

# *The Silver Lining*

*Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith,  
having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience,  
and our bodies washed with pure water.*

*Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering;  
(for he is faithful that promised;)*

*February 2010*

*Sermon by Bro. Dale Banwart, Congerville, IL*

## Judges 16: 15-31 and II Corinthians 4:16-18, 5

The account of Samson is a very familiar account that we learned as children in Sunday School, many of us. But there are some real gems, some real teachings that we can gather from it. If we would go back to the beginning of this chapter, we read that Samson went to Gaza and he saw there an harlot and went in unto her. Then it was told the Gazites, and they tried to capture him. But it says that he took the doors of the gate of the city and the two posts and carried them to the top of a hill (Judges 16:1-3). It is a very impressive thing to young children. Probably especially to the young boys. They think about the strength and the size of those city gates.

Then we read how he loved this woman, Delilah. It says the lords of the Philistines came unto her and said, entice him. See where his great strength lieth. (v.4,5) So she proceeded to carry out their instruction.

It really struck me, as we read this account. In verse sixteen we read the word 'vexed'. It says, "...his soul was vexed unto death;" I don't know how many different times the word vexed is in the Bible. But I believe it speaks of Lot. When it talks of Sodom and Gomorrah, it says that Lot's soul was vexed, because he lived in the city there and there was much unrighteousness. There was much sin and iniquity and it says, he vexed his righteous soul from day to day. (II Peter 2:7,8)

So what does the word 'vexed' mean and how does that apply to us? We need to be careful, don't we, whether we are converted or unconverted, that we would not place our self in a position where our soul would be vexed. It goes back to being careful what we do. We always hear that we should be careful what we do, where we go, what we listen to. But our soul can become vexed. Troubled. As we think about the word 'vexed' it doesn't paint a picture of peace but rather it paints a picture of the soul being troubled.

Finally Samson wore down, didn't he? They had the account of the ropes. Trying to see quickly if I can tell how many different times she tried to get out of Samson the answer to his strength. Finally she succeeded. I believe the lesson to us is, we need to be

careful what environment we place ourselves in. Because we can be strong and we can maybe stand up for what's right. But if we continually place ourselves in an environment where we are tempted, sooner or later, Satan can get the upper hand.

So we have this account here of Samson. We know here in his death he slew many of the Philistines. It says that he judged Israel twenty years. (Judges 16:30,31) He did deliver the Israelites many times from the Philistines. If he hadn't been there, perhaps the Philistines would have robbed and plundered the Israelites that much more. They would have come and made them servants. We know that happened throughout history. But how much better could Samson have been in the Lord's service, how much more could the Lord have used Samson if he hadn't placed himself in this position? How much different could this story be, if Samson had been truly yielded to the Lord?

So we're thankful we have a loving God who forgives us. He is faithful to forgive us of our sins - we read that in the Word - if we confess our sins and we truly humble ourselves. But if we can, by God's grace, overcome, how much more useful we can be in His service.

Here, Samson had to pay a terrible price, didn't he? I don't think it records how many years it was that he ground at the mill. But his two eyes were put out. He no doubt was chained to the grinding mill. I have a picture in my mind. I don't know if it comes from a Bible Story book or what it is, but it is a picture of Samson going around and around in a circle. What were the thoughts that were going through his mind? No doubt they were thoughts of regret and remorse, that he had placed himself in this position. That he had not turned and fled from Delilah.

I think we can even read, if we would go back to chapter fourteen, verse three in Judges, "Then his father and his mother said unto him, Is there never a woman among the daughters of thy brethren, or among all my people, that thou goest to take a wife of the uncircumcised Philistines? And Sam-

*Sermon continued on page 40*

### Cover Verses

*Front: Hebrews 10:22-23*

*Back: Zions Harp #143, verses 4-5*

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*"For here have we no  
continuing city, but  
we seek one to come"  
(Heb 13:14)*

## Light From The Word



Writings based  
on God's Word

February 2010

Our Eternal Goal

In a world that is full of sorrow, heartache, and oppression, it is a great blessing to live in nations that permit a measure of freedom. For example, in the United States, we enjoy the constitutionally-protected right to worship. We enjoy freedom of speech and freedom of assembly. The Declaration of Independence proclaims that we are "endowed by our Creator with certain unalienable Rights... that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." Kept in an eternal perspective, these rights are a blessing and provide us with great opportunity to serve God in a mighty way. Viewed from an earthly perspective, they can be deceptive and confusing.

What is Life? What brings Happiness, and how do we define it? What is Liberty? The popular notions of these things often sound attractive. "You only go around once in life ... go for the gusto!" "It's a free country. As long as you aren't hurting someone, do as you please." "Money can't buy happiness, but it sure helps!" The Bible has much to say about these grand concepts – often contrary to the popular perception. While a believer may not succumb to such blatantly false attitudes, it is easy to justify oneself, calling the pursuit of financial security, "prudent," or glorifying an excessive desire to accumulate wealth, "a strong work ethic," etc.

Jesus teaches us that money isn't happiness, and that the anxious pursuit of success is fruitless and an indicator of a lack of faith. Perhaps His instruction to, "Take no thought for your life..." seems extreme. However, if our trust is in Him, we can first seek His Kingdom and trust Him to provide all our needs. "Ye cannot serve God and mammon (greed). Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, ... saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles (unbelievers) seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

*Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself" (Matt. 6:24-34).*

Isaiah warns us that life is not about accumulating wealth and riches. "Woe unto them that join house to house, that lay field to field, till there be no place, that they may be placed alone in the midst of the earth!" (Is. 5:8).

Again Jesus reminds us that it is of much more importance to be rich unto God. "But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God" (Luke 12:20-21).

Paul writes that liberty is not to be thought of as freedom to do as we please in this world, but rather as freedom from corruption. "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us ... , Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God" (Rom. 8:18-21).

Peter teaches us that liberty should not be used as an excuse to mistreat others, or disobey laws. "Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God" (1 Pet. 2:13-16).

The prophet Isaiah asks why we would settle for the deceptive false happiness of the world, thinking that somehow we can buy it. Years before Jesus came, Isaiah prophesied of the true bread from heaven, and the satisfaction that serving Jesus brings. "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which satisfieth not? .... Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall

*live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David" (Is. 55:1-3).*

Are your thoughts, your time, your heart consumed with the pursuit of "happiness" on this earth? Have you convinced yourself that providing luxuries for your family is more important than serving Jesus? Have you confused "wants" with "needs?" Have you permitted the philosophy of this world to convince you that political activism is necessary to preserve liberty? Have you allowed your heart to become troubled by the events of our time and drawn into the rhetoric and bashing of governmental authorities flooding the media? Jesus said, "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).

Is your heart in the counterfeit freedoms and temporary happiness of this life ... or do you live as a pilgrim with no roots on this earth? Do you feel like a foreigner in your own country? "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country...they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city" (Heb. 11:13-16).

Let's follow Jesus out of the camp of the popular culture, avoiding the political turmoil that only brings hope for this life, rejecting the pursuit of riches which mires us in many deceitful and foolish lusts, bearing His reproach - as we share joyfully the living hope and real treasures that we have within us because of His shed blood. "Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach. For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come" (Heb. 13:12-14).

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

### Giving the Word

The fields are ripe for harvest and laborers are needed. Distribution of the Scriptures is one of the greatest joys we have as Christians. In addition to our next door neighbors that need to hear the Word, there are millions of foreigners living in the U.S. who have never owned a Bible in their life. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. Offering Bibles to a lost world is an opportunity to show the love of God.

### Thirst for the Truth

*Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst, but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.* John 4:14

Without Christ, there is a great emptiness in the soul and a continual thirst to fill that void. The water which Jesus gives truly satisfies. Not only do His benefits fill the heart, but they run over. They are like a bubbling fountain, constantly overflowing, in this life and in eternity as well.

### Distribution opportunities

A semi-truck load of Bibles is distributed each year by our brotherhood. Last year around 60,000 Bibles were distributed. Many of the Bibles were distributed in health care facilities, college campuses, truck stops, restaurants, gas stations, retirement homes, motels and businesses. Bibles are also sent to Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, Eastern Europe and many other countries that are served by World Relief and the Mission Committees.

Another opportunity for Bible distribution is prison ministry. Those

that get out of prison then have the opportunity to use the Word of God effectively in their lives and the lives of their families. This ministry provides an opportunity for our church brethren to share Jesus Christ with those who have great needs and whose only hope is God.

### God's Perfect Plan of Salvation tract

A new tract is available for free from AC Publications and could be included in Bibles that are distributed as they condense the "plan of Salvation" from the Bible for one who might not be very familiar with the Bible.



### Bibles and books available

Bibles, Study Bibles, concordances, Bible dictionaries, Bible storybooks, Bible on CD, large print Bibles and large family Bibles are available. We offer Bibles in English, Spanish, and Creole. When we consider a gift for someone, we have the special privilege of sharing the Word of God.

For a complete list of Bibles available, see the Mission Committee website at [www.acmission.org](http://www.acmission.org).

### Developing relationships

The placement of the Word is just one step in the process of delivering the Truth to a troubled world. Just handing someone a Bible may still leave them far behind. We should be willing to take the time to build a relationship with people who have an interest.

If we use the opportunity to discuss the Word and disciple others, it will bless them, and it can also help

us appreciate the Word more ourselves. When we become involved in humble service for others, we find a greater motivation to diligence in our own devotions, Bible reading and obedience.

### Thank you

Every Godly humble life is the most effective distribution of the Word. The continued faithfulness of our Brotherhood is greatly appreciated. There could be no Bible Distribution without your support. Thank you for your prayers and participation in this important work.

### How to be involved?

It is important for each church to have a local contact person to coordinate the Bible distribution efforts and consolidate group orders to reduce shipping costs. This person can maintain an inventory locally and keep everyone informed as to what is available in your church.

If your church has a local program to distribute Bibles to make them available for those that have a need, there is no charge for the Bibles. For more information see the Bible Distribution pages on the Mission Committee website or contact Jerry Drayer or Keith Baumgartner to set up the program for your church. See contact information below.

Bible Distribution Office  
Bluffton, IN  
(260) 824-5587 phone & fax  
[bibledist@adamswells.com](mailto:bibledist@adamswells.com)

Jerry Drayer  
(260) 565-3549 home  
(260) 241-7845 cell

Keith Baumgartner  
(260) 824-1879 home  
(260) 307-6068 cell



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

## The Navajo Nation

Within the borders of our own country, there exists a nation of Native Americans known as the Navajo. Numbering close to three hundred thousand, approximately sixty percent of this population lives within the geographical boundaries of their nation. The geographical heart of this nation is centered in the “four corners” area of the Southwest where the states of Colorado, Utah, New Mexico and Arizona meet. The land area is slightly larger than the state of West Virginia. Although rich in the natural beauty of the high desert, this area is void of valuable natural resources such as coal, oil or copper. Even water is a difficult natural resource to obtain.

### A people in need of prayer

The Navajo nation is a people in despair. Few jobs are available on the reservation and unemployment runs close to sixty percent. Living conditions are poor with many homes having no running water or electricity – some with dirt floors. An average Navajo family lives on a meal of tortillas and potatoes – three times a day. Sixty-seven percent of the population earns less than \$3,000.00 a year. Alcohol and drug abuse are common, leading to other family problems.

Traditional Navajo religion does not recognize a supreme being. There are multiple gods and all people, plants, animals, mountains, rivers and wind are relatives. The practices of Medicine Men are used for healing. In some Native American religions, Peyote, a hallucinogen similar to LSD is used in their rituals as a way to achieve more intimate communication with

their gods. It is apparent that Satan has a full offering of false religions, but praise be to God, there are some who have heard the true Gospel message and embrace the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ. There are believers who love the Lord, love His Word and seek to live a life dedicated to serving Him and those in need around them.

### Providing material aid

For more than twenty-five years, World Relief has been providing material aid to the Navajo. Beginning in 1982, Bro. Nick Knobloch made contact with an ordained Baptist minister by the name of Austin Toledo. A Navajo, Mr. Toledo was serving the poor of his community while presenting the Gospel message. Annual shipments of corn, food and clothing were made in time for distribution during the Christmas season. Individual packages were delivered to needy families. Each package included a scripture message pointing souls to the true Provider.

Through the years, material aid shipments have continued. Frequency of shipments has increased to three or four times a year. In addition to basic food and clothing, shipments now include Navajo Language Bibles, school and health kits, blankets and other needed items. In 2000, a 42'x82' warehouse building was built by World Relief on the grounds of what is now called Trinity Bible Church.

In 2007 World Relief provided funds to purchase thirty wood-burning stoves to be used for heating and cooking. In addition to the stove, each recipient also received a cord of firewood and a load of coal. Stoves were installed by vol-

unteers from the local church who took advantage of the opportunity to present the Gospel message.

### Showing Christ's love

Today, Mr. Toledo is well beyond the “three score and ten years” and the work of helping the poor and spreading the Gospel has passed on to the next generation. Mr. Toledo's daughter, Fran, and her husband, Bobby George, now have responsibility in the mission begun by her father. They have set up an organization very similar to World Relief, called Trinity Family Services.

Working under the direction of their church, Trinity Family Services is the organization through which they offer humanitarian aid. Every act of aid is an opportunity to present the love of Jesus Christ and the Gospel message of salvation through Him. By showing love and compassion to those in need, Christ's love is reflected and hearts are moved to inquire. Through this avenue, souls are lead to the source of true hope, not only for this life, but for eternity.

In July of 2009, a group of brothers on the USA Committee of World Relief spent a day with Mr. & Mrs. Toledo, Bobby and Fran George and members of their board of directors. It was a blessed day, feeling the presence of God's Spirit, as they shared with us events of the past and their vision for the future. Their faith in God and their loving concern for the physical and spiritual needs of those around them provided great inspiration.

Truly, *“God is no respecter of persons, but in every nation, him that feareth him and worketh righteousness is accepted with him.”*

Acts 10: 34-35

## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

“We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labor of love...”

*1 Thessalonians 1:2-3*

The holiday season is past and we're so very thankful for all those who came and helped out in any way with making the holidays special.

*Oakwood:*

Residents and staff had a wonderful Christmas party on December 14, complete with food, songs, gifts and a visit from a special guest. We were touched by the gift of song as many different groups came to carol. Also, MANY people sent us gifts this year – family members and many different churches gave us gifts and money – we are humbled and grateful.

On December 1 the CILAs had their Christmas Party with special guest appearances. On that same night, Timber Ridge Resident Council had a special Christmas dinner at Avanti's in Pekin.

Rightsizing Update: Remodeling of the Polk CILA has come along well and we are awaiting some inspections, approvals and of course paperwork, before the four gentlemen are able to move in. Please continue to pray for a smooth transition for all involved in the process.

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

*Eccles. 3:1*

There have been so many changes these last few months with the “Rightsizing” moves; we sometimes question “Is this the right thing to do or the right time to do it?” But God has continued to help us move forward in every aspect of the project. We need to continue to

trust that God's timing is perfect. Changes are always hard at first, but with time everyone seems to adjust. The secret to peace with God is to discover, accept and appreciate God's perfect timing.

“All things bright and beautiful,  
all creatures great and small;  
all things wise and wonderful,  
the Lord God made them all.”

Winter is nearly over and spring is right around the corner. As winter brings snow to cover the dreary landscape, so shall spring bring sunshine and rain to make a beautiful landscape of tulips, azaleas, crocus and many other flowers.

Who but God can:

Sprout new buds on trees that have been bare for months?

Create the wind so that we can fly kites?

Allow tiny seeds to grow into beautiful flowers in the Spring?

Show the birds the way back “home” so that we may enjoy their songs?

Make the grass green and grow after being dormant for so long?

Create the laughter of children, young and old, as they play outside?

Allow us to have sunny warmer days after a long cold winter?

Please visit our website [www.achh.org](http://www.achh.org) to learn more about us, view job opportunities, current events and ways to help.

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## GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME Jan Baumgartner

In prayerfully considering doing any Christian ministry, whether that is being a houseparent for troubled children, fostering children, adopting children or any other ministry, consider the following story about boaters.

“Three boaters were docked next to each other at a marina. The owner of

the first boat was content to sit in his boat at the dock and enjoy the sea breezes and gentle lapping of the water. He waved to passing boaters and made small talk with his neighbors. He called his boat “The Tranquility” and left the dock only twice during the summer.

The next man leaped onto the deck, fired up the engine, and headed out to sea. He enjoyed the spray of the water and wind blowing through his hair. He waved cheerily to his fellow boaters. He called his boat, “Fair Weather”. Funny thing about him, he always made certain that he kept the shore in sight. If the waves built up or dark clouds began to gather, he hurried to the dock. Let a fog start to roll in and he was back—in spite of having the latest equipment.

The third boat owner would rather be out to sea than anywhere. He never bothered to check a weather report, and an approaching storm excited him. He seemed happiest behind the wheel with the waves crashing and the wind howling. He and his boat had been through a lot together. He called his boat “Wave Dancer” and he knew what it could do. Storms did not frighten him.

When it comes to the life of faith, some believers don't trust enough to even cast off from the dock. They stay where it's safe and secure. Others make quick little jaunts out into the deeper waters of Christian experience, but they scamper back as soon as things start getting a little tough. Still others go out on the rough seas of life with Christ the Pilot. They know by experience that He will not leave them, and that He keeps every one of His promises of His Word. They trust Him when the storm blows hardest.” (source unknown)

Which boater are you? Do you completely trust Christ as your Pilot in stepping out of your comfort zone into a Christian ministry?

**NEWS:**

- We rejoiced with Bro. Dustin and Sis. Mandy Hodel as they celebrated

the birth of their daughter, Josie Mae, on January 19. Josie weighed 6 lbs. 7 oz. and was 20 inches long. Praise God for new life!

- We are thankful to announce the hiring of Sis. Olivia Wuthrich (Roanoke) as our new Foster Care Secretary. We are thankful for the growth our Foster Care Program has experienced and that Sis. Olivia can be a part of it. Please continue to pray for her as she adjusts to the many new opportunities in her life.

- Bro. Joel Stickling (Peoria) will be coming to Gateway Woods this summer to serve as the Volunteer Coordinator. Bro. Joel was with us last summer as a school intern and we are excited to have him back. Look for more information in the spring about our summer volunteer program.

- Bro. Ben Gerber (Leo) will be working as the school intern this summer. Bro. Ben is an elementary education major and will make a great addition to the school. We are thankful for each of our volunteers and interns as they strive to make a difference in the lives of troubled children and families.

- Praise God that He continues to provide us with the right Staff. We currently have one career position open at Gateway Woods for an IL Adoption Manager. Please see the notice 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!

- 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](http://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 for our E-Post. Please send a message to [mail@gatewaywoods.org](mailto:mail@gatewaywoods.org).

### **APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL Athens, Alabama Sarah Hodel**

Well, we're back in full swing after having our Christmas break. January has been pretty slow and quite frankly, I am at a loss of what to write. Probably our biggest news is that we had a snow day! Keep in mind, this is not the kind of snow day most of you are probably used to. Some area schools decided to close when it was forecasted, and we hadn't even seen any snow yet! It sure didn't last long though because a week later the weather was nice enough to play outside awhile. One little girl was swinging as high as she could because she said, "I'm going to touch the sky. I'm going to touch God!"

Sometimes we hear some funny conversations during our day. One day, after we had gotten back from break, one little girl was thinking back to before Christmas and the conversation went something like this:

Girl: "Remember yesterday when we did our Christmas play and I was Mary?"

Teacher: "I sure do."

Girl: "Yeah, um, what was my last name?"

Gotta love 'em!

### **ALABAMA, ATHENS Louise Hall**

Thanks so much to our visiting ministers we've had recently. Elder Bro. Andy Stoller came for a weekend and it's always nice to have him here. Also we had Bro. Mark Wettstein (Sis. Karen, Lacrosse, IN) and their family. We truly appreciate all their efforts.

Our prayers go out to Sis. Joyce Ray (Bro. Milton) as she has been sick for a few weeks now. We look forward to having her feeling better and back in church with us. Our hearts and prayers also go out to Anna and Joey Hall (Bro. Tim). Their grandpa, Harvey Nix, tragically passed away and we ache for them. We pray that God carries them

through this time.

While there are reasons to mourn, there are also reasons to rejoice. We were excited to hear the wedding announcement of our Bro. Matthew Moore (Bro. Mike and Sis. Pam) to our Sis. Kristy Schmidt (Bro. Rod and Sis. Cindy) from Denver. We look forward to getting to know Kristy and we pray they look to the Lord for guidance as they begin this journey. We also rejoice with Sis. Corrine Thomas as she has a new great-granddaughter. Donnie and Jennifer Bearden, along with big sisters, Kelsey and Mackenzie, welcome home little Bailey Ray.

As everyone else is doing, we are keeping Haiti in our prayers. We are especially thankful to have Bro. Mike Moore home safely. He was on the work team that was down there and we are grateful for God's provision.

### **ARIZONA, PHOENIX Heather Hinrichsen**

God bless Bro. Willis Ehnle (Peoria), Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern) and Bro. Brad Bauer (Tucson) for sharing the Gospel with us this month.

"Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God."

*II Corinthians 1:4*

Those having surgery or spending time in the hospital are Bro. Clarence Beyer, Sis. LouAnn Klopfenstein, John Greenbank and Sis. Shirley Morhman. We pray that the healing process will begin quickly and they all can return to our church fellowship.

Georgia Rose was born to Bro. Seth and Sis. Brandy Beer on January 7. Her grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie Beer (Leo) and Bro. Jon and Sis. Wendy Schwab (Wolcott).

Ty Kieser (Bro. Wes and Sis. Lena, Peoria) has moved here to further his studies at Grand Canyon University.

We welcome Ty back as his family lived in Phoenix many years ago.

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**ARIZONA, PRESCOTT**  
**Denise Steidinger**

“Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.”

