, Sr. (Sis. Cindy, Morton, IL), Paul Messner (Sis. Jan, Winthrop, MN), Bros. Clint Schmidt (Sis. Magdalena, Winthrop, MN), Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI), and Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL). We have been fed richly on the Word through your efforts and are so grateful for your service to the Sarasota church.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA Melinda Gramm

“Comfort ye, Comfort ye my people, saith your God... The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain...”

Isaiah 40:1,3-4

As we celebrated the Easter season, I was amazed how everything pointed to our unchanging Lord's ultimate sacrifice. The above verse seemed a bit out of place the day of our Sunday School Easter program, but as we searched deeper, a whole new outlook was found! From heaven, God has sent the Lord Jesus to comfort us. While it seems elementary enough, when we search deeper a more startling discovery is found!

You see, God sent Jesus to be our ultimate Comforter. We have the opportunity to pour out our hearts, lives, and thoughts to someone who will forgive, forget, and care about us. Yet, what are we doing with this comfort, promise, and joy? I have to think of the parable

Jesus told in which a man gave talents to three of his servants. (Matthew 25:14-30). What are we doing with the comfort we have been given through God's only Son? Our Heavenly Father is ready to do mighty things, but He needs people to do them! There are so many hurting people and so much to do. The Lord just needs hands and feet to spread the good news and share the love!

We were blessed to have two visiting ministers this month, Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha) and Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Chicago).

Our prayers have been coveted by Marie Kieser this month, as she underwent foot surgery. We are praying for an easy road of recovery!

God has blessed us so much this month! We are thrilled to announce that we have another church family! Bro. Doug, Sis. Kary Mangers, and their children, Alexia and Brayden, are spending a few months in Georgia and are joining our small congregation.

Our church is growing in another way as well — we are looking forward to baptisms at the end of May! Brad and Stephanie West, Benjamin Lindberg, and Lydia Lindberg eagerly await baptism.

We recently voted Bro. Mark and Sis. Julie Maibach as Sunday School teachers, Bro. John Brewer Jr. as a trustee and Sis. Brenda Stoller on the kitchen committee. It takes all parts of the body to make it run smoothly and we appreciate willing laborers.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

Jenn Johnson

Doreen Moser

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the earth hear His voice!

On March 21, we were thankful for the opportunity to partake of Holy Communion together as a congregation. Much thanks to Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Sis. Nancy, Elgin, IL) and Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary Ann, Fairbury, IL) as they were with us

during this wonderful time when we remembered the death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the people rejoice!

April 5 was the day of our Sunday School Easter program. It's always amazing how children have a way of expressing so innocently the love of our Lord Jesus through simple songs and verses. What a wonderful blessing!

O come to the Father thro' Jesus the Son,

Our small congregation is thankful that Daniel Martin (Megan) (son of Bro. Doug and Sis. Karen Martin, Eureka, IL) has received the grace needed to begin his repentance. May the Lord grant him much more grace as he begins on this new pathway.

And give Him the glory,

April 18-19 our church was overflowing with many from other congregations as we gathered to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of our new Bro. Derek Wettstein (Bro. Chad and Sis. Jan). Thanks to Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Sis. Nancy, Elgin, IL), Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sara, Bloomington, IL), Bro. Kerwin Edelman (Sis. Sara, Athens, AL), Bro. Dave Steffen (Sis. Linda, Elgin, IL), and Bro. Gary Anliker (Sis. Edie, Elgin, IL) for sharing in Derek's special weekend. It's wonderful to have such a full church and to meet and greet those of like mind and faith.

*Great things He hath done.
Gospel Hymns #813*

Our Bro. Troy Steffen's (Bro. Dean and Sis. Carol) engagement to Sis. Linda Fulop (Bro. Denes and Sis. Joy) from San Diego, CA, was announced April 19 as well. We wish them many blessings in their time of engagement

as they prepare to become one in the Lord.

**ILLINOIS
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL**

**Jacki Masters
Alissa Kieser**

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

We were blessed to have several visiting ministers with us this month. Bro. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN), Bro. Scott Wegman (Taylor, MO), and Bro. Darren Plattner (Champaign) visited our congregation this month. Thank you for your willingness to serve.

Our congregation rejoices with Bro. Zack and Sis. Caesy Sauder at the birth of their daughter, Shea Emma. She joins big brother Luke and big sister Reese. Shea's grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Jean O'Shea (Chicago) and Bro. Ed and Sis. Bonnie Sauder (Roanoke).

Our thoughts and prayers are extended to several in our church family at the recent loss of a loved one. Our hearts go out to Sis. Laura Kieser (Bro. Bob) at the loss of her father, Bro. Lee Kuenzi (Silverton, OR). Bro. Lee was also the grandfather of Bro. Joe Kieser (Sis. Carrie) and Sis. Marie Stork (Bro. Mike) and beloved great-grandfather of their children. We will continue to pray for your family. We also hold Larry Kupferschmid (Sis. Sandy - dec.) in our prayers at the recent loss of his mother, Sis. Margaret Kupferschmid (Cissna Park). We are also saddened to hear of the passing of Bro. Elmer Bachtold (Forrest), father of Sis. Shirley Denick (Bro. Bill). We trust that the peace of our Heavenly Father will comfort you

during your time of loss.

Finally, we pray for the continuing recovery of Sis. Tillie Nussbaum after a recent stay in the hospital. We pray that God's healing hand would continue to help you through this time.

**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Phil and Donna Nenadov**

"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will no wise cast out."

John 6:37

It is this promise that allowed our converts to bring forth their testimony before our church. They believed that the Lord called them and they would not be cast out if they would come to Him. It is a blessing to greet our new Bro. Cory Joos and Sis. Kayla Kupferschmid in the Lord. Bro. Cory's parents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jenny, and Sis. Kayla's parents are Bro. Brad and Sis. Cheryl.

Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Sis. Karol, Cissna Park) and Bros. Ron Joos (Sis. Christy, Bloomfield) and Glen Braker (Sis. Audrey, Princeville) were here for the baptisms. Other visiting ministers this month were Bros. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Lisa, Eureka) and Greg Stoller (Sis. Jill, Forrest).

Jared Levi was born into the family of Bro. Matt and Sis. Tracy Kieser. Jared's siblings are Erica, Erin, Joel, Emma, James, and Eva. His grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Wilma Kieser, and Claude White (Indianapolis) and Sis. Gloria White (Princeville).

Our thoughts and prayers are with Geri Kieser (Joe) in the loss of her father, Rodolfo Arguelles (Union City, CA).

God be with you 'til we meet again.

**ILLINOIS, CHICAGO
Rachel Meyer**

Greetings from Chicago. We extend our sympathy to Sis. Lois and Bro. Boyd Metzger upon the loss of Sis. Lois's

brother, Bro. Bill Witzig from Altadena, CA. May God provide comfort.

Cassandra Mae Rassi was born prematurely at 20 weeks and went to be with the Lord. We pray for God's comfort for her parents, Bro. Nathan and Sis. Michelle Rassi from St. Louis, and her grandparents, Bro. Walt and Sis. Lynda Beery (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla Rassi.

On March 28-29 we took our Annual Bus Trip to Akron, OH. We were royally hosted by dear brothers and sisters there - mostly all new friends for us! We thank the Akron, OH, church for their love, kindness and hospitality and hope they feel a kinship with our congregation, as we do with theirs.

Ashlyn Elizabeth Stoller arrived Sunday morning, March 29. Bro. Doug and Sis. Krista Stoller are thrilled first-time parents. Praise God for miracles taking place every day.

On April 1, Bro. Tim Sauder took time from his busy schedule to share a Gateway Woods presentation with us. We thank him for the insight into the many ministries they have and how lives are changed.

As we all celebrated the Easter weekend April 10-12, we were reminded that in 2009 the story of Christ's sacrifice for every life still applies. Keep praying. As long as there is life, there is hope.

**ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN
Jackie Eisenmann**

"A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity."

Proverbs 17:17

The weekend of March 28-29 was our Bible class "Friends Invite". The theme was centered on friendship and Proverbs 17:17. It was a great turnout with 9 different Bible classes represented from Illinois and Indiana. We hope the students made friendships that will last a life time, and learned

more about one of the blessings of our church, fellowship.

"Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them. And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre."

Luke 24:1-2

On Sunday, April 5, the Sunday school students presented the Easter program to us entitled "Journey through the Heart of Easter". As always, the children's songs and recitations were very inspiring to us. We want to thank the students for their efforts in blessing our church.

Visiting ministers this month have been Bro. Brent Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO) on Sunday, March 29, and Bro. Alan Schambach (Remington, IN) on Sunday, April 12. Wednesday, April 15, Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL) was here to present a Bible study based upon Proverbs 3:5-6. We want to thank each one of these brothers for their willingness to preach the Word of God to us. May God richly bless each one!

"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

Proverbs 3:5-6

We have two new converts who are "trusting in the Lord with all their hearts"! We are rejoicing that Laura Tucker (John and Mary) and Joel Furrer (Bro. Samuel and Sis. Pamela) have begun their repentance and walk with the Lord. We ask that God would be near them as they begin on this spiritual journey, and that He would "direct their paths".

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Vickie Maul

Janie Waldbeser

Once again we shared an evening of

blessing at the Fellowship Hall for World Relief Family Night. Lots of hands joined together to help those in need.

March 29 was a blessed day for our Invite a Guest potluck. We had many loved ones here to enjoy the day, including Bro. Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA) to bring forth the Word of Life with us. Also sharing the pulpit this month were Bro. Dan Moser (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN). We thank them for their efforts on our behalf.

On the evening of Palm Sunday, we were reminded in a special way of what Christ did for us on Calvary as the Sunday School students brought to us the Easter Story through song and memory verses.

We thank Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN) for assisting our Elder Bro. Tom Stock in sharing the Memorandum with us on March 21. Also, we appreciate the efforts of Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL) for helping serve the Lord's Supper on April 8. We thank them for reminding us of the ultimate price that Jesus paid for each one of us on that old rugged cross, that we can have a hope of a home in Heaven some day.

Bro. Les (Sis. Joyce) Stock and Curt (Sis. Bev) Knapp spent time in the hospital this month. We are thankful for God's healing hand as they recover.

Our April topical Bible presentation was brought to us by Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH). His topic was on "Striving for Perfection". We appreciate his labors as he gave us wise instruction from the Word.

Joyfully, joyfully onward I move,
Bound for the land of bright spirits
above...

Hymns of Zion #239

We bid our last farewell to our Sis. Margaret Kupferschmid as she has gone to her eternal home. We extend our sympathy to her family, Larry Kupferschmid (Shirley, IL), Bro. Robert and Sis. Sue Beebe (South Bend,

IN), Bro. Bob and Sis. Sally Rinkenberger (Forrest, IL) and Doug and Becky Trunnell (Waterloo, IA). Also surviving are 17 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren. We pray God will comfort and strengthen them as they cherish the memories of their loved one.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Holly Zobrist

The Father's Hand

While through this changing world below

I would not choose my path to go;
'Tis Father's hand that leadeth me;
Then O how safe His child must be.

Sometimes we walk in sunshine bright,
Sometimes in darkness of the night,
Sometimes the way I cannot see
But Father's hand still leadeth me.

Sometimes there seems no way to take,
But Father's hand a way doth make.
Sometimes I hear Him gently say,
Come follow me; this is the way.

Why should I mind the way I go?
His way is best for me, I know.
He is my strength, my truth, my way,
He is my comfort, rod and stay.

So on we travel hand in hand,
Bound for that heavenly promise land
Always through Eternity,
I'll praise His name for leading me.

—*Ida C. Cornett*

This poem has always meant a lot to me. I find it especially fitting when it comes to the decision of marriage. His way is always best. We are so blessed to be a part of a church that encourages us to seek God's will when seeking for a mate instead of our own. Bro. Ross Blunier (Bro. Ted and Sis. Donna, Eureka) and Sis. Whitney Anderson (Bro. Jon and Sis. Cyndee) have both felt the Lord's leading to become one in Christ. We rejoice with them and have confidence that God will be so near to them

as they take this step of faith.

Our dear friends, Jessica Dietrich (Bro. Tim and Sis. Sandy) and Jennifer Luthi (Bro. Troy and Sis. Vanessa), felt the Father's hand of peace as they were proved and baptized this past month. We are thankful to have two more become a part of our precious brotherhood.

We are thankful for the visiting ministers we've had this month. They are Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sara, Bloomington), Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Sis. Becky, Lamar), Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha), and Bro. Brent Kellenberger (Sis. Beth, Kansas City).

Sis. Nancy Schrock had knee surgery. We're thankful that she has recovered nicely.

Our prayers are with those who've lost loved ones this past month. Kent (Sis. Crystal) Remmert's mom passed away. Also, Sis. Gerri Schrock (Bro. Steve) lost her sister, Phyllis Hastings. May God be near them during this time.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

**Amy Gasser
Miriam Gasser**

We thank Bro. Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL) for leading the services on Palm Sunday and Bro. Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL) for conducting the Good Friday service. Our minds were truly stirred during the meditation that evening.

The Sunday School Easter program was presented the evening of April 5. It was evident that students, parents, and teachers put their hearts into preparing for this special event and time of remembrance. " 'Tis not the manger, but the cross, that sets the spirit free."

Bro. Bob and Sis. Jeanne Schambach's daughter, Megan Schmidgall (Brad), announced the birth of little Anika Mae on March 21. Brad, Megan, Broderick, and Anika live in Brønderslev, Denmark. Sis. Jeanne flew overseas to help the family for a week, and Ron and Jane Schmidgall were able to visit their new grand-

daughter soon afterwards.

Sis. Kathy Stefan was discharged from the hospital during the second week in April and transferred to Rosewood Care Center. We were encouraged by her good spirits and hope that she will eventually regain her mobility. Bro. Dave Martin (Sis. Jean) has been quite ill with pancreatitis and spent some time at Mayo Clinic. We hope and pray for his healing.

The appointed span for three dear souls was reached within the past month. Sis. Doris Rocke (Bro. Norman) of Eureka, IL, passed away March 16. She was a sister of Bro. Al (Sis. Joan) and Bob (Jean) Scheitlin of Elgin. Verona Schock departed this life on April 1 and leaves a large family, including eight siblings. Three of these are Bro. Elvis Kellenberger (Sis. Marilyn), Bro. Keith Kellenberger (Sis. Ida), and Sis. Kathy Schifferer (Bro. Tom). Katharina Mohr passed from this life on April 10, having spent her final weeks at Resthaven. She was a sister-in-law of Bro. John Klein and an aunt of Otto Klein. We extend our sympathies to the families who experienced the loss of their loved ones.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

**Dee Baer
Jodi Blunier**

We were privileged to hold baptismal services and welcome Bro. Zachary and Sis. Lilly Schmidgall (Bro. Mark and Sis. Lisa) and Bro. Colin Knapp (Bro. Steve and Sis. Lori) into our brotherhood. God's grace is still available and we thank Him for the miracle of salvation and conversion. We appreciate Elder Bro. Chuck Sauder (Tremont) for assisting Bro. Ervin and Bro. Steve.

Other new additions in our church are William Jacob Wiegand (Bro. Jake and Sis. T. Anne). His sisters are Anna, Emma, Sara, Ella, and Maria, and grandparents are Dale and Sis. Freidora Wiegand and Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy Rudin (Forrest). Blake Daniel Wiegand (Bro. Mark and Sis.

Danielle) joined his brother Travis. Grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Jane Wiegand and Bro. Kent and Sis. Chris Leman.

Sis. Lucy Meiss (Bro. Trent) and Sis. Nadine Edelman (Bro. Keith) were saddened at the death of their father, Bro. Lee Kuenzi (Sis. Janet) of Silverton, OR.

Those who experienced hospital stays were Bro. Glenn Hackenjos (Sis. Kay), Sis. Kay Hackenjos (Bro. Glenn), Bro. Milt Leman (Sis. Gerry), Bro. Brent Blunier (Sis. Trudy), Sis. Madelyn Rothgeb and Bro. Joel Banwart (Sis. Sonia).

Our thanks to visiting ministers: Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH), Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH), Bro. Tony Manz (Junction, OH), Bro. Paul Schmidgall (Morris, MN), Bro. Dale Banwart (Congerville), Bro. Craig Stickling (Peoria) and Bro. Mike Ursu (Kitchener, ON). We appreciate the refreshing that comes from the inspired Word of God.

We were blessed to partake of Holy Communion and thank Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS) for spending the weekend with us.

Congratulations to our High School graduates for 2009: Craig Blunier (Bro. Myron and Sis. Elaine), Sis. Bethany Carr (Bro. Tim and Sis. Donna), Bro. Gabriel Knapp (Bro. Steve and Sis. Lori), Sis. Carly Knecht (Bro. Mike and Sis. Lisa), Bro. Joseph Leman (Bro. Ed and Sis. Ruth), Sis. Becca Leman (Bro. Chris and Sis. Marlene), Stacy Martin (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Sheri), Emily Schmidgall (Bro. Mark and Sis. Lisa), Bro. Cody Schumacher (Bro. Dan and Sis. Heidi) and convert Katie Wiegand (Bro. Andy and Sis. Vickie).

Notes of Thanks:

To our dear friends, Brothers and Sisters in faith,

Our family and I would like to sincerely thank you for the overwhelming love and support during my wife, Sis. Jane's, long illness and now, during our time of adjustment.

The death of a true believer is a

beautiful gate; a release to something far better. We pray the Lord will richly bless each of you.

Bro. Jim Stoller

Bro. Lowell and Sis. Molly Stoller

Isaac and Warren

I want to express my sincere thanks for all the deeds of kindness shown to us following my knee surgery. May God bless each of you for all your love and prayers.

Sis. Edie (Bro. Tom) Stoller

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Elizabeth Fehr

Anna Schmidgall

It was good to be reminded of the suffering, death, and glorious resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ at the Sunday School Easter Program.

Bro. Karl and Sis. Carrie Steidinger, along with Addison, welcome Maddox Dean to their family. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Randy and Sis. Dawn Steidinger and Bro. Chris and Sis. Kay Steffen.

Sis. Jennifer Kaisner (Bro. Don and Sis. Leona) and Bro. Mike Feuchtenberger (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Karen) of Morris, MN, were announced to be married. We pray for God's richest blessings as they become one in Him.