*1 John 4:7-8*

Serving our congregation by preaching the Word this past month were Bros. Jim Meiss (Sis. Candy, Phoenix), James Emch (Sis. Gina, Phoenix), Greg Stoller (Sis. Jill, Forrest), Myron Knobloch (Sis. Beth, Lester), Paul Kilgus (Sis. Carmen, Fairbury), Keith Hinrichsen (Sis. Tammy, Phoenix) and Paul Schmidgall (Morris). It is a blessing to have brothers willing to travel and bring forth God's Word.

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**CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA**  
**Daniel Luthi**

Bro. Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL) was with us for New Year's Eve Services. Many thanks to him for being willing to be with us, and for preaching the Word.

We continue to pray for Bro. Clarence Graf as he recovers from his illness. May he feel God's closeness and healing hand on him as the days and weeks go forward. We sure miss him at church each week.

Our young group was blessed to be able to travel to Phoenix, AZ, over New Year's weekend. It always is a blessed time of being together, renewing friendships, and getting spiritually re-focused. Thanks to the Phoenix young group for inviting us, and for their efforts in putting the weekend activities together. It was a blessing.

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

Our New Year began joyously with the arrival of Bro. Clint and Sis. Rebecca Dotterer and their children, Sophia, Noah and Will. We warmly welcome them to the San Diego area as they have, by faith, followed God's direction and relocated from Forrest, IL. We look forward to now together striving hand in hand, serving our Lord Jesus Christ in obedience to His Word. What an encouragement and answer to prayer the Dotterer family has been to our congregation! May the Lord's hand continue to be upon them, that they can feel His presence in their midst and the love we feel for them all.

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Marvin and Sis. Nancy Dotterer from Forrest, IL, as they came to help their children settle in their new home. Our hearts and prayers are with them as they bade farewell to their children. What a comfort it is to have our faith and to know that even though miles may separate us, there will be a time where we all share in the glorious realm with Jesus above together and forever if we remain faithful. We look forward to their visits in the future. We hope they can sense the love and appreciation we hold for them as they share their family with us. We pray God's blessings upon Bro. Marvin for sharing God's Word with us.

Bro. Larry Wenninger and his wife, Sis. Joyce (Latty, OH), assembled with us, too. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Bro. Larry for his labors of love on our behalf as He expounded on the Word of God.

As we enter a New Year with the realization that we have 365 more opportunities to serve our Lord more faithfully, let us remember to encourage one another to hold fast to the Word of God, to pray for our brotherhood, our Elder brethren, and do our part to uphold this precious faith and brotherhood God has given us. Even though the world around us continues to change and Satan may seem fiercer

than ever, we have the solid promise that God's Word never changes. It's only there that we can find true peace and joy if we're willing to cling to the entirety of the Word of God.

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**KITCHENER, ONTARIO**  
**CANADA**  
**Johanna Fortenbacher**

“Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.”

*Mark 10:14*

Our 15 Sunday school children, along with two much appreciated visitors, provided us with a wonderful evening December 12, 2009. We had a wonderful opportunity to see these children perform a Christmas program, singing and reciting Bible passages about the coming of Jesus Christ.

It was with joy and thankfulness that we welcomed ministering brothers: Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction), Bro. Steve Pamer (Sis. Arliss, Akron) and Bro. Jesse Bedolla (Sis. Bonnie, Detroit). Thank you, brothers, for your faithful service.

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

We're glad to have Bro. Eric and Sis. Marcel Huber back among us after having been in Texas for the last 2 ½ years, and we welcome them.

Bro. Ted, Sis. Andrea and Elise Orcsik are moving to Canada where Bro. Ted has found employment. We will miss them and wish them God's presence in their lives wherever He leads them.

We appreciate Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, Portland, OR) ministering to us.

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**CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE**  
**Laura Virkler**  
**Bonnie Bahler**

His love in time past forbids me to  
 think  
 He'll leave me at last in trouble to  
 sink;  
 Each sweet Ebenezer I have in review  
 Confirms His good pleasure to help  
 me quite through.  
*Zion's Harp #87, v.3*

With such evidence of God's care and protection in times past, the New Year stretches out before us with the promise that He will provide for the future. There is so much we can be thankful for as we reflect on the past year. After enjoying a blessed Christmas season of peace and the remembrance of our Savior's birth, may each of us approach the year ahead determined to do our best.

It is so wonderful to see souls turn away from the world and begin a walk of repentance and conversion! We rejoice with our friends, Rob Widmer and Margo Wheeler, as they begin a new way of life.

Our prayers and best wishes go with Chris and Sis. Sue Moser as they make their home in Roanoke, IL. After so many years among us, they will be missed, but we trust that this move will bring many blessings to them both as well as those in the Roanoke area.

At Home, 'tis well! There God in adoration  
 Adorns each victor's brow with  
 wreath of gold.  
 All who believe and hope like those of  
 old  
 Sing praise and thanks in highest exultation.  
*Zion's Harp #170, v. 4*

For those who have been hospitalized recently, including Bro. Ed Luginbuhl (Sis. Alma) and Bro. Russ Bahler, we extend our prayers for God's healing hand to be upon them. May God be with them as they go through these times.

Our dear Bro. Leon Schneider was taken at last into eternity in the past weeks. We are thankful for his victory, and the peaceful anticipation he expressed while waiting to pass out of this life. Our deepest sympathy goes out to his dear wife, Sis. Martha, and their children, Sis. Luella (Bro. Mark) Hoffman (Vermont) and Sis. Virgene Hany, as well as their grandchildren, great-grandchildren and Bro. Leon's sisters, Sis. Matilda Ott and Sis. Eunice Schneider. May they all feel the love of the brethren during this time of loss. We also want to express our sympathy and prayers to Bro. Wayne Schneider (Sis. Maxine) for the passing of his mother, Minnie Schneider Wesnieski. Both of these family circles will remain in our thoughts and prayers.

*Note of Thanks:*

We wish to express our heartfelt thanks for the many prayers, visits, phone calls, meals, cards and kind deeds offered during Dad's recent illness and now passing. May God bless and reward each of you.

*The family of Bro. Leon Schneider,  
 Sis. Martha Schneider  
 Bro. Mark and Sis. Luella Hoffman  
 and family  
 Bro. Pete and Sis. Jeanie Hany and  
 family*

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

Our caretakers for the latter part of December were Bro. Mike and Sis. Donna Putt and family from Francesville, IN. Sis. Doreen reports the caretaker calendar for 2010 is almost full. She still needs someone for November and December. We like a commitment of at least three Sundays.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH), Bro. Jerry Isch (Sis. Linda, Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH) and Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie,

Elgin, IL). Other visitors this month were from Rockville, CT.

In addition to keeping our shut-ins in our thoughts and prayers, we are also mindful of Bro. Phil Steffen, who has been under the care of the physician.

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

If you are planning to visit Washington, D.C. area for vacation or business, please contact Bro. Joe and Sis. Holly Bohart at [jbohart@gmail.com](mailto:jbohart@gmail.com) or Sis. Henrietta Meyer at (703) 904-8301 for assistance and to let us know how many to expect for Sunday services. If you would like to get together on Saturday evening, please let us know that as well. We would be happy to have an evening of fellowship and/or singing.

**FLORIDA**  
**FORT LAUDERDALE**  
**Renee Mangold**

We were thankful to have with us visiting Bro. Steve Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley, IL) and Bro. Dwight Stoller (Sis. Lori, Latty, OH) this past month. We pray for God's blessings on those that serve Him so faithfully.

Bro. Ed Gerber was in the hospital for a week and is now rehabilitating in a nursing home in Ft. Lauderdale. Sis. Vi Gerber took a fall and was hospitalized overnight, but is now back at home. We pray that God would keep His healing hands upon them.

Sis. Sally Gress had knee replacement surgery this month and is home and hopes to rejoin us soon in fellowship. Our prayers for a full and quick recovery are with her.

Congratulations to Bro. Rod and Sis. Sally Gress on the birth of their

first granddaughter (son Benjamin and wife Amy Gress of Houston, TX).

We are now gathering in our remodeled church. It turned out beautifully with the love and effort of many brethren. Whether we are in a humble or grand building, we are thankful to have a place to worship and to feel the presence of God with us wherever we gather.

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**FLORIDA  
NORTH FORT MYERS  
Victor Beer**

Our southwest Florida is really enjoying a sweep of wonderful warm weather, after just coming through the coldest period in 100 years. Vegetable crops about to be harvested were wiped out, as well as severe freezing to bananas, mangoes, papaya, and many other tropical trees and plants. Fortunately, the citrus crop was not damaged much, which our area depends on somewhat.

The good news is that the winter time homeowners and other visitors for short visits has increased our church fellowship greatly. We were blessed recently when Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI) came to worship with us. Our own Bro. Marvin Steffen and Bro. Carroll Gerber have been holding mid-week services at the Best Western Motel in Naples for those that live that far south.

Our thoughts, Christian love, and best wishes go to our brethren in Ft. Lauderdale in the re-dedication of their church and facilities. Elder Bro. Earl Ringger, Bro. Roger Sauder and Bro. Mike Hohulin, with their congregation and the many visitors rejoiced in God's blessings at such a time as this.

We are very glad to hear that our Sis. Beth Mott (Bro. Denny) is recuperating and able to exercise some since her hip replacement. She is glad to have her daughter, Sis. Laura Wiegand, to be a nurse to her. Southwest Florida is blessed to have some of the very best surgeons for limb repair, etc.

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**FLORIDA, SARASOTA  
DiAnne Brown**

Greetings! The flu came to visit our family over Christmas break like an unwelcome guest we thought would never leave. It kept me from many things I enjoy, especially sending you news of our Sarasota congregation. It's nice to 'visit' with you all again.

Haiti must surely be upon all our hearts in recent days. It's a source of hope to read news of the AC World Relief efforts. The speed and strength with which they have responded to the catastrophe; and steadfastness with which the effort will continue in months and years to come is nothing short of amazing. Where could a more secure contribution be made with such certainty that it will be put to the best and highest use possible? What a comfort to the donors...and the people of Haiti.

It's January and our church runneth over. What joy to hear the church buzz like a beehive as old friends reunite and new ones get acquainted. We really enjoy meeting all the visitors and friends who include us in their winter travels. Our pulpit has been full, too, and we thank the brothers who give so freely of themselves for our benefit and for the relief it offers our own dear ministering brothers. Recent visiting ministers have included Bro. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN); Bro. Ron Steiner (Sis. Ruth, Rittman, OH); Bro. Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Austin, TX); Bro. Clint Schmidt (Sis. Magdalena, Winthrop, MN); Bro. Paul Schmidgall (Sis. Shawn, Morris, MN); Bro. Richard Gramm (Sis. Samantha, South Bend, IN); Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL); Bro. Ted Hirstein (Sis. Joyce, Morton, IL); Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Debra, Remington, IN).

Sunday School is preparing for the Annual Sunday School Auction to be held on February 13. It is one of the most exciting days of the year as the brethren, friends and students all come together to make another year of learn-

ing about God possible. The generosity of the brethren and friends is overwhelming – in the donation, bidding and the contributions for the Silent Auction and Chili & Pie Lunch. The teachers and children work hard to prepare and make the day a big success, too. Thanks to all.

Grace Koehl is recovering well from her surgery and it's nice to have her back in Sunday school. We continue to pray for Sis. Marie (Bro. Art) Keller as she struggles with her recovery from recent hip replacement surgery. She has returned to Venice Hospital and would welcome your word of encouragement.

Our Annual Business meeting was held on January 13. Those called to serve include Bro. Mark (Sis. Tricia) Koehl — Trustee; Bro. Mike (Sis. Jeanette) Siladie — Treasurer; Bro. Timm Kaeb — Sunday School teacher; Bro. Aaron (Sis. Kim) Ott — Asst. Sunday School teacher; Sis. Vera Martin — Sunday School teacher; Sis. Kim Ott and Sis. Emily Koehl as Substitute Sunday School teachers; Bro. Art (Sis. Marie) Keller will serve on the Cemetery Committee and as Usher. Bro. Larry (Sis. DiAnne) Brown replaces Bro. George (Sis. Betty) Siladie as Head Usher, with Bro. George continuing as Usher. Sis. Elda Martin replaces Sis. Deborah Sauder on the Kitchen Committee.

February is the month of 'Love'. May you find yourself secure in the love of Jesus and willing to share that love with those around you.

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**GEORGIA, ATLANTA**

We had some very heartrending events this month.

Bro. John Brewer Sr. fell off a roof, leaving him with a few fractured ribs and a concussion. Our prayers are with him and Sis. Mary, as they work through the healing process. They are so special to us, and we pray that Bro. John will heal quickly!

Bringing both joy and pain, Bro. Jerry Schumacher from Roanoke

quickly went to the throne of the Lord suddenly and unexpectedly. Our prayers are especially around his wife, Sis. Jane, and his children: Sis. Jill (Bro. Steve) Aeschleman (Roanoke), Sis. Julie (Bro. Rich) Lindberg (Atlanta), Bro. Jeff (Sis. Tina) Schumacher (Leo), Jim (Lynn) Schumacher (Wisconsin), and Joan (C.L.) Sizelove (Columbus, GA). We grieve with his family, but rejoice in knowing he no longer has any pain, but instead is in the presence of our Saviour this very day! May Bro. Jerry's wife, children, and grandchildren truly feel the Solid Rock as they experience the reality of the place left empty by their dear husband, father, or grandfather.

We were blessed to have Bro. Tim Hohulin (Sis. Cathy, Roanoke, IL) minister to us this month. May the Lord bless you for your sincere dedication to Him.

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### ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

**Doreen Moser  
Jenn Johnson**

#### *FRET NOT....*

Celebrating Christmas and the birth and wonder of JESUS should certainly cause us to Fret Not ... We all seem to get so caught up in the rush and stress of the season that we forget what is earthly and what is eternal. If we are attending to the things that are eternal, surely we will fret not.

#### *TRUST IN THE LORD...*

Sis. Shayla Steffen (Bro. Jordan) has been in and out of the hospital and has had surgery. Placing all her trust in the Lord has brought her home safely and hopefully on the road to recovery.

#### *DELIGHT THYSELF....*

Working together as a church on a World Relief project makes the project much more of a delight to work on. We enjoyed a meal together after the work projects.

Our monthly singing was held at Gary and Sis. Doreen Moser's this month. Raising our voices in song not

only brings delight to those who gather together to sing, but hopefully is a delight to the Lord.

#### *COMMIT THY WAY...*

Karl Braun and Aubrey Schock (Bro. Ted and Sis. Heidi) have expressed peace and are looking forward to being baptized. There certainly is no greater commitment than to live our lives for the Lord.

#### *REST IN THE LORD...*

As a New Year is almost a month old, resting in the Lord will certainly keep us on the path for 2010.

(Psalm 37)

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### ILLINOIS BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

**Alissa Kieser  
Jacki Masters**

Imagine the sight the shepherds must have seen when the angels blew them away with praise and worship announcing the birth of Jesus. As amazing as that was, the little baby is now sitting in His rightful place on the Throne as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. That announcement of the first Christmas was simply a dress rehearsal for what is to come. For you see, someday, all of us will see this victorious Saviour in all of His risen glory.

He invites us to share in the glories of Heaven with Him, if we would just come to Him humbly, just as He came to us humbly in that manger, and give our lives to Him just as He gave His life for us.

These were just a few words proclaimed by our children at our Sunday School Christmas program entitled "The Cradle, the Cross, and the Crown". Oh what a blessing it was to hear the children tell the story of our Savior's birth, death, and glorious resurrection.

Our church has a birth announcement of our own to proclaim this month. Bro. Rocky and Sis. Sharon O'shea, along with proud brothers, Rocky and Dayn, are excited to welcome Anya Noelle, born January 3.

Grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Jean O'shea (Chicago, IL), and Bro. Dave and Sis. Wilma Kieser.

We are excited to welcome a few new faces to our congregation. Bro. Ken Lindoerfer recently moved here from Elgin, IL. Sis. Leah Gerber also recently moved here from Bluffton, IN.

We were thankful to have two visiting ministers with us this past month. Bro. Tim Hohulin (Roanoke, IL), and Bro. Richard Gramm (South Bend, IN).

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### ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Philip and Donna Nenadov

"They that trust in the LORD shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever."

*Psalm 125:1*

Our hospital patients this past month were Bro. Jack Knobloch (Sis. Nancy), Kent Wagenbach (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Sara), Bro. Ken Dietz (Sis. Mardell), Sis. Esther Streitmatter, and Sis. Vi Elsasser. May the Lord give strength and courage to each one during their time of need and physical healing.

Visiting brothers who brought forth the Word this month were Bros. Matt Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville), Glen Braker (Sis. Audrey), and Willis Ehnlé (Sis. Lois, Peoria). May the Lord bless them for their labors of love.

Brecken William was born on January 11 to Chad and Jessie Pyles. Breckan's siblings are Gavin, Reghann, Madilyn, and Jordyn. Grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Becky Pyles and Donna Dennis of Henry. We wish them God's blessing on their new addition.

We held our elections for Trustee and usher this past month. Bro. Keith Kellenberger (Sis. Ida) replaced Bro. Weston Stahl (Sis. Jill) as trustee, and Bro. Brandon Gudeman (Sis. Sarah) replaced Bro. Bill Stahl (Sis. Kristal) as usher. We wish thank these brothers

for the service and lend our support to the new ones coming in.

God be with you 'til we meet again.

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### **ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN** **Jackie Eisenmann**

Greetings from Champaign-Urbana! We have been blessed this past month by having the opportunity to listen to the recordings from the Brotherhood General Conference that was held in Tremont this past August. It has been a blessing to listen to the exhortations and encouragements given to us from our Elder Brothers. May God continue to bless our dear Elder Brothers for the love they have for our church!

Sunday, December 27, Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA) and Bro. John Wiegand (Silverton, OR) were both with us. We thank them for their willingness to be used of God by bringing forth His Gospel! We are always thankful to have them come back home to Champaign! May they continue to feel God's nearness in their ministries.

Sunday, January 10, Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) was with us and blessed us by his service from the pulpit. We are always glad when he and Sis. Pam come to visit their family here. Thank you for your willingness, Bro. Ron.

This past month our Bro. Mark and Sis. Ashley Sauder have had the sorrow of losing Mark's grandmother. May God give them comfort that only He can give. A dear grandmother holds a precious spot in all our hearts.

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### **ILLINOIS, CHICAGO** **Julie Eisenmann**

There were several visiting ministers this month. We thank Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) for their services. We are also grateful that Elder Bros. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ), Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Don Braker

(Kansas City, MO), Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) were able to join us for our Wednesday services while they were here for Elder Forums. May God bless all that were willing to serve our church.

After hearing of our loved ones struggling in Haiti, we lift them up in prayer, hoping that they will feel God's nearness and faithfulness. Isaiah 54:10 – "For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the LORD that hath mercy on thee."

Our prayers also go with Yoshanny and Schandy Cordero (Arido and Sis. Katrina), as they are currently in the Dominican Republic, with their aunts and uncles.

We are rejoicing with Karen and Dennis Labadie, whose son, Corey, arrived home safely from Afghanistan for a two week leave. May they feel God's nearness as they spend some time together.

As Sis. Gladys Fisher mourns the loss of her brother, Bro. Walter Wittmer (Morton), we pray that God would wrap His loving arms around her in this time of grieving. May God also provide comfort to Bro. Mark and Sis. Laura Lindberg in the loss of Bro. Mark's grandfather, Bro. Gerald Schumacher (Roanoke).

On December 23, Venny Cordero was born to Aridio and Sis. Katrina, and welcomed by his siblings, Yireny, Zahony, Schandy, and Yoshanny. Venny's grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Kathy Schlatter.

We brought in the New Year with our evening service followed by fellowship, singing and snack. We have so much to be thankful for as we begin the New Year.

It is such a joy to watch our church grow. We welcome Sis. Brittany Kiefer (Gridley) as she fulfills a 10-week internship downtown. We are also delighted to have Bro. Daniel and Sis.

Kasey Messner and their daughter, Alea, back as they return from Switzerland.

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### **ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK** **Vickie Maul** **Marilyn Maul**

Children are indeed a gift from God. Bro. Arlyn and Sis. LaNae Rudin welcome a precious granddaughter, Melia Renee Leman, born to Bro. Tim and Sis. Traci (Eureka, IL).

We were saddened by the passing of our dear Sis. Louise (Drayer) Manz on January 2. Our sympathy and prayers are with her family. Surviving children include Bill (Judie) Drayer of Cissna Park, Samuel (Anne) Drayer Jr. of Rankin, and Wayne (Gloria) Drayer of Fairbury, Helen (Elmer) Burgett of Goodwine, Edna Martin of Princeville, Velma (Wayne) Ekhoff of Crescent City, Mabel (Phil) Evans of White, GA, and Randall Verkler of Cissna Park. Ministers assisting with her funeral were Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction), Bro. Glen Braker (Princeville), Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield) and retired Bro. Frederick Knapp (Congerville).

Also joining us this month were ministering Bros. Les Kaeb (Francesville), Don Sinn (Silverton) and Tom Waldbeser (Atlanta). May God reward each of these Brothers for lending themselves as servants in the Lord's vineyard.

Our annual church business meeting was held January 6. We extend a thank you to the Brothers and Sisters who diligently served and devoted their time to our church. We lend our support to the Brothers who have been chosen to fulfill their new duties: Bro. Max Kaeb (Sunday school), Bro. Hartzell Kaeb (Trustee), and Bro. John Fehr (Fellowship Hall).

We extend a special thanks to Sis. Janie Waldbeser for her three years of writing the Silver Lining.

We were blessed to hear our Sunday school children bring us the Christmas

story through song and verse at our Christmas Program. May the teachers and students receive a special blessing for their efforts.

We want to remember Sis. Veronica Kaufmann who was hospitalized this month. We trust God will add His healing touch according to His will.

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### **ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE** **Holly Zobrist**

Angels in heaven are truly rejoicing this month as we've had two new converts. Michael Roth (Bro. Mark and Sis. Tammy) and Brian Craig (Bro. Kim and Sis. Carol) have made the decision to turn their back on the world and live for the Lord. Our hearts are rejoicing with their families.

Andrea Ruegsegger (Bro. Lee and Sis. Alice) was baptized and became our new sister in Christ. It is such a blessing to hear how God works in the lives of individuals. Listening to the testimony of a soul who is ready to be baptized gives us an opportunity to examine our own lives to make sure we have not lost our first love.

We thank the visiting ministers who brought us God's Word this past month. They include Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont), who was with us for the baptism, Bro. Bill Dotterer (Sis. Sharon, Lamar), Bro. Brent Kellenberger (Sis. Beth, Kansas City), and Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis).

Jesus knows thy sorrow, Knows thine every care;  
Knows thy deep contrition, Hears thy feeblest prayer:  
Do not fear to trust Him, Tell Him all thy grief;  
Cast on Him thy burden, He will bring relief.  
*Hymns of Zion #74*

Our hearts and prayers go out to the family of Bro. Henry Wettstein of Oakville, as he recently got a staph infection in his blood and passed from this life. Our prayers are with his wife,

Sis. Wendy; his parents, Bro. Denny and Sis. Emily (Congerville); and his siblings, Reuben, Sis. Amber, Joel, Dale, Carmen, Kara, Breanna, and Stewart. May they feel the Lord's nearness and love during this time.

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

During the Christmas and New Year's season, we enjoyed many visitors, including ministering Bros. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL), Alan Schambach (Remington, IN), Scott Schambach (Columbus, OH), and Todd Stoller (Latty, OH). Their willingness to read and expound upon the Word for our benefit was truly appreciated.

The engagement of Bro. Kirk Schambach to Sis. Amanda Kellenberger was announced on January 10. Bro. Kirk is the son of Bro. Les and Sis. Alison, and Sis. Amanda is the daughter of Bro. Jeff and Sis. Julie. May the Lord bless and keep them during this special time of betrothal.

Though saddened to learn there are no more treatment options in Matt Steffen's battle with melanoma, we are very thankful that he could call upon the Lord in his time of trouble. In answer to many prayers, Matt (Natalie) has begun his repentance. Jesus, who knows every sorrow, will help to make the burden lighter.

Sis. Heather Heiniger (Bro. Chad) was missed during her long recovery from surgery. It is encouraging to know she's feeling well enough to assemble in church again.

Bro. Leon Schneider (Sis. Martha) passed away in Rockville, CT. He was the brother-in-law of Elder Bro. Ron Schambach, Bros. Bill and Albert Schambach, and Sis. Gert Sauder.

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### **ILLINOIS, EUREKA** **Dee Baer** **Jodi Blunier**

Death and disaster can have an ef-

fect greater than expected. Joshua Wettstein (Bro. Jim and Sis. Dianne) was called and moved to seek his soul's salvation. For this we give thanks.

Our hearts have been moved in sympathy and compassion to many in our congregation. Sis. Donna Wettstein grieves the loss of a dear grandson, Bro. Henry Wettstein (Sis. Wendy, Oakville). Sis. Deloris Martin (Roland) said goodbye to her brother, Bro. Walter Wittmer (Morton). Bro. Harold Hodel (Sis. Mick) mourns the loss of his sister, Sis. Ann Wagler (Roanoke). Bro. Bob Schumacher and Sis. Joyce Crawford bid a final farewell to their brother, Bro. Jerry Schumacher (Sis. Jane, Roanoke).

We are comforted in the peace and serenity that surrounded the passing of our Sis. Carolyn Hoerr after a lengthy illness. Left to grieve her passing are her husband, Bro. Mark; and her children, Bro. Nick, Brent, Sis. Lindsay (Bro. Randy) Huber, Blake, Sis. Traci, and Sis. Tricia. Also mourning are her brothers, Bro. John Dotterer (Sis. Jeanne, Eureka), Bro. Bill Dotterer (Sis. Sharon, Lamar, MO), and her sister, Sis. Elaine Graf (Bro. Virgil, Altadena, CA); father and mother-in-law, Bro. Don and Sis. Velma Hoerr (Peoria, IL), and granddaughters, Kaiya and Rylee. "The strife is o'er, ... farewell til we meet there!" (Hymns of Zion #194)

Welcomed to our busy baby room is Melia Renee Leman, daughter of Bro. Tim and Sis. Traci, and sister to Blake and Ailey. Grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Marilyn Leman (Washington) and Bro. Arlyn and Sis. LaNae Rudin (Cissna Park).

Our concern and prayers for the sick and hospitalized include Craig Blunier (Bro. Myron and Sis. Elaine), Bro. Allan Getz (Sis. Nathalia) and Bro. Roger Bradle (Sis. Ila).

We have appreciated visiting ministers: Bro. Arlen Leman (Forrest), Bro. Kent Getz (Elgin, IA) and Bro. Tim Hohulin (Roanoke).

We are thankful to have Bro. Homer

and Sis. Virginia Blunier assembling with us since their move to Eureka.

*Note of Thanks:*

Thank you to all brethren and friends for the gifts and encouraging cards at the time of my surgery. God bless you all.

*Sis. Clara Huber*

Words cannot express my heartfelt thanks to all who have come to visit me, sent cards and kept me in their prayers. May the Lord richly bless you for the love you have shown unto me.

*Bro. Leroy Fehr*

Thanks for all the prayers, cards, food, gifts and kind deeds in the death of our sister, Sis. Ann Wagler. May God bless you.

*Bro. Harold and Sis. Mick Hodel*

*Bro. Bob Hodel*

*Sis. Flo Wuthrich*

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**ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY**

**Angela Herr**

**Anna Schmidgall**

Bro. Dave and Sis. Kara Blunier welcomed Kenan Malachi into their family circle on December 22. His siblings, Faith, Marcus, Jared, and Lily, are happy to have another brother. Thankful grandparents are retired Elder Bro. Marvin and Sis. Jane Leman (Princeville, IL) and Sis. Joyce Blunier (late Bro. Dale, Princeville, IL).

We welcome Bro. Mike and Sis. Jen Feuchtenberger to our congregation as they have recently moved from Morris, MN. May God bless and provide for them as they continue to place their trust in Him through this time of transition.

"...there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."

*Luke 15:10*

We rejoice with our new sister in faith, Esther Koehl (Dick), as many of

us gathered together to hear her testimony and witness her baptism on the evening of Monday, December 28. We wish the Lord's blessings and grace upon her. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Dick and Sis. Esther as they spend the next few months in Arizona.

We are thankful that Micah Zehr (Bro. Nelson and Sis. Amy) has answered God's call and made a beginning in repentance. May he feel God's mercy, love, and grace as he begins his walk with the Lord.

Thus united and in concord  
let us walk the path of life;  
hand in hand, O may love bind us  
for each other's welfare strive.

*Zion's Harp #237, vs. 1*

The engagement of Sis. Leann Steidinger (Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish) and Bro. Troy Brown (Bro. Gary and Sis. Jane) of Forrest was announced on Christmas Day. Our prayers are with this dear couple as they make plans for their marriage.

January 2 was the wedding day of Lindsey Mashburn and Joe Trainor. Bro. Billy and Sis. Barb Mashburn and Bob and Louann Trainor of Forrest are their parents. We wish them God's richest blessings as they begin their married life.

Bro. Troy Steffen and Sis. Rebecca Herr were joined in Holy Matrimony on January 3. Parents of this couple are Bro. Henry and Sis. Lola Steffen and Sis. Cindy Herr. May God bless and guide them as they journey life's path-way together.

We appreciate each visiting minister who recently shared God's Word with us, including Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA), Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL), Bro. Al Schambach (Remington, IN), Bro. Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA), Bro. Kerwin Edelman (Athens, AL), and Bro. Ned Stoller (Alto, MI). May God bless these brothers for their will-

ingness to be used in the Lord's service.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with those who have recently spent time in the hospital, including Bro. Eldon Steidinger (Sis. Darlene), Nita Moser (Keith), and Miriam Mehrkens. May God heal and provide for each one.

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**ILLINOIS, FORREST**

**Lisa Aberle**

**Lynn Dotterer**

Our hands to you in brother-love extending,  
Beloved friends, accept our fond farewell;  
*Zion's Harp #114*

We bid farewell to Bro. Clint, Sis. Rebecca, Sophia, Noah and Will Dotterer as they are now assembling with the San Diego, CA, congregation. May they feel God's continued nearness, grace, guidance, and blessings. We look forward to their visits home!

We thank Bros. Phil Leman and Rollyn Kuntz for their years of service in Sunday School. We give our support to Bros. Ryan Honegger and Shawn Aberle as they begin teaching.

We are thankful for visiting brothers willing to minister to us. Bro. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL), Bro. Kerwin Edelman (Athens, AL), Bro. Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL), and Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL) fed us from God's Word this past month.

Sis. Laura Wenger fell and broke her hip. She also had surgery. May she feel God's healing hand. Bro. Fred Leman (Sis. Brenda) has returned from Mexico. We are thankful for the excellent report!

Lily Kay Leman was born to Bro. Arlen, Sis. Denise, Jacob, Chase, Jayna and Carson. Lily's grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy Leman (Eureka, IL) and Jim and Rita Bahler. Bro. Nate and Sis. Paula Kelson welcomed home their second son, Travis Scott. Heidi and Zachary are happy for another playmate. Bro. Paul and Sis.

Sherri Kelson and Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary Bachtold are Travis' grandparents. First-time parents, Bro. Brad and Sis. Shannon Brown, welcomed Blake Allan into their home. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Jane Brown and Bro. Ivan and Sis. Cinda Fehr (Fairbury, IL). Andrew and Carlee Gerber are first-time parents as Brynlee Drew came to bless their home. Grandparents from our congregation are Bro. Alan and Sis. Marcia Gerber. Bro. Andy, Sis. Val, Jesse, Anna, and Kaylee Dotterer welcomed RaeLynn Elizabeth into their family. Thankful grandparents are Dale and Sis. Elaine Dotterer and Bro. Bob and Sis. Sally Rinkenberger. May these couples always look to God for direction and guidance as they raise their children.

We are rejoicing with Bro. Troy Brown (Bro. Gary and Sis. Jane) and Sis. Leann Steidinger (Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish, Fairbury, IL) as they have announced their engagement!

As we rejoice with those who rejoice, we weep with those who weep. We extend our love, sympathy, and prayers to Bro. Wayne Drayer (Sis. Gloria) as he laid his mother, Sis. Louise Manz (Cissna Park, IL), to rest.

*Note of Thanks:*

Our heartfelt thanks to our church family from near and far who have offered prayers, generous gifts, encouragement, and all deeds of love during the last year. Thanks to God, Brian feels well and the present treatments seem to be helping his cancer.

Let's keep praying for one another.

*Bro. Brian and Sis. Marie Ricketts and family*

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**ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD**

**Donna Wyss  
Rita Bauman**

"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

*John 10:10*

God is good as we heard that Ed Wiegand (Joanne) feels at peace with God and man. May he continue to feel God's grace as he looks forward to his testimony and baptism on February 13-14.

We are so thankful that five souls came to the realization that turning to the Lord in true repentance is the step that results in abundant life. May God grant grace and strength to Matt Grimm (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Ruth), Marisa Wiegand (Bro. Brad and Sis. Karen), Nate Bauman (Bro. Andy and Sis. Rita), and Herman and Sara Glueck, as they begin to follow our loving Savior.

Bro. Royce and Sis. Sarah Schieler are first-time parents of a precious little girl, Katelyn Jane. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Brian and Sis. Teresa and Bro. Tom and Sis. Jane Bolliger (Tremont, IL). May the Lord bless them in this new role of parenting.

We have two wedding engagements to announce. Josh Kuntz (Bro. Dave and Sis. Pat) and Katy Logue (Wayde and Gaylene) have chosen May 15, for their special day. July 3, is the date Lindsey Fehr (Bro. Steve and Sis. Deb) and Tim Lieder (John and Jean, Bloomington, IL) will be married. May God bless them as they make wedding preparations.

The Lord has provided bountifully for our needs with encouragement from His Word. We were thankful to have our Counseling Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL), along with ministering Bros. Brian Huber (Sis. Jacki, Francesville, IN), Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS), and Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL). May God bless you for your labors.

"They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing sheaves with him."

*Psalms 126:5-6*

When one part of the family hurts, we all hurt. When one part rejoices, we all rejoice. This past month, we extend loving sympathy to two families who have said goodbye to their loved ones. Sis. Pearl Nohl, sister of our dear Sis. Wilma Knapp, went to be with the Lord on January 13. Also, surviving are her three sons, Steve (Valerie), Dean (Tammy), and Earl (Phyllis). May God comfort her dear family at this time.

January 27, Bro. Norm Musselman left his earthly home for his eternal reward. We wish to extend our sympathy to his wife, Sis. Eileen, and his children, Bro. Gary and Sis. Judy, Greg and Laura, and Ken and Sis. Jaci Lowery, and all his grandchildren. May each one find comfort and strength in knowing that God cares and someday will wipe away all tears, as stated in Revelation 7:17.

May God be near each one in the month ahead!

*Note of Thanks:*

We would like to say a special thank you to our church family and friends for all your prayers during Jake's surgery and recovery. The out pouring of love and prayer from this community and brotherhood has been tremendous. We praise God for His mercy and feel so blessed!

Love in Christ,

*Bro. Ben and Sis. Shelley and Jake Rokey*

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**ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY  
Perry A. Klopfenstein**

We surely give thanks to God for the continuing work of salvation. Four young high-school men were added to the fold on January 9-10. These Brothers in faith are Josh Zehr, Alex Poppen, Ben Yergler, and Andy Yergler. This is very heartening to the church. Despite the forces on evil which seem to be on the upswing, God's voice is still being heard, and souls are responding to His call in humble repentance.

Elder Bro. John Laukhuf (Latty,

OH) was here for the provings and baptisms of these four souls. We appreciate his traveling and laboring efforts.

Bro. Mark Steffen (Bluffton, IN) was a visiting minister here on December 31, 2009.

The passing of Sis. Esther Kaupp, 91, occurred on December 29, 2009. She is survived by two sons, Bros. Marvin and John Kaupp, Gridley; and two daughters, Sis. Carolyn Yoder, Gridley, and Evelyn Wright, Susanville, CA; four sisters and two brothers; 15 grandchildren; 39 great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren.

Her husband of 51 years, Bro. Walter Kaupp, preceded her in death in 1989. The presence of Sis. Esther will be missed at church, as one who loved the faith, and enjoyed the fellowship each week. Her legacy is a lifetime of hard work, love of God, and devotion to her large family.

January 17 was the wedding date of Sis. Kelsey Zehr and Bro. Christopher Stoller. She is the daughter of ministering Bro. Dave and Sis. Vicki Zehr. His parents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Mary Stoller. We offer our best wishes to this young couple in their married life.

Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington) gave a Topical Bible Presentation on a Wednesday evening. It was entitled "Thanksgiving Always", and gave encouragement to continue praying and giving thanks, even amid dire circumstances. God hears and answers prayers.

Several have been in the hospital for either surgery or treatment: Sis. Carla Stoller, Jack Sievers, Sis. Rosemary Gramm, and Bros. Roy Hodel, Brock Wiegand, and David Meiss. We thank God for sufficient healing, according. Our nation has a marvelous health-delivery system, and may God be thanked for the medicines and procedures which assist, with God's help, to nurture ill persons back to normal health, according to His will.

## ILLINOIS, MORTON Annette Tanner Julie Bahr

"He was sitting high, looking low!" was a sentence I caught as I listened to an account by a young woman who narrowly escaped a serious tragedy. She was speaking of a semi truck driver who she thought was "chasing her" as she drove for several miles in her SUV. When she frantically stopped at an all night convenience store and rushed in, the truck driver hurried up to her car and yanked out a man hiding in her back seat! The trucker had observed the intruder slip into the woman's SUV. The woman was running from her "would be savior!" She recounted "just like our Heavenly Father who is Sitting High, Looking Low — He is the Savior we most often run from!" We are all aware of the tragedy that is continuing to unfold following the earthquake in Haiti. Let's continue "being like Christ" and also continue offering prayer unto our Heavenly Father who is "Sitting High, Looking Low!"

We sincerely thank Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Sis. Debra, Peoria) for assisting Elder Bro. Ted Witzig Sr. with the reading of the Memorandum to our Morton church. Also thank you to Bro. Ted Witzig Jr. (Sis. Donna) for sharing with us the "Keys to Effective Family Relationships", as our topic for Wednesday Evening Family Worship service. Bro. Ted tenderly shared how much he treasured the times when his dad would often say to him, "I love you, Bud!". It stirred my heart, with God's grace to do better.

We rejoice and wish to welcome Bro. Bruce and Sis. Becky Sauder into the fellowship of our Morton Church Family. They will surely be missed by the Tremont brethren.

On January 18, a new baby girl, Lana Rose, blessed the lives of Bro. Daniel and Sis. Diane Wuthrich. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Cheryl Wuthrich and Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Annette Tanner.

Our love and sympathy are with Bro. Bob Knobloch (Sis. Marvel) in the loss of his sister, Sis. Esther Kieser (late Bro. George) of Princeville.

Our sympathy also to Bro. Maurice Wittmer (Sis. Ella) in the loss of his brother, Bro. Walter Wittmer (late Sis. Alma) of Morton.

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## ILLINOIS, PEORIA Pam Fritzenmeier

"A New Year Brings A New Beginning"  
As the New Year starts and the old year ends  
There's no better time to make amends  
For all the things we sincerely regret  
And wish in our hearts we could somehow forget  
We all make mistakes, for it's human to err,  
But no one need ever give up in despair,  
For God gives us all a brand-new beginning,  
A chance to start over and repent of our sinning  
And when God forgives us we too must forgive  
And resolve to do better each day that we live  
By constantly trying to be like Him more nearly  
And to trust in His wisdom and love Him more dearly  
Assured that we're never out of His care  
And we're always welcome to seek Him in prayer.  
—Helen Steiner Rice

With the new year comes new responsibilities in our church family. Bro. Mark (Sis. Cathy) Kieser was elected a trustee as Bro. Mike (Sis. Diane) Honegger finishes his term. Newly elected Sunday School teachers are Bro. Gregg (Sis. Heather) Rumbold, Sis. Lisa (Bro. Matt) Waibel, and Sis. Lynne (Bro. Paul) Knobloch, replacing Sis. Kristi (Bro. Matt) Triplett and Sis. Kristen (Bro. Benj) Hodel. We are thankful for willing



hearts to serve.

We are delighted to report that two homes have recently been blessed with baby girls. Bro. Chad and Sis. Julie Herman welcomed their first child, Livie Grace, on December 20. Grandparents include Bro. Jan and Sis. Glenda Neukomm (Morton) and Bro. Greg and Sis. Beth Herman. On December 23, Bristol Reese joined the Bro. Hans and Sis. Amanda Schmidgall family. She is welcomed home by two brothers, Caden and Creed, and grandparents, Sis. Myrna Schwenk (Goodfield) and Bro. Steven and Sis. Christine Schmidgall. We are thankful to report that Bro. Steve and Sis. Claire Hodel's twin daughters, Rory and Scarlett, have been released from the hospital.

Several families experienced the loss of loved ones during the Christmas season. Bro. Robert Miller passed away December 26. Survivors include his wife, Sis. Betty, and children, Robert (Tracy), Sis. Linda, Mary (Kent) Willis, and Beth. Bro. Randy and Sis. Brenda Kieser and family laid to rest their mother, Sis. Esther Kieser, who also passed away December 26. Sigfried Schubert (Wilma) passed away December 27. Gene (Sally) Hoerr's mother, Sis. Marie Hoerr, passed away January 14. We extend our sympathy to these dear families.

Sunday, January 3, was our family hymn sing. We are thankful the men's quartet, Testify, from Gridley, shared their love for the Lord through song and all of us were blessed singing praises together.

Bro. Justin Moser (Sis. Robin, Altadena, CA) and Bro. Ron Joos (Sis. Christy, Bloomfield, IA) spent Sunday, December 27, with us. Elder Bro. Ted Witzig (Sis. Cindy, Morton) assisted with the reading of the Memorandum on Wednesday, January 6. May God bless these brothers for their ministry for us.

In this world there are always bodily afflictions. How much we depend on the prayers of believers as we endure

them. Please pray for Bro. Robert (Sis. Lorene) Joos, Sis. Pauline Hermann, and Bro. Harry (Sis. Loretta) Eisenmann.

We welcome to our congregation Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Elizabeth (Rieker) Calame, who have moved back from Florida.

Please remember in prayer Bro. Jonathan Aupperle in Magdalena and Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard and family in Haiti. The Reinhardts report they are pretty much settled in their side of the new house and appreciate their nice comfortable place to live. They request prayers for safety for the work teams coming and going and for Bro. Tim as he checks jobsites and delivers work materials. They suffered very little damage to their compound in the recent earthquake.

*Note of Thanks:*

To relatives and other loved ones across the country,

Thank you for all your prayers in our behalf, for the most beautiful cards I've ever seen, and the most comforting and encouraging words I've ever heard. It means a lot to know how much you thought of Bob and how your prayers and God's grace have carried us through. Praise be to God!

*Sincerely, Betty Miller*

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**ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE**

**Linda Joos  
Connie Christ**

"Love, of all gifts, is the greatest which the Spirit does bestow," On Christmas Day, the engagement of Sis. Brittany Streitmatter (Bro. David and Sis. Crystal) and Bro. Adam Endress (Bro. Larry and Sis. Becky) of Bradford, IL, was shared with us. We wish them God's blessings during this special time as they prepare for their marriage in the Lord.

Keith Streitmatter (Bro. Norman and Sis. Joyce) and Elizete Sousa were united in marriage on January 9. We pray God's blessings on them as they

begin life's path as husband and wife.