We are always thankful for visiting ministers. Bros. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), Paul Schmidgall (Morris, MN), Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), Glen Braker (Princeville, IL), Dennis Rassi (Austin, TX), and Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA) shared God's Word with us this month.

Our convert, Wayne Davis, and his dear wife, Verla, celebrated 60 years of marriage.

Bros. Dick Wiegand and Duane Kilgus spent time in the hospital. Our prayers are with them for their continued healing.

Note of Thanks:

I wish to thank all of you who remembered me during my recent illness

and surgery. May God be your rich Rewarder.

Helen Fehr

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Jill Wenger

Lisa Aberle

We are thankful to hear of a new convert. Zachary Roth (Bro. Ken and Sis. Deb) has turned his back on the world and begun his repentance. May he feel love of the brotherhood and the nearness of God as he learns to follow the Lord.

We appreciated hearing the testimonies of our fellow pilgrims, Bro. David and Sis. Holly Mueller, on March 25. Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Marvin for that blessed evening. Other visiting ministers this month were Bros. Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL), Dan Koch (Tremont, IL) and Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN).

Entering a new chapter in their lives are our high school graduates. They are convert Jenna Dotterer (Sis. Kathy and the late Bro. Wendell), Timothy Gerber (Bro. Alan and Sis. Marcia), Sis. Amy Gutwein (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Wendy), Josh Kaeb (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Stephanie), Reuben Leman (Bro. Fred and Sis. Brenda), convert Larissa Steidinger (Bro. Glen and Sis. Holly), and Jesse Zimmerman (Bro. Kent and Sis. Paulette).

Also beginning a new chapter are Bro. Ben Stoller (Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill) and Sis. Valerie Schaffer (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Martha) as their engagement was announced recently. May the Lord bless them during this time.

Aubrey Jayne, born on March 20, was welcomed home by Kevin and Jayne Eisenmann and big brother, Brady. Bro. John and Sis. Bev Eisenmann are her grandparents.

We have had several people in the hospital this month. Sis. LaVonne Lanz (Bro. Elmer) has endured yet another hospital stay. Other hospital patients were Bro. Wilbur Wiegand (Sis. Ruth), Sis. Janice Steffen (Bro. Ken),

Sis. Louise Zimmerman (Bro. Les), Bro. Brian Ricketts (Sis. Marie), and Bro. Earl Gerber (Sis. Esther). Our prayers continue for Bro. Larry (Sis. Donna) Bachman who is still contending with illness but has been able to assemble with us recently.

Bro. Brian Ricketts (Sis. Marie) has had surgery and now faces treatment for a serious brain tumor. We pray for God's healing where it can be His will and pray for the Ricketts family as they have many decisions to make.

We said farewell to Bro. Joel and Sis. Heidi Beard and their family as they moved to Sardis, OH. We wish them God's blessings in their new home and will miss their assembling with us.

We also said our earthly farewells to our Bro. Elmer Bachtold who passed away on March 31, leaving behind his children, Sis. Shirley Denick (Bro. Bill, Bloomington, IL), Sharon Metz (Donald, Northville, MI), Jerry Bachtold (Beverly, Forrest), Verna Feely (Thomas, Chatsworth, IL), Janice Wilson (Jack, Streator, IL), and Sis. Linda Kinder (Bro. Ronald, Hudson, IL); 17 grandchildren; 32 great-grandchildren; four step great-grandchildren; three sisters, Sis. Nettie Kyburz (Forrest), Sis. Laura Kupferschmid (Eureka, IL), and Sis. Janita Koehl (Bro. Leroy, Forrest); and one brother, Bro. Willis Bachtold (Sis. Elsie, Fairbury, IL).

Also saying farewell to a loved one was our Sis. LaVonne Teubel (Bro. John) as her father, Bro. Lee Kuenzi (Sis. Janet, Silverton, OR), finished his earthly race on April 14. We also extend our sympathy to Sis. Sally Rinkenberger (Bro. Bob) on the loss of her mother, Sis. Margaret Kupferschmid, formerly of Cissna Park. She had resided at Fairview Haven Nursing Home, Fairbury, in recent years. Our prayers extend to all of the families who have lost loved ones this month.

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

We are thankful that Bro. Mark Wiegand (Sandy) found God's grace to surrender his life to our Lord during his fight with cancer. He was baptized the night before he went to his Eternal Home. Our sympathies are with his dear wife, Sandy; his children, Sonya (Mark), Sarah, Chad, Sheri (Jerry), Clayton; his grandchildren; brothers, Bro. Steve (Sis. Mary), and Dave (Janet). May God comfort each one as only He can.

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

I Cor. 11:24-25

On Good Friday we gathered for a quiet evening and remembered the sacrifice our Lord made for each of us. We were served Holy Communion by our Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) and Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Sis. Debbie, Peoria, IL). We thank them as we could experience the blessings of God during this solemn occasion.

Also serving us on the pulpit this month were Elder Bro. Chuck Sauder (Tremont, IL) and Bros. Ed Fritz (Sis. Sally, Washington, IL), Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH), Matt Kaufmann (Sis. Rebekah, Bloomington, IL), Tim Hohulin (Sis. Cathy, Roanoke, IL), Dennis Kaufmann (Sis. Bonnie, Bloomington, IL) and Brian Huber (Sis. Jacki, Francesville, IN). We thank them for their service to us and wish them God's blessings.

Our Easter program was held on Palm Sunday. All of the Sunday School students gathered together and sang praises to God. We want to express our

appreciation to each of them as well as the teachers. It truly was a blessing, and to be reminded of the Easter story again.

Our congregation is rejoicing with Sarah Melton who has given her heart to the Lord. We are so thankful she has answered His call and wishes to become a child of the King. We trust that God will guide her as she becomes established in His service.

Two engagements have been made known. Mark Wirtz and Sarah Fabiano are planning a June wedding. Parents of this couple are Bro. Mike and Sis. Lila Wirtz, and David and Judy Fabiano of Rockford, IL.

Also looking forward to a life together are Jennica Joos and Ryan Voorhees. Their parents are Loren and Elise Joos, and Martin and Carol Voorhees, Washington, IL. May God's blessings be felt as wedding plans are made.

Prayers and encouragement are important for loved ones going through a trial. Sis. Susie Wyss is undergoing treatments for an illness. Also, Bro. Bob Schieler spent some time in the hospital. We pray that God will strengthen them and soon they will be assembling with us again.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to say thank you for the meals, flowers, cards, phone calls, visits and sunshine box given to me since my surgery. The many prayers on my behalf are especially appreciated. It is a beautiful example of God's love in action! May God bless you!

Love,

Sis. Joyce (Bro. Wes) Hohulin

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY**Perry A. Klopfenstein**

We are surely glad to report that four souls were baptized, and they are all young men. We count them as our new brothers in faith: Brothers John Hall, Taylor Wettstein, Keith Ringger, and Brandon Wiegand. May God be

with them. Bro. Hall lives in Minonk and did not grow up in our church. May God draw many more. By the end of April, at least six new souls had begun their repentance.

Visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman and Bros. Ed Sauder and Wayne Leman (all of Roanoke), and Bro. Mark Wettstein (LaCrosse, IN).

Bro. Jamin Ringger was announced to marry Sis. Whitney Menold of Princeville. Their wedding date is set for July 21. He is the son of Bro. Stan and Sis. Coleen Ringger, Gridley. Her parents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Nancy Menold, Princeville.

Wendy Stoller is engaged to Josh Schick of Washington. She is the daughter of Bro. Lynn and Sis. Elaine Stoller. His parents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Carol Schick of the Washington congregation. They plan to marry on September 6.

At the end of April we had a lot of rain and by month's end virtually no acreage of corn and beans were planted. Thus, the planting season was compacted into a tight time frame. Each Spring season is different for farmers. It's all in God's hands. Although two generations ago, a sizable portion of our membership consisted of farmers, that has changed and fewer and fewer among us are in farming.

Sis. Vicki Hodel had surgery scheduled for May 8, for her serious illness. May God be with her, and may His presence be felt daily.

The recent surge in souls repenting here in Gridley is heartening. Amid discouragements in our nation — regarding economics and morality — it is good to know that God is still merciful in calling sinners, and by His grace some still respond to His voice. The old nature of many holds them in the enemy's grip, and multitudes put off turning to the Lord. May we as God's children be prayerful daily (and with diligence) for those who delay a repentance toward God, and instead flounder in darkness on life's pathways.

On May 1, Sis. Maggie Schrenk be-

gan serving on the African Mercy ship as a surgical ward nurse. The ship was docked in Benin in West Africa, and she will serve for a period of seven weeks.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Annette Tanner

Julie Bahr

Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley) and Elder Bro. William Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) visited and brought the Gospel message to us this month. Bro. Fred Funk gave the topic "As the Days of Noah Were" for our Wednesday evening Family Worship Night. We are deeply grateful for these ministering Brothers' efforts to feed us God's Holy Word.

A question addressed to a group of graduating seniors was, "Today, what would you say is your greatest feeling?" Accomplishment was one answer, the other was relief! Accomplishment in the academics they had achieved; and relief in knowing they had freedom from sin through Christ. What a priceless treasure for one to recognize! This year's graduating seniors are: Katelyn Bahr (Bro. Brian and Sis. Julie), Trevor Barth (Bro. Bob and Sis. Jean), Bro. Chad Braker (Bro. Brent and Sis. Becky), Lynnae Braker (Bro. Brad and Sis. Debra), Courtney Kaiser (Bro. Allen and Sis. Brenda), Lacey Krantz (Greg and Stacey), Bro. Clinton Leman (Bro. Tim and Sis. Beth), and Paige Sauder (Bro. John and Sis. Peg).

April 5 was our all church Easter program entitled "Heaven Is a Wonderful Place". The Mortonaires Men's group, Sunday school groups, Timber Ridge Special Needs group, and Hearts of Praise trio all gave of themselves to share the Easter message in song and Scripture. On the morning of April 12 to celebrate the joyous occasion that "Our Lord Is Risen", many joined together for a Easter Sunrise Breakfast and Service at the Fellowship Hall.

March 7, Bro. Ken and Sis. Jackie Babin welcomed a new grandson. Caleb Scott Babin was born to first-time parents, Jason and Amanda Babin. We

are thankful for the continuing progress little Caleb is making after a premature birth.

March 29, Bro. Jan and Sis. Glenda Neukomm welcomed their first grandchild. Baby girl Adalai Aver Guingrich was born to Bro. Traever and Sis. Andrea. Bro. Dan and Sis. Sandy Guingrich (Indianapolis) are the paternal grandparents.

Bro. Bill Witzig (Sis. Mary) from Altadena, CA, passed away. He is the brother to our Bro. Harold (Sis. Dorothy) Witzig.

Daniel Schoenbein, Austin, TX, passed away at age 45. Daniel would attend Morton church when visiting in Morton. He is survived by his father, Irvin, and two sisters, Beverly Schoenbein and Michelle (Mike) Walker from Morton.

On April 20, Sis. Sherrill Jones peacefully went to her Heavenly Home. Surviving are her three sons: Bro. Ron (Sis. Elizabeth), Bro. Steve (Sis. Susie) and Dave (Sherry) Jones. Our love and sympathy is extended to each one.

Note of Thanks:

Our family wishes to express our deepest, heartfelt thanks for the love shown to us during the passing of our loved one, Sis. Mary Phillips. Whether it was a card, food, phone call, visit, or coveted prayer, it was all greatly appreciated. Also, a special thank you to the church ministers for their comforting words and prayers. God bless you.

Bro. Bob and Peggy Joos and family

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Pam Fritzenmeier

Our Peoria Bible Class hosted Washington and Indianapolis Bible Classes the weekend of March 21-22. Bro. Jeff Thames (Sis. Brenda, Washington) spoke to these young people Sunday afternoon. For our April monthly family night, Bro. Kevin Knapp (Sis. Dixie, Bloomington) ministered about "The Road to Emmaus". Thank you for your willingness to be

used by the Holy Spirit for our spiritual benefit.

Bro. Dwayne (Sis. Mary Lou) Bowald's sister, Sharon Remmert, passed away on March 20. Sis. Julia Dapper passed away March 19. Please keep these dear families in your prayers.

We are thankful to have a new convert, Elliot (Jerrey) Harper. His grandparents are Bro. Alvin and Sis. Carol Beutel of the Tremont congregation, as are his aunt and uncle, Sis. Colleen and Bro. Mark Moser. Jerrey's uncle is Bro. Dan Beutel, Eureka.

Sunday, March 29, was our Sunday School Easter program. Many visiting family members joined in listening to the sweet voices speaking and singing praises in celebration of Christ's victory over death. The following Sunday was our Communion service. How thankful we are for these yearly reminders of the great value of the blood of Jesus.

Baby boys have blessed two homes this past month. Bro. Ken and Sis. Stephanie Ober, Kenny and Isaac, welcomed Samuel John on March 20. His grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Pam Ober and Bro. Steve and Sis. Barb Pflederer (Tremont). Peter and Katie Goddard are first-time parents of Samuel Michael, born March 24. Grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Susan Herman, and Greg and Paula Goddard.

Four converts have been announced for testimonies and baptism on April 25 and 26. They include Caleb Hoerr (Bro. Don and Sis. Jackie) and Alexandra, B.J., and Michel Elsasser (children of Bro. Brian and Mary). Let's remember to pray for all our converts.

Sis. Mardell (Bro. Melvin) Plattner and Sis. Eldora (Bro. Wilbur) Hoerr have spent time in the hospital and need our prayers.

Continue to pray for Bro. David Sceggel and Bro. Jonathan Aupperle in Magdalena and Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard and family in Haiti. A Peoria work team recently put a roof on a school and repaired and painted the

Haitian's church roof. They also helped Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan with their new house painting, electric, and installing cabinets.

Berean Prison Ministry hosted Ference Simon and Gyuri Doczi for ten days in March to learn more about Berean Ministries. Ference is the pastor of the Gypsy church that was started from a Gypsy who converted in one of the prisons where the Berean Bible Studies are held. Gyuri is the leader of one of the prisons in Romania where Berean conducts Bible Studies. The men visited several prisons and our church. There are currently ten prisons in Romania that Berean is conducting Bible Studies in.

The believers in India are facing persecution and are not able to conduct worship services. Remember RGMMI, their pastors and evangelists, and Dr. Parkhe and family during this difficult time.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank everyone who prayed for us. Prayer is a wonderful way to show love for one another. The Lord has heard and answered in wondrous ways, lifting our spirits and providing our medical team the correct course of treatment, which resulted in a necrotic (dead) primary lesion and no new cancerous lesions. Praise the Lord! Chemo treatments are continuing, to eliminate the possibility of any other cancer cells. We thank our Lord, the Master Physician, for His healing and trust He will continue to answer our prayers. Thank you again from the bottom of our hearts. God bless you!

Bro. Bob and Sis. Betty Miller

Mark and Sis. Pam, Dustin and Ted Fritzenmeier just returned from Japan, visiting my sister, Sis. Jana and Bro. Andrew Klaus and family. We wish to thank all those from Shioda and Tokyo churches for their kind and generous hospitality shown during our stay. How blessed we were to witness the love of Jesus half way around the world.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Connie Christ
Linda Joos

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

I Cor. 11:26

On March 28 we remembered our Lord's suffering and death as we partook of Holy Communion. We appreciate Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) being with us that evening to share with us.

The next day Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) was our visiting minister. We always appreciate his visits and invite him any time.

Recovering at home after surgery is Chuck (Linda) Streitmatter, and Sis. Joy (Bro. Ryan) Hoerr is healing from a leg injury received in a fall. May God be near them during this time.

Tiffany Wieland (Bro. Bob and Sis. Nancy) married Shankar Annamalai on March 21. They will reside at Pharr, TX. We wish them much happiness.

Sis. Whitney Menold (Bro. Fred and Sis. Nancy) and Bro. Jamin Ringger (Bro. Stan and Sis. Colleen) of Gridley, IL, have felt God's direction to become husband and wife in the near future. We wish them the Lord's blessings as they take this step of faith in life.

Ashlyn Elizabeth, daughter of Bro. Doug and Sis. Krista Stoller (Chicago, IL), was born March 29. She is welcomed by thankful grandparents, Bro. Gale and Sis. Sonia Stoller (Princeville, IL) and Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Charlen Banwart (Champaign, IL).

Note of Thanks:

A heartfelt thank you for the many prayers, deeds of kindness and love shown these past months in Sis. Julie's behalf. The many words of encouragement, cards, telephone calls, visits and groups that came to sing were such a blessing to Sis. Julie.

John M. Dapper

Lavina Muehlhauser & family
Ernest & Marcelle Dapper & family
Christine & Leonard Locher & family
Clara Marie Gerber

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE
Jamie Hodel
Judy Sauder

"Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favor of the Lord."

Proverbs 18:22

On March 22, Bro. Matt Oesch (Bro. Tom and Sis. Michelle) of Alto and Sis. Shelli Fischer (Bro. Keith and Sis. Dori of Eureka) were united in the Lord. Visiting ministers for the day included Elder Bro. Ted Steffen and Bro. Howard Plattner (Alto), Bro. Matt Steffen (Princeville), and Bro. Brian Huber (Francesville). We thank these Brothers for their loving service to our congregation. On April 11, Jeremy Hilton (Sis. Jane of Roanoke and Bob and Roxie Hilton of Kewanna, IN) was united in marriage to Amber McCann (Steve and Deb) of Roanoke. We wish these two dear couples God's blessings as they begin married life.