"How shall it be when we at last returning, From weary wanderings and from toil and strife?" We were so thankful our dear Sis. Esther Kieser could be relieved of her earthly wanderings on December 26 and enter her eternal rest. Our sincere prayers are with her children, Marjorie (Jack) Zimmerman, Bro. Charles (Sis. Marie), Sis. Delores (Bro. Don) Duckworth, Sis. Nancy (Bro. Robert) Wieland, and Bro. Randy (Sis. Brenda). We also remember her siblings; those in Princeville include Bro. Jim (Sis. Helen) Knobloch and Sis. Lill Elsasser.

Sis. Edna Martin's mother, Sis. Louise Manz, passed away on January 2. Sis. Louise had been living with Sis. Edna and assembling with us the last six months. Our prayers are with all of her family.

Our prayers continue with all of our loved ones who are struggling with bodily afflictions. Lee Streitmatter and Sis. Marie Menold were hospitalized. May God provide His healing for them and many others.

We appreciate the labors of our visiting ministers this past month: Bros. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), John Grimm (Columbus, OH), Darren Plattner (Champaign, IL), and Craig Stickling (Peoria, IL).

We have several grandparents who are thankful for the arrival of new grandchildren. Bro. Marvin and Sis. Jane Leman and Sis. Joyce Blunier (late Bro. Dale) welcome Kenan Malachi, born on December 22 to Bro. David and Sis. Kara Blunier. Big siblings include Faith, Marcus, Jared, and Lily. Bro. Fred and Sis. Nancy Menold welcome a baby boy named Ethaniel, born on December 29 to Aaron and Elizabeth Menold. Big brother Elijah is happy for a brother. Bro. Kenny and Sis. Donna Gehrig welcome Natalie Sue, born January 14 to Janna and Karsten Bourwieg. Big siblings include Ellie and Philip. Bro. Fred and Sis. Nancy Witzig's daughter, Marta, had a baby boy on January 16, named Jaivyn

Wade. Sis. Janet Martin-Joos is a happy great-grandmother.

*Note of Thanks:*

We would like to thank our dear church family for all the prayers, cards, flowers, food and deeds of kindness during my stroke at the hospital and at home throughout my recuperation. We really appreciate it very much. We feel so unworthy of such love from our God and may He richly bless each one.

In Christian Love,

*Bro. Ray and Sis. Betty Wagenbach*

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**ILLINOIS, ROANOKE**

**Jamie Hodel  
Judy Sauder**

On Sunday, December 27, our congregation bid farewell to Sis. Olivia Wuthrich (Sis. Val, and Bill, Peoria). Olivia has taken a secretary position at Gateway Woods. We pray she will feel the hand of God as she takes this new step. We were also thankful to welcome Bro. Jay and Sis. Jackie Braker to our congregation on January 17. We pray they will feel welcome as they make Roanoke their new home.

Isaiah 25:8: "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces..." Our congregation has bid a final farewell to dear souls this month. Sis. Ann Wagler went to be with the Lord on January 10. She leaves behind two daughters, Joan (Don) Kinzer of Winston Salem, NC; and Susan (Sam) Parrucci of Newport News, VA. She also is survived by three siblings: Bro. Harold (Sis. Mildred) Hodel (Eureka); Bro. Robert Hodel; and Sis. Florence Wuthrich; as well as her grandchildren. On January 12, Bro. Jerry Schumacher was taken home suddenly. Bro. Jerry is survived by his wife, Sis. Jane; and children, Sis. Jill (Bro. Steve) Aeschleman; Sis. Julie (Bro. Rich) Lindberg (Atlanta); Joan (Carey) Sizelove of Columbus, GA; Bro. Jeff (Sis. Tina, Leo); Jim (Lynette) of Muckwanago, WI; his grandchildren;

and siblings, Sis. Joyce (Bro. Maury) Crawford (Eureka); Sis. Mary Jane (Bro. Harold) Knapp (Bloomfield); Bro. Bob (Sis. Charlene) Schumacher (Eureka); and Sam (Linda) Schumacher of Eureka. On January 9, Elina Hattan of LaRose passed away. She is a sister-in-law of our Sis. Carol Schwab. Also, on January 10, Joyce Weir, of Peoria Heights passed away. She is a sister of our Bro. Jim Byrd (Sis. Sara.)

We were thankful to have Bro. Steve Martin (Eureka) with us for the funeral of Sis. Ann Wagler.

James 5:15: "And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up..." Our congregation has been offering up many prayers for those who have had health issues. We continue lifting up Bro. Rich (Sis. Janet) Knepp, and Katie Gordon. Katie is the daughter of Matt and Jodi Gordon (Eureka) and granddaughter of Bro. Steve and Sis. Jill Aeschleman. We pray each of these families can feel our prayers and the nearness of God daily.

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**ILLINOIS, TREMONT**

**Teresa Rowell  
Janice Sauder**

We want to thank our three visiting ministers of this past month: Bros. Akihiro Ito (Shioda, Japan), DeWayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN) and Glen Steiner (Winthrop, MN). These brothers all have family living in Tremont, so we look forward to their visits every so often.

Our congratulations go to Aaron Zuercher (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy) and Jennifer McCarty (father, Paul McCarty of Washington, IL) as they have announced their engagement. May God bless them as together they plan for the future!

We are always happy to make birth announcements. Bro. Tim and Sis. Jenny Ropp have a new daughter, Lena Joy. Also welcoming Lena are siblings, Asa and Hope, and grandparents, Ken and Joyce Ropp (Tremont, IL) and Bro.

Howard and Sis. Janice Sauder. Bro. Tom and Sis. Jane Bolliger became first-time grandparents with the birth of Katelyn Jane Schieler (Bro. Royce and Sis. Sarah, Goodfield, IL). And then Bro. Les and Sis. Wilma Pulfer are great-grandparents again with the birth of twin girls, Macy and Lauryn Mitchell. They are welcomed home by their parents, Ed and Melissa Mitchell, big sister Elle, and grandma Kathy Pulfer, all of Kansas City, KS. God bless these little ones and their families.

There are always those who need prayers as they recover from surgery or illness. May God send His healing hand to Sis. Wilma (Bro. Emil) Aberle, Sis. Iva Getz and Bro. Alvin (Sis. Carol) Beutel.

*Note of Thanks:*

We would like to express our thankfulness and appreciation to all of you for the many deeds of kindness that were shown to us at the passing of our dear mother and grandmother.

In His love,

*The Pauline Sauder family*

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**ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON**

**Linda Folkerts  
Nancy Leman**

"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

*Romans 6:4*

We praise God for the wonderful blessing of witnessing the testimonies and baptisms of our two new sisters in the Lord, Kristin Fehr (Dave and Sis. Linda) and Susanna Thames (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Brenda). May these two precious souls feel God's nearness and grace as they walk in this newness of life.

A new life in the form of a precious baby girl was welcomed into the lives of

Bro. Jason and Sis. Angie Schrock. Alivia Faith was born on December 28, and is cherished and loved by her parents and big sister, Addison. Also welcoming Alivia are her grandparents, Bro. Steve and Sis. Gerri Schrock (Congerville), Sis. Mary Knapp (Burlington, IA) and Bruce Knapp (Eureka, IL).

Beginning a new life together are Tim and Erin (Rocke) Price as they were married on December 26. Their parents are Bro. Kevin and Sis. Janine Rocke and George Price, Amarillo, TX, and Linda Price, Eureka, IL. May Tim and Erin's marriage be blessed and may they feel our prayers as Tim goes to North Carolina for Marine Corps training.

Our prayers are with Bro. Dan Heinold that he will be given strength and healing as he faces health issues.

Our congregation has been blessed with many visiting ministers this past month. They include Bro. Doug Wagenbach (Sis. Lillian, San Diego) and Bro. Joe Klotzle (Sis. Sue, Altadena) on December 27; Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit) and Bro. Steve Stieglitz (Sis. Jane, Leo) on January 10; Elder Bro. Tim Funk for testimonies on January 16; Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere), Bro. Willis Ehnle (Sis. Lois, Peoria), and Bro. Dave Oberfel (Sis. Kathy, Peoria) for baptisms on January 17. We thank them all for their service in the Lord.

The recent earthquake in Haiti has us praying for the many people affected by this tragedy. Bro. Keith Knepp (Sis. Michelle) along with some other doctors and medical staff plan to go to Haiti to help with the many medical needs there. May God be near them and bless them as they care for those who are in such dire need.

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**INDIANA, BLUFFTON**  
**Grace Gerber**  
**Kim Meyer**

"That ye might walk worthy of the

Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God."

*Colossians 1:10*

If a church can have a New Year's resolution, then this verse sums it up. We were challenged at the beginning of the year to look at our lives and how others see us whether we are at church, home, work, or school. Some know us as brothers and sisters in Christ. Some know us and not Christ. Do we display Christ? How do we display Christ? So as we meditate on this verse, it causes us to bring into remembrance 2009 and how we might apply it in 2010.

Although it's still hard to make myself write 2010 instead of 2009, one month has already passed! But what a start with God! He has shown Himself so faithful and continuing to receive the honor and glory that is definitely due to Him.

God showed His handiwork in five families this month with four births and one adoption. Bro. Travis and Sis. Jenna Frauhiger welcomed little Hallie Ann into their home. Bro. Kris and Sis. Ann Frauhiger and Bro. Keith and Sis. Kay Steffen would be her grandparents. Marcus Andrew joined Bro. Vince and Sis. Brandy's growing family with Bro. Al and Sis. Becky Pfister and Bro. Kendall and Sis. Sandy Ringger as his grandparents. Bro. Braden and Sis. Adrienne Reinhard are thankful to have Kyla Lynn as part of their family, too. Kyla's grandparents would be Bro. Tim and Sis. Marlise Steffen and Sis. Jan and Doyle Reinhard. Bro. Nick and Sis. Brooke Bertsch gave birth to a little girl, Emily Kay. Her grandparents would be Scott and Sis. Rita DeHoff and Bro. Stan and Sis. Cindy Bertsch. Michael and Tammy Gerber adopted 2 year old Geremew from Ethiopia. He will join the grandchildren of Bro. Mike and Sis. Becky Leyse and Bro. Bill and Sis. Carolyn Gerber.

Little Geremew has so much to learn, but I'm sure one of the first things he has learned about is prayer

and the power therein. I know that if we could hear Geremew's bedtime prayer, he would have a praise and prayer on behalf of his grandpas. He would praise God for watching over his Grandpa's, Bro. Mike (Sis. Becky) Leyse, double bypass surgery and having him home so soon. He would also pray for his Grandpa Gerber, Bro. Bill (Sis. Carolyn), who endured emergency surgery to remove part of his colon. He would pray for Grandpa Bill's low blood pressure to return to normal. We know God hears all prayers, big or small. Our Bro. Bill (Sis. Diana) Tonner has felt those prayers as he had his knee replaced. Although the surgery went well, he's looking forward to days beyond rehab and better mobility.

As grandchildren pray for their grandparents, we know grandparents pray for their grandchildren and rejoice when they come to know the Lord. We had two converts this month! What a way to start off the year for these two young souls! Erika Eisenmann (Bro. John and Sis. Trudy) started repenting along with Garrett Tonner (Bro. Brian and Sis. Joy).

Not only has God made Erika and Garrett new creations, but He also has made new marriages that will bring honor and praise to His name. We were able to witness the union of Bro. Lance Fiechter (Bro. Rick and Sis. Beth) and Sis. Sara Reinhard (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Shelly). Bro. Ryan Steffen (Bro. Keith and Sis. Kay) and Sis. Jamy Fiechter (Bro. Jim and Sis. Jenny) were also united in marriage this month.

"What God has brought together, let no man put asunder." We heard this in the vows of these two couples and rejoice that God has brought three more couples together! Sis. Wendy Fiechter (Bro. Don and Sis. Suzie) was engaged to Bro. Joel Putt (Bro. Brian and Sis. Tami) of Francesville. Bro. Gene and Sis. Joni Longenberger were proud to announce the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Katy, to Bro. Andrew Harris (Bro. Mark and Sis. Susan) of Bluffton North. Sis. Kelsey Compton

(Bro. Gary and Sis. Jean) and Bro. Justin Grube (Bro. Jay and Sis. Ronda) have also announced their engagement.

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

*Eccles. 3:1*

Through the last month we have rejoiced with these young couples but we also mourn with families as loved ones have passed from this life. Bro. Dave (Sis. Joleen) Sinn said goodbye to his father, Bro. Wayne Sinn. Doris Hansen also passed away who would be the mother of Sis. Dahlys (Bro. Brad) Troxel. Darlene DeVault passed away in January as well. She would have been the mother to Walt (Sis. Sherry) Snodgrass. Although it's hard to say goodbye, we would be selfish in not wanting our loved ones sitting at the feet of Jesus.

God has had his hand upon our congregation this month, and we praise Him for that. We are thankful for Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Sis. Bonnie, Bloomington) who visited and shared God's Word with us. He also encouraged us of the blessing from God in bringing the young and old in Christ together as we embark on a church Bible Study of the book of James.

“...I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: that ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:”

*II Peter 3:1-2*

The apostles encouraged the churches to reflect and remember the teachings of old. So as we reflect back on 2009, what do we remember? How will we apply it to 2010? We all know that this year will pass faster than last year! May God bless each of you in this New Year and give you the grace to

walk according to Colossians 1:10, “That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.”

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**INDIANA  
BLUFFTON NORTH  
Jessie Longenberger  
Amy Moser**

“Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

*Isaiah 7:14*

We were very blessed by visiting ministers, Bro. Allen Stoller (Sis. Susan, Bluffton), Bro. Jeff Waibel (Sis. Margo, Leo) and Bro. Denny Kaufmann (Sis. Bonnie, Bloomington) for sharing God's Word with us this month. May the Lord richly bless them for their labors among the flock.

Our Sunday School treated us to a wonderful program proclaiming Christ's birth on December 20. May God richly bless each of the students and teachers for all of their hard work again this year.

God has blessed our congregation with many new additions this month. Delaney Rose was born on December 8. She is the daughter of Bro. Kyle and Sis. Kyann Schwartz and the granddaughter of Bro. Dan and Sis. Jacki Kershner and Bro. Scott and Sis. Patti Schwartz (Bluffton). Bro. Gene and Sis. Darlene Reinhard were blessed with a granddaughter. Karease Rae was born to Matt and JaNae Reinhard on December 10. Grandparents, Bro. Tim and Sis. Marlise Steffen, and great-grandparents, Bro. Bob and Sis. Carolyn Yergler and Sis. Elizabeth Steffen, were blessed twice this month with the arrival of two granddaughters. Bridget Jade was born to Jayde and Abby Steffen on December 28. Kyla Lynn was born to Bro. Braden and Sis. Adrienne Reinhard on January 2. Kyla is also the granddaughter of Sis.

Jan Reinhard (Bluffton). Bro. Rob and Sis. Kristiana Jolloff rejoice in the birth of another son, Carson William, born on January 3. He joins Hayden at home. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Beverly Jolloff and great-grandparents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Joyce Baumgartner. Likewise, Bro. Travis and Sis. Jenna Frauhiger rejoice in the birth of their daughter, Hallie Ann, who was born on December 13. She joins big brother Jarin. The happy grandparents are Bro. Keith and Sis. Kay Steffen and Kris and Ann Frauhiger. Great-grandparents are Bro. William and Sis. Betty Frauhiger.

Sis. Dahlys (Bro. Brad) Troxel lost her mother on December 13. The funeral was held in Ocala, FL. We pray that the family truly feels the Lord's comfort during this time.

Bro. Bill Gerber (Sis. Carolyn) was hospitalized for back surgery; and approximately a week later was back in the hospital in critical condition in ICU at Lutheran due to a colon issue. He is now out of the critical stage but still hospitalized. We trust Bro. Bill and Sis. Carolyn feel the prayers of their church family.

Bro. Chandler and Sis. Rachel Gerber would like to thank everyone for their loving prayers as Chandler continues to recover from a life threatening car accident on December 30. He is now home to continue his outpatient therapy. Chandler is the son of Bro. Todd and Sis. Michelle Gerber. His grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Carol Gerber and Jim and Cheryl Zimmer.

Sis. Becky Ringger would also like to thank everyone for their prayers during her recovery from a fall.

The engagement of Bro. Andrew Harris (Bro. Mark and Sis. Susan) to Sis. Katy Longenberger (Bro. Gene and Sis. Joni, 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.

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## INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

### Mildred Clauss Jacki Huber

We often think of January as a time of "new beginnings". However, the Scripture reads in Lamentations that the Lord's mercies "are new every morning" and "His compassions fail not"! Because of His faithfulness, every day can be a new beginning.

Bro. Mark Wettstein (Sis. Karen, LaCrosse) was our visiting minister on New Year's Eve. Elder Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandy, Alto, MI) was our guest minister on December 27 and we trust the Lord will bless each of them for serving us.

Early in January Bro. Bob and Sis. Joy Huber and their family returned to Imurus, Mexico, to their mission work there after spending time here in our congregation with family and loved ones. Also, Bro. Jan and Sis. Val Gutwein and their family returned to their work for the Lord in Haiti. At this very moment thousands there are devastated by the earthquake. But in every circumstance God provides miracles for the world to witness.

Bro. Gene and Sis. Barb Huber and Bro. Gene and Sis. Sherri Huber and family visited Bro. Chad and Sis. Pam Huber and family in Jamaica during the Christmas holiday. We are indeed grateful for the traveling mercies of the Lord and for the wonderful encouragement He provides along life's pathway!

Three young converts gave their testimonies and were baptized on January 9-10. We welcome Bro. Kirk Huber (Bro. Gene and Sis. Sherri); Sis. Melissa Edwards (Patty Hull) and Bro. Evan Kaeb (Bro. Les and Sis. Christine) into our brotherhood and we thank Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Sis. Karel, Cissna Park, IL) for coming to help with this service.

The engagement of Bro. Joel Putt (Bro. Brian and Sis. Tami) to Sis. Wendy Fiechter (Bro. Don and Sis. Susie) of Bluffton has been announced and we rejoice with this young couple.

Sis. Emily Gutwein (Bro. Steve and

Sis. Linda) graduated from Purdue in December. We congratulate her and wish her God's grace and direction as she pursues her life's work.

Bro. Ben and Sis. Dena Cook have welcomed a baby girl, Mandalyn, into their family. Michaela, Megan, Isaiah, and Zachary are her happy siblings!

Sis. Sharon Huber (Bro. Chris), Sis. Barb Rayburn (Bro. Jim) and Bro. Larry Leman (Sis. Pam) have all been recent hospital patients. We sincerely pray for each of them that the Lord will provide a good recovery.

On Wednesday evening, January 13, Bro. Brian Huber gave a Topical Bible Study on "Trusting in God". We appreciate these monthly studies which concentrate on given topics. The Word is truly inexhaustible!

On Sunday evening, January 17, we gathered for our Family Hymn sing. Bro. Jerry Gutwein gave an informative presentation on the "Pumps for Haiti" that has been a long standing project. An overview of Crown Financial Planning was also presented as we begin the program in our church.

Our congregation met for its annual business meeting on Wednesday evening, January 20. It is definitely appropriate that we attend to the physical needs of our building and that the various "posts of duty" are filled by faithful and willing members.

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## INDIANA

### INDIANAPOLIS

#### Sandy Lichtle Gail Bradford

The New Year is well on its way – we need no further evidence to see that time is a fleeting commodity to be used wisely.

After several years of prayer, thoughtful planning, many congregational votes and an encouraging and on-going fund-raising effort, the Indianapolis church is preparing to proceed with renovations to its building. The result will be a more open and accessible fellowship area, larger sanctuary

and Sunday School rooms and improved traffic patterns.

We continue to welcome visitors that "turn into" Indiana residents. We are happy to welcome Bro. Glenn and Sis. Nancy Pfeifer from Chicago, IL, to our congregation. We hope more will consider Indianapolis their future home!

Bro. Bill and Sis. Conni Witzig and Dan and Barb Umbaugh said hello to a new granddaughter, Emma Jane Witzig, born to parents, Rob and Anna Witzig, on December 22, 2009. The family circle widens once more as they embrace another dear baby to love and cherish.

Joshua Freed was united in marriage on December 30, 2009, with Tabitha Barnett. They will make their home in Greenfield, IN, where Joshua's parents, Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy Freed, live.

Bro. Makoto Inoue (Sis. Anna) has earned his MBA from Purdue University.

We extend our sympathies to Brian and Deann Mustard and Katie and Kara on the passing of "Bud" Mustard of N. Judson, IN, after an illness of several months. We trust the family feels the love of God and friends as they carry on in the absence of a beloved father and grandfather.

Bro. Adam and Sis. Jill Merkle report that Adam's father, George Merkle of Bluffton, IN, is recovering from surgery. As the hymn says, "We need the prayers of those we love" when we undergo difficulties of any kind.

We appreciate the recent visit of ministering Bro. Ken Lawson (Sis. Sharon, Atlanta, GA).

Recent natural disasters have brought into sharp focus the brevity of life and the many needs of the human family. We are praying for recovery and solace for the victims.

"Lord, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to

hear.”

*Psalm 10:17*

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**INDIANA, LEO**  
**Elizabeth Schrenk**  
**Abigail Schrenk**

“O God, my heart is fixed; I will sing and give praise, even with my glory. Awake, psaltery and harp: I myself will awake early. I will praise thee, O LORD, among the people: and I will sing praises unto thee among the nations.”

*Psalm 108:1-3*

The psalmist had his heart fixed on God. David found himself worshipping the God of Israel early in the morning. He spent many hours singing and praising the Lord among many tribes and nations. What a challenge for us today! Do we find our hearts fixed on God? Do we find ourselves rising early to worship? Will our voices be heard among the nations of this world singing and praising God Almighty? May our Heavenly Father find each of us living these truths like David, the man after God's own heart.