Sis. Doris Rocke of Eureka went to be with the Lord on March 16. She is survived by her husband, Bro. Norman; four children, Keith (Ann) Mangold of El Granada, CA; Ann Mangold of Globe, AZ; Linda (Dave) Manore of Clinton Township, MI; and John Mangold of Grand Junction, CO; four step-children, Randy (Betty) Rocke of Columbus, OH; Joyce (Bruce) Huber of Morton; Bro. Kevin (Sis. Janine) Rocke of Washington; and Sis. Linda Rocke of Eureka. Also surviving are two brothers, Bob (Jean) Scheitlin and Bro. Al (Sis. JoAnn) Scheitlin of Elgin; two sisters, Katherine (Albert) Schmidgall of Phoenix and Carol Sinn of Ft. Scott; and 17 grandchildren. Sis. Doris was a sister-in-law to Sis. Kathryn (Bro. Ray) Hodel. Sharon Remmert of East Peoria passed away on March 20. She was the

daughter of Sis. Mabel Bowald. Her survivors include three sons, Kent (Sis. Crystal) of Goodfield, Kurt of Eureka and Keith (Stacey) of Washington, and four grandchildren. Also surviving are a sister, Sis. Shirley (Bro. John) Kilgus of Forrest; two brothers, Bro. Dwayne (Sis. MaryLu) of Peoria and Don of East Peoria. We extend our love and deepest sympathy to these two dear families and pray for God's nearness and comfort upon them.

On March 25, Bro. Matt Kaufman (Bloomington) presented our monthly family worship with the topic "Engrafted in God's Spirit". James 1:22: "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." We thank Bro. Matt for his exhortations to us.

On March 28, our annual Bible Class Spaghetti supper was held. It is a blessing to see our youth and adults working together to benefit others.

Mark 16:6: "...Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here:" Our Easter program was held on April 1. We thank our young people for sharing the Easter story with us in word and song.

The young group hosted a delicious supper and wonderful program for our older brethren on April 4. They showed slides of various Apostolic Christian churches across the globe. We thank our young group for their many deeds of love and kindness to our entire congregation.

Hebrews 2:14: "...that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;" On April 5, we had the privilege of remembering our Savior's death and resurrection by partaking of Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville) and Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville) assisted Bro. Tom Hoffman and retired Bro. Bill Hodel in this work. It was a very blessed and meaningful evening. On Easter Sunday, Bro. Don Braker (Kansas City) was our guest minister. We thank these brothers for their willing service to us.

On March 27, Bro. Duane and Sis. Rachel Schroeder became grandparents again when Bro. Jason and Sis. Lindsey Getz (Peoria) adopted Jonah Ray. Other thankful grandparents are Sis. Judy Getz (Peoria) and Rod and Jane Getz of East Peoria. Bro. Ken and Sis. Judy Knepp also rejoiced when each of their two daughters gave birth. Michael Peter was born on March 11 to Pete and Cisne Schaffer of Lake In The Hills, IL. Older sisters Haley and Amanda welcome him home. Alpha Ezekiel (Zeke) was born on March 24 to Matt and Lorna Zobrist of Eureka. Malik is his older brother. Bro. Ed and Sis. Bonnie Sauder also became grandparents again when Shea Emma was born to Bro. Zach and Sis. Caesy Sauder (Bloomington) on April 1. Luke and Reese as well as maternal grandparents, Bro. Tom and Sis. Jean O'Shea (Chicago), are also thrilled with the new arrival. Bro. Rich and Sis. Janet Knepp became grandparents for the first time when Henry Richard was born to Adam and Jackie Knepp of Roanoke on April 5. Henry's maternal grandparents are Kirk and Stephanie Anderson of Roanoke. We pray for God's blessings upon all these dear families as they raise their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT
Teresa Rowell
Janice Sauder

There is a name I love to hear,
 I love to sing its worth;
 It sounds like music in mine ear,
 the sweetest name on earth.

It tells me of a Savior's love,
 who died to set me free;
 It tells me of His precious blood,
 the sinner's perfect plea.

Oh, how I love Jesus,
 Oh, how I love Jesus,
 Oh, how I love Jesus,
 Because He first loved me!

My five year old son is in preschool Sunday school, and he and his classmates sang this song with such enthusiasm at our annual Easter Program. It is so precious to see all the little ones and the not so little ones get up and tell the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. It is the prayer of each Dad, Mom, Grandpa, Grandma, Aunt, Uncle, etc. that each one retain that enthusiasm for Christ as they come to the age of accountability and give their hearts and lives to Him.

We enjoyed a visit from two ministers this month. Bro. Gene Lehman (Sis. Verna, Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Dewayne Dill (Sis. Larae, Minneapolis, MN) preached the Word to us, and we are thankful for their willingness to be used of the Spirit.

Bro. Steve and Sis. Barb Pflederer have another little grandson to love. Samuel John was born to Bro. Kenny and Sis. Stephanie Ober (Peoria). He has two big brothers, Kenny III and Isaac.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Arlene Huetten in the death of her sister-in-law, Sis. Doris Rocke (Eureka).

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON
Elizabeth Heinold
Linda Folkerts

"Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit."

Jeremiah 17:7-8

What if, If only and why ... we all face these questions at some point in life. Recently, I've been studying about trusting God in the face of these three questions. Faith is our foundation. It raises us above our circumstances. Faith says I am where I am by God's appointment, in His keeping, under His

training, for His time. Life circumstances look differently to us under the lens of Faith!

We are thankful for our visiting ministers this month. Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Deb, Denver, CO) came to assist with our Holy Communion service. It was a special blessing. We also appreciated having Bro. Matt Gerber (Sis. Ruth, Ixtlan, MX), Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS), Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI) and Bro. Wayne Wiegand (Sis. Rosemary, Goodfield).

We rejoice with our Elder Bro. Ron and Sis. Pam Messner as they have become grandparents. Bro. Daniel and Sis. Kasey Messner, who are living in Zurich, Switzerland, had a baby girl, Alea Cosette. Bro. Ron and Sis. Pam are just getting home from a trip to Switzerland where they will get to meet this very special little girl!

We are also excited for Bro. Traever and Sis. Andrea Guingrich as their little girl, Adalai Aeever, was born. Grandparents to little Adalai are Bro. Dan and Sis. Sandy Guingrich (Indianapolis, IN) and Bro. Jan and Sis. Glenda Neukomm (Morton, IL).

We rejoice with Bro. Joel and Sis. Marcy Cox as they were married April 19. We wish them God's blessings as they start a new journey together. Their parents are Bro. Don and Sis. Sandy Kaiser (Tremont, IL) and Bro. John and Sis. Ellen Cox.

We sympathize with Bro. Steve and Sis. Susie Jones and their families because of the loss of Steve's mother, Sis. Sheryl Jones, of Morton, after a short illness.

Note of Thanks:

We want to express our heartfelt thanks to each one of you who supported us with visits, cards, calls, food, and especially prayers during the time of Ted's illness and death. It touched his heart and ours to see such an outpouring of support, and to witness the peaceful effect of your many prayers. Thank you also to so many of you who

befriended Ted and took time for him throughout his life. His church family was very precious to him. May God bless each of you for the love and kindness that you've shown.

In Christian love,
The family of Bro. Ted Schick

INDIANA, BLUFFTON **Stefanie Kipfer** **Grace Gerber**

Words cannot express the goodness of the Lord. As we enter even further into 2009, it has become very evident to me personally how fast time passes on and how much more faithfully God provides and exhibits His unconditional love and sovereignty to our church family. He has given us numerous reasons to honor Him this last month and countless opportunities to surrender to His perfect will as we strive to obey His glorious calling for our life as a church and lives individually.

"In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God. Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah." (Psalm 62:7-8). These verses ring very true as we intercede for those who are hurting at this time.

Bro. Bob (Sis. Jan) Herring has been a continual request before our Lord as he recently went through double knee surgery and had a difficult recovery. We've also been glad to pray for Bro. Glenn (Sis. Kathryn) Hackenjoes (brother of our Bro. Carl Hackenjoes) who underwent surgery in Eureka. The Lord has also given us the privilege to lift up our Sis. Bethany Maller before His throne who is currently spending some time in the hospital. Two month old Bria Akins (daughter of Isaac and Jill, great-granddaughter of Bro. Lester and Sis. Sally Schwartz) is experiencing serious respiratory problems, and we bring her before God in prayer often.

In the midst of hurt and difficulty, the Lord never ceases to give joy! "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord..."

(Psalm 127:3a), or one child in this case. We rejoice in the arrival of little Elly Lynn, daughter of Bro. Ryan and Sis. Jessica Bertsch. The happy grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Carmon Bertsch and Bro. Jeff and Sis. Peg Yergler (Bluffton North).

God has also been working in the lives of two more souls. We are excited to announce the engagement of our Sis. Amber DeHoff (Scott and Sis. Rita) to our Bro. Krent Reinhard (Bro. Roger and Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North).

We also praise the Almighty God for His hand in the lives of two converts: Alyssa Meyer (Bro. Denny and Sis. Kathy) and Lucas Gerber (Bro. Steve and Sis. Gayla, Bluffton North). We rejoice with them and their families.

This month, we've also had to say good-bye to our Bro. Rich and Sis. Amber Pfister and their five children, Kaitlyn, Will, Seth, Kendra and Silas. The Pfister family spent their last Sunday in Bluffton before heading to the mission field in Haiti. We pray for them "without ceasing"! May the Lord keep them and bless them!

Now, after all of this news, we take just a few moments to reflect on the greatest news of all...that Jesus is alive! It's been an arousing Easter! Our Sunday school blessed us with a wonderful performance reminding us about the love and glory of Jesus! In this Easter season, we worship the Lord for rising from the grave, conquering death and sitting at the right hand of God to have glory, dominion and power over all the Earth and Satan! As a church, we are thankful that Jesus is our Head...that He lives to be our Head. Thank Thee, Lord! "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:9-11).

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Jessie Longenberger
Sherry Pfister**

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

Isaiah 53:5

Greetings in the Lord!

Our Sunday School had a lovely Easter program on April 12. We were reminded of our dear Saviour's death and glorious resurrection as our Sunday School brought forth the message of hope on Easter Sunday. We always enjoy hearing the children's enthusiastic voices praising our Saviour.

Bro. Ryan and Sis. Jessica Bertsch became first-time parents with their daughter, Elly Lynn, on March 26. Grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Carmon Bertsch (Bluffton) and Bro. Jeff and Sis. Peg Yergler. We wish this family much happiness. Bro. Steve and Sis. Myra Ringger are grandparents to a new little granddaughter, Avery Jeanette. She was born on March 17 to parents, Bro. Michael and Sis. Angie Ringger of Phoenix.

The engagement of Bro. Krent Reinhard (Bro. Roger and Sis. Maureen) to Sis. Amber DeHoff (Scott and Sis. Rita, Bluffton) was announced. We wish them God's blessings as they plan their life together and pray He will be a constant presence in their marriage.

On March 18, Bro. Mike Craighead and Sis. Mona Graham were united in marriage at a Wednesday evening service at Bluffton North. We rejoice with them and pray for God's blessings on their new life together.

In the midst of this joyful Easter season, there is also sorrow among us. Sis. Cathy (Bro. Dave) Bussel and Sis. Linda (Bro. Mike) Dubach lost their mother, Sis. Gladys Fiechter, on April

11. Even as we sorrow with her family, we can rejoice that she is now in the presence of her Lord and Savior.

On March 29, we were encouraged to prepare for our upcoming Bluffton North Communion service late in April. Each of us were exhorted to give God permission to "search our hearts" (Ps 139:23-24) and provided with a "homework" assignment to assist in the process of self-examination (I Cor 11:28).

God has faithfully provided two new converts this month as Jay and Mallory Nicholas (son and daughter-in-law of Bro. Mark and Sis. Marsha Nicholas) shared their desire to begin their repentance.

We were thankful to have Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL) and Bro. Allen Stoller (Sis. Susan, Bluffton) to minister to us during this month. We certainly felt the power of God's Spirit through the Word of God.

**INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Jacki Huber
Mildred Clauss**

We were inspired by the Easter Story—beginning on Palm Sunday, on through Good Friday, and culminating with our annual Sunrise Services early Easter morning, as well as the annual Sunday School Easter Program shared to us by the Sunday School children on that afternoon. What a blessed time to remember Christ's suffering for us and victory over sin and death, so that we might live our lives full of joy!

As we rejoice in the living Christ, and enjoy the new life we see in the Springtime, we also rejoice with Kristy Wuethrich who gave birth to a precious little girl, Allie Claire, on April 7. Bro. Kevin and Sis. Connie Wuethrich are Allie's grandparents.

Clint Wuethrich (Bro. David Wuethrich and Miriam (Mim) Wuethrich) was united in marriage to Jeri Ballard (Jerry Ballard of Evansville, IN, and Carla Wheeldon of Rensselaer, IN) on Saturday, April 11. They are residing in Evansville, IN. We

wish them God's blessings and nearness throughout their lives!

Our prayers are with Bro. John Huber (Sis. Bev), as he was recently a hospital patient. We pray that he will recover fully, according to the Father's will.

**INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS
Gail Bradford
Sandy Lichtle**

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to Bro. Fred and Sis. Nancy Witzig and their family. Bro. Fred's father, Bro. Bill Witzig (Sis. Mary) from Altadena, CA, passed from this earthly life to his eternal home on March 27. May God's grace and peace bring them comfort in the days ahead.

On April 4, we had the privilege of sharing Holy Communion. We appreciate the labors of love of our Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Campaign, IL) and Elder Bro. Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra, Bluffton North, IN) who humbly served us. May we daily remember and be thankful for the price that Jesus paid on the cross for our sins.

Our Easter program was held on April 5. It was a joy and blessing to hear the Sunday school students proclaim the Easter message through verse and song.

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

Isaiah 53:5

**INDIANA, LACROSSE
Bethany Johnson
Julie Roche**

We worship Thee with tear of gladness,
Lord Jesus Christ, for Thy great love!
To reconcile us with the Father,
To die, Thou camest from above.
How great has been Thy sacrifice!

To Thee our thanks and praise shall rise.

To break Thy bread we now have gathered,

In covenant to drink Thy wine;

As brethren we unite together,

That unto death we might be Thine.

This promise we, with heart and will;

Give grace our promise to fulfill.

Zion's Harp #25

These are such sweet words as we remember what Christ did for us on the cross and as we partake of His body in Holy Communion. What a blessing it is to have this privilege to come together and unite as one body in Christ. Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary Ann, Fairbury, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Curt Frank with the Communion service. We thank him for coming and being a part of the weekend with us.

The day after Communion, the Sunday School children told us of the death and resurrection of Christ through their verses and songs. They always do such a nice job and we want to thank them, their parents and their teachers for the time and effort that they put into the program so that we can all enjoy it.

That evening there was a church supper and a singing at the local community center that was enjoyed by all. What a neat way to end such a blessed weekend!

During the week before the Easter program, we had the added blessing of a new convert in our congregation. Hannah Feller (Bro. Joe and Sis. Jackie) gave her life over to God and has begun a repentance in Him. We pray that God will be with her and give her His grace as she makes this new change in her life.

Our Sis. Connie Knobloch spent some time in the hospital following a surgery. We are thankful that she is better and is worshipping with us once again.

The Young Group hosted an Invite-A-Friend weekend this month. It is so nice to fill up the benches a little more and to hear the beautiful singing

whenever we have visitors. The church also hosted an Invite-A-Friend weekend. We enjoyed a wonderful time of fellowship with a meal on Saturday evening and then worshipping together on Sunday.

We are thankful for the warmer weather that we have been getting and for the beautiful flowers that are starting to bloom. It is a renewal of the heart after the renewal of the spirit that we had with Easter and Communion. It is always good to see new life!

**INDIANA, LEO
Elizabeth Schrenk
Abigail Schrenk**

"Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us along the way..."

Luke 24:32

Greetings in the name of our Risen Lord Jesus Christ! Easter is now past and we look forward to what summer has for us. However, as our Elder Bro. Lynn has recently encouraged us, let's keep the thought of Easter in our minds throughout the year.

We enjoyed the message of our annual Sunday School Easter program. The focus was about a group of people who had never heard the gospel. They experienced great joy in learning that a Saviour, who died for them, was also raised from the dead. We pray that the joy they experienced in the newness of the gospel may be ours.

Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley) came to help share Communion with us on April 8. May God bless all our Elders for their servant leading.

April 19 was a special day for our new sisters, Talitha Fischer (Bro. Paul and Sis. Leanne), Alyssa Klopfenstein (Loren and Sis. Rita), and Sarah Schrenk (Bro. Steve and Sis. Linda). Elder Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandy, Alto) came to help with the baptism. We want to thank them for sharing our wonderful weekend with us.

We want to remember Sis. Patsy

Stoller (Bro. John) in our prayers. She recently broke her leg and we pray for her speedy recovery. Bro. Jeff Fritz (Sis. Carla) and Sis. Tina Schumacher (Bro. Jeff) were also in the hospital this past month and we ask God to be with them and their families.

**INDIANA, MILFORD
Carol Hurd
Pam Beer**

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

I Corinthians 11:26

We are thankful and appreciative that Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA) was here to help Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter serve Communion to us on March 21. We also thank both of these brothers for ministering to us on Sunday.

Our Milford congregation enjoyed our Sunday School Easter program on Palm Sunday. We all receive a blessing watching our children as they sing songs and memorize poems and Bible verses. A special thank you to all the Sunday school teachers who take the time to help them to prepare for this.

Prayers have been said for Bro. Don Beer (Sis. Ruth) and for little Jace Beer (Bro. Marc and Sis. Jodi) as they were both hospitalized recently. We are thankful that they are both home and doing well.

**INDIANA, REMINGTON
Jenni Honegger
Marcella Tyler**

We have been well blessed this past month with many visiting ministers. Bro. John Hartman (Sis. Rosemary, Fairbury, IL), Bro. Ken Weerts (Sis. Myrna, Cissna Park, IL), and Bro. Ed Fritz (Sis. Sally, Washington, IL) each lent himself to be used by the Father on our behalf. In addition to visitors on the pulpit, one Wednesday evening various representatives from Gateway Woods

gave a presentation about the various programs offered there. We thank each one for their gifts of time and effort. All who heard surely benefitted much from their labors of love.

Heidi (Matt) Getz has been an unexpected hospital patient this month. We pray that the Lord will hold Heidi in His healing arms and comfort her and her family during this time of stress and uncertainty.

We recently heard our Sunday School children recite and sing to us once again about the sorrow of the cross and the joy of the empty tomb. What a lovely way to spend a Lord's Day afternoon! It was evident that the students, teachers, and parents put in a lot of work to prepare for the program. We are truly thankful for their efforts and enthusiasm. It is always interesting to me to contemplate the Suffering Servant of Good Friday on one hand and the Triumphant Lord of Easter Sunday on the other. What a stark contrast and what a wondrous mystery that our Saviour Jesus Christ so perfectly embodies both aspects. May the blessings He gives on Easter be with all of you!

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Joshua Martinez

Rachel Langhofer

On March 25 we gathered to share Communion. Sobering and thought-provoking, we were reminded of Christ's death and suffering. We thank Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Sis. Sandra, Eureka, IL) for offering himself and assisting Bro. Curt Frank in Communion.

Easter Sunday we gathered at 8:00 am for Easter morning services. Bro. Wayne Leman (Sis. Julie, Roanoke IL) shared with us the joy of that glorious Easter morning. After sharing breakfast together, we had our Easter program. What a treasure to watch the little children singing and reciting their pieces while never standing still! We thank the Sunday School teachers for the amazing work they do, teaching our children about our blessed Lord.

As a congregation, our thoughts and

prayers go out to Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue Beebe and family with the passing of Sis. Sue's mother, Sis. Margaret Kupferschmid. My God grant them comfort at this time in their lives.

INDIANA VALPARAISO Marguerite Hoerr

Don't you love it when you ask a favor of a friend and they say "yes" without hesitation? That's what Sis. Gwen Bucher said when I asked her to write the news for Valparaiso last month. This Sister has been an inspiration to me in so many ways and I thank her for her ready willingness to help me out.

Members of the Orel Steiner family helped fill our pews late in March. They were having a family week-end nearby and chose Valpo as their worship center on Sunday. Accompanying them were ministering Bros. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville, IA) and Paul Eisenmann (Sis. Elaine, Burlington, IA). It meant so much that they chose to share the Word with our Valpo church, and our thanks go out to everyone who came.

Each year the Easter season seems to bring a deeper understanding of what Christ did for us. Holding Communion on Good Friday gave it more significance than ever. Our Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna) visited on that evening to serve the bread and the wine as symbols of Christ's body and His blood. As he and Bro. Garry walked through our congregation serving us, I realized that each Communion I take has more meaning than ever. We were blessed that Bro. Ron and Sis. Brenda Clarke came with them. Sis. Brenda is a sister to our Elder Bro. Dan. I was seated beside Sis. Lois Bucher as her husband, Bro. Garry, served her and my thoughts went back to sitting beside my mother, Naoma Beer, when she was served by my father, Theo. As I was having those thoughts, Bro. Garry told me he was served Communion by my father and now he was serving Commu-

nion to me. It was one of those golden moments in time.

Easter Sunday, Bro. Todd Feller (Sis. Karen, Lacrosse, IN) shared the pulpit during morning services with Bro. Mike Thomas. For the afternoon service we were privileged to have Bro. Randy Gudeman (Francesville, IN) minister to us, so we were doubly blessed. We hope they feel the gratitude in our hearts for sharing this day with us. On that Sunday, our son, Doug, and his wife, Tracy, plus our two youngest grandchildren, Malcolm and Amelia, drove to church with us. This made the day an even happier occasion.

It made our hearts sing to see Bro. Ken and Sis. Carolyn Bucher back in Valpo, after having wintered in Naples, FL. We know Ft. Myers feels privileged to have them worship there; likewise we were privileged to have them back home. As I write this, Bro. Lyle and Sis. Marilyn Zeltwanger are on their way home, after spending the winter in Phoenix, AZ. Having them back home is another reason for us to rejoice. We love having both of these couples in Valpo.

As our hearts were cleansed over the Easter Season, we like to have our physical church receive a spring cleaning, too. It was a good day last Friday when we got together to do the spit and polish of our house of worship. We had a good camaraderie as we worked together, and we felt blessed doing it.

Today we were privileged to have visitors from Lacrosse and we hope they know they are always as welcome as the flowers in May when they worship with us. As I met them, I first learned that Hannah Feller (daughter of Bro. Joe and Sis. Jackie) has given her heart to her Lord and Savior. This is another reason to make our hearts sing.

INDIANA WEST LAFAYETTE

**Darlene Walder
Hollie Meister**

This has been a very busy month for us at W. Lafayette. We rejoice, after many months of praying and discussing, discussing and praying, that we feel led to believe it is time to proceed with construction of a new building on our owned property. A body of believers makes up a church and we are very thankful that our body continues to stand together and worship the true and living God faithfully every Sunday. As we proceed with plans and timelines in the next 12 months, we look to God for His continued direction.

Palm Sunday afternoon was our Sunday School Easter program. What a blessing to see children sing and speak with such enthusiasm, remembering the suffering and death of Jesus and then His miraculous resurrection. Our youngest children sang of "Calvary and Victory" and, oh, how they could sing and share of those accounts. Great job, children. The older students and choir also reminded us of God's continuous love and mercy through His Son's death and new life. Easter morning woke with beautiful sunshine and spring-like weather and we assembled early for a sunrise service and brunch. Everyone enjoyed that time of remembering and fellowship.

Our Communion service was held on Wednesday, April 8, and thank Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) in assisting Bro. Curt in sharing of the emblems and ministering to us.

We rejoice with a few Grandpa's and Grandma's as three new grandchildren were born these past weeks. Bro. Gerry and Sis. Marcia Waibel are grandparents to Liam Nickolas Waibel, son of Bro. Nick and Sis. Sandra. Bro. Leon Waibel is a great-grandfather. Bro. Ed and Sis. Annette Bahler have another new grandson, Christian Schafer, son of Bro. Luke and Sis. Andria; and Bro. Nick and Sis. Susanne Gutwein are grandparents of a new granddaughter.

Her name is Allison Cay Ebert, daughter of Bro. Adam and Sis. Whitney. As new Babes in Christ, we also rejoice with our two new converts, Luke Wahl and Andre Gutwein, who have expressed a desire for repentance and we are so thankful for those that come and seek the Lord. They are sons of Bro. Fred and Sis Libby Wahl and Bro. Nick and Sis. Susanne Gutwein, and we prayerfully support them.

Other visiting ministers that came and shared our pulpit have been Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville), and Bros. Steve Frauhiger (Bluffton North) and Mark Gerber (Bluffton) and we want to thank these brothers.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Sis. Reva Waibel expresses their deepest gratitude for all the prayers, visits, sharing, and loving concern offered during Reva's many medical challenges these past months and her recent passing. Each and every effort on Reva's behalf and to our family will always be cherished and is greatly appreciated. We are thankful for all your love and support.

Sincerely,

Bro. Leon Waibel and family

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

**Donita Edelman
Lynell Blume**

We as a church family would like to extend a warm welcome to Chris and Brook Cleefman and their five children who have begun assembling with us. Their children are a welcome addition to our Sunday School.

We gathered at the Remington Fellowship Hall on Wednesday evening, March 25, to enjoy a presentation from Gateway Woods staff members. This was a very thorough overview of the different services offered by Gateway Woods.

We have had the following people in our prayers as they have each one had injury or illness. Bro. Alfred Bahler (Sis. Frances) had hand surgery, David Lehman (Bro. Greg and Sis. MaryBeth)

suffered a broken ankle, and Frank and Judy Heinzelman have both had health challenges. All of the above are home and mending. Fran Klopfenstein (Levi) was hospitalized and has been dismissed to a nursing home in Monticello where Levi has joined her. We will continue to keep all of the above in our prayers for the Lord's will in healing to be done.

The following ministering brothers gathered with us this past month: Bros. Sam Schlatter (Sis. Linda, Junction, OH), Dale Banwart (Sis. Melissa, Congerville, IL), and our Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN). Thank you, Brothers, for being willing to be used in the Lord's service for us.

The engagement of Austin Harris (Mike and Sis. Nancy Scott) and Katie Ward was made known to us recently. We pray Austin and Katie will look to the Lord for guidance as they plan this important step in their lives.

Sincere sympathy is extended to Bro. Rob and Sis. Beckie Lehman and family in the passing of Sis. Beckie's father, Bro. Bill Witzig, from Altadena. Also to Frank and Judy Heinzelman in the passing of Frank's brother, John. We pray for comfort for each one in their loss.

We rejoice with Melissa Blanding (Michael) as she has been announced as having peace and awaiting baptism. We will continue to pray for her and her family as she strives to live according to the Lord's will.

The Sunday School children delighted us with their songs and pieces at our Easter program on Good Friday evening. We heard the story from the cross, to the grave and the resurrection from the children. Following the children, Bro. John Lehman spoke a few words and encouraged us to remember the cross but to focus on the resurrection.

IOWA, BLOOMFIELD**Christy Wiegand**

Greetings from Bloomfield.

We were thankful to have so many visitors the weekend of March 14-15 as our Bible Class hosted Bradford's Bible class. A special thanks to ministering Bro. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend) for coming and talking to the students.

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

John 14:27

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary Wiegand and their family. Sis. Mary's mother, Veva Domnick-Butler (Peoria, IL) passed away on Palm Sunday. May they find comfort in Jesus' love.

We enjoyed listening to the Sunday School Easter program. The students did an excellent job. Each student put forth effort to sing together of our Savior's death and rising. May the Lord bless each student from young to old and the teachers that worked with the students.

Ministering Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove) was with us Easter Sunday. We thank him for his efforts.

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

"And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus. And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments: And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen..."

Luke 24:3-6

We have been blessed this past month with extra opportunities to re-

member the sacrifice and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, and to reflect on what the existence of the empty sepulchre means to each one of us. We appreciated the specific time set aside on Good Friday and Easter, but we were especially thankful for the timely reminder in the form of Holy Communion, which we shared together. Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) and Bro. Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA) were with us for Holy Communion. They also shared the Word with us on Sunday, along with ministering Bro. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA). May God richly bless each of them for their part in His service.

Our prayers have been with Bro. Earl Massner (Sis. Ada), Sis. Lois Wiegand (Bro. Joe), and Sis. Verna Woodward (Bro. Marvin) as they have needed extra medical care this past month. We pray that they have felt God's grace in dealing with the physical struggles of life.

"For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God. For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day."

II Corinthians 4:15-16

IOWA, ELGIN**Maria Rocke**

Come then to the feast of His New Covenant,
Members of His Church, your faith re-
new;
Thank the Founder of this precious
Covenant
Through the chalice He pours out for
you.
Here your hands in faithfulness unit-
ing
And the fire of brother-love new light-
ing,
Let your common prayers rise to His
throne.
Thank and praise Him who hath made
you one!

Zion's Harp #26

We were thankful to have Elder Bros. Ted Witzig, Sr. (Sis. Cindy, Morton, IL) and Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA) here to share our Sunday services and Communion with us on April 19.

Our thoughts were with Jack Hanson (Albert and Trudy) and Jackie Jensen (Rick and Donna, Woodland Park, CO) as they were united in marriage on April 4 in the country of Guam. We are thankful the families had safe travels to and home from the wedding. We wish Jack and Jackie many blessings as they begin their life together in Guam!

We welcome little Daniel James Strahm (Bro. Brent and Sis. Brianna) into our Elgin congregation. He was born April 9 and welcomed home a few days later by his happy siblings, Kathryn, Carolyn, Isaac and Naomi, and his aunt, Rachel Miller. Thankful grandparents are Carol Wilson (Gresham, OR) and Bro. Richard and Sis. Edie Strahm (Bern, KS).

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE**Rhoda Plattner**

Our congregation gathered on Easter morning at Sis. Willa Clark's home for breakfast and fellowship before celebrating our Lord's resurrection at church. We were blessed to have Bro. Joe Dotterer (Sis. Rose, Bloomfield, IA). We sincerely appreciate all the other visitors that came to fellowship and encourage our small church this month.

We were glad to have Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield, IA) with us on a recent Wednesday night for Communion exhortation and look forward to Communion in the coming weeks.

IOWA, IOWA CITY**Diana Butikofer**

Our thoughts and prayers are with Ron and Audrey Landherr's family fol-

lowing the death of Ron's mother, Evangeline Landherr.

May God bless Bro. Dave and Sis. Lori Marquart (Taylor, MO) for their recent visit and Bro. Dave's assistance in preaching God's Word.

IOWA, LESTER
Gloria Moser
Polly Metzger

We've been blessed this past month with two pink bundles. Olivia Kristyne was born March 30 to Bro. Justin and Sis. Jodie Metzger. Isabelle, Preston and Annie welcome their new sister. Bro. Art and Sis. Kris Metzger are her grandparents. Amber Dawn was born April 8 to Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley DeSmet. Her siblings are Sis. Kristin Johnson (Bro. Greg, Bradford, IL), Stacey, Bro. Chad, Grant, Shannon, Lorna, Haley, Clark and Eden. Bro. Art and Sis. Elgeva Knobloch are her grandparents. May God bless these parents as they raise their children.

These souls betrothed before Thee stand;
Thy blessings we implore;
Unite Thou them with heart and hand
And guide them evermore.

Hymns of Zion #286

On March 22, we witnessed the marriage vows of Bro. Kent Moser (Bro. Donn and Sis. Joyce) and Sis. Elyse Meyer (Bro. Denis and Sis. Jill). April 4 was the wedding day of Amy TerWee (Jerry and Mary) and Darren Herzog. May God bless these dear couples as they begin their new life and establish their homes.

March 28-29 we enjoyed another blessed weekend. We welcome into the fold Bro. Jeff and Sis. Betty Popkes (Sis. Eleanor) and Sis. Emily Knapp (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gay, Congerville). Elder Bro. Ben Walder (Congerville) was here to assist Elder Bro. Dennis with the proving and baptisms. May God help these dear souls stand strong in their faith and guide them always.

On April 5 it was announced that

Alvie Meyer (Bro. Dean and Sis. Linda) is at peace with God and man. May the Lord bless and guide him each step of the way.

The betrothal of Sis. Betsy Doorneweerd (Bro. Butch and Sis. Kathy) and Bro. John Strahm (Bro. Curt and Sis. Ellen), both of Sabetha, was also shared with us that morning. We wish them God's blessings as they prepare for their life together.

We also bid "farewell" to Bro. Andy and Sis. Freida Mogler, as they are making their home in Eureka, IL. Lester won't quite be the same without them. They are a very dear couple and we all appreciated visiting with them. No matter what the occasion, Sis. Freida always made and shared her special "Freida buns" with everyone. We thank them for their example and helping to preserve our faith. May God bless them and help them adjust to their new home. Their new address is: 610 W. Cruger Ave., Apt 16, P.O. Box 128, Eureka, IL 61530-0128.

The evening of April 5 we gathered for Communion. Elder Bro. Art Metz (Silverton) was here to assist Elder Bro. Dennis in this solemn occasion. Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville), Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Wolcott), Bros. Darren Fehr, Pat Zaugg and Kevin Banwart (West Bend), Bro. Randy Mogler (Washington), Bro. Bruce Frank (Cissna Park), Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago), Bro. Gary Brown (Forrest) and Bro. Beirne Messner (Morris). We thank these brothers for sharing the Word of Life with us.

Our prayers for God's healing go with our hospital patients, Bro. Gene Metzger (Sis. Dolores), Bro. Bill Gerber (Sis. Erma), Paul Hartter (Bro. Matt and Sis. Hana), and Emily TerWee (Chad and Sandi). May we continue to pray for those who have physical, emotional and spiritual needs.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;

How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Hymns of Zion #97

We rejoice with Ross Mogler (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Lois). He has begun his repentance and we wish him God's nearness as he begins this pathway.

I am going to a city
Where the streets with gold are laid,
Where the tree of life is blooming,
And the roses never fade.

Gospel Hymns #764

Our heartfelt sympathy goes to Bro. Larry Knobloch and his children, Sis. Valerie (Bro. Mike Howell, Phoenix), Dean, Darin (Stacy), Bro. Damon (Sis. Stephanie, Morris), Dallas (Amy), Sis. Jerilyn (Bro. Matt Waldbeser, Morris), their 12 grandchildren, brothers and sisters-in-law, Bro. Gary and Sis. Jean Heyer, Bro. Delbert and Sis. June Knobloch, and Bro. Dan and Sis. Jeanne Knobloch, and their families. Sis. Sheryl was a very optimistic and kind person. We appreciate her example and pray that God will stand mightily by her family and be near them in the days ahead.

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Sharla Wiegand

We were privileged to have Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA) help Bro. Jon in serving Holy Communion as we remembered the Lord's death for our sins. Joining them on the pulpit Sunday were Bro. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Mike Baumann, Sr. (Mansfield, OH). We were blessed to have Bro. Mike preach the Word the following Wednesday night as he and his wife and two granddaughters came to volunteer with flood rebuilding. May the Lord richly bless them.

Christ arose and brought victory over death! Bro. Rod Bajema (Lester, IA) shared God's Word with us on Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

We rejoice with Bro. Kent and Sis.

Megan Schmidgall in the birth of their son, William Kent, on March 25. Welcoming him home is big sister, Grace. Thankful grandparents are Elder Bro. Jon and Sis. Julie Schmidgall and Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa Kellenberger (Sabetha, KS).

IOWA, WEST BEND

Sue Schneider Janet Fehr

We enjoyed having Bro. Ken Eisenmann (Sis. Sharon, Cissna Park, IL) with us as well as Bro. Jeff Bahler (Sis. Heidi and family, Wolcott, IN) on March 22. We appreciated the Holy Spirit working in them as they brought forth God's Word.

Palm Sunday weekend was very encouraging and uplifting for the West Bend church. Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA) visited us and assisted in the testimony and baptism of Andy Bruellman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Teresa, Ft. Myers, FL). We welcome Bro. Andy into our Brotherhood.

On Sunday of that same weekend, our high school students and their teachers presented our annual program of Easter hymn singing. We trust the beautiful praise those students expressed in song blesses them as it did us.

Then Sunday evening, the brothers and sisters gathered together to share in Holy Communion. Again, Elder Bro. Ben was Elder Bro. Wayne's assistant. It is so good to pause and be reminded of the suffering, shedding of blood, and death our Saviour endured for the saving of each soul. How blessed we are to be part of this plan of salvation. We thank Elder Bro. Ben for the full weekend of service he shared with us.