We have several families who have joined us this past month. We are thankful their hearts have been fixed on serving the Lord at Gateway Woods Children's Home. Joining us is Bro. Kirby and Sis. Areli Reuter with son Isaac from Clarendon, VT. Bro. Kirby will be working in the counseling department at Gateway. Bro. Mark and Sis. Julie Maibach and their family have moved from Atlanta, GA, to work in the business office at Gateway. Sis. Olivia Wuthrich has joined us from Francisville, IN, to also work in the office at Gateway. We want to extend a hearty welcome to these families and we pray they will feel at home as they worship with us.

We were blessed with two visiting ministers this month. Bro. Troy Leyse (Sis. Kelly, Bluffton, IN) shared a Sunday service with us. Bro. Ned

Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI) shared with us on Wednesday evening when his work brought him to our area. We thank these two brothers for giving of themselves to bring truths to us from God's Word.

If you would like to purchase head-coverings hand-made by Sisters in Mexico, you are welcome to request a complete inventory by contacting Sis. Areli Reutter at either 419-258-2640, [asreutter@gmail.com](mailto:asreutter@gmail.com), or by directly consulting the following link: <http://sites.google.com/site/headcoveringsfrommexico>

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

The Milford congregation prays for God's healing powers for our members recovering from surgery: Bro. Alan Wuthrich, Sis. Sue Cockburn, Sis. Mayedean Lehman and Bro. Lee Beer.

Visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH), Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL) and Bro. Tom Troxel (Sis. LuAnn, LaCrosse, IN).

Elder Bro. Wayne assisted Elder Bro. Bill with testimonies and baptisms of Jose Terrazas and his wife, Norma. The Milford church welcomes Jose and Norma as a Bro. and Sis. in faith. May God bless all with much grace to live as brothers and sisters of Christ.

Bro. Phil and Sis. Jane Price rejoice as their daughter, Darcy, has turned to the Lord in repentance. May the Holy Spirit guide Darcy to complete peace.

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**INDIANA, REMINGTON**  
**Jenni Honegger**  
**Marcella Tyler**

We are thankful and humbled to greet Sis. Anna Bahler (Bro. Tim and Sis. Lynette) and Bro. Stuart Kilgus (Elder Bro. Dan and Sis. Jenna) as our brother and sister in the family of Christ. We regret that we did not re-

port in last month's article that they had found peace with the Lord, but we are glad to report that we heard testimony of that peace and of the work that He has done in each of their hearts on January 9. Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO) lent us his efforts on that memorable evening and for their baptisms on January 10. Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL) and Bro. Neil Widmer (Sis. Chris, West Lafayette, IN) joined him on our pulpit that Sunday, and we would like to thank each one of them for being willing to let the Spirit use them for our benefit. We ask you each to please pray that Sis. Anna and Bro. Stuart may feel the love and encouragement of the church as they continue on the path they have chosen.

In similar joy we can report that Kayla Bahler (Bro. Tim and Sis. Lynette) and Grant Knobloch (Bro. Neil and Sis. June) have chosen to walk the humble road of repentance with the Lord Jesus by their sides. We pray that Kayla and Grant will find joy and comfort in the mercy that Christ Jesus extends to sinners, and that they will learn to walk ever more closely with Him from this point forward in their young lives.

We recently held our annual membership meeting where we elected several new Sunday School teachers and various other church positions. We would like to sincerely thank each outgoing teacher and servant for their time and effort, as well as extend each incoming brother and sister our heartfelt support as they go about doing the work the Lord has given them.

Several of our congregation made a trip to Bastrop, TX, to help with the relief efforts going on there, along with several from the Wolcott congregation. We are thankful for their safe return and pray that the seeds of love that were sown – both in their hearts and in the hearts of those whom they served – will bear its fruit in due time.

*Note of Thanks:*

Dear Ones,

Words cannot express the gratitude we have for everything you did for Clyde and our family over the last 18 months. The outpouring of love lifted our spirits and souls beyond belief. From your prayers, phone calls, visits, cards, letters, gifts, food and so much more, we were overwhelmed by your love and support. We especially thank you for your faithfulness in prayer that held our family up during some of our darkest days and long nights, and that will comfort us in the coming months. Clyde loved his church family beyond measure. He felt the bond of Christian love. May God bless each of you and as Clyde would simply say, "Thank you!"

*Sis. Mary Sue Waibel and family*

**INDIANA, SOUTH BEND**

**Rachel Langhofer  
Joshua Martinez**

Greetings of love from South Bend!

We are happy to have Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue Beebe back home from Haiti after the recent major earthquake that devastated that impoverished Caribbean island. We look forward to hearing about their experiences and are thankful that God kept our loved ones safe.

Our sisters have been gathering every other week to take part in the Apples of Gold Mentoring Bible Study. The topical studies are based on Titus 2:3-5. We are thankful for the opportunity they have to fellowship, grow in faith and truth and in the love of God, family, and others.

We pray blessings upon our outgoing church officers and our new incoming ones as they take over responsibilities to keep our church building and gatherings running smoothly. As we begin 2010, we once again have interesting news about our church. Our ushers were unemployed for the whole year since we had no baptisms, weddings or funerals in our congregation. However, we continue to

experience tremendous growth in the nursery and kindergarten segments of our church population. We are thankful for so many heavenly blessings this past year and look forward to another with joy and anticipation. May God's will be done in our lives and blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.

**INDIANA, VALPARAISO**

**Marguerite Hoerr**

Recently we have included in our morning devotions a book that was given to me in 1960 by my mother, Sis. Naoma Beer. Most of you are familiar with "Of the Imitation of Christ" by Thomas a' Kempis. Thomas was born in the lower Rhine region in Kempen, Germany in 1380. Bob, after reading it one morning, classified this small book as a "jewel". Most of his writings deal with the "inward man". For example, one of the chapters is "of the obtaining of peace, and of zealous desire for growing in grace." Each page we've read reveals a man who was constantly searching for a closer walk with Christ. Each morning we are reminded of some part of our inner self that needs to be finer tuned in order to be more like our Lord. The following quote is attributed to a' Kempis, "Without the Way there is no going. Without the Truth there is no knowing. Without the Life there is no living." I wish you the same joy in reading his writings as we have found.

On December 27 a reception was held in our church fellowship hall for Casey and Ginelle Bucher. They were married on October 24 in Fenwick, Ontario. This gave everyone in Casey's boyhood church a chance to become acquainted with his new bride and to wish them God's blessings on their marriage. Casey is the son of Bro. Tim and Sis. Julie Bucher of Valparaiso. He and his three brothers have people skills that include everyone, young people and those of us who are older. Casey and Ginelle met three years ago on a mission trip to Vietnam. They both

work for L'Arche, assisting handicapped adults in Hamilton, Ontario. We wish them a happy future, blessed by God.

On January 17 we were richly blessed by the visit and ministry of Bro. Nile Bucher of the Bluffton North congregation. We missed Sis. Phyllis who was ill and couldn't accompany him, but were blessed by those who did come with him: Bro. Harold and Sis. Vi Meyer and Bro. Gary and Sis. Nancy Stoller. We thank God for their fellowship.

Bro. Lyle and Sis. Marilyn Zeltwanger have gone to Phoenix, AZ, for the winter. Bro. Ken and Sis. Carol Bucher are enjoying the winter in Ft. Myers, FL, as is Bro. Art Heinold. May God be with them and keep them safe until they return in the spring. Sis. Gwen Bucher has traveled to Ixtlan, MX, to spend some time with Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan Heinold.

May the year 2010 bring you blessings in abundance. Happy New Year from all of us in the Valparaiso congregation

**INDIANA  
WEST LAFAYETTE  
Hollie Meister  
Darlene Walder**

Several from our congregation traveled to Argentina for a mission trip this past month. They were blessed with many opportunities to share His Word. We are glad for their safe return.

Our congregation gathered for Family Praise Night this month. We enjoyed food, fun, singing, and fellowship. Those that went on the mission trip to Argentina shared their experiences with everyone. This was truly an uplifting evening.

We would like to thank the visiting ministers who came this month. We appreciate your time and willingness to share His Word with us.

Just a reminder that we are currently sharing our Church building as our new facility is under construction.

Sunday's worship service starts at 11:10 am, and our Thursday evening service starts at 7:00 pm. We hope to be in our new facility on Easter Sunday, April 4, 2010.

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**INDIANA, WOLCOTT**  
**Lynne Blume**  
**Donita Edelman**

Our annual meeting was held Monday, January 4. We appreciate and offer our thanks to those brothers and sisters who have completed their responsibilities. May God provide wisdom and encouragement to those who have been newly elected to positions.

Bro. Seth and Sis. Brandy Beer (Phoenix, AZ) are the happy, first-time parents of Georgia Rose born on January 7. Excited grandparents are Bro. Jon and Sis. Wendy Schwab and Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie Beer (Leo, IN). May this little bundle from heaven bless their lives with much joy and happiness.

Sharing God's love and Biblical teachings this month were visiting ministers, Bro. Nate Lehman (Sis. Yvonne, Denver, CO) and Bro. Randy Gudeman (Sis. Becky, Francesville, IN). We wish to thank them for their efforts and their willingness to be used in the Lord's service.

Bro. Glenn Blume was relieved of his earthly afflictions when he passed from this life into eternity on January 20. Sharing in the loss of their father are Sis. Glenna (Bro. Mike) Minniear, Jeff (Cynthia), Craig (Kathy), Bro. Larry (Sis. Lynell), and Kent (Robin). Also mourning this loss are many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. We pray that this family can feel our love and sympathy, and that the Lord will be a source of comfort to them.

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

"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*

Our hearts were filled with sorrow over New Year's as Bro. Henry Wettstein (Oakville) passed from this life to his eternal reward. Bro. Henry was a special part of our church family for two years. Our sympathy is extended to his wife, Sis. Wendy (Oakville), his parents, Bro. Denny and Sis. Emily (Congerville), and all the Wettstein and Schultz families.

Bro. Henry showed a lot of love towards each of us here in Bloomfield and we are thankful to report that since his illness and death we have six souls that felt the need of a Savior and turned to the Lord in repentance. We are rejoicing with Loren and Steven Schock (Elder Bro. Doug and Sis. Clara), Nathan and Caleb Wettstein (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Carol), Philip Maibach (Bro. Tim and Sis. Mary), Darcy Price (Bro. Phil and Sis. Jane, Milford, IN), and Jake Joos (Bro. Ron and Sis. Christy). We pray that the Lord will be near each one.

Our sympathy is also extended to Bro. Harold and Sis. Mary Jane Knapp at the passing of her brother, Bro. Jerry Schumacher (Eureka); and to Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary Wiegand, as we heard that Bro. Dave's sister, Sally DeGroot, passed away. May the Lord grant comfort.

Congratulations to Loren Schock and Darcy Price as they announced their engagement. Our prayers are with them, as they seek the Lord's direction in their lives and plan for their wedding and marriage. Parents are Elder Bro. Doug and Sis. Clara Schock and Bro. Phil and Sis. Jane Price (Milford).

We thank ministering Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove) for coming over and preaching to us on New Year's Eve. May the Lord bless Bro. Brad and Sis. Laura for their love

and support.

We gathered together Saturday, January 16, to listen to the Memorandum. We were blessed with the presence of Elder Bros. Ervin Knecht (Eureka) and Charles Sauder (Tremont). What a blessed evening we had. We were reminded of the importance of striving to be more Christ-like in every aspect of our lives. A special thanks to Bros. Ervin and Charles for your efforts. May the Lord bless you both!

Our church family enjoyed the opportunity to gather together and package soup. It was a nice evening of fellowship and working together. Our prayer is that the recipients of the soup packages can feel our Savior's love and mercy!

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**IOWA, BURLINGTON**  
**Marilyn Anderson**  
**Karla Gerst**

Thou, Lord, hast for me devoted  
 Soul and body, life and all;  
 So there shall be consecrated  
 All I have, both great and small,  
 All my efforts and endeavor  
 To Thy service and Thy call.

*Zion's Harp #226, vs. 7*

We appreciated having Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville) with us to share the Word and be at our annual meeting. At the meeting, Bro. Gary Schulz was chosen to serve as a trustee, Sis. Dixie Messner will serve on the kitchen committee and Sis. Marilyn Anderson will help write the Silver Lining. A special thank you to those that have completed their terms.

After serving on the pulpit for almost 30 years, Bro. Paul Eisenmann announced he will be retiring from the ministry at the end of January. We want to thank Bro. Paul and Sis. Elaine for their many years of service.

"I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more



blessed to give than to receive.”

*Acts 20:35*

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**IOWA, ELGIN**  
**Maria Rocke**

Michael Schupbach has become engaged to Nikki Wittmayer of Des Moines, IA. Michael's parents are Bro. John and Sis. Janet. Nikki's parents are Kreg Wittmayer and Rob and Kelly Westervelt.

Our ministering Bro. Kent Getz has taken the lead on the pulpit here in Elgin. We thank Bro. Floyd Frieden for his faithfulness in this duty and wish Bro. Kent God's guiding hand in his new role.

This past month we held our annual business meeting. As some duties have been passed to others, we thank all who have fulfilled their service in their respective duties. Bro. Phillip Wyss was elected as our new trustee, replacing Bro. Dean Rocke. Bro. Floyd Frieden has taken over Bro. Kent Getz's responsibility of the Gateway Woods fund.

We thank Elder Bro. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kansas City, MO) and Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA) for their labors this past month, as both were here to share the Memorandum letter with us. The Lord truly blessed our weekend.

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**IOWA, IOWA CITY**  
**Diana Butikofer**

Our prayers for a speedy recovery are with Bro. Wayne (Sis. Becky) Snodgrass following surgery on both feet.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Diana Butikofer, along with Kyla, Garrett, Wyatt and Larissa, welcomed Mitchell Aaron, born January 6, into their family. Grandparents, Bro. Al and Sis. LaVerne Butikofer (Elgin, IA) and Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie Heinold (LaCrosse, IN), are also thankful.

We pray that God's will and glory will continue to be seen through the af-

termath of the earthquake in Haiti. We are thankful so many were spared and continue to pray for the families of those who were not spared of death, injury, and difficult times. We also ask God's encouragement and discernment for those seeking to direct and provide relief efforts.

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

First-time parents, Bro. Daniel and Sis. Stephanie Messner, welcomed a precious baby boy, Jared Lee, born on December 20. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Henry and Sis. Charlene Messner and Bro. Rodney and Sis. Denise Schaeffer (Morris, MN). Alexa Rose was born on January 6 to Bro. Travis and Sis. Kathy Knoblock. Tyra, Kiana, Dayra, Bryna and Luca are the excited big sisters. Grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet Knoblock and Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie Heinold (LaCrosse, IN).

Our Christmas program was held on December 20. It is a beautiful blessing to watch the Sunday School children share the Christmas story with songs and recitations. It was especially heartwarming to listen to all 180 students sing two hymns together at the close of the evening.

Visiting ministers this past month were: Elder Bro. Roy Koehl (Morris, MN), Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Bro. Virg Metzger (Chicago, IL), Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Bro. Larry Bahr (Ft. Scott, KS), Bro. Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL), and Bro. James Knapp (Congerville, IL). May God always direct the words and meditations of their hearts to honor and praise Him.

Little Elsa Metzger (Bro. Drew and Sis. Maria) and Taryn Besonen (Brant and Samantha) have spent time in the hospital and are recuperating at home.

Haste and seek your soul's salvation:  
Heed the Word of God today!

*Zion's Harp #52*

How thankful we are to share the news of converts. Morris and Tonya Metzger, Keith and Julie Moser, Ethan and Trixie Metzger and Nate Knobloch (Bro. Dan and Sis. Rejean) have answered the call of repentance. May God grant them much grace to establish a firm foundation on Jesus Christ, the Solid Rock.

We extend our congratulations to Kristy Popkes (Bro. Greg and Sis. Lori) and Brady Mickelson as they have announced their engagement. May God be with them as they make plans for their wedding.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Phil and Sis. Donna Mogler on the death of their grandson, Bro. Henry Wettstein. May God provide comfort and peace.

A tradition at our New Year's Eve church service is to share the statistics. In our Lester congregation there were 20 babies, 4 deaths and 9 baptisms in 2009.

Another year is dawning,  
Dear Master let it be.  
In working or in waiting,  
Another year with Thee.  
Another year is dawning,  
Dear Master, let it be.  
On earth or else in heaven,  
Another year for Thee.

*Hymns of Zion #150*

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**IOWA, OAKVILLE**  
**Sharla Wiegand**

On December 16, Aiden Keith was welcomed into the home of Bro. Brent, Sis. Bethany, Neil and Russell Frank. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Tina Frank and Bro. Roger and Sis. June Schulz.

We have been blessed with many visiting ministers including Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL), Bro. Phil Schulz (Burlington, IA), Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Wolcott, IN), and Bro. Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT).

Our hearts are grieving over the

sudden loss of Bro. Henry Wettstein, who passed away on December 31 after a brief illness. The prayers of our congregation continue for his dear wife, Sis. Wendy, that the Lord would sustain her in the days and years ahead. Along with many other visitors at the funeral, we appreciate the efforts of ministering Bro. Joe Dotterer (Bloomfield, IA), Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL), Bro. Beirne Messner (Morris, MN), Elder Bro. Ben Walder (Congerville, IL) and Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA).

“For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.”

*I Corinthians 13:12*

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## IOWA, WEST BEND

**Janet Fehr  
Leona Fehr**

Two dear sisters were hospitalized in the past month, and we are thankful both are home doing better. May God's presence be felt in both Sis. Rosene Grimm and Sis. Joyce Banwart's lives.

This Christmas season was a very snowy one for us here. Church services were canceled on Christmas day in West Bend, but we were able to enjoy the Sunday School program held on the Sunday before. Our prayer is that each child and teacher were blessed for their efforts.

Our hearts went out to the family of Annette Fehr of Fort Dodge, formerly of West Bend, who died on December 30. She is survived by her husband, Alfred; son, Chad, of West Des Moines; daughter, Yvonne Fehr, of Fort Dodge; and two grandchildren.

On January 8, Sis. Lucille Wirtz passed from this life to be with the Lord. Her loving children are in our prayers: Ronald (Carol) Wirtz of Emmetsburg, IA; Keith (Sandy) Wirtz of Mallard, IA; and Pamela (Virg) Lyon of Boone, IA.

We were also saddened to hear that Carolyn (Ron) Banwart's mother, Annie Chiles, from Ocoee, FL, finished her life on earth. May the Lord touch all the hearts that are hurting in a way that only He can.

Midweek services are a wonderful encouragement and we were thankful for the evidence of God's Spirit amongst us when Bro. Gary Brown (Sis. Jane, Forrest, IL) encouraged our hearts with pure, simple teachings from God's Word. “Teach me thy way, O Lord, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies.” (Psalm 27:11)

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## JAPAN, TOKYO

**Jana Klaus**

The year ended with abundant blessings for Sis. Haruyo Onoda as two new grandchildren joined her family. Her oldest son, Yuichi, and his wife, Ayako, had their first child, a boy named Ryota, on December 8. Just a week before that, her second and middle son, Kunihiro, and his wife, Miho, had their second child, a boy named Michi. His big brother Riku is 5 years old. We rejoice with Sis. Haruyo on these births that bring such hope and joy and pray for all of her family to be drawn to the Lord, the Giver of these great blessings.

We started out the new year with a large gathering of worshippers the first Sunday of January. There were so many families, in fact, that 19 children were present for the whole day! How encouraging it was! We welcomed the Kinsinger family from Shioda Church, Bro. John and Sis. Wanda, James, Jesse and Joy who brought along Sis. Wanda's mother, Sis. Janna Baer (Bradford, IL), who was visiting for several weeks. Two of the Sunday school boys from Shioda, Kotaro and Koshin Furuya, were also with us as they were spending time at the Klaus house. Then, we had three Japanese families who have become quite regular attendees—the Suzurikawa family (two girls and one boy), the Muramori

family (two boys) and Mrs. Ikeda and her son, Kei. We will greatly miss the Ikeda's as they will be joining their husband/father this February who was transferred to Vietnam for a few years. Thank you for prayers for these precious families, as well as for our whole church.

Our dear Bro. Sanada-san didn't get a very good start to the new year as he suffered a heart attack. We are so thankful he could get good care in time, and the Lord spared his life. He is still hospitalized and we ask for many prayers for him to be healed physically as well as to be strengthened mentally and spiritually during his days of recovery.

We are always missing and praying for our suffering Sis. Shizuko Urushino who is still hospitalized, but we are thankful she was able to be moved to a hospital much closer to her home.

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## KANSAS, BERN

**Sheri Edelman  
Jill Meyer**

A baby girl, Karen Ranae, has been added to the household of Bro. Bruce and Sis. Diane Stoller. Big brother, Seth, is all smiles with her! Her grandparents are Bro. Darrel and Sis. Gloria Stoller as well as Bro. Curt and Sis. Ellen Strahm (Sabetha, KS). May God be their guide as they train up their children in the way they should go.

Hospital patients this month have been Sis. Arlene Esslinger, Sis. Janet Meyer (Bro. Robert) and Bro. Eldon Plattner (Sis. Wanetta). Our prayers have been and continue to be with each of you.

We thank Bro. Jeff Bahler (Sis. Heidi, Wolcott, IN) for ministering God's Holy Word to us. We hope you come back soon!

Our annual business meeting was held and new brothers and sisters were elected to positions for the year. May God lead us in holy unity as we do our part for the church.

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## KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

### Martin Hohulin Sr.

On the evening of December 23, we said farewell to Ft. Scott's second oldest brother. At the age of 82, Bro. Wayne (Buzz) Sinn was called to his eternal Home. Surviving are his wife of 60 years, Sis. Juanita (Davis) Sinn; two sons, Bro. David (Sis. Jolene) and Steve; three daughters, Sis. Linda Banwart (Bro. Gene), Sondra (Terry), and Becky Blaser; one brother, Lester Sinn; and one sister, Ilene McDaniel. In addition, he leaves sixteen grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Bro. Wayne was born July 6, 1927, to Bro. Fred and Sis. Elsie (Eberle) Sinn at Fort Scott. His mother was from Princeville, IL. Elder Bro. John Lehman and Bro. Larry Bahr had the services. This was the first funeral in Fort Scott since July 2007.