It is always pleasant to welcome new babies into our congregation. This month we were blessed with two births. On March 18, Abner Kurtis joined his brother, Jaxon, in the John and Audrey Zaugg family. Bro. Pat and Sis. Julie Zaugg and Kevin and Diane Montag are little Abner's grandparents.

April 14 was the birth day of Shelby Ann Schneider. She was born to Mike and Breann and joins a sister, Dusty, and a brother, Teagen, in the Schneider household. Bro. Bruce and Sis. Audrey Messner and Bro. Gary and Sis. Sue Schneider are baby Shelby's grandparents. We pray God will bless the lives of these two little ones, their parents, and their siblings.

Justin Mogler (Bro. Tim Mogler and Gloria Mogler) was married to Mollie Vaill on March 24. We wish them God's blessings as they start their lives together in nearby Emmetsburg.

Our prayers were with Sis. Joyce Banwart as she was a hospital surgical patient this month. We know there are many with health issues – may God comfort each one.

Most of our Bible Class and a few parents spent a little time in Magdalena, MX, over Easter break, and are thankful to report a safe and blessed trip. May each one treasure the memories made and lessons learned upon returning. Our prayers for God's blessings continue for the staff and children at the orphanage.

May all who are mothers strive to be worthy of the following tribute:

Thank You

For all the weary steps you took for
me

When I was much too young to understand,

For midnight vigils and for sympathy,
For the cool touch of your remembered hand,

For your low voice that echoes down
the years,
For the patience and unshaken boundless trust,
For happy laughter and for healing tears,
For swift decisions that were always
just,

For memories of days spent by your
side,
For hours of harmony achieved
through you,
For little rooms your presence sancti-

fied,
For high ideals and childish dreams
come true,

For health of body and for strength to
press,
Forever forward on life's painful way,
For all my heritage of happiness,
I thank you, Mother dear, on Mother's
Day.

JAPAN, SHIODA

Carrie Ito

We enjoyed a visit from Sis. Pam and Mark Fritzenmeier (Peoria) and their two boys in early April. Sis. Pam is Sis. Jana Klaus' sister. In March, Bro. Keith and Sis. Ida Kellenberger (Bradford) visited us as their son lives here in Japan. The Christian fellowship that we can share is an extra special blessing for our small congregation!

As is our annual custom, we gathered before morning church on Easter morning at a special place overlooking the Yamanashi valley for a reading of the Easter story, a few hymns, a prayer, and some breakfast. This year the pink peach blossoms were in their peak and the sun was warm on our backs—a perfect morning to commemorate the rising of our Lord and Saviour!

JAPAN, TOKYO

Jana Klaus

Our Tokyo congregation celebrated our Lord Jesus Christ's resurrection together on Easter Sunday with morning Easter service and our Sunday School/Church program in the afternoon. The Sunday School children sang so sweetly, even some solos, and each class told the Easter story in their own way, be it via picture cards, following a maze, or with stick pictures. Various adults took part also, whether it be in song or reading of the Easter story. Isn't it beautiful to think of God's people celebrating His Son, Jesus' death and resurrection all around the world?

We celebrated another event that day also—the 80th birthday of our dear

Bro. Yoshio Yamazaki. A beautiful cake decorated with flowers and one of his favorite Bible verses was served after we sang to him. The verse was I Cor. 4:17 — “For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church.” Bro. Y.Y. felt a deep gratitude for the brothers in the Lord who had been sent to teach him of the ways of Christ. He also said he had received many cards from brothers and sisters in America — thank you to all who showed your love to him. He had just made it out of the hospital in time for his birthday celebration as he had apparently fallen from his bed and hit his head. We are thankful he is doing well again and pray for a blessed year ahead.

Also at lunch that day, we discovered some interesting trivia of two of our elderly friends who attend services from time to time and who happened to be sitting next to each other at the lunch table. Mr. Hashimoto, who has been coming for many years, and Yumi Hamanaka’s aunt (I am not sure of her name as we just always call her “Yumi’s aunt”) who has been coming in the last several years, both will turn 94 this June. They didn’t know they were so close in age! Both are in good health, have sharp minds and are professing Christians. What blessings!

We were blessed with two sets of guests in early April — the first being Bro. Keith and Sis. Ida Kellenberger (Bradford, IL) who were visiting their son, Gary, and his wife, Yoko, and two children. We thank Bro. Keith for his afternoon Bible lesson and many of us enjoyed having supper together with them and Gary’s family also. The second set of guests were Mark and Sis. Pam Fritzenmeier (Sis. Jana Klaus’ sister) and two sons, Dustin and Ted (Peoria, IL), who were visiting the Klaus family. It was their first time to Japan and now all six of Jana’s siblings have been to visit. It was very special to

have them worshipping with us for Easter Sunday.

KANSAS, BERN
Sheri Edelman
Jill Meyer

“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 2:12

What a wondrous time is spring! Although the temperatures have still been chilly, we are all enjoying the signs of new life which can be seen over the land.

Especially thankful for new life is Sis. Shelby Strahm (late Bro. Dale), who welcomed a new grandson when Bennett Clay was born to Bro. Lynn and Sis. Sally Strahm (Sabetha, KS).

We were blessed with beautiful weather, as well as abundant fellowship for the wedding of Sis. Kristen Edelman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda) and Bro. Paul Klotzle (Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley; Smithville, OH) on March 22. Although we will miss Sis. Kristen, we hope she will soon feel at home in Ohio. Our thanks go to Bros. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue; Detroit, MI), Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann; Smithville) and Cory Metzger (Sis. Jodi; Wichita, KS) for ministering to us that weekend.

Our semi-annual Bible Study at Kansas State University was held on March 27. We thank Bro. Troy Leyse (Sis. Kelly; Bluffton, IN) for sharing with us and also ministering to us on Sunday. Due to a snowstorm and a change of plans, we were also able to have Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan; Taylor, MO) with us on the same Sunday.

We were blessed to be able to partake of Holy Communion on April 4. We appreciate Elder Bro. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen; Kansas City, MO) being willing to share with us in this most solemn occasion.

The Sabetha congregation joined us

for Good Friday services as we remembered the suffering and death of our Lord. Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky; Lester, IA) was here to minister to us. We appreciate his willingness and pray the Spirit of truth would always be present whenever the Word is brought forth.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT
Martin Hohulin

What a wonderful means of church communication we have in the Silver Lining. It tells us of events in far away churches that perhaps we would otherwise miss. I well remember the first Silver Lining I read. I was visiting a beloved aunt, Sis. Clara Marti, in Fort Scott in 1945. This was during WWII. I asked her what it was. She told me it was sent to Brothers and Friends that were in the service of our country as a means of news and encouragement. At that time, little did I realize I would attempt to have a part in the publication.

On April 5, the second edition of *Marching to Zion* became available in Fort Scott. To me this is special because a company belonging to two of our local Brothers, Don and Lon Banwart, printed the book. Turn back the clock to July 1967 when these two young men purchased a used printing press in the Chicago area. They hauled it to their father’s (Elder Bro. Raymond and Sis. Kathryn Banwart) garage with a U-Haul truck and began their business. I used the same truck to move to Tremont, Illinois, a few days later. Now Bros. Don and Lon are converted, married and have children and grandchildren. Many of them are members of the Faith. Elder Bro. Raymond and Sis. Kathryn have gone to their eternal reward. We who knew them cherish their memory.

I have been reading the book and can hardly put it away at bedtime. A word of appreciation goes to Bro. Perry Klopfenstein and others who furnished local information as well as the proof readers who spent hours checking for

mistakes. I appreciated the revised maps of church locations in the front and back inside covers. How different from the 1982 edition.

We're marching to Zion
Beautiful, beautiful Zion
We're marching upward to Zion
The beautiful city of God.
Gospel Hymns No. 567

The Sunday School Easter program was presented on Palm Sunday evening. The smaller children did well on their recitations and songs. God bless them for their efforts. In closing, the entire Sunday School sang several beautiful songs. It was such a blessing. We finished the evening with refreshments in the dining room.

The Easter Sunrise Service had to be held in the east end of the entrance hall due to the rain. Then everyone partook of a big breakfast in the dining room. The Fort Scott church offers an endless supply of good food.

Sis. Lucille Schurter, age 91, was hospitalized and is now again home. We are happy that she is back in church with us.

We didn't have any visiting ministers this month. We appreciate it when we do, but our local ministers, Bro. Larry Bahr and Bro. Jeff Fischer, serve us well.

KANSAS, KIOWA
Janice Bahr
Jenny Stewart

Flourishing youth, thou our hope and
our fond expectation,
Hark to the voice that is calling in
kind invitation!
That hand obey which oft has pointed
the way
To the dear Saviour's salvation.
Offer the lively, the cheerful and beau-
tiful flower,
Offer with gladness and willingness
thy youthful power
To Christ, thy friend, who thy soul
e'er will defend,
Safe in His heavenly bower.

Zion's Harp #168

The words of this beautiful song are so true, and we are so thankful for our young people who give so much joy to our church here in Kiowa. Thus it will be sad for us when we bid farewell to our one high school graduate, Lanae Wagenbach (Bro. Ken and Sis. Laura), who will be leaving for college in the fall. We send with her our love and prayers as she steps into a new and different life outside of high school. Lanae has been such a joy to us here and we are sure she will be wherever she goes. It is our fervent prayer that the words of Proverbs 3:5-6 will be her guiding light: "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family of our dear friend, Betty Wiley, who passed from this life at the age of 87 years, 7 months. Betty had been enjoying attending church here until her health kept her from coming the last couple months. We will miss her presence greatly.

Sis. Mildred Farney was a hospital patient for a time this month, but we are thankful she is again able to be in our midst. We ever hold Bethany and her family in our prayers with the assurance that He knows what is best for she and her family and will hold them in His loving care. "Pray without ceasing" is a scripture that we all should practice for each other, and means so much for every one.

With Mother's and Father's day coming soon, may we remember how very blessed we are to have been raised in the fear and admonition of the Lord, and may we tell our parents just how much we appreciate and love them.

KANSAS
LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Ester Knobloch

"For as often as ye eat this bread,
and drink this cup, ye do shew the

Lord's death till he come."

I Cor. 11:26

We were taken back to Calvary and reminded of the price of our redemption when we assembled for Holy Communion. We appreciated Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Sis. Karol, Cissna Park, IL) being with us for the weekend. Bro. Brandon Emch (Sis. Maria, Kansas City, MO) was with us Easter Sunday. We are always thankful for the ministering brethren that give of themselves to preach the truth and pray that God will bless them for their labors.

Sis. Dorothy Young has been released from the hospital to a nursing home. We trust that God will be near her and that the hands that care for her will show kindness.

We rejoice with the angels in heaven as Justin Isch (Sis. Liz, son of Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane) has answered the call to repent. Justin suffered burns to his face in a pasture fire accident and spent some time in the hospital. We pray that God will grant him much grace and healing for both body and soul.

KANSAS, SABETHA
Rebekah Beyer
Carrie Grimm

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

Isaiah 61:11

We are so thankful for our visiting ministering brothers this month. They were Bro. Tom Troxel (Sis. LuAnn, La-Crosse, IN), Bro. Paul Zimmerman (Sis. Loretta, Forrest, IL), Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA), Bro. John Baumgartner (Sis. Lori, Bern, KS), Bro. Greg Braker (Sis. Wendy, Lamar, MO), Bro. Curtis Kaufman (Sis. Caroline, Tucson, AZ), and Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Elizabeth, Silverton, OR). May the Lord bless each of these dear

Brothers as they minister His Word.

We rejoice with Bro. Corbin and Sis. Heidi Anliker (Forrest, IL) as they celebrate the birth of their first child. Ashlyn Rose was born on March 19. Loving grandparents are Bro. Timothy and Sis. Charleen Hartter and Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda Anliker (Forrest, IL).

We also rejoice with Bro. Kent and Sis. Megan Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) as they welcomed home a baby boy into their hearts. William Kent was born March 25. Grandparents are Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa Kellenberger and Elder Bro. Jon and Sis. Julie Schmidgall (Oakville, IA).

Bro. Lynn and Sis. Sally Strahm also welcomed a son into their hearts and home. Bennett Clay was born on April 2 with big sisters Tessa and Amber waiting to welcome him home. Grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Beth Hartter and Sis. Shelby and the late Bro. Dale Strahm (Bern, KS). May the Lord bless and guide these dear parents as they raise their children in the fear of Him.

We rejoice with Bro. John Strahm (Bro. Curt and Sis. Ellen) and Sis. Betsy Doorneweerd (Bro. Butch and Sis. Kathy, and the late Sis. Marlys, Lester, IA) as they announced their engagement on April 5. They are planning for a June 7 wedding. May the Lord richly bless this couple as they plan their life together as one in the Lord.

The weekend of March 28-29 was our Invited Guest weekend. We had a blessed weekend as Brothers and Sisters in Faith came from far and near to fellowship and worship our Lord.

“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

As we remember the crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, may we humbly fall before Him and renew our faith in Him. We were thankful for the message that God

sent to us over the pulpit on Good Friday services and Easter Sunday. May we always remember what Jesus did for us, that our sins may be forgiven and that we may have the hope of everlasting life with Him.

Now that spring has arrived, we have ended our Wednesday evening church services and have begun our every other Sunday evening church singings. There is truly a blessing in the singing of praises to our Lord.

Our prayers remain with Sis. Sheila Moser as she fulfills God's call to Haiti. May she feel His nearness.

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

Ecclesiastes 3:1

May we also feel God's nearness as the warmer days of spring come forth and nature's seeds come alive. May righteousness and praise spring forth from each of us as we glorify Him.

KANSAS, WICHITA Emma Miller

Our part of Kansas experienced more snowfall the last weekend in March than we had had all winter. The snow came down relentlessly. Melting started soon after the snow stopped falling. Driving was extremely hazardous: power failures were common. As a result, most activities were canceled, including Sunday services for our assembly here in Wichita.

Easter weekend activities included a Good Friday evening service and an Easter morning breakfast followed by a seasonal Sunday School presentation before morning services. The Paul Sauder family renewed their bond of fellowship with us this Easter. It has been two years since they moved from Kansas to Minnesota and we are thankful that they keep our small church in their prayers.

Isaac Benjamin Sandahl was born March 28 into the family of his parents,

Candace and Scott Sandahl, and his two sisters. He is the grandson of Bro. Jonathon and Sis. Ruth Long and the great-grandson of Sis. Lillian Bowers.

We know that God answers prayers in various ways. This past month I had an experience where He answered a prayer before I was aware that I was in need. I had gone to take care of some routine tasks which included a need for me to show my ID. I removed my driver's license from my billfold, completed my transaction, and continued with my business. That evening just as I was ready to leave my house again, I received a telephone call from the lady who had helped me use my ID. She told me someone had found my driver's license in the parking lot and brought it in to her. I went to get the card. She was waiting in the cold to hand me my driver's license. Surely God who feeds the sparrows had a heart for a careless soul like me. Slow me down, Lord, as Thou dost teach me not to trust in my own understanding.

MEXICO, IXTLAN Matt Gerber

“Sing unto the LORD, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness. For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.”

Psalms 30:4-5

Eye doctor Bro. Bryan and Sis. Kara Stoller (Fairbury) came with a team for a four-day eye clinic. Hundreds of people came from Ixtlan and surrounding towns for free eye exams and glasses. It was a great opportunity for the young group to get involved in helping the eye team, and we appreciated the servant hearts and good attitudes displayed by all.

We are thankful that Bro. Jose and Sis. Irma Roque's family has moved back to Ixtlan.

We shared in the sorrow of Sis.

Carmen Cervantes and her family in the death of her daughter, Carmela. Please pray that they could be comforted by Christ's presence through His Word and through other believers reaching out as His hands and feet.

MEXICO, MAGDALENA
Kali Zobrist

"Precioso es el raudal, que limpia todo mal,
No hay otro manantial, solo de Jesús la sangre."

Himnos de la Iglesia #192

"How precious is the flow, that makes me white as snow,
No other fount I know, nothing but the blood of Jesus."

This month, along with celebrating the glorious resurrection of our Lord, we celebrated the move to our new church building. The dedication was held the last weekend in March and we welcomed many visitors to help finish the last minute projects and also fill the sanctuary for our first Sunday in the new church. Thanks to everyone who came and made the weekend special, and also to everyone that helped with the church building, whether by physical labor, financial contribution, or prayer.

Work still continues and God continues to provide those willing to help. We have enjoyed many visitors recently: work teams from Rockville, ISU young group, and Purdue young group. Bible class work teams from Tremont and also West Bend continued work in the church and also on the new group home being constructed. Thank you to all who are willing to share in the labor.

We praise God for His faithfulness in working in our lives as we have wonderful news to share — the engagement of one of our staff members here at Casa Viday Esperanza. Bro. Joel Leman (Elder Bro. Mike and Sis. Deb, Denver) felt the hand of God leading Him to marry Sis. Kristi Stoller (Bro. Ed and Sis.

Bonnie, Roanoke). They plan to live in Magdalena and we are thankful that Kristi will be a welcome addition to CVE.

"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

John 10:10

While Satan's attacks have been fierce over the past weeks, the grace and power of God has been manifested here in Magdalena. Thank you for the fervent prayers.

Satan is powerful and would like nothing more than to destroy and rob God of the glory He deserves. But our God is All-powerful and by His grace, we have been promised the victory!

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Terri Huber
Rose Watson

It was an exciting weekend that a lot of us Alto folks traveled to Roanoke, IL, to witness the marriage of Bro. Matthew Oesch (Bro. Tom and Sis. Michelle) to Sis. Shelli Fischer (Bro. Keith and Sis. Dori).

Although I was unable to attend, I heard it was a blessed event. May they continue to follow the Lord as they begin their journey together. We are excited to welcome Shelli to Alto, for they have decided to settle here.

Bro. Ned and Sis. Heidi Stoller brought home another bundle of joy this month; his name is Oliver Stephen and we have to mention the proud grandparents as well, Bro. Steve and Sis. AnnaMarie Stoller and Bro. Kurt and Sis. Luanne Kaeb. Also, Jeremy and Amanda Frost have a baby girl, Taylor Mae, with the proud grandparents being Bro. Jim and Sis. Julie Blough. Congratulations to you all on your new little blessings.

We would like to thank Bro. Ben and Sis. Heidi Gerber of Champaign, IL, for the presentation they shared with us about Loving Shepherd Ministries and

the 143,000,000 orphans in the world. What an eye opening evening for all of us who attended.

Our congregation would like to thank Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily) for helping with our Communion service this past weekend. They were here from Junction, OH, and trust they made a safe journey home.

As always, our prayers go out to those who are ill and/or unable to come to church services.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Sarah Knochel
Janelle Ramseyer

We appreciate the efforts of Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS) for traveling to Bay City to assist Bro. John in the reading of the Memorandum. We are also thankful that Bro. Nate Wieland (Sis. Suzanne, Goodfield, IL) could be with us for Easter Sunday.

We extend a warm welcome to Jim and Dee Nelson who have relocated from Illinois to the Bay City area and are now worshiping with our congregation.

As spring turns into summer and as vacation and travel plans are being made, we encourage you to come and visit our congregation in Bay City. We extend a warm welcome to you and appreciate the fellowship of those of like mind and faith.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT
Tamra Coughlin
Kay Rauhe

As the women's choir sang "He Could Have Called Ten thousand Angels" at our Easter Program on April 5, we were reminded that Jesus could have saved Himself, but He loved us too much to do that. Sometimes, we tend to take His love for granted, but what a sacrifice...and for us...a love that is so monumental and powerful...as the girls' choir sang "Not My Will But Thine"...a beautiful and poignant rendition about how Jesus was ridiculed, spat upon, laughed at, bleeding and dy-

ing...and why?...once again FOR US...and because of all He did for us, all we need to do is to submit to Him through repentance and baptism and enjoy our final reward in Heaven!

King of my life,
I crown Thee now.
Thine shall the glory be;
Lest I forget Thy thorn-crowned brow,
Lead me to Calvary.
Lest I forget Gethsemane;
Lest I forget Thine agony;
Lest I forget Thy love for me,
Lead me to Calvary.

Hymns of Zion #182

It was so wonderful being able to once again worship and fellowship with Sis. Perseda Wieland and Sis. Linda Shaw as they have been unable to attend church services for quite some time. Our prayers were definitely answered...praise the Lord!

Our thoughts and prayers for healing are extended to Sis. Sanche Denes and Sis. Mira Matejin.

Elder Bro. Mark Bahr asked us to have grateful and submissive hearts and great love for each other as we prepare for Holy Communion.

Everyone is warmly welcomed and encouraged to attend our Choir's 21st Annual Choir Benefit scheduled for Sunday, July 12, with a meal at 2:30 p.m. followed by the choral program at 4:30 p.m. Anyone needing overnight accommodations can contact Scott Bahr at spbahr@yahoo.com or (734) 513-5907.

Our heartfelt thanks goes to visiting ministering Bro. Doug Harmon (Sis. Lanna, Toledo; OH) for doing a wonderful job with Woodhaven's vesper service and for your faithfulness. We sincerely appreciate their willingness to "serve the Lord with gladness." (Psalms 100:2).

"...If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and His love is perfected in us."

1 John 4:12

MINNESOTA MINNEAPOLIS Mary Mogler

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

Isaiah 53:5

Easter Sunday dawned bright with joy and promise as we gathered to celebrate the resurrection of our Saviour Jesus Christ. What a stark contrast to the sorrow and somber mood that prevailed at the Good Friday service as we were reminded of the price that was paid to save us from our sins. "What joy I feel, what peace is mine; when I my all to Him resign..." Jesus lives; we can live with him!

Many blessings were ours as ministering Bro. Mike Hohulin (Sis. Faye, Fort Lauderdale, FL) joined our fellowship and brought God's truth to us. For some it was an opportunity to spend time together with long-time friends, and for others, a blessed time of becoming acquainted.

Two baby boys were welcomed into their families this month. Excited for their first son and baby brother, Gage Michael, are Cory and Nikki Schmidt, and daughters Bryce, Kala, and Regan. Also, happily welcoming a son, Mason Duane, are Gregg and Joyce Barker, and his big sister Morgan. We look forward to them becoming a special part of our church family.

We enjoyed many precious years with Bro. Ted and Sis. Kelly Schmidt and their three sons, so it was with sadness we said our good-byes as they moved to West Bend, IA. Also, leaving an empty spot are Jordan and Masondra Metzger and their two boys who are moving to Lester, IA. Each Sunday their little boys brought smiles to our faces. We will truly miss their sweet presence and watching them grow. We pray for God's blessing for

both families as they settle into different communities. We look forward to welcoming them back often!

MINNESOTA, MORRIS Susie Wulf Sheila Reuter

We are thankful when we have visiting ministers to share the Word of God with our congregation. They were Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL), Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Lester, IA), Bro. Todd Stoller (Latty, OH) and Bro. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA). We also want to thank Elder Bro. Ron for his labors as he assisted Elder Bro. Art in the serving of Holy Communion. We trust the Lord will bless all these Brothers for their labors.

Bro. Michael Feuchtenberger was announced to Sis. Jennifer Kaisner of Fairbury, IL. Their parents are Bro. Gerald and Sis. Karen Feuchtenberger and Bro. Don and Sis. Leona Kaisner. May God bless them as they make plans to begin their life together as one in the Lord.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Sis. Sophie Nohl as she has gone to be with the Lord. Our prayers are with her children, Sis. Ruth, Sis. Lynda, Kenneth (Jackie), and Sis. Bonnie Nohl. Our prayers are also with Bro. Damon and Sis. Stephanie Knobloch and Bro. Matt and Sis. Jerilyn Waldbeser in the passing of their mother, Sherryl (Larry) Knobloch, of Lester. May they look to God who can give true comfort in this time of loss.

Our prayers are with Sis. Vi Wulf as she has spent time in the hospital. We trust God will heal where it is His will.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Sophie Nohl would like to thank everyone for your prayers, support, visits, cards, food and memorials during her illness and death. Your thoughtfulness and deeds of kindness is greatly appreciated. May God richly bless you.

Ruth Nohl

*Lynda Nohl
Kenneth and Jackie Nohl and Family
Bonnie Nohl and Family*

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Julie Schmidt
Lindsay Schmidt

Hallelujah! The Lord arose.
Our ransom now is paid.
The Son is victor over death,
Who e'er believes is saved.

Hymns of Zion #257

Our salvation begins with belief, first in God and then the miracle of Jesus' cleansing blood and resurrection. Celebrating Easter reminds us of the greatest example of God's love by giving His Son to save us from our sin. What a wonderful gift. Let us be thankful for this gift, not just during the Easter season, but throughout the year.

Easter Sunday the Sunday School students and teachers provided a delicious breakfast. We are thankful for their willingness to serve others.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Ernie and Sis. Marcelle Dapper in the loss of his sister, Sis. Julie Dapper (Princeville, IL).

We were blessed to have Bro. Kent Mogler (Sis. Mary, Minneapolis, MN) here to expound God's Word to our congregation. May God bless them for their willingness to lend themselves.

Our hospital and surgery patients this month were Idabell Witt (Donald) and Ann Lind (Dan). Thanks be to God for His healing.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY
Brittany Fehr

We would like to thank Elder Bro. Duane and Sis. Karen Farney (Croghan-Naumburg, NY) for coming to share Holy Communion with us. It truly was a very blessed weekend; may God bless them for their efforts.

MISSOURI, LAMAR
Dana Kellenberger
Rebecca Dotterer

We want to welcome Bro. Mitchel and Sis. Renee Schulz and their son, Treyton, as they have temporarily relocated here from Oakville, IA.

It has been a blessing to have visitors, including ministering Bro. Tim Zimmerman (Lamont, KS). May the Lord ever grant grace and humility to His servants to bring forth the Word in truth.

Sis. Dana Kellenberger (Bro. Kyle) spent some time in the hospital. We are thankful she is recovering.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS
Meagan Wuethrich

Easter weekend brought a mixture of joy and sorrow to our hearts. On April 11, we gathered for a graveside service for little Cassandra Mae Rassi, the daughter of Bro. Nathan and Sis. Michelle Rassi, who arrived too soon for this world, but just in time for the next. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Bro. Nathan and Sis. Michelle, as well as Cassandra's grandparents, Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla Rassi and Bro. Walt and Sis. Linda Beery, and all of her aunts, uncles, and cousins that look forward to meeting her, safe in the arms of Jesus.

The next day, Easter Sunday, we gathered again; this time to remember and rejoice that the One who shall wipe away all tears from our eyes, has conquered death on the cross and holds out eternal life for all who will call upon His Name; Jesus Christ.

We praise God for guiding the hands of physicians and granting His healing touch to Sis. Betsy Schrenk, who recently had foot surgery. We're thankful that, after the initial pain and discomfort, she is now back on her feet and healing well.

Earlier this month, on a Sunday when our fellowship was smaller than usual, we felt so blessed to have ministering Bro. Nathan Wieland, his wife,

Sis. Suzanne, and their family from Goodfield, IL, to share the Word and fellowship with us. We also extend special thanks to Bros. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla) and Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget), both from Chicago, as well as our dear Elder Bro. Kent Heimer and his wife, Sis. Jan (Taylor, MO), for coming and having Cassandra's funeral service, and then again for Communion exhortation; we greatly appreciate all of our ministering brothers, their labors of love, and the blessing they are to us.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR
Kathy Eberhardt

We were blessed with two Bible studies this month. Bro. Gerald Sutter, a retired minister from our Taylor congregation, gave us insight on the topic, "When death comes". "So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." (Psalms 90:12)

May we all be prepared for when death comes.

Bro. Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, St. Louis, MO) shared the topic "Drawing Near to God". He used as his text Matthew 5:1-11 (Beatitudes). He taught us that great blessings come from tearing down walls in forgiveness. If we give mercy, we will obtain mercy in our daily walk. The Beatitudes are like stairsteps, from a broken and contrite spirit in a convert to a mature brother or sister, striving for our heavenly home. Thank-you, Bro. Chris and Sis. Carla.

A precious little daughter, Naomi Mae, was born to Bro. Adam and Sis. Katie Reinbeck. She was welcomed home by Rachel, Rebecca, Heidi, Jacob, and Nemion. May God bless this precious family.

Bro. James Knapp (Sis. Lisa, Congerville, IL), shared God's Word to us on Good Friday. May the Lord bless you, Bro. James, for your efforts.

We welcome Bro. Kenton and Sis. Heidi Snyder to our Taylor church. May they feel God's presence and love.

We would like to thank our Sunday School children for the recent Easter program and sharing the words as 1(Cross) + 3(Nails) = 4(Given). Whom sayye that I am? We should practice the constant presence of God. Those who practice the most, will perform the best. Don't we desire to perform our very best in God's presence?

A special prayer goes out for our mothers this Mother's Day. "Tell mother I'll be there", is a song I remember in childhood days that have meant so much to me.

Our graduates from High School this year are Aaron and Andrew Adrian (twin sons of Bro. Rusty and Sis. Amy Adrian), Melissa Reiman (daughter of Jane and the late Lester Reiman), and Joshua Eberhardt (son of Bro. Fred and Sis. Kathy Eberhardt). May the Lord bless them all as they go their different ways. I think of the song, "Have Courage to Say No". Be careful in choosing your companions.

Bro. Arnold Gerst and Bro. Kenny Knapp were hospital patients this month. We pray for the healing hand of our God.

NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Hope Graves

We spent four days together in February and March putting together quilts for local and World Relief. This time spent together is something that we always look forward to and our thanks is extended to each one that spends time organizing and setting up.

We would like to express our thanks to Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan and his wife, Sis. Cheryl, for coming from Rockville, CT, to share in the reading of the Memorandum on March 28. We enjoyed a potluck dinner together that evening and appreciate Bro. Kevin's labors of love to us over the weekend.

The Sunday School had their Easter program on April 12 along with the afternoon service. We are thankful for each of these children and the message they brought forth to us. Our prayer is

that the message of Jesus' love and sacrifice for each of us will touch each heart that was in attendance that day. We pray for God's blessings upon the marriage of Joseph Virkler and Bernice Tabolt who were married on April 18. Joseph is the son of Bro. Andy and Sis. Becky Virkler (West Bend, IA) and Bernice's parents are Brien and Rose Tabolt. It was nice to have Joseph's uncle, Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL), with us for the weekend. We thank him for his labors.

We are thankful that Sis. Bernice Hirschev has been able to return home and we have enjoyed seeing her at church again.

OHIO, AKRON Mara Henico Rachel Pamer

This is the wish from all my heart
For you, my loving comrades;
In our alliance may the Lord
Be felt in blessed nearness.
The power of His cross and blood
Unites us in true brotherhood.

As we have had many opportunities to fellowship with visitors and our home brothers and sisters this month, we are reminded that we do have a precious brotherhood. We were thankful that many were able to come for our Invite-a-Guest weekend. We trust that Bro. Dana Indermuhle (Sis. Joy, Sardis) and Bro. David Steffen (Sis. Linda, Elgin) felt our prayers as they read and meditated on God's Word while visiting at that time. We also hosted a group from Chicago, and were thankful to Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla) and Bro. Lenard Meyer (Sis. Charlotte) for serving us in the ministry that weekend.

God has blessed us with some new faces in our church. We are very thankful that Bro. Micah and Sis. Marcy, Zachary, Jenneka, and Abel Gherian have relocated to our area from Lester. We trust that they will continue to feel

God's peace and provision as they live and fellowship among us. We are also thankful that Bro. Albert and Sis. Elizabeth Yovichin have been welcomed into our congregation after they shared a testimony of God's work in their lives. How thankful we are for each one!

OHIO, COLUMBUS Julie Grimm

We have been richly blessed with an abundance of visiting ministers this past month. We trust the Lord to richly bless the following Brothers for ministering God's precious Word to our flock: Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL), Fred Domka (Mansfield), Bill Brake (Sardis), Bob Dotterer (Sardis), Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL), and Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia).

April 5, many of us were privileged to travel to Smithville, OH, to witness the union of Bro. Mike Crist (Smithville) and Sis. Sarah Rufener (Columbus). Sis. Sarah has been a special part of our congregation and will be deeply missed as she makes her home in Smithville. We pray the Lord will continue to bless this dear couple as they begin their life together.

Bro. Josh Boliantz (Sis. Jenna) recently spent several days in the hospital. We are thankful for God's healing hand.

Bro. Scott, Sis. Hope and big sister Alyana welcome the blessing of a healthy baby girl. Briana Elyse was born on April 8. May God grant them wisdom as they raise their children in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

Holy Communion is a time of remembrance and self examination. We are thankful to be drawn closer to our Savior and one another as we partake of this holy sacrament. Elder Bro. Ben Walder (Congerville, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Mark Masters for this special occasion.

OHIO, JUNCTION Vicki Boroff

Kyanna Monique was born March

31 to Bro. Larry and Sis. Cheree Manz. Kyanna has two older sisters, Jaelah and Elsie, and an older brother, Isaiah. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen Manz, and Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz (Nashville).

On April 5, Bro. Klint Manz (Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy) married Sis. Kallie Klopfenstein (Bro. Keith and Sis. JoAnne, Latty). We wish them God's blessings and welcome Sis. Kallie to Junction.

On April 7, Noah Ryan was born to Kyle and Casey Schlatter. Bro. Ralph and Sis. Sheila Schlatter, and Hal and Kim Kemerer are the excited grandparents.

Sis. Inez Rose and Darren Manz were recent hospital patients. We pray for His healing hand upon them.

OHIO, LATTY
Amanda Wenninger
Carmen Eisenmann

Our congregation was blessed with several visiting ministers this month. They were Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH), Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville, OH), Bro. Dan Moser (Sis. Anne, Elgin, IL), Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH), Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH), Bro. Greg Stieglitz (Sis. Lisa, Indianapolis, IN), and Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL). We pray God will richly bless these willing servants.

April 5 was the wedding day for Sis. Kallie Klopfenstein (Bro. Keith and Sis. JoAnne) and Bro. Klint Manz (Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy). May God abundantly bless their marriage with peace, love, and joy.

Bella Marie was born to Bro. Brian and Sis. Mackenzie Wenninger on April 13. Breanna and Meagan are excited big sisters. Bro. Dave and Sis. Deb Wenninger and Ed and Jackie Scarbrough are the thankful grandparents.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Esther Baumann

We were humbly thankful to have the precious privilege of partaking in Holy Communion on March 8. We appreciate Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty, Silverton, OR) for coming and assisting our Elder Bro. Mark Masters in this sacred work.

Continue to uphold in prayer our recently hospitalized brethren: Sis. Dorina Miller (Bro. Roger), Sis. Millie Gerber (Bro. Wilbur), Bro. John Miller (Sis. Lillian) and Sis. Lucy Baumann (Bro. David).

We pray God will reward Bro. Matt Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago, IL) for his service to us in the ministry.

Our prayers and sympathy to Bro. Ron Rufener (Sis. Kay) whose father, Bro. Wayne Rufener (Rittman, OH), passed away. Bro. Wayne is also survived by his wife, Sis. Nina; a daughter, Chris Huddleston (Denny), and a son, Bro. John (Sis. Emily, Smithville, OH).

OHIO, RITTMAN

Heidi Rufener

Laurie Beery

On March 29, Lonnie and Lisa Tanner welcomed Drew William into their family. Drew's brothers are Hayden and Dylan. Grandparents are Joe and Sis. Karen Riggenbach. Bro. Marvin and Sis. Sue Hartzler welcomed another little boy into their family. Cyrus James was born on March 30. Siblings of Cyrus are Mason, Baylor, Tory, Kya, Bennett, Rustin, Ariel and Sage. Grandparents are Bro. Vince and Sis. Jane Hartzler and Sis. Irma Stoller (Latty, OH). Jaxson Doyle was born to Jason and Brandi Gasser on March 31. Grandparents are Bro. Dale and Janet Gasser. We are thankful for the safe arrival of Hans Joseph born to first-time parents, Bro. Corban and Sis. Jessica Riggenbach (Smithville, OH). Grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Anita Riggenbach and Bro. Dave and Sis. Luanna Dotterer (Smithville, OH). The family of Bro. Nate and Sis. Anita Steiner is thankful for another little

girl added to their family. Laina Brooke was born on April 4. Siblings of Laina are Hannah, Leah, Cecelia and Clay. Grandparents are Bro. Matt and Sis. Gail Steiner and Bro. Dave and Sis. Connie Maletich (Smithville, OH). On April 7, Preston Nicholas was born to Tony and Sammi Beery. Grandparents of Preston are Bro. Stan and Sis. Karen Beery.