Bro. Wayne and his family lived on the Kansas/Missouri state line where the church was founded by his great-grandfather, Bro. George Sinn Sr., and others in 1893. As Bro. Wayne's children became school age, they were permitted to attend schools in either Kansas or Missouri. This option came to an end as they got older and attended high school in Missouri.

Bro. Wayne and Sis. Juanita repented at Fort Scott and were baptized with their oldest daughter, Linda, and Nancy Kraft on August 2, 1970, by Elder Bros. Sam Anliker and Lester Hartter. Bro. Wayne was a quiet and talented man. He built three of their residences. Relocations of a state highway took two of them. He was employed by the Fort Scott school district for 24 years, retiring as head of the maintenance department.

The Sinn name is not to be confused with those from Oregon, Illinois, and Ohio. However, Sis. Carol Sinn from Tremont, IL, did not have to change her last name when she married Bro. John Sinn from Fort Scott.

Bro. Ryan Kellenberger has transferred from Kansas State University to

Pittsburg State University to continue his Masters degree in education. It is a blessing to have him in church each Sunday.

Sis. Teresa Bahr hosted a pizza supper and taffy pull for the Sunday School children and any adults who wanted to brave the cold weather. It was a blessing for all who attended.

We rejoice with our dear friend, Kimmy Leek (Jared), who has graduated from nursing school. She has also passed her state boards. We wish her well in her in her chosen profession.

On January 13 we held our annual business meeting. We thank those who have served us in the past and appreciate those willing to serve us in the future.

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## KANSAS LAMONT-GRIDLEY Ester Knobloch

We appreciate those who travel to worship with us and the labors of our visiting ministers. Bro. Cory Metzger (Sis. Jodi, Wichita) and Bro. Floyd Frieden (Sis. Jan, Elgin, IA) have brought forth the Word to our congregation this past month. We pray that God's Spirit will always be with the ministers that they can teach us the way of truth and righteousness.

Our annual business meeting was held and responsibilities were given to different brothers and sisters. Our thanks goes to those who have served in various ways the past year.

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## KANSAS, SABETHA Rebekah Beyer Carrie Grimm

"But cleave unto the Lord your God, as ye have done unto this day."

*Joshua 23:8*

Our congregation bid farewell to Sis. Lynn Rees and children: Jacob, David, Michael, and Emily. Her husband Jason has been transferred to Alaska. We will miss having them worship with

us and pray that God will always be at their side as they are many miles away!

It was a great blessing to have a crowded church on December 20. This was the wedding day of Sis. Jody Grimm (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Nita) and Bro. Michael Nohl (Bro. Dewayne and Sis. Janice, Morris, MN). Visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Sis. Becky, Lamar, MO), Bro. Rex Frieden (Sis. Vera, Lamar, MO), and Bro. Beirne Messner (Sis. Joyce, Morris, MN).

Due to a severe winter snowstorm, our Christmas Day service was cancelled. We were, however, able to meet together for New Year's Eve services.

Bro. Curt and Sis. Ellen Strahm have a new granddaughter. Karen Ranae was born to Bro. Bruce and Sis. Diane, and Seth Stoller on December 30. They attend church at Bern, KS, along with paternal grandparents, Bro. Darrel and Sis. Gloria Stoller.

Bro. Gene Kellenberger (Sis. Marian), Bro. Virgil Hartter (Sis. Marie), and Sis. Irene Lehman have all spent time in the hospital. Our prayers will go with them as they gain strength and comfort from our Great Physician.

We held our annual church business meeting on January 12. Sincere thanks go to all who contribute to the operation of our church.

"Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied."

*Jude 2*

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## KANSAS, WICHITA Emma Miller

The work day at the Mennonite Central Center in Newton has been rescheduled for January 21. Since the last of the snow from the storms that cancelled the December work day is nearly gone, we are anticipating better weather conditions to travel to the work destination.

The Wichita congregation is small in numbers. The excitement of Christ-

mas is past and we are in a more relaxed state of being. One of our families has three boys who stay for second service. These young men have endeared themselves to an elderly sister in the congregation who is generous with hugs, praise, and encouragement. The boys sit quietly with their parents or grandmother during second service. They are allowed to have sketch pads and ink pens so they can quietly get through the afternoon. They must not talk during the service. The oldest likes to draw something pertinent to the lesson he had in Sunday School. The second boy is more of a doodler and creates beautiful designs. After he nearly completed his last page, he saw that he had made a bottle. He finished the bottle details and explained that the bottle contained water for the people in Haiti. Lastly, the youngest child came for his hugs and showed her his poodle (stuffed of course). Yes, we are a small group and we also are blessed when we take the time to encourage one another.

We can be encouraged with these words from Micah 6:8.

“He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good, and what doth the Lord require of thee but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?”

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### MEXICO, IXTLAN Matt Gerber

“And they made a calf in those days, and offered sacrifice unto the idol, and rejoiced in the works of their own hands.”

*Acts 7:41*

Stephen had the rapt attention of his Jewish audience. There was nothing they loved more than to hear the highlights of the history of Abraham, Moses, and other great men. They were zealous for Moses, for the law, and for the place they considered supremely sacred—the temple. They had falsely

accused Stephen of speaking “blasphemous words against this holy place, and against the law” (Acts 6:13), and of saying that Jesus of Nazareth would destroy the temple and change the customs that Moses delivered to them. Stephen’s face shone like an angel as he gave his defense. He began to recount the events of God’s workings with the Jews, and at first everything seemed to be going smoothly. The angry crowd began to calm down as they listened. It appeared that Stephen might get off the hook after all. How could the Jews resist such a beautiful summary of their history? Maybe they had been wrong about Stephen. He wasn’t saying anything “blasphemous”. Stephen finished talking about Moses and came to David, who desired to build a house for God... then Solomon, his son, who built it.

If Stephen had stopped there, he might have gotten off with his life. He would have done little more than give an interesting history lesson, with a few important notes. But he hadn’t finished his sermon. All of this was building up to his main point—the main point that would get him killed. Stephen paused, then quoted the prophet Isaiah: “Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet, Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest? Hath not my hand made all these things?” (Acts 7:48-50, emphasis added).

Now Stephen got a reaction out of the hearers! He had just told them that God didn’t need their temple. He didn’t need the great works of their hands. His hand had made all these things. The Jews in Stephen’s day were no different than the Jews in Moses’ day, which made the golden calf and rejoiced in the works of their own hands rather than in the work of God’s hands. They were worshiping their own religion; their own works had become their god; they had turned the temple into an idol-

atrous center of man-made religion and self-righteousness. They were proud of their history; their traditions; their good works and achievements. But they had forgotten that they were sinners and only God’s works are good.

Stephen minced no words for the self-righteous Jews: “Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye! Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? And they have slain them which showed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers: Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it.” Stephen’s words exposed their hypocrisy and sin. Outwardly they were circumcised, Jews, followers of Moses, keepers of the law; but inwardly they were unconverted rebels, persecutors of God’s prophets, murderers of Jesus, the Just One, and breakers of God’s law. This was more than they could take! When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth” (Acts 7:51-55). They put their hands over their ears, dragged Stephen out of the city, and stoned him.

We can learn many things from this account of Stephen. But there’s a principle here that is universally true—in all ages, among all people groups, for each human being—not just for the Jews in Stephen’s day. In Acts 17, Paul was talking to a totally different audience of Greek philosophers. But he said something strikingly similar to what Stephen said to the Jews: “God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; neither is worshipped with men’s hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things... (Acts 17:24-25, emphasis added).

Whether it’s zealous Jews in Jerusalem, superstitious Greeks in Athens, or Americans, or Mexicans, uncon-

verted sinners all have something in common. Everybody wants to believe that the works of their own hands are good. Everybody “rejoices in the works of their own hands”. People want to believe that they’re ok, that their religion is enough for them, that they do a pretty good job of keeping the law. They get angry and resistive when someone tells them that they are sinners; that without Christ their works are as filthy rags before God; that being religious can’t save anybody; that as sinners they have broken every command of God’s law. Human beings don’t naturally rejoice in God’s work for us; they rejoice in their works for God!

The Gospel will mean nothing to sinners until they realize by the Holy Spirit’s illumination that all men by nature are wretched sinners, rebels at heart, and the works of our own hands can never make us righteous before God. It’s then that the Gospel becomes “good news” to them! They can repent of their own works and rejoice in Christ’s work for us on the cross. As we interact with people and share the Gospel in the U.S. and Mexico, we will encounter resistance to this truth, just like Stephen did. But may we pray that God would give us boldness this year as we share the gospel at home and abroad; that He’d open the eyes and hearts of those we talk to, that they would see their sin, repent and be converted to Christ. We thank God and you for supporting the gospel-sharing efforts in Ixtlan and Mexico this past year 2009 through prayer, donations, and many other practical ways.

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**MICHIGAN, ALTO**  
**Listyn Oesch**  
**Melissa Blough**

Despite the world events around us, we submit our trust to God and pray for the hurting souls. “Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.” (Matthew 5:4). Only God can bring true comfort and healing.

In response to the earthquake in

Haiti, our congregation gathered on January 19 for a food packing night to assist in relief efforts.

Our prayers are with Sis. Kate Wheeler and Denny Koehl as they were hospitalized. They are both now home and recuperating. We wish them God’s blessings and a speedy recovery.

We would like to thank visiting ministering Bro. Matthew Steffen and his wife, Sis. Deanna (Princeville), for their labor of love.

This month we had the privilege of holding our annual business meeting and would like to thank all who served in the past years. Our newly elected offices include: Bro. Ed Sanders as trustee, Sis. Kristen Plattner and Sis. Michelle Oesch on kitchen committee, Bro. Paul Jackson on World Relief, Bro. Otto Schlatter for Woodhaven and Sis. Listyn Oesch and Sis. Melissa Blough for the Silver Lining.

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

The Christmas season brought visiting ministers to our congregation while they were here visiting family. We appreciate having Bros. Jesse Bedolla (Sis. Bonnie, Detroit, MI), Steve Stieglitz (Sis. Jane, Leo, IN) and Dave Steffen (Sis. Linda, Elgin, IL) fellowshiping with us. Each of these brothers’ wives originated from Bay City and we are thankful they return “home” to share the Word with us.

Sis. Kay Knochel (Bro. Jim) spent time in the hospital recently and we are thankful that God has blessed her recovery so far. We continue to pray for each one that suffers from infirmities of the flesh that God’s will would be accomplished in each of their lives.

At our annual business meeting, Sis. Delores Munsel (Bro. Fred) was elected to the Kitchen committee and Bro. Ken Schlatter was elected as Trustee. They replace Sis. Joan Long (Rick) and Bro. Jack Knochel (Sis. Debbie).

’Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,  
 Just to take Him at His word;  
 Just to rest upon His promise,  
 Just to know “Thus saith the Lord!”

Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!  
 How I’ve proved Him o’er and o’er  
 Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!  
 O for grace to trust Him more!  
*Hymns of Zion, #147*

*Note:* February is Bay City’s collection month for Silver Lining dues. Suggested donation is \$14 and should be put in the General Fund. If you have any address changes, please contact one of the correspondents.

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**MICHIGAN, DETROIT**  
**Kay Rauhe**  
**Manuela Denes**

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea”

*Psalms 46:1-2*

Watching the news stories from Haiti and all the destruction that has taken place there over the last few weeks really brought this verse to mind. We were so thankful to hear that the Lord was merciful to our brethren who have been serving there on work teams. Our prayers go out to all who have suffered in this time but how wonderful to have the promise that God will be “our refuge...though the earth be removed”.

Prayers and greetings go to those of our loved ones who have suffered from illness or accidents this past month. Sis. Sanche Denes continues to suffer some pain but has so enjoyed hearing from loved ones—cards have really brightened her day! Brandon Bahr, Caleb Ramseyer and Jack Maibach have all been dealing with broken bones due to some winter accidents. We wish them all a speedy recovery and pray for

healing and good recovery. Sis. Perseda Wieland is at home and unable to assemble with us in church. While she declines physically, her mind and spirit continue to be sharp. Bro. Jason Rauhe and Sis. Kay Rauhe both experienced knee surgery recently and we also wish for them to have a speedy recovery. Sis. Martha Szilagyi was admitted to the hospital recently—our thoughts and prayers are with her.

Our prayers and sympathy are extended to Bro. Brian (Sis. Cherise) Blume in the unexpected passing of his grandfather, Bro. Glen (Sis. Norma) Blume from Wolcott.

A special thank you goes out to Bro. Bill Waibel (Sis. Carol, Bay City, MI) for making the trip out to minister to our residents of Woodhaven and Woodpoite. We are always grateful to our brothers and sisters who make the drive out during the week.

Congratulations to Rachel Nagher's graduation on December 17. Her parents are Bro. Milan and Sis. Joyce Germaine.

There are a few upcoming events that we'd like our brethren to mark in their calendars: Representatives from Gateway Woods will be here February 6 to share an update with us. Ministering Bro. Jeff Waibel (Leo, IN) is expecting to be here with us for the weekend. Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) will be with us, Lord willing, on Saturday, March 13, to assist with the church Conference Letter. Dinner is planned for 5:00 and the service will begin at 6:30. Bro. Ron also plans to give an update on Timber Ridge and other ministries of the Home for the Handicapped at Woodpoite, Sunday, March 14, at 1:45 p.m. Thank you for making the time to support these important events.

"Lord, thou wilt ordain peace for us: for thou also hast wrought all our works in us."

*Isaiah 26:12*

## MINNESOTA MINNEAPOLIS Mary Mogler

O how sweet to trust in Jesus  
Just to trust His cleansing blood;  
Just in simple faith to plunge me  
'Neath the healing, cleansing flood.

*Hymns of Zion*

As it was penned many years ago, so it is with our dear friend, Rae Lynn (Aric) Leenderts, who has the desire to place her trust in Jesus and to be cleansed by His blood.

"In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace,"

*Ephesians 1:7*

We pray that by His grace Rae Lynn may find true and lasting peace and forgiveness as she walks with the One who loved great enough to even shed His blood that we could go free.

Many were the blessings when a number of college students from central Illinois made their annual trip to Minnesota over the Martin Luther King weekend. We enjoyed renewing friendships and making new ones as we spent time together in winter activities, fellowship and singing on Saturday. A full house as we gathered to worship on Sunday was truly a blessing to our small congregation, and the additional voices blending together in praise was a joy to all. We look forward to next January, Lord willing, when we can welcome another group.

Our thoughts and prayers go to our elderly sisters, who because of cold and snowy weather or health issues, cannot assemble with us. There is an empty spot where you would be and we miss you.

## MINNESOTA, MORRIS Susie Wulf Sheila Reuter

We were thankful Bro. Jim Koehl

was here to help in the ministry this month. May God bless him for his labors on our behalf.

We are happy for Scott and Alyssa Wulf as they welcomed home their first child, Alison May.

We wish to congratulate Bro. Rodney and Sis. Denise Schaefer as they have become first-time grandparents to Jared Lee Messner (Bro. Daniel and Sis. Stephanie of Lester, IA).

We welcome Sis. Jody Grimm (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Nita) to Morris as she was united in marriage to Bro. Michael Nohl (Bro. DeWayne and Sis. Janice). May God bless their union as they have become one in the Lord.

We rejoice with Bro. Doug Feuchtenberger (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Karen) and Sis. Kim Luginbuhl (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Rose) as they have felt led to become one in the Lord. May God bless and be near them in the days ahead.

We pray God's healing hand will be upon Bro. Howard Goll as he has spent some time in the hospital.

## MINNESOTA, WINTHROP Julie Schmidt Lindsay Schmidt

I know not what awaits me,  
God kindly veils mine eyes,  
And o'er each step of my onward way  
He makes new scenes to rise;  
And every joy He sends me  
comes a sweet and glad surprise.  
Where He may lead I'll follow,  
my trust in Him repose;  
And every hour in perfect peace  
I'll sing, He knows, He knows.

O blissful lack of wisdom,  
'tis blessed not to know;  
He holds me with His own right hand,  
and will not let me go,  
And lulls my troubled soul to rest  
in Him who loves me so.  
Where He may lead I'll follow,  
my trust in Him repose;  
And every hour in perfect peace  
I'll sing, He knows, He knows.

*Gospel Hymns #181 vs 1&3*

As another year ends, it's a blessing to be able to reflect and see that God has been with us every step of the way holding our hand. As we welcome the new year we can be thankful that we know not what awaits us. May we ever put our trust in the almighty God who knows what's best for each one of us.

We will open the book. Its pages are blank.

We are going to put words on them ourselves.

The book is called Opportunity and Its first chapter is New Year's Day.

*-Edith Lovejoy Pierce*

Let us remember, not only as we begin a new year, but as we continue our life's chapter that each word, action, and deed is being written down. And at the end of our life we hope that our name will be found written in the Book of Life.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those in our congregation that have been hospitalized this month. Affliction has no respect of age. May God continue to accomplish His will in the healing of our oldest member in the Winthrop church, Sis. Delores Messerli, and to the youngest in our congregation, Andric Rubendall (Vanessa Isaacson), as they both have been hospitalized. We are thankful baby Andric has returned home from his extended hospitalization and is making improvements.

*Note of Thanks:*

We would like to thank you all for the prayers, love, food, and comfort shown us during the loss of our sister Millie.

*From the Family of Millie Simonton,*

*Sis. Bernadine Messner, Bro. Don & Sis. Viola Messner, Sis. Mary Ann Theim, Eldwin & Lois Schmidt and all of their extended families*

### MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY Brittany Fehr

We would like to thank Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS) for assisting this month in the proving and baptism of convert Nate Smith. May God also bless ministering Bros. Cory Metzger (Sis. Jodi, Wichita, KS) and Jeff Fischer (Sis. Gloria, Fort Scott, KS) for their labors on Sunday of that weekend. We wish Bro. Nate God's direction and providence as he continues throughout life.

Also, we recently welcomed Sis. Paula Bahr, formerly of Minneapolis, MN, to our congregation. While we are sure she is missed back in Minnesota, we are thankful to have her worshipping with us here in Kansas City.

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### MISSOURI, LAMAR Rebecca Dotterer Dana Kellenberger

This past month we were blessed with many visitors over the holidays, including ministering Bros. Bob Dotterer (Sardis, OH) and Kevin Banwart (West Bend, IA). We are thankful for the freedoms we have to travel to and fro.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Bro. Mitch and Sis. Renee Schulz and their family on the death of their brother-in-law, Bro. Henry Wettstein (Oakville, IA). We also extend our sympathy and prayers to Sis. Emily Banwart and family on the passing of her grandfather, Bro. Wayne Sinn (Fort Scott, KS). May God be their Comforter in this difficult time.

We have had several from our congregation in the hospital this past month, including Bro. Orlan Kellenberger (Sis. Mary), Bro. Ben Braker (Bro. Roy and Sis. Judy), Austin Luthi (Bro. Calvin and Sis. Jodi) and Katie Leman (Bro. Brian and Sis. Kristen). We are thankful they are all back home now.

### MISSOURI, TAYLOR Kathy Eberhardt

As we think of the earthquake in Haiti, our prayers are for all those that have lost family members. May God give them peace, give them hope and courage to go on.

Bro. Tim Lehman had a Bible study on "What is your legacy?" Are you a good person or a Godly person? He closed with Ecclesiastes Chapter 12:13-14, "Let us hear the conclusion of the matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."

On January 13, we had our annual business meeting. Our new trustee is Bro. Chad Massner. Sis. Sally Gottman was placed on the food committee. We would like to thank them for their willingness.

We would like to thank brothers from Fairbury and Elgin, IL, for recently helping on our fellowship center project. Their willingness to travel the miles coming to Taylor and helping out is greatly appreciated.

A few thoughts that we heard in this month are that we can be millionaires if we seek after Jesus. Calvary wasn't fair, sometimes life isn't fair and it wasn't fair for Jesus. But we stand amazed at Jesus' love.

We are thankful for a safe return of Sis. Tina Sutter (Bro. Dan) from Haiti.

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### NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Hope Graves

We rejoice with Dan and Tracie Getman in the safe arrival of Cade Daniel on December 24. He is welcomed home by sister, Kierstin, and brother, Eric. Thankful grandparents are Elder Bro. Duane and Sis. Karen Farney and George and Theresa Getman.

We remember the family of Charles Christiansen (wife Winifred) who died

December 28. After a service at the funeral home, they joined our church family for a meal that was followed with a singing as it was New Year's Eve.

Our prayers went out for Elder Bro. Duane Farney and a work team that went to Haiti, not realizing at the time all that would take place during their trip. The school roofing project did get done and they were able to return home safely. As the Haitian people struggle with so many obstacles after the earthquake, may we be willing to do our part to help the hurting and hungry. We continue to pray for direction, strength, health and safety for our brethren living there who continue to help in many ways and for future work teams.

We are thankful to have Sis. Bernice Hirschev and Joseph Bush back home and recovering from their surgeries.

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### **NEW YORK CITY Secaucus, New Jersey**

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

*Matthew 18:20*

We have been blessed to have church services over the last five years in Secaucus, NJ. We are especially grateful for the many visitors who have come and shared in the fellowship and provided support of our Church. We are also thankful for Holy Spirit's nearness and guidance during this time and the on-going prayerful support of many who could not be with us in person.

We would like to share with you the 2010 Secaucus schedule. Lord willing, we plan on February 28, May 2, June 27, August 29, and October 10, Lord willing. Our services are held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Secaucus, New Jersey. As always, if you are in the area on other Sundays, you are always welcome to worship with the brethren in Philadelphia, PA, which is not that far away.

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

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### **OHIO, AKRON Erika Gal**

We are thankful for the safe arrival of two new babies. Bro. John and Sis. Joyce Schambach are grandparents to little Thad Reuben Hartzler. His parents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Jennifer Hartzler. Also, Bro. Adam and Sis. Jeni Henico are thankful for their precious little daughter, Elsa Jane. Her grandparents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Sara Henico and Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley Klotzle (Rittman).

We want to extend our sympathy and prayers to Sis. Sara (Bro. Greg) Henico and Helen (Zarko) Reljin in the death of their brother, Carl Demiter.

We are very thankful for our visiting ministers, Bro. Bill Brake (Sis. Miriam, Sardis) and Bro. Ted Luginbuhl (Sis. Stephanie, Smithville).

We are thankful for God's protection of our Bro. Christopher Indermuhle and David Laubli who went to help in Austin, TX. We are still praying for the safe return of our Bro. Ron Palitto, Bro. Dan Reljin, Bro. Greg Henico, Bro. Tom Reljin, Bro. Matthew Pamer and Dwain Stingley who were in Haiti during the terrible earthquake. We are so thankful that no one was injured, and we trust that God will provide a way for our loved ones to return home soon.

We want to remember Orin Graf who injured his foot and Jesse Graf who broke his arm. Both are sons of Bro. Todd and Sis. Lydia Graf. We are thankful for their good attitudes and hope they will soon be back to full strength. We are also prayerful for others with various health concerns and

hope each one can feel our love and prayers.

We want to welcome convert Aaron Nuest to our congregation from Latty, OH. His parents are Bro. Lee and Sis. Paula Nuest. We look forward to getting to know him while he spends some time working at Cleveland Clinic.

We had our annual business meeting and want to thank each one for all their service to keep our church running smoothly. Our new Sunday School teachers are Bros. Micah Gherian (Sis. Marcy), Tom Bako (Sis. Laura) and Sis. Carla (Bro. Joe) Miller. Bro. Randy (Sis. Carolyn) Miller will be helping in the recording room. Bro. Tom Reljin will be our local World Relief Representative. Sis. Gail (Bro. Ned) Spangler is going to join the Nursing Home Auxiliary. Sis. Carolyn (Bro. Randy) Miller is going to join our World Relief Activities Committee. Bro. Tom Reljin is our new usher, and Sis. Sharon Gherian is now on our Kitchen Committee. We do want to thank each one who has completed their terms for all their efforts.

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### **OHIO, COLUMBUS Julie Grimm**

We enjoyed a Saturday evening church dinner and fellowship together. Following the meal we were encouraged in our faith as we listened to the exhortation of the Memorandum delivered to us by Elder Bros. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) and John Jackson (Bay City, MI). We also express our appreciation to Bro. Don Steidl (Akron, OH) and Sis. Nan for traveling to serve us for the minister rotation this month. May the Lord encourage each of these dear brothers and their families in their calling.

January is the month for our annual business meeting. We thank Bro. Corbin Schlatter, Sis. Lynn Hartzler, and Sis. Hope Schambach, whose terms have expired, for their labors this past year. We also extend our support to those who have been given new



responsibilities: Bro. Bill Sauder (trustee), Sis. Esther Saurer (kitchen committee and Silver Lining correspondent), and Bro. Corbin Schlatter (Sunday school superintendent).

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### OHIO, JUNCTION Vicki Boroff

We would like to thank Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Sis. Sandra, Eureka); and Bros. Tim Ramsier (Sis. Joni, Rittman) and Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam, Latty) for bringing the Word to us during regular services and funeral services. We appreciate the efforts of our home and visiting ministers.

We pray for His healing hand upon our hospital patients and those that are ailing.

We enjoyed the baptisms of Sis. Vickie Manz (Bro. Russ and Sis. Vera) and Bro. Greg Gasser (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue) on January 17. Helping our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter on the pulpit was Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Sis. Judy, Chicago). Also joining us that weekend was Bros. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam, Latty) and Paul Gasser (Sis. Joyce, Akron). As always, it was a very blessed weekend.

Our congregation was blessed with two new arrivals. Jason Todd was born on January 8 to Bro. Tony and Sis. Denise Manz. Excited siblings are Heather, Caleb, Brian, Carla and Jared. Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen, and Elder Bro. Ervin and Sis. Sandra Knecht (Eureka). On January 14, Tyson Maxwell was born to Bro. Will and Sis. Joanna Manz. Tyson's sibling is Trenton. Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen, and Bro. Max and Sis. Beth Kaeb (Cissna Park).

We also had a very precious arrival on December 27. Carson Paul was born to first-time parents, Bro. Tim and Sis. Joy Manz. God called this precious child Home on January 2. While we have the comfort of knowing that God doesn't make any mistakes, our hearts still ache for this loss and we hold the

family in our prayers during this difficult time. Grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Sandra Manz, and Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth Stoller (Latty).

The same day that our dear Carson was called Home, his great-grandmother, Sis. Louise Manz (Cissna Park), was also called Home after living 93 years. Step-children are Bro. Paul Manz, Sis. Verginia Manz, Sis. Viola Manz, Sis. Helen Hurd (Bro. Pete), and Roland Manz (MerrieBeth, Union, MO). Bro. Pete Hurd (Sis. Helen) also lost his dear sister to cancer. Our love and prayers go to these families during this time of grieving.

We were excited to hear that Bro. Chet Manz (Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy) is engaged to Sis. Jenny Raifsnider (Sis. Diana, Rittman, and the late Bro. Doug). We wish them God's blessings as they plan their new life together.

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### OHIO, LATTY Amanda Wenninger Carmen Eisenmann

"If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me."

*Psalm 139:9-10*

Even as a new year has begun, we can find that God will go before us because He is already in the future. What a comforting thought when we are surrounded by so much despair and tumult!

We were blessed with seven visiting ministers this month. Bros. Earl Beery (Sis. Susie, Rittman, OH), Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IN), Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL), Steve Stieglitz (Sis. Jane, Leo, IN), Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI), Greg Stieglitz (Sis. Lisa, Indianapolis, IN) and Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville, OH) opened the Word of God to us, and we thank Him for their labors on our behalf.

Bro. Ernest Stoller of Leo, IN,

passed away in December, and his burial was in Latty. He leaves behind two siblings in Latty: Sis. Pauline Wieland and Bro. Jud (Sis. Ruby) Stoller. May they be comforted in this time of loss.

Sis. Esther Stoller (Bro. Ralph) had surgery recently, and we pray God's healing power on her so she can return to church soon.

Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth Stoller rejoiced with the news of another grandchild born on December 27 as Carson Paul Manz was born to Bro. Tim and Sis. Joy Manz of Junction, OH. However, God saw fit to take this little boy home after only six days of life. May God ever be with this family circle in this time of trial and loss, and may He wrap His loving arms around them!

A new year means new people voted into positions in the church. Newly elected Sunday School teachers are Bro. Kurt Sinn, Sis. Cherry Klopfenstein and Sis. Joni Klopfenstein. The new Fellowship Hall Trustee is Bro. Brian Wenninger while the new Church Trustee is Bro. Aaron Shepherd. Sisters elected to the Kitchen Committee are Sis. Janet Sinn and Sis. Ruth Stoller.

I always like to close the January writing with the statistics from the previous year. The Latty congregation experienced 6 births, 2 deaths, 4 baptisms, 4 weddings, and there were 8 converts at the end of 2009.

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### OHIO, MANSFIELD Tami Griffey

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new."

*II Corinthians 5:17*

As we have entered a new year and decade, may we strive to live every day as a gift from God; using the Bible as our guide, the Holy Spirit dwelling inside, and in Jesus Christ may we always

abide.

We rejoice with Bro. Jared and Sis. Abigail Keever as a daughter, Enon Grace Keever, was born on January 15. Welcoming her home are siblings, Eli and Ella. Grandparents are Clair and Sis. Beverly Keever, and Bro. Edward and Sis. Laura Ramsey.

We were blessed and thankful to have Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville, OH) share God's Word with our congregation. May God bless his labor of love.

Bro. Al Beer was hospitalized this month and our prayers are with him as his body is healing.

Our area is blanketed in a beautiful layer of white sparkling snow reminding us of the familiar words in this hymn:

Lord Jesus, I long to be perfectly  
whole;  
I want Thee forever to live in my soul;  
Break down every idol, cast out every  
foe;  
Now wash me and I shall be whiter  
than snow.  
*Hymns of Zion #210*

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**OHIO, RITTMAN**  
**Heidi Rufener**  
**Laurie Winkler**

We are thankful for the safe arrival of Thad Reuben on December 17. Parents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Jennifer Hartzler. Siblings of Thad are Sis. Wendy, Tresa, Rachel, Troy, Joel and Rebecca. Thad's grandparents are Elder Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie Hartzler and Bro. John and Sis. Joyce Schamback (Akron, OH).

Serving us in the ministry recently were Bro. Todd Stoller (Latty, OH), Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), Bro. Ron Palitto (Akron, OH) and Bro. Steve Pamer (Akron, OH). We are thankful for each one that is willing to serve us in this way.

The engagement of Bro. Bradley Stoller (Bro. Ken and Sis. Lori) and Sis. Alicia Gasser (Bro. Neil and Sis. Donna) was made known to our congre-

gation on January 3. We pray that Bro. Bradley and Sis. Alicia will feel God's nearness as they make plans to become one in Him.

We rejoice that Naomi Rupp (Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon) and Jeff Miller have begun their walk with the Lord. May they feel the nearness of God as they seek to do His will.

Beth Beery (Sis. Ruth) and Carl Nelson were married on January 15.

Thoughts and prayers have been with Sis. Pat Rufener (Bro. Jim), Bro. Ike Rufener (Sis. Verna), Bro. Irvin Klotzle (Sis. Jane), Thad Hartzler (Bro. Dan and Sis. Jennifer), Sis. Mary Jane Winkler (Bro. Andy), Bro. Bob Widmer (Sis. Joann) and Bro. Ron Gasser (Sis. Hope) who have spent time in the hospital recently.

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**OHIO, SARDIS**  
**Faith Beard**

Jesus knows thy sorrow, Knows thine  
ev'ry care;  
Knows thy deep contrition, Hears thy  
feeblest pray'rs;  
Do not fear to trust Him, Tell Him all  
thy grief;  
Cast on Him thy burden, He will bring  
relief.  
*Hymns of Zion, #74, vs. 1*

A few days before Christmas, Harry Ice, 88, was called into eternity. We pray for God's comfort to be extended to his wife of 61 years, our Sis. Marilyn, and their four children: William (Kathi) Ice of Orrville, OH; Mark (Jackie) Ice of Clarington, OH; Mary Jane (Roy) Clegg of Sardis, OH; and Donna (Tom) Lubic of Paden City, WV; 11 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. Even in the season when we celebrate the birth of our King, we remember there will always be many who, at the same time, deeply sorrow for those taken from them on the other side of the life span.

On the last evening of 2009 we gathered at our fellowship center for singing hymns and fellowship, and we also

looked at different memories of events that happened over the past century or so and the blessings received from them. As we look back at 2009, within our church family we had 5 babies born into this life on earth, 3 souls baptized into a new life in Christ, and 2 souls passing from this life of time into eternity.

Any organization needs organization to run smoothly, so we hold our annual business meeting in January to, in part, vote for positions of responsibility within our church membership. The offices of trustee, usher and kitchen committee were completed by Bro. Eric Indermuhle, Bro. Andy Figel, and Sis. Renee Blough, respectively. Those new voted in to take their places are: Bro. Joel Beard, Bro. Jeb Joos, and Sis. Val Fisher. Much work goes on behind the scenes, both physically and spiritually, to help our worship together run as smoothly as possible, some of which is known but much of which isn't. We thank all for their efforts of love.

It was recently made known to our congregation that our convert Jason Brake (Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam) has found peace with God and man. We rejoice with Jason that he has found this perfect peace and pray for him as he looks forward to giving a testimony of his faith and then the burial of his old life on the weekend of March 13-14.

Surely it pleases our God when those, as converted Christians, strive daily to seek and follow His will. However, there is even more joy in heaven when one acknowledges sin and seeks to become a follower of Christ through repentance. Craig Zollinger (Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry) has expressed that desire to live the life of a true Christian and has begun his repentance. We give our prayers of loving support and encouragement to Craig as he strives to live an overcoming life.

"I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repentance, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repen-

tance.”

*St. Luke 15:7*

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## OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Ruth Gasser  
Lydia Stoller**

In this ever-changing world it's such a blessing to still hear God's never-changing Word brought forth. We appreciate those who came to visit us over Christmas and the New Year. They were Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), Bro. Joe Dotterer (Bloomfield, IA) and also Bro. Lucas Frank (Detroit, MI).

“...And Jesus said, Suffer the little children to come unto me ... And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them and blessed them.”

*Mark 10:14, 16*

How touching to think of the love and compassion Jesus had for the little children! Although Jesus is obviously physically not present in this day, we do wish His blessings upon the little babies who have been born this past month. Three young couples have become first-time parents this month. Elsa Jane arrived on December 27 to Bro. Adam and Sis. Jeni Henico (Akron). Her grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley Klotzle and Bro. Greg and Sis. Sara Henico (Akron). On December 30, Bro. Kyle and Sis. Diane Indermuhle welcomed Kalen Leroy into their hearts and home. Rejoicing grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Connie Maletich and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Shari Indermuhle. Nimesh and Rebecca (Rufener) Patel, who are living in England, welcomed a son into their home. Harri Nimesh was born January 14. Grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Susan Rufener.

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**OHIO, TOLEDO  
Teresa Rywalski  
Rebecca Beard**

Sharing Christmas day with us was Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sis. Alice, Sardis,

OH). How blessed we are to know that whenever we assemble, we will hear the Truth.

“Grace be to you, and peace, from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father: To whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”

*Galatians 1:3-5*

Three of our converts, Sharlene Harmon (Bro. Doug and Sis. Lanna), Sarah Nolan (Abraham and Sarah), and Rachel Powell (Bro. Don and Sis. Carol, Rittman) have found this wonderful peace. We look forward to hearing their testimonies of faith.

We were excited to hear the engagement of our college student, Sis. Jennifer Raifsnider (Sis. Diana and the late Bro. Doug, Rittman), to Bro. Chet Manz (Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy, Junction). May they feel the Lord's leading as they become one in Him.

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## OREGON, PORTLAND

**Renee Angstrom**

Our visiting ministers this month from Silverton were Bro. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie) and Bro. Don Sinn (Sis. Linda). We were blessed and encouraged by the beautiful messages that were spoken. We appreciate their support and bringing forth the Word.

Bro. Garth Steffen (Sis. Connie) retired from the ministry after preaching the Christmas Day sermon. Bro. Garth faithfully served in the ministry for almost 37 years. May he be blessed for his many years of service.

Bro. Ray Cooper (Sis. Ginny) has finally made it back home after a very long hospitalization. We have seen the power of prayer for Bro. Ray's healing, and look forward to the day he can worship with us again.

## OREGON, SILVERTON

**Kris Luthi  
Deb Roth**

Greetings of love in our precious Savior's name. As we begin a new year, many of us make resolutions, or set new goals. May our top priority be to strive to give God our best. In a recent sermon, we were encouraged to give God the first fruits, or the best that we have, not what we have left over. God wants our whole hearts.

Our statistics for 2009 were: 15 births, 2 deaths, and 1 baptism. We do not know what the coming year will bring, but trust that the Lord will provide in these troubling times.

Newly elected officers were elected at our annual business meeting: Bro. Jeremy Kuenzi - trustee, Bro. Travis Dettwyler - usher, Bro. Evan Sinn - sound system, and Sis. Tresa Zollinger - dinner committee. We thank those who have served in the past and prayerfully support those in their new positions. We enjoyed a blessed weekend January 9-10, as we welcomed Bro. Rick and Sis. Laura Dietrich into the body of Christ. Sharing God's Word with us were Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Wes Moser (Lester, IA).

We thank Bro. Garth Steffen (Portland) for preaching the Word to us. Also, we thank Bro. Ed Knecht for his many years of service on the pulpit. Bro. Ed preached his final sermon on New Year's Eve. He has served in the ministry for nearly 38 years and we are grateful for his efforts. We wish many blessings on him and Sis. Judie and pray that God will continue to guide them as they continue to make plans to return to the Midwest in the future. Bro. Loren Dettwyler (Sis. Marlene) had his 2nd knee replacement, and little Kate Kuenzi (Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Kristy) suffered a broken leg. We wish them both a speedy recovery.

## PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

“Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations.”

*Psalms 90:1*

Our Philadelphia congregation has been blessed over the last 30 years to have a place of fellowship and to worship our Savior and Lord. Over the years, we have been blessed to have brethren and friends from across the United States and abroad come to visit us – some for just a weekend, others for a few years of work, while others have been led to make this their home. We have been privileged to make many friendships and acquaintances during this time, and the many memories that have resulted from these experiences.

Our present Philadelphia Church was built in 1980 and we have been thankful for God’s providence over the ensuing 30 years. We would like to spend a weekend, Lord willing, on July 31 and August 1 to renew these friendships and invite all of those who have had a Philadelphia connection over the last 30 years to a weekend of fellowship in Philadelphia. We will be sending out invitations to those who we have been able to find – we realize that there are many others, and would ask for those who are interested to send an email or note of their address to Ben Wiegand at [bwiegand@its.jnj.com](mailto:bwiegand@its.jnj.com). We trust that the Lord will watch between us and look forward to seeing many of you that weekend.

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## TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE Mike and Monica Fritz

We are thankful that Shelly Beth Getz (Mansfield, OH Nazarene) has recently moved to the area for schooling and has been gathering with us. We welcome her and pray that the Lord will direct and bless her as she pursues God’s direction for her life.

We appreciated the opportunity to hear, and be encouraged by, the Memorandum as our Elder Bro. John

Laukhuf (Latty, OH) was able to join us recently on a Wednesday evening to share it with us.

We are thankful for the willingness of our visiting ministers as they have encouraged us from God’s Word. These visiting brothers have been Bros. Gary Tonner (Bluffton, IN), Dan Beer (Sis. Deb; Milford, IN), and Lenny Meyer (Sis. Charlotte; Chicago, IL), and Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen; Bluffton North, IN). We have also been strengthened by the fellowship of brethren and friends visiting from Chicago and Eureka, IL; Bluffton North and Milford, IN; 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: Latty, OH (2/21); Tremont, IL (2/28); Morton, IL (3/7); Elgin, IL (3/14); Cissna Park, IL (3/21); and Fairbury, IL (3/28). Often we gather on Saturday evenings for fellowship, and all are heartily welcome. We also usually meet on Wednesday evenings at 7:15 p.m. for singing or Bible study and would welcome any midweek visitors. Contacts are Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz, (615) 866-5543; and Sis. Gwen Leuthold, (615) 356-5755.

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## TEXAS, AUSTIN

### Serenity and Jasmine Ringger

We are humbled and thankful for all the visitors who have come to work on the World Relief project in our area. So many churches have been represented I think we’ve broken the record of how many greetings were shared at church. We don’t get tired of visitors, but there are so many at one time that we ask that you return again, a few at a time.

We miss Bro. Eric and Sis. Marcel Huber in our fellowship since they moved back to Denver, CO, at the end of December. We hope they visit often.

Our visiting ministers were Bros. Darin Metz (Sis. Rita, Gridley), Gary Sinn (Sis. Paulette, Latty), Greg

Lehman (Wolcott), Kent Mogler, Dewayne Dill (Sis. LaRae, Minneapolis), Ron Isch (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley), Mike Ursu (Sis. Barb, Kitchener), Mike Rinkenberger (Sis. Pat, Congerville) and Leland Plattner (Zapata).

The following is the minister schedule for March: (7) Bluffton North, (14) Princeville, and (28) Silverton. 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, so that we can accommodate you more readily in our weekend gatherings. In addition to the contacts in the minister book, you may also contact our local minister, Bro. Dennis (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 a limestone façade, 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 east side of town, rather than west. 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.

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## TEXAS, McALLEN Aaron Kipfer

Greetings to all in the name of our

Savior, Jesus Christ. We thank our visiting ministers: Bro. Earl Beery (Sis. Suzanne, Rittman, OH) and Bro. Tom Schrenk (Sis. Joan, Zapata, TX) for taking their time and effort in expounding to us the written Word of the Lord. May God continue to richly bless them. We also thank our visiting brethren from Bloomfield, IA, and the Reynosa, Mexico work team from Bluffton who worshipped with us on Sunday.

Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Joyce Nohl would like to thank our church family and friends for the cards, flowers and gifts received on their 50th wedding anniversary. It made their day very special. May God bless each of you.

We would like to encourage those who plan to come south for a winter vacation to consider the valley for a Sunday of worship and/or making the valley your home while you are in Southern Texas. We are small in number and are happy to have visitors come and spend some time with us.

The following churches are scheduled for services: (March 7, Wolcott, IN); (March 21, Goodfield, IL); (April 4, Congerville, IL); (April 18, Silverton, OR).

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

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### TEXAS, ZAPATA Mary Plattner

We appreciate all our visitors this winter and are certainly grateful for those who have been willing to serve on the pulpit. Visiting ministers have been Bro. Kevin Banwart (Sis. Sandy) and family from West Bend, IA, and Bro. Earl Beery (Sis. Suzanne) and family from Rittman, OH.

Bro. Bob Steiner (Sis. Betty) of Rittman spent some time in the hospital while here. We are glad he was able to gain strength and travel back to his

home in Rittman.

We extend our sympathy and prayers to the families whose loved ones passed from this life into eternity. Bro. Sonny and Sis. Dorothy Shultz experienced the loss of their grandson, Bro. Henry Wettstein (Sis. Wendy) of Oakville, IA, as he was laid to rest. Bro. Harold and Sis. Mary Jane Knapp traveled to Illinois due to the unexpected death of her brother, Bro. Jerry Schumacher (Sis. Jane) of Roanoke, IL.