We were thankful to welcome new lambs into the fold on April 5. They were Sis. Mary Jenkins (Bro. Tom and Sis. Debbie), Sis. Laura Bauman (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Martha), Bro. Bryan Emch (Craig and Gale). Also, Margaret Betz gave her testimony and we are glad to have her as our Sister in faith. Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Croghan, NY) and Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) assisted our Elder Bro. Merle in this work. Also serving us in the ministry recently were Bro. Mike Ursu (Kitchener, Canada), Bro. Don Steidl (Akron, OH) and Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH).

Austin Gasser (Brant and Tiffany), Jeannette Woyat (Ron), Earl Rupp, Sis. Nina Rufener and Sis. Eleanor Ramsier have all spent time in the hospital recently. We pray that each one may feel God's nearness during times of illness.

Our sympathy and prayers go out to the family of Bro. Wayne Rufener who passed away on March 26. Surviving are his wife, Sis. Nina, and his children: Chris (Denny) Huddleston, Bro. Ron (Sis. Kay, Mansfield, OH), and Bro. John (Sis. Emily).

Bro. Nathan and Sis. Michelle Rassi (St. Louis, MO) mourn the loss of their prematurely born daughter, Cassandra Mae, who died on April 7. Grandparents of Cassandra are Bro. Walt and Sis. Lynda Beery and Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla Rassi (Chicago, IL). May each one who suffers loss feel the comfort of the Holy Spirit.

OHIO, SARDIS
Faith Beard

We rejoice to count a new family in with our church family as Bro. Joel, Sis.

Heidi, Loren, Katie, Luke and Leah Beard have felt led to move to our area. We empathize with the Forrest, IL, congregation as they are the church family to feel the loss.

We've lived in peace together here, as all can see most clearly;
We've lived as Christians who would bear the Saviour's name sincerely, E'en as all do whose faith is true; And hence I leave with sadness.
Though I depart, you have my heart.
I think of you with gladness.

We once again thank Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridgett, Chicago, IL) for his efforts in bringing forth the Word to us this month.

The weekend of April 18-19 brought many new friendships and renewed the old as we enjoyed our many guests at our Invite-A-Guest weekend. We thank those who made the efforts to spend the hours on the road to bless us with their presence.

Praised be the Lord Who gives us strength,
Who leads and gives direction.
My brethren, when you kneel in pray'r,
for me make intercession.
"Twill not be vain; pray'r as a chain binds us in God together,
And when we part, unites each heart in Jesus' name forever.

Zion's Harp #195, vs. 4, 8

Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry Zollinger are thankful for the safe arrival of their newest grandchild. Charles Branham entered this world on April 23 and is the son of Ben and Suzy Zollinger of Newport News, VA, and the little brother of Lillian. We wish them God's blessings and guidance as they raise their young family.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE
Edith Miller
Ruth Gasser

Speak the gospel of salvation

Boldly in the wilderness!
In the Saviour's blood there's healing
Grace and pardon He's revealing
To the sinner in distress.

Zion's Harp #112

We appreciate the truth of God's Word, and surely thank those brothers who share it in its purity. May God richly bless the efforts and sacrifice of our recent visiting ministers: Bros. Tom Bahler, Warren Zahner (Rockville, CT), John Grimm (Columbus, OH), and Lucas Frank (Detroit, MI).

The Lord has led the lives of Bro. Paul Klotzle and Sis. Kristen Edelman (Bern, KS) that they be joined in holy matrimony in Bern on March 22. Parents of the couple are Bro. Robert and Sis. Shirley Klotzle and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda Edelman (Bern, KS). On April 5, Bro. Mike Crist and Sis. Sarah Rufener (Columbus, OH) became one in the Lord before many witnesses in Smithville Church. Bro. Larry and Sis. Susan Rufener are Sis. Sarah's parents. May God bless these marriages. We trust they will continue to feel the Lord's leading as they fill new positions in His body, the Church.

After a hospital stay for Sis. Jessica Riegenbach, she and Bro. Corban received a special blessing with the arrival of IIans Joseph, their firstborn, on April 1. Sharing this good news are Sis. Jessica's parents, Bro. David and Sis. Luanna Dotterer and Bro. Corban's parents, Bro. Ed and Sis. Anita Riegenbach (Rittman, OH). Bro. David and Sis. Connie Maletich are the grateful grandparents of Laina Brooke, who was added to the family of Bro. Nathan and Sis. Anita Steiner (Rittman, OH). Bro. Matthew and Sis. Gail Steiner are the Rittman grandparents, and share in the joy and responsibility. May God bless those entrusted with these little ones.

Bro. David Maibach (Sis. Lorisa), Sis. SueEllen Maibach (Bro. Ken), Bro. Michael Miller (Sis. Robin) and Sis. Luella Stoller (late Bro. Harold) have been hospitalized and in need of

prayers. May they feel the healing hand of the Great Physician, whatever the need or affliction.

We also want to remember in prayer Bro. John and Sis. Emily Rufener and family, as Bro. John's father, Bro. Wayne Rufener (Sis. Nina), finished his earthly course and was laid to rest, with services at Rittman Church.

OHIO, TOLEDO
Teresa Rywalski
Rebecca Beard

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

I Corinthians 11:26

What a privilege it was to be able to spend a quiet night together and partake of Holy Communion. We thank Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) for serving us.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Geri Beard are thankful for the safe arrival of their granddaughter, Victoria Eryn. Victoria was born on March 28 to Aaron and Tanya Beard.

Joining us this month on the pulpit were Bro. Larry Wenninger (Sis. Joyce, Latty, OH) and Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH). May God bless them for their willingness to serve us.

OREGON, PORTLAND
Renee Angstrom

Sharing the Word this month from Silverton was Bro. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie). We appreciate his support and bringing forth the Word.

We enjoyed a blessed Easter Program prepared and sung by the Sunday School children. It is always a delight to hear the children bring the Easter story forward with their beautiful voices.

We sorrow with Bro. Nathan Kuenzi (Sis. Sarah) in the death of his father, Bro. Lee Kuenzi (Sis. Janet, Silverton, OR). Bro. Lee was also an uncle to some in our congregation and he will be

missed greatly by his family.

OREGON, SILVERTON Cindy Metzger

Dylan Richard was born to Bro. Rick and Sis. Miriam Hoach on March 27. His grandparents are Jeff and Joyce Jensen (Beaverton, OR) and Raymond and Eileen Kuenzi (Silverton). Dylan was welcomed home by his siblings, Victoria, Rebekah and Robert.

Our dear Bro. Lee Kuenzi passed away on April 13. Our sympathy and prayers go to his wife, Sis. Janet; and his many family members, including his children: Bro. Terry (Sis. Ann), Bro. Nick (Sis. Mary), Bro. Myron (Sis. Diane), Sis. Laura (Bro. Robert) Kieser, Sis. Rebecca (Bro. Carl) Kieser, Bro. Art (Sis. Mary Beth), Sis. Lavonne (Bro. John) Teubel, Sis. Marianne (Bro. Richard) Kraft, Bro. Jason (Sis. Jo), Juanita (Will) Kaeb, Bro. Nathan (Sis. Sarah), Sis. Nadine (Bro. Keith) Edelman, Bro. Harvey (Sis. Jennifer) and Sis. Lucy (Bro. Trent) Meiss.

We are thankful to those who ministered to us this month: Bros. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy) and Ron Jones (Sis. Liz), both of Portland, OR.

PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

We're always thankful when we can report that by God's graciousness, our congregation has had a blessed month. With a collective reasonable measure of health and strength (including a few typical ups and downs), we worship God and we experience His blessing. Our children flourish in Sunday school, their parents tend to the responsibility of raising them in the fear and admonition of the Lord and the aunts, uncles and grandparents all do what we can to increase our congregation's joy in serving Christ.

The summer season approaches. Let us remind you that historic Philadelphia and Gettysburg as well as our nearby unique Amish farm country are all very fine additions to summer vaca-

tion plans. You are cordially invited to worship with us—each visitor brings an added blessing to our midst.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE Mike and Monica Fritz

We are thankful to have Bro. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder in our midst again. They have returned after spending the winter in Zapata, TX.

We were privileged recently to be exhorted from the Memorandum and then to share Holy Communion with our outgoing Elder, Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen; Bluffton North, IN), and our incoming Elder, Bro. John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia; Latty, OH). We want to thank Bro. Phil and Sis. Maureen for their many years of loving and willing service to our congregation, and we look forward to being able to share and work with Bro. John and Sis. Marcia as they serve us.

We have been strengthened and encouraged as our visiting ministering brothers have shared God's Word with us. In addition to Bros. Phil and John, our recent visitors have included Bros. Paul Kilgus (Sis. Carmen; Fairbury, IL), Sam Schlatter (Sis. Linda; Junction, OH), and Dave Hartter (Sis. Beth; Sabetha). We also have been blessed by the fellowship of brethren and friends visiting from Champaign, Eureka, Fairbury, and Forrest, IL; Bluffton, Bluffton North, Francesville, and Wolcott, IN; Bern and Sabetha, KS; and Junction and Latty, OH.

If you are traveling in or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. The following churches are scheduled for services in the near future: Bern, KS (5/24); Tremont, IL (5/31); Remington, IN (6/7); Atlanta, GA (6/14); Roanoke, IL (6/21); and Alto, MI (6/28). 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

"And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him."

Revelations 22:3

An interesting thought that God's servants will spend their time in heaven serving Him.

Thanks to our visiting ministers: Bros. Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield), Fred Funk (Sis. Diane, Morton), David Hartter (Sis. Beth, Sabetha), and Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont). Other visitors were from Oakville, Eureka, Rockville, Latty, Congerville, and Junction.

The following is the minister schedule for June: (7) Bloomington, (14) San Diego, (21) Lester, (28) Fairbury. 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. In addition to the contacts in the minister book, you may contact our local minister, Bro. Dennis and Sis. Diane Rassi at 309-275-7775.

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

one-story building with limestone siding and the church sign in the front. Quite a few people have tried using the GPS system to find the church; but they found out that GPS 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.

**VERMONT
NORTH CLAREN-
DON/NORWICH**

Nathan and Miriam Reutter

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

Romans 10:15b

This past month three ministering brothers came to preach to us. They were Bro. Tom Bahler (Sis. LaNae), Bro. Steven Pamer (Sis. Arliss), and Bro. Dan Goric (Sis. Mary Lou). Bro. Tom and Bro. Dan are from Rockville, CT, and Bro. Steven is from Akron, OH. We pray that God would richly bless these brothers and their wives and families for their love and dedication in serving us.

We are thankful to report that after much tribulation, our beloved Sis. Areli Reutter has obtained her American citizenship. It is a positive answer to many long, difficult prayers. We rejoice with her in the freedoms that this now allows her.

If you are interested in fellowshiping with us here in Vermont, and would like information about service locations and dates, please contact Bro. Chad and Sis. Jenny Virkler (802-293-2724). We love to fellowship

with believers whether it is during the week or on the weekend. Please let us know if you are planning on being in our area so we can accommodate you. Service times are as follows:

Mid-week services

(Contact local brethren)

Sunday Morning Service 10:10 AM

Sunday Afternoon Service 12:15 PM

Sunday school is held during the morning service.

If anyone is interested in purchasing beautiful head-coverings 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).

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25 Ways to Provoke Anger in Children, Part III

Note on a staff addition: Bro. Brian Sutter (Washington) will be joining the ACCFS counseling staff as a full-time counselor on May 4. Bro. Brian originates from the Taylor congregation and has been working as a counselor for Luthern Social Services in Peoria for the last 1.5 years. We are glad to have Bro. Brian join our organization and ask for your prayers on his and our behalf.

This Silver Lining article addresses some ways that parents can unintentionally provoke their children to anger. This is part three of a four part series.

Parents have the calling (Prov. 22:6) to be proactive in training their children in the wisdom of how to experience the emotion (be ye angry), and yet make good choices (sin not). The context of this article will encourage parents to examine themselves first in how they can avoid "provoking their children to anger" (Col. 3:21). The author, Lou Priolo, outlines in his book on this topic, "The Heart of Anger", 25 ways that parents can unknowingly create anger and frustration in their children.

The first article included the following 5 ways of provoking anger;

1. The Lack of Marital Harmony, 2. Establishing and Maintaining a Child-Centered Home, 3. Modeling Sinful Anger, 4. Habitually Disciplining While Angry, and 5. Scolding. The second article included; 6. Being Inconsistent with Discipline, 7. Having Double Standards, 8. Being Legalistic, 9: Not Admitting You're Wrong and Not Asking for Forgiveness, 10. Constantly Finding Fault, 11. Parents Reversing God-Given Roles, and 12. Not Listening to Your Child's Opinion or Taking His or Her "Side of the Story" Seriously.

The remainder of this article will look at examples 13-18 as behaviors parents should try to avoid.

13. Comparing Them to Others:

For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise. (2 Cor. 10:12)

God blesses every child with unique gifts and talents. It is important for a child to learn at an early age "not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of

faith" (Rom. 12:3). Children that live in the constant shadow of another sibling or child will tend to over-focus or over-promote their accomplishments in hopes of being noticed. Frustration can occur when children, who have not been appreciated for their God-given worth and talents, are constantly trying to become or mimic someone else.

14. Not Making Time "Just to Talk":

Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: (Jam. 1:19)

Relationships are the key to "training up your child" and they are impossible to build without communication. Moms and dads are under constant pressure from the requirements of life that can keep them from spending time engaging in the "sharing and caring" process with their child. Parents that are overwhelmed with those pressures rarely establish the strong and significant parent/child relationships that are vital for a child's successful maturing.

15. Not Praising or Encouraging Your Child:

I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ. (1 Cor. 1:4)

Building an accurate self-perception in a child involves them clearly understanding not only what is wrong and needs to be corrected, but also what is right and pleasing to God. It is too easy for parents to focus only on the wrong, and consequently, their children tend to evaluate themselves inaccurately. Their self-perceptions become distorted instead of sober (Rom. 12:3) and true (Phil. 4:8). Generic and inflated praise diminishes this self-perception, while the opposite, specific and targeted appreciation helps build a "sober and true" self-perception.

16. Failing to Keep Your Promises:

But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil. (Matt. 5:37)

Most parents have every intention of honoring commitments to their children. When promises and commitments are not consistently kept (regardless of reason) and no attempt is made to modify the promise or seek forgiveness from the child for breaking that promise, the child's disappointment can turn into anger. If the string of broken promises continues to grow, so will the child's view that his parents are undependable, unreliable, and possibly even deceitful.

17. Chastening in Front of Others:

Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. (Matt. 18:15)

This principle presented in Matthew works well in the church family and is also sound practice for individuals within their family unit. The goal of chastening is to prevent a sinful action from becoming a sinful habit. If a child is acting sinfully and inappropriate in the presence of his peers and others, then he may in certain cases be verbally rebuked in their presence. However, if the misbehavior is not public, the discipline process should be handled privately and securely between child and parent.

18. Not Allowing Enough Freedom:

For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more. (Luke 12:48)

Children should be taught that freedom in not a right, but a privilege that can be earned by demonstrating their faithfulness to mom and dad's expectations. That faithfulness involves demonstrating to God and parents that the child can be trusted with increased freedom on at least two things: the successful fulfillment of specific responsibilities and the successive competence to make biblically wise decisions.²

Though some parents may struggle with over-protectiveness or insecurity, their children may often become exasperated, discouraged, and even rebellious if not provided with trust-building and freedom-growing opportunities.

Conclusion:

Since our children are the heritage of the Lord (Ps. 127:3), it is vital that they learn how to discern and appropriately respond to anger. While this article does not address specific skills for children to use in learning how to manage anger and frustration, it does provide an outline for strengthening parent's awareness of possible trigger points in children. Some children's personalities and temperaments are going to require additional help from mom and dad in learning these skills. Those efforts on behalf of children needing to learn the balance of emotions and actions are going to be well pleasing to God.

References

1. Lou Priolo, *The Heart of Anger*, (Amityville, NY: Calvary Press, 1997), pg.29-51.
2. Ibid., pg.45.

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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This position offers a competitive salary and generous benefits. For further information and a job description, please contact:

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Administrator

PO Box 151

Leo, IN 46765

1-888-443-4283 (GATE)

jeff.schumacher@gatewaywoods.org

Bro. Lynn Stieglitz

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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

up in life, those of us that are today converted, as we read on, it speaks of that time previous to our conversion.

What is a conversion? It is a change. It is a transformation. It is a difference in that old nature. It is not a fallacy, is it? It is not something that is in our past that maybe we miss-remembered. It is a fact. Our nature was not to respond to the power of God. Our nature was not to listen to someone who told us to be selfless. Our nature was not to be taught. But our nature was to do that which we wanted to do. Do that which fulfilled our own desires. Do that which we desired.

"Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others." Ephesians 2:3. That's a fact. But why is it that we are so different today? What has changed our life? What has given us the ability to allow God to direct us? What has given us the opportunity to put aside that way of thinking? We heard this morning that we can't do this of our own self. It is not within our power.

Some of us can be pretty stubborn, pretty steadfast. But think of the power and the ability of the evil one. How he can take a person and create within them that which they think is sufficient to reach that heavenly home. There are men across the broad face of the earth, thousands and millions, who worship gods that are no gods. They have no life. They have no ability to give them any direction, unless there is ability given by the devil himself.

Christ gives us the opportunity. God has granted us the ability to be transformed, to be changed, to be regenerated. Why? "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ..."

v.4,5. Even when we were dead in sin. Let's not forget that, as we lived our life selfishly, it was God that came, knocked on our door. It wasn't us that went begging. I can't speak for you as to how it was when you felt that call of conviction. But for me, it wasn't me seeking, but it was God knocking. He was working on me. He spent a long time on me, as I'm sure He did on some of you. But He did that because He loved me. Not because I was such a jolly good person. Not because I was one that deserved His attention. Not because I brought forth works that He was looking for. But rather because He saw the works that I did do and He knew they were not going to do me any good. They were going to destroy me.