We had our annual church cleaning in January and work is underway at our Fellowship Hall where some renovations are being done.

We encourage anyone considering a trip to South Texas to visit in Zapata.

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### VERMONT NORTH CLAREN- DON/NORWICH Nathan and Miriam Reutter

"And she brought forth her first born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn."

*Luke 2:7*

Our congregation was delighted to see the little children present the story of the humble birth of Christ the King! The children's innocent telling of the story through song was heart-warming.

We thank our dear ministering Brothers and their wives who came to serve us this past month. They were: Bro. Duane Reutter (Sis. Kay) and Bro. Warren Zahner (Sis. Bonnie), of Rockville, CT. May God bless them for their efforts on our behalf.

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

*II Timothy 4:7,8*

Sis. Luella Hoffman (Bro. Mark) laid to rest her earthly father, Bro. Leon Schneider (Sis. Martha), of the Rockville, CT, congregation. Our prayers of comfort go out to the family in this time. We are confident that he is safe in the arms of Jesus.

A sad farewell was bid to Bro. Kirby, Sis. Areli and Isaac Reutter. They have moved to Antwerp, OH, for employment at Gateway Woods in Leo, IN. We wish them God's blessings as they start this new chapter of their lives. They will be greatly missed here in Vermont.

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

Mid-week services

(Contact local brethren)

Sunday Morning Service

10:10 AM

Sunday Afternoon Service

12:15 PM

Sunday school is held during the morning service.

If anyone is interested in purchasing beautiful head-coverings handmade from our dear Sisters in Ixtlan, Michoacan, Mexico, please contact Sis. Areli Reutter at Home: 419-258-2640 or by email at [asreutter@gmail.com](mailto:asreutter@gmail.com). Inventory is available upon request. This is a wonderful opportunity to support those of the household of faith (Galatians 6:10).



## Opportunity to help in Bastrop, TX

### Winter Work Project for 2010

The USA Committee of World Relief is planning a three month winter work project in Bastrop, Texas. This community was hit by a wild fire in February of 2009 that destroyed twenty-eight homes and twelve businesses. Many had no insurance.

The Austin Apostolic Christian Church is located in the community of Bastrop, approximately twenty miles east of the city of Austin. Local brethren have been active in providing assistance with small jobs and have seen the need for a full scale building project to provide housing for the needy of this community.

The plan is to build modest two bed-

room homes. The project will run January through March. Operations will be based at the church property. Two existing buildings will be converted into dormitory style housing for volunteers. A small RV park will also be set up. The church kitchen and dining area will be used for preparing and serving meals.

### Work teams needed

Work teams of 30 to 40 volunteers will be needed each week. There will be need of skilled tradesmen as well as kitchen helpers and general laborers. There will be a job for every willing heart and a blessing to go with it!

The World Relief website [www.acworldrelief.org](http://www.acworldrelief.org) is the source for more information regarding this project. Work team scheduling and

registration is available online.

Please be prayerful that this project can be a blessing to all who receive as well as those who give. May all praise, honor and glory be to our great God and our Lord Jesus Christ. For more information, please contact:

Les Schambach  
USA Committee Administrator  
630-247-5271  
[usa@acwr.org](mailto:usa@acwr.org)

To register for a work team or learn more about this project, go to:

[www.acworldrelief.org](http://www.acworldrelief.org)



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
**World Relief**

## Give a Child Hope

### Child Sponsorships

Those in the child sponsorship program have several things in common. They are very poor, desire to learn and they have an undying soul.



The goal of this program is to provide an education to help these children

learn life skills to improve their standard of living, and also to provide spiritual training to address the true need...the need for a knowledge of and a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

*And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children. Isaiah 54:13*

### To sponsor a child

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APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
**World Relief**

[www.acworldrelief.org](http://www.acworldrelief.org)

# Haiti Earthquake Relief

## God Already Knew

As one of the first Apostolic Christian brothers traveled to Haiti with a supply of Bibles in 1963, God already knew about the catastrophic event that would take place in 2010.

He also knew the special relationship that would develop between many of our brethren and the Haitian people during the years that followed, enabling us to love and assist them in their present suffering and need.

## Immediate and long term response

World Relief brethren serving in Haiti will be a central focus in bringing help to the Haitian people. World Relief also has long standing relationships with numerous Haitian ministries that have people and ministries impacted by the earthquake, so we will want to support their relief efforts. A third area of bringing help will be through an established system of sending medical and construction work teams to Haiti.

## We are planning the following strategy

**Evaluate** – A team of brothers from the WR Board and Caribbean Committee will travel to Haiti as soon as possible to work with our brethren to evaluate the needs and develop a plan for relief.

**Partner** – Meet with leaders of Haitian organizations we work with to develop partnering plans for relief efforts.

**Humanitarian Aid** – Assemble relief materials in the distribution centers to send humanitarian aid when the way opens up.

**Support** – Continue to support international relief organizations that we have supported in the past, in their relief efforts.

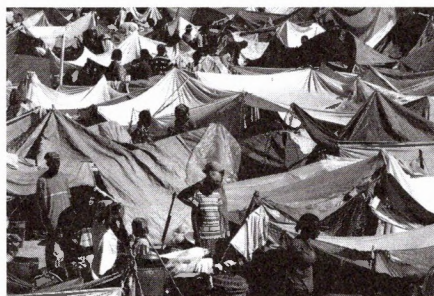
**Opportunity to Give** – The fund is open within the World Relief Disaster Program to receive donations from those who wish to contribute to relief efforts in Haiti.

## What is being done

**Medical care** – Several World Relief medical teams have already traveled to Haiti. More are being planned. Orthopedics, Surgeons, Anesthesiologists and Nurse Anesthetists are especially needed. If you are a medical professional and would like more information about ways to serve and future work teams that are being planned please contact:

### Keith Knepp

kknepp@mchsi.com  
Phone: 309-467-3468



Thousands of Haitians without a home

## Other assistance

Medical supplies, food, and clothing are being shipped and distributed. In addition our brethren who live in Haiti are providing transportation to hospitals, distributing food and water, assisting with temporary housing, and providing logistics support to the medical teams and others.

## You can help

**Prayer** – The physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the Haitian people are beyond our ability to comprehend. Please continue to pray for them and for our brethren who live there and those who are traveling there to help.

**Supplies** – Food, clothing, and medical supplies are especially critical at the present time. If you have supplies to donate or need more detailed information go to the World Relief website ([www.acworldrelief.org](http://www.acworldrelief.org)) or contact:

### Bob Honegger

420 N Jefferson Street  
Ossian, IN 46777  
260-622-4708  
rahonegger@gmail.com

## Financial donations

Evaluation trips are being planned to assure the funds that are sent to Haiti are utilized effectively to the glory of God. Donations can be sent through your local church or to the national World Relief Treasurer. Checks should be made out to ACWR, designated "Haiti Earthquake Disaster Relief, and send to:

### Nile Bucher

World Relief Treasurer  
711 Elm Drive  
Bluffton, IN 46714  
(260) 824-0780 Home  
(260) 820-0825 Cell  
nbucher@adamswells.com

Donations can also be made online at: [www.acworldrelief.org/donate-online](http://www.acworldrelief.org/donate-online). Designate "**Disaster Funds**" in the drop down box.

## Updates

For current information on the status of Haiti relief work or work teams, visit the World Relief website at [www.acworldrelief.org](http://www.acworldrelief.org).

For email updates on Haiti relief efforts and future work teams, select "**Join WR email list**" from the main World Relief website menu and enter your email address. Please sign up for these updates.



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
**World Relief**

[www.acworldrelief.org](http://www.acworldrelief.org)

*Sermon continued from page 2*

son said unto his father, Get her for me; for she pleaseth me well." So he had been warned by his parents, by those that loved him. Don't take a wife from these uncircumcised Philistines. They don't serve our God. Take a wife from among your brethren. But Samson thought he knew better, didn't he?

So often in our youth, we think we know better. We don't take the advice or the instruction or the encouragement, whether it be from our parents, or our Elder Brother, as we think of in the faith. But there are those that give us advice. Sometimes we think we know better. We don't see that their advice is needed. But we always should remember, what is their intent? Why did Samson's parents give this advice? It was because they had Samson's welfare in mind. It was because they loved Samson. They cared about his soul and his service to his God.

So the Lord is faithful to prick our hearts. When we are unconverted, He calls us. Even when we are children of His, He will guide us and lead us. But it is up to us that we would listen. That we would not become reliant on our own knowledge, our own strength. But rather that we would remember that our strength and our courage comes from God.

From time to time, we all make mistakes, don't we? We fail and then what do we do? We have the teaching here in God's Word. Here is Samson. He remembered. He no doubt went through a period of regret. Maybe a repentance, we could say. But here he cried out. "And Samson called unto the Lord, and said, O Lord God, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes." Judges 16:28. So he cried out to God and if we cry out to God even in our day and time, He will help us. He will strengthen us. He will be faithful to provide for us. So even if we have made some poor choices in life - maybe we have a few regrets - we are thankful we have a loving God who will once again provide for us, if we but humble ourselves.

These last couple verses here in II Corinthians 5 reminded us of the price that Christ paid there upon Calvary's cross. That it was Christ who knew no sin, but He became sin (v.21). He took

upon Himself the weight of the sins of all mankind, there upon the cross of Calvary that we could be forgiven of our sins. That we could go free. And the question comes, how are we doing as ambassadors for Him?

We read this word 'ambassadors' here and we all know that in this day and time an ambassador often travels to another country and they represent the country they came from. Truly, if we have become new as we read here, then we should represent our Heavenly Father. We should represent that Heavenly Kingdom as we walk here below. So how are we doing as ambassadors for Him?

Samson was a judge. In a way, we could say he was an ambassador. He was an ambassador for God in the day and time which he lived. It was God who called him to be a judge. There are times that he was successful in conquering the Philistine people. Then there are times that he failed. So it is with us, isn't it? There are times that we're successful and there are times we fail. When are we successful and when do we fail? We know that we are successful when we're humble and we have God's help and His grace. When we fail, so oftentimes it's when we rely upon our own strength. But, I believe what's most important is that if we're going to be in Christ, then we have to be a new creature.

It says, "...old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (II Corinthians 5:17) We speak of it so often with our converts. It's so important that as the convert would come in humble repentance, that they die off to self. That that old self is crucified. That it's put to death. So often in a proving the convert is asked, how must someone be before they're buried? And the answer is always obvious, they must be dead. But, it's so important because if we still have some of those old desires, if we still have some of those old habits, we're hanging on to part of our flesh.

It isn't just when we repent. We know that as life goes on, that we can again pick up those old habits. We can again pick up a part of the world and try to carry it with us. God's a jealous God, we read that in the Word. (Deuteronomy 6:15) He wants our whole heart. He wants our whole life. He wants all of our desires. He wants our

motives to be pure, that we would serve Him.

But what does Satan come to us with? It's many temptations, isn't it. It comes in all sorts of different forms. For us brothers, we can put great effort into our jobs and we can become a workaholic. We can put too much emphasis on that. Then there's the sports and the entertainment of this world. We can take up part of that so that our minds really can become distracted from God and His Word. There's the lust of the flesh. We have to guard ourselves that that doesn't creep into our minds and into our walk of life. And for the sisters, there's different temptations that come.

But Satan just wants to get the door of our heart cracked open. Because he knows, if that door can be cracked open just a little bit that eventually he can open it wide and then in can come even the flood of the world. We think of the recent floods in the Midwest here. Many of you, I'm sure, have probably went to the levy there and you laid the sandbags. I'll never forget, after the flood down in Taylor a number of years ago, that I saw a video of when that levy broke. It only took a small breach in that levy and it wasn't long before there was thousands of millions of gallons of water flowing through. So it is that Satan knows that if he can tear down that wall that can keep us pure, keep us humble and keep us close to our God, it will happen to us.

We sing a hymn, Near to the Heart of God. "There is a place of quiet rest, Near to the heart of God," (Hymns of Zion #175) But Satan wants to tear that down, doesn't he? He wants us to not have the Fruit of the Spirit abounding in our life. To not have the many strengths and helps that we find. We even think of our precious Faith. We think of our heritage. We think of the doctrine that we have that's based upon a literal interpretation of the Word. We think about our traditions which help us to carry out that doctrine. There's many things that we have found good throughout the generations of time. And, all those things help us and keep us pure. They help us not only to become a new creature, but to continue to walk in God's service.

As we walk here below, do we think enough about heaven? I know for myself I don't. You know these first verses



we read here, it says, "For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day." (II Corinthians 4:16) It's a day by day process, isn't it? That we have to be renewed in Spirit. It says, though our outward man perish. There's some here who maybe have afflictions of the body and they can truly say that the outward man is perishing. But, the inward man can be renewed day by day by God's Word, by His Spirit. It says, "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment..." (II Corinthians 4:17) I don't know about you but when we're physically sick, we'll say we have the flu or we have a migraine headache, or we have a sore throat, whatever it may be. When we feel lousy, time goes really slow, doesn't it? We can feel sorry for ourselves, we can be kind of grumpy or irritable from time to time. But really, isn't it a light affliction?

If we think of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, whenever we're tempted to grumble or to murmur, it's probably a good thing to do, isn't it? To think of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and the affliction He endured. How He was mocked and beaten, spit upon, rejected of men. Then our affliction seems light, doesn't it? When we put it in the light of what Christ did and how He suffered for us.

It says, which is but for a moment. If we think about our life, it's really a moment, it's really a vapor. We remember back to the time when we were in school. If I understand right, there's graduation soon here in your community. When we're in high school, it seems like time goes really slow and we can't wait till we finally graduate. And then, it may be that we can't wait until we go to college or we get married or whatever it may be. But the older we get, the faster time seems to go. I think that if we would ask any of the older brothers and sisters here, if we would ask those that are sixties, seventies, eighties, ninety years old, we would ask them if this life seems long and I think almost without exception they would say that they can't believe how fast time has gone. So really, it's but a moment when we compare it to all eternity. We have to remember that this light affliction which is but for a moment, even if it would last all of our lifetime, is still but for a moment.

It says, "...worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory..." (II Corinthians 4:17) That's what life's all about, isn't it? It's about those things which are eternal. We're reminded here that the things which are seen are temporal. What's the definition of temporal? It's something that's going to pass away. "...but the things which are not seen are eternal." (II Corinthians 4:18) So often we spend so much time in our life focusing on those things which we can see. Those things which are temporal. That's not all a bad thing. You know, we've had some beautiful weather. And if you would've driven around town here in Tremont or any of the local municipalities or towns in the past weekend you probably would have seen a lot of people working in their yard. They're mowing the yard or planting flowers, whatever it may be. And, we are thankful for God's beauty. On all these things that we can spend so much time and emphasis on, they're not really eternal are they? The things that are eternal are our souls.

But also, what's really most important to our Lord and Savior? What was He concerned about here as He walked below? We don't read that Christ even had a home. We don't read that He ever amassed much in terms of earthly goods. But He was concerned about the souls of men. He was concerned about their welfare. And so, it's our relationships one with another. It's the compassion we should have for one another. It's taking time to say a kind word. It's the fellowship that we enjoy one with another. Those are the things which are important.

We're thankful even for holidays in our country. It seems like it takes a Thanksgiving or a Memorial Day when we really slow down enough in life to take time to go home and visit our parents, visit our grandparents, travel to see friends, whatever it would be. Sometimes if it wouldn't be for a holiday, those things wouldn't happen. But in our spiritual walk of life it takes an effort doesn't it? We need to take time to make those things happen. To not only go about our earthly toils and cares, providing for our families, taking care of our homes, whatever it may be. But we need to take time to teach and instruct our children.

We read that, "Pure religion and un-

defiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." (James 1:27) So yes, we need to stay away from the evil and the sin of this world so that we can fully have God's grace. We spoke about that earlier. But then, God desires that we would be fruitful in His vineyard, that we can someday make it to heaven.

What a beautiful verse this is, verse one in chapter five, "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." I think of your sister Evelyn here. Her earthly house here is dissolved, is it not? There's that beautiful building of God. That place in the heavens. It says, "For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:". (II Corinthians 5:2)

When there are those that come to the end of life's journey and especially if they know the end is near, they're laying there in the hospital, or they're in the nursing home, or maybe they're in their own home. But when they know that time is near, so often it gets to the point here where they groan. Because they earnestly desire to go to that better place, that better land. When we're young we can't always quite comprehend that. Because we have children, we have loved ones, we have certain things we want to do in this life, and we're not really ready to go home. But, when it comes down to the end of life, that's when we really stop and think about what's important.

I've often thought, we go and we visit someone in the nursing home, and there may be someone who's life really didn't go so well for them. Perhaps they failed in their business, or they never had much of this earth's goods. As man would look upon them, they wouldn't think that they were really very successful. But, what's important? What's important is their faith in God. What's important is that they have found peace with their Maker and their Creator. And then, sometimes to contrast that, there are those who maybe were very successful in their earthly occupation. Maybe amassed millions of dollars in this life. But as

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*Sermon continued from page 41*

they lay there in the nursing home, all that really doesn't make too much difference anymore. What's really important to them at that point? It's that their children come and see them.

It's so sad, sometimes we visit those who perhaps have one or two children. One's off on the east coast, one lives several states away. They don't get to see them very often. So, let us remember to count our blessings. Whether they be few or whether they be many.

Even if God hasn't blessed us with any children, perhaps if our parents are all gone, we feel very lonely in this life. Yet, I hope that each one gathered here, at least, can feel the love and the support of one another. That we have one another, and there are those that care, there are those that love us. We can all look forward to this time in heaven if we've repented of our sins, if we've become converted, if we've become this new creature as we spoke about. Aren't we thankful that we have God's Spirit, that we have the Comforter?

We read about that in verse five here. It says, "Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit." We think of earnest, sometimes we hear of earnest money if there's a real estate transaction. It's a down payment, isn't it? So really, as we walk in this life, we can have God's Holy Spirit. We can even have a down payment, if you will, or a foretaste of that beautiful heavenly home.

We can have this confidence that we read of here. It says, "Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)" II Corinthians 5:6-7 It's interesting. It doesn't just say we walk by faith. It says, not by sight. It's so easy in life to have faith when we can see what the future holds. It's so often easy to have faith when we can see how the Lord is going to provide for us. But is that really faith when we can see? True faith is when we're blinded. To truly have faith is when we're blind.

Think of Samson there. He was blinded in a physical sense, was he not? He had no idea exactly what that building looked like, did he? He asked the young lad there to place his hands on

the pillars. He had to have faith. I shouldn't say he didn't know what that building looked like, perhaps he'd seen that building before he lost his eyesight. I don't know. But, he had to have faith that by God's strength, he could bring that building down. It's a blind faith isn't it?

It seems like the older we get and the more experience we have in life, and we're thankful for that experience because along with that experience can come faith that the Lord's going to provide. If God brings us through the valleys of life and we're able, by God's grace, to climb out of those valleys and make it up the next mountain that we face, and we can look back on those times, that can be strengthening to our faith. But also sometimes as we gain experience in life, we maybe lose a little bit of that blind faith we might say.

I haven't had the opportunity of having a child married by faith, but sometimes young brothers and sisters, when they ask for a wife or they give back an answer to a proposal, it takes a tremendous amount of faith, doesn't it? Sometimes the parents almost have a harder time with that, those of us that are parents, than the young people. And why is that? I think it's because of our experience. As we get older in life and we're married, we know the struggles that can come.

Sometimes the struggle is with our spouse. Or maybe not in our own family, maybe we're blest with a wonderful marriage. But we see the struggles in other families. We know that there can be children born with physical afflictions. There can be those that suffer in a great way. And, it's hard for us sometimes, isn't it, to really let go of our children, commit them to God and to His keeping. Wouldn't we all be well served to have a little bit more of this blind faith? Not knowing where we're going. Not knowing what the path ahead brings us. But just trusting in God.

Now as we continue on in this chapter we read here in verse nine, a very sobering verse. "Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him." This morning, Brother Tom, as he finished up, spoke of the word 'action'. And here we read the word 'labor'. We're thankful that on Sunday we can rest from our earthly labors.

When we come to worship God, it's

an active thing, isn't it? It takes effort. We need to labor. Whether it's the hymns we sing, it's our minds as we think about the Word that we would read, as we fellowship one with another. We should really be active. We should put effort into it. Sometimes we like to just stand in the corner. But God moves us, doesn't He? We look across the hall and we maybe see someone who we know is going through a rough time. We see someone whose loved one's in the hospital, whatever it may be. It takes an effort to walk across and ask them how they're doing, to wish them well, whatever it would be. Also, it even takes effort to be alert.

We can remember back to the time many of us were unconverted. We sat there in the back of church and many times we simply slept through the whole service. It can happen to those of us who are converted also. Our minds can be off on what happened last week, what's going to happen tomorrow, what we're going to do this afternoon. We have to focus, don't we, if we really want to receive a true blessing out of God's Word? We're going to be blest according to how much effort we put into it. We get out of life about as much as we put into it. I think that same concept applies as we come to God's house.

It says, "Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." v. 9,10. There's coming a judgment day. We read that all the things that we do, they're recorded there in heaven. We read in Revelations, to him that overcometh shall be granted that crown of life. (Revelations 2:10) We know that we're saved by grace through faith. It's not of ourselves lest we should boast. (Ephesians 2:8) It's by the shed blood of Jesus Christ. But then, as we have this new heart, this new creature, God calls us to a holiness. He calls us to serve Him. He desires that the fruit of His Holy Spirit would come forth from our life. So we have to labor, we have to take inventory from time to time, don't we? To see if this love, the joy, the peace, the long-suffering, the gentleness, the goodness, is it in our life? Or perhaps is there some of those works of the flesh creep-

ing in? Do we find ourselves angry? Do we find ourselves jealous? Do we find ourselves