We as men, do not comprehend the length of life. So often our mind takes care of only what is right in front of us. But this God has prepared a way, that even when we don't love Him, His great mercy and compassion is showered down on us.

"And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus." v.6,7. To think of the grace. To think of the kindness. These words don't even explain it well enough, do they? Our minds don't comprehend what that really means. Sometimes it is easier for us to comprehend in different terms.

But let's think of a person that is condemned to die - because we were. But let's think of someone that's sitting in death row. Obviously guilty. There is always debate here on earth, whether they were convicted wrongfully or not. But let's just consider that we were on death row. We were guilty. There's no way out of it. We knew it and everybody around us knew it. Obviously the judge knows that. Death row is not a place to enjoy. Because all you can look forward to is to wait for the condemnation that's due you. Wait.

Loved ones, that's where we were. That's the spot where we were. We had no reason to beg for mercy. We had no reason to assume that we would get anything other than death. Christ came and interceded for us. God saw our heart and He showed to us a plan.

Perhaps in the busy-ness of life, in our daily life, we forget what great mercy was showered upon you and me. But let's remember it today. Let's remember ourselves as one that was condemned to die. Obviously guilty. Feeling that condemnation and being granted that freedom.

"For by grace are ye saved through faith..." Grace, mercy, faith. "...and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:" v.8. We did not deserve it. We will never deserve it. We can't ever do anything that will fully repay, or even half way repay the price that was paid for us.

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." v.10. Now remember, we didn't do anything that deserved salvation. It was handed to us. All we did was respond. All we did was accept the opportunity. We didn't design it. We didn't build it. We didn't do anything to deserve it. It is God's work. We have to keep that in mind. It is God's work. He prepared the way. He sent His Son.

He started working on it clear back the day of Adam and Eve or maybe before. He worked on it through the ages of time. The day that He changed Jacob's name to Israel, He was still working on it. We didn't have any input to it. He presented Christ as a babe. Gave Him the right timetable to teach, to preach and to die and to arise. We didn't do anything until the day we came and God offered unto us salvation. Those of us that have responded, all we did was accept the opportunity. Then, knowing that we did not get there by works, by ability, lest any man should boast.

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works. Now is the time for us to show forth unto Him our appreciation. Now is the time for us to respond to Him, as He asks us to be molded and shaped.

It always intrigues me. He says, "Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh..." v.11. We are told in another Scripture that we are not to spend a lot of time looking back. It is not our duty to look back. Because it becomes our desire then to partake of those things that we enjoyed. But we are told to remember that you were at one time, Gentiles in the flesh.

Why should we remember that? Because it does us good to remember that we did not create this new heart. It does us good to remember that we did deserve to die. It does us good to remember that we were saved by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Then we can remember that those about us that have that same need - and maybe they will profess it and maybe they won't - but they have that need and it is freely available to them. There is not one that God does not want saved from that death row.

We were called uncircumcision, but we aren't anymore. "That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope..." v.12. Maybe it is a little hard for us to remember. Maybe it is a little difficult for us to really re-create in our mind that hopeless

feeling. But it is true. It was hopeless. There was no hope. We were without God in the world.

"But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ." v.13. We're given the opportunity and we're brought into the fold. We're brought into the circumcised, into those of God's promise.

"For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man..." v.14,15. What a blessing it is. The mercy that we sang about. The grace that we read about. To become a new man. To be reconciled unto God. To be sitting on death row and the judge, being the one that has condemned us, placed his judgment upon us, to be relieved. We are no longer judged as one worthy of death.

There is a robe that overflows upon us. The blood of Christ cleansed our heart. That robe now is white. We don't deserve a white robe. We don't earn that white robe. But we best keep it white. We best make sure that we take care of it. That we appreciate the great opportunity that is part of our future. The future that now, instead of death and looking at judgment, now becomes promise and hope and joy, peace, heaven and love. Compassion and grace and mercy and so many wonderful attributes.

"And came and preached peace to you..." v.17. Peace. Do we remem-

ber, especially those nights, as we would consider our lot? As we would consider our standing before God? Peace wasn't part of it. But oh the day that peace came! Peace came because we were cleansed. We were regenerated. We put aside those things of self. We became new. We made peace with those that we had erred against. We were cleansed.

I remember the moment - many of you do to - when there was an overwhelming sense that it is well with my soul. What a joy! What a privilege! An undeserved privilege given to you and I.

"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;" v.19,20. There is a brotherhood. There is a united group that has the opportunity to walk hand in hand. We heard about that brotherhood this morning. It's built upon the foundation of the apostles, the prophets and Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone.

"In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit." v.21,22. There, loved ones, is our calling. To be an habitation of God in our daily walk of life. Let's rejoice. Let's be thankful and appreciative. That we, united, have been given this grace and this favor of God.



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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)*

The 2009 Athens/Tennessee Memorial Day Weekend is scheduled on Saturday, May 23 and Sunday, May 24 with the theme of "Watch and Pray."

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 Bro. Larry Weninger (Latty, OH) speaking on the first topic of "Watch and Pray" at 7:30 p.m. 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, Bro. Lenard Meyer (Chicago, IL) speaking on the second topic—"Struggles and the Rewards"—at 5:00 p.m., followed by 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 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.

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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 contacts listed below if you plan to join us for the weekend (and have not already notified your local church's contact that you plan to attend). Also, 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 Chairman 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:

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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
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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

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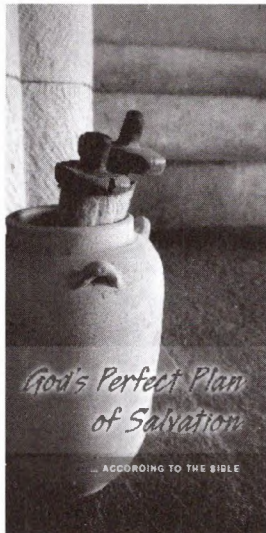
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 Admit that you are a sinner.
"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." ROMANS 3:23
"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." 1 JOHN 1:8

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 save yourself. You need the Savior, 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 boast." EPHESIANS 2:8,9

REPENT
 Feel a regret for sin, change your mind, and turn from sin to God. Circumstances 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 therefore 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 fruit of repentance and it brings to light those deeds 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 rebirth 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." MATT 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 acknowledge our wrong doing, ask for forgiveness and if appropriate repay for the loss. Because you recognize Christ has paid the price for your sin you will desire to be at peace with man as well as with God, which includes forgiveness of others.
"If it be possible, so 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 6:14,15

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.
- It can be useful for sharing God's plan of salvation with the lost or with those having a limited understanding of God's Word.
- It is free of charge (shipping charges apply)
- View the entire tract on our website (available as a free download)

How to Order:

Online at www.acpublications.org During Business Hours: call 309-467-3611
 After Hours: Call 309-467-3611 leave a message, or fax to the same number.

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

CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 2009/2010

All volunteers should contact the project coordinator. Should you not be able to contact the coordinator, for Haiti direct your inquiry to Bro. Rich Bertschi, Ph. 309-467-6110, E-mail lemangm@mtco.com.

For Jamaica, direct your inquiry to Bro. Mike Rassi, Ph. 1-309-359-5240 or E-mail michael_rassi@hotmail.com.

HAITI

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

Project	Year 2009	Coordinator	Capacity
Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Jun 5-12	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 topnotch@home.ffni.com	4
Les Cayes AWA Water Aid	Nov 17-24	Troy Stuber 309-925-2603 troystuber@verizon.net	4
Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Dec 4-11	Ted Habegger 260-694-6765 tjh@citznet.com	12
Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Dec 4-11	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 topnotch@home.ffni.com	4
Les Cayes MEBSH Haiti Support	Dec 11-14	Rich Bertschi 309-467-2351 lemangm@mtco.com	Invitation
Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Jan 8-15	Ron Palitto 330-336-5373 Ronp@palittoconsulting.com	12
Les Cayes AWA Water Aid	Jan 22-29	Troy Stuber 309-925-2603 troystuber@verizon.net	4
La Higuera - D/R Lifeline Construction	Jan 26-Feb 2	Jim Koehl 309-377-3201 jmkoehl@yahoo.com	12
Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Jan 29-Feb 5	Dean Pashak 989-662-7685 dwpashak@charter.net	12
La Romana - D/R Lifeline Construction	Feb 2-9	Ted Steidinger 815-867-6452 tsteid@route24.net	12
Les Cayes SEED Agriculture Aid	Feb 5-12	Dale Frank 319-766-3661 dtfrank@louisacomm.net	12
Croix De Bouquets Lifeline Constr/Medical	Feb 9-16	Neil Bahler 815-692-2370 nbahler@gmail.com	12
Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Feb 22-Mar 1	Randy Kieser 309-695-6340 kieser84@geckoct.com	12
Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Mar 3-12	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 topnotch@home.ffni.com	4
Les Cayes FRW Simone Orphanage	Mar 12-19	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 topnotch@home.ffni.com	12
Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Mar 19-26	Rich Bertschi 309-467-2351 lemangm@mtco.com	12
Les Cayes MEBSH Haiti Support	Mar 26-29	Rich Bertschi 309-467-2351 lemangm@mtco.com	12
Les Cayes MEBSH Maintenance	Mar 26-Apr 2	Jon Zeller 309-266-9009 jzeller@mtco.com	12
Les Cayes AWA Water Aid	Apr 23-30	Troy Stuber 309-925-2603 troystuber@verizon.net	4
Les Cayes MEBSH Medical	May 7-14	Keith Knepp 309-467-4691 kknepp@mchsi.com	8
Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Jun 4-11	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 topnotch@home.ffni.com	4

Haiti and Jamaica Work Team Code Definitions

CCCD = Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf

MEBSH = Missions of Evangelical Baptists of South Haiti

Palm Grove = Mission of Haiti

S.E.E.D. = An Agricultural School & Extension Service

TBA = To Be Announced

Palm Grove = Mission of Haiti

A.W.A. - B. = Apostolic Water Aid/Bluffton

A.W.A. - FRW = Apostolic Water Aid/Francesville, Remington, Wolcott

A.W.A. - T = Apostolic Water Aid/Tremont

(*) = Changes or additions since last issue

()** = Spring Break Timeframe

JAMAICA

Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of May 12th, 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	Jun 20 - 27	Jay Maibach jmmaibach@embarqmail.com	40
Jamaica Deaf Village CCCD Goodfield SS	Jun 6 - 13	Andy Bauman arbauman@mchsi.com	40	Akron, Rittman, Smithville SS			

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 May 12th, 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	

USA World Relief Committee

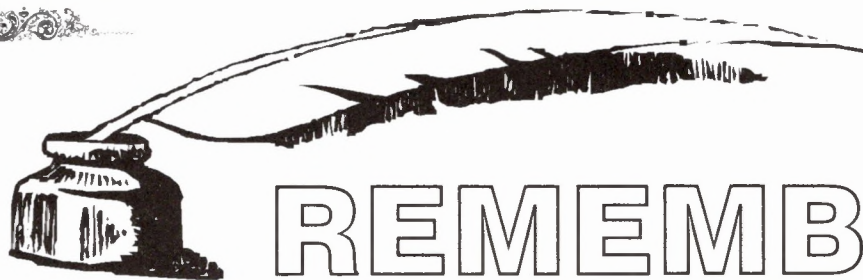
For area work or disaster projects, please contact the following USA committee member:

* 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



REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

The following includes excerpts of an article from the Gridley, Illinois, Advance newspaper on March 24, 1930. It is a reference to the funeral of Elder Michael Mangold of Roanoke. Several from the Gridley, Illinois, congregation attended, and it was a noteworthy news item for Gridley's weekly newspaper.

Many Gridley People Attend Services Held at the Prairie Apostolic Christian Church

"Many members of the Gridley Apostolic Christian Church went to Roanoke yesterday morning to attend the funeral services for their beloved elder, Michael Mangold, which were held at the Prairie Apostolic Christian Church, near that place, at 10 o'clock. Elder Mangold died on Saturday after an illness of only a few days, the dissolution being due to pneumonia. His death was a great shock in every community where he was known.

Rev. Mangold was born in Alsace-Lorraine, France, on April 6, 1859, and came to the United States in 1876, since which time he resided at Roanoke. He was married in 1883 to Miss Lydia Hartman, who survives with three sons, Ezra, John, and David Mangold, all of Roanoke. There are eleven grandchildren. Two sisters are living, Mrs. William Yergler of Cissna Park, and Mrs. Chris Gramm of Gridley. The late Daniel Mangold, of Gridley, was a brother.

Rev. Mangold was an elder of the Apostolic Christian church for a pe-

riod of thirty years. The churches of this denomination of which he was the elder are located at Roanoke, Gridley, Mackinaw Dells, all in Illinois; Oakville, Iowa; Francesville, Indiana, and West Quincy, Missouri. He was one of the leading elders in the Apostolic Christian church in the United States. The members of his church not only regarded him with high esteem, but had great affection for him."

The following article is taken from the June, 1962, edition of the Silver Lining. It is from the LaCrosse, Indiana, congregation. It was written by local reporter, Bro. Albert J. Bucher, also called, "Bert". He was a song leader, and makes reference to singing during his life in the church. He grew up in Gridley, Illinois, and eventually moved to LaCrosse, Indiana.

Our Oldest Song Leader

"I hesitate to write this, because it is about me. When I was fourteen years old, I went to German School one winter. Sis. Mary Hohulin Yergler was my teacher, and we had Singing School every week. Bro. J. P. Guingrich taught us to sing notes, and also how to keep time.

I was very much interested in learning to sing notes. My father and I would drive miles with horses and buggy on cold winter nights to practice. How, when someone had a singing, Bro. J. P. would always

want me to go and sing tenor, which I did quite often.

In the year 1917, quite a number of young folks repented (about 40 in all), and in this group were my wife and I. Very soon after this when there was no leader in the group, I was asked to lead singing.

In 1920, we moved to La Crosse, Indiana, and they had only one leader, Bro. Ed Troxel. I was asked to help out.

Now, the time soon came when our children grew up, and we also started a Singing School. I tried to do for them what Bro. J. P. Guingrich did for us, and we soon had a young group that also learned to sing notes. We had these singings for a good many years.

I have always enjoyed good singing and do yet. I think it would be well if some of our young brothers would be willing to teach notes today. I still lead some, but we have young brothers who can take over now, and I think we should encourage this."

History Books Are Shipped

The second edition of **Marching to Zion** is completed and has been shipped to the local congregations for distribution locally. It is 810-pages long, and currently sells for \$20. Books can also be obtained from Apostolic Christian Publications in Eureka, Illinois, or by calling the author at 309 747 2803 (Gridley, Illinois).

By Perry A. Klopfenstein
Next Issue: More History

The Light Of Hope

“The Meaning of Grace”

Retired Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

We have all heard that grace is unmerited favor or an undeserved gift. However, neither of those definitions exactly tells us what grace is, rather, they tell us something about grace. We know we don't deserve it, whatever it is.

Extra time offered to repay a debt is called a period of grace. It is unmerited and undeserved but the lender gives the borrower extra time.

We are particularly interested in the meaning of grace when used in the Bible or when we speak of spiritual things. When we are baptized we promise that, by God's grace, we will be true and faithful to God and to Christ, so long as we live. This is an acknowledgment that we cannot live a holy life as taught in the Bible, without God's help. So we can say that grace is undeserved help from God. We receive that help by faith through prayer and Bible reading.

In Ephesians 2:8 and 9, we read, “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 boast.” Here “grace” is used as a synonym for “Christ's atonement,” if I'm not mistaken. If so, we can say that grace is Christ's atonement on our behalf. That seems comforting to me.

Verse 10 follows and reads,

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” This verse indicates that, if we have been created in Christ Jesus, or have become a new person in Christ Jesus, our works should show it, and if I dare say it, our attitude should show it. Our attitude should be one of being willing to be taught, and an attitude of looking for more ways to deny ourselves in order to better serve the Lord.

The Apostle James wrote in 2:17, “Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.” Here he seems to be saying that if your faith does not produce good works, does not make a big difference in the way you live, your faith is dead, which being interpreted, is not a saving faith. He follows up this thought with the statement in verse 19, “The devils also believe, and tremble.” The devils don't have “obedience” in their vocabulary but true Christians want to be obedient to the Word of God.

Grace is an undeserved gift, God's undeserved help, Christ's atonement on our behalf, but I believe it is also “power” from God. People may be addicted to something that they cannot overcome except by the power or grace of God. It takes grace, or help from God, to say “No,” to

that which is not good, is wrong, or sinful. Grace is more than can be put into words but among other things, it is the power of God which enables His children to live holy lives, and enjoy it. Grace is also the power of God which enabled Christ to go to the cross for our justification, and enabled Christ to be raised from the dead for our sanctification. Our forgiveness and our holiness are both by grace — we haven't done anything to deserve either.

People have long struggled with the relationship between grace and works. When I was in the army, a warrant officer told me, “The only difference between me and a non-Christian, is that I have Christ and he doesn't have Christ.” I believe he was over-emphasizing grace. I believe he should have also said that he, by God's grace, tries his best to live in accordance with the Bible, especially the teachings of the New Testament, while non-Christians do not usually do that. That, too, is a difference. True faith produces works.

I hope that the word “grace” will come to mean more and more to each of us. Then we will be motivated to live more holy lives to show that we have saving faith.

希望の光

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



CAR-RT LOT C-003
LS Seq:1463 P2 PK89
NICK KAEB
304 E HICKORY ST
FAIRBURY IL 61739-1233

37. LOVE

15, 33, 36, 52.

1. Love, of all gifts, is the great - est Which the
2. O, Thou Spir it a which has friend ly giv - en To
3. Love is of it a friend ly na - ture, Does the

Spir - it does be - stow. Though I had a voice ill -
grace to seek my Lord, Teach me strive for love of
self - ish thought pos - sess; Love is not for a sin -

Zion's Harp

*Love is of a friendly nature, Does no selfish thought possess;
Love is not a sin partaker, And is free from bitterness.
Love is truthful, not deceitful, Does here every burden bear;
And, enduring, is so fruitful, In all trials joy to share.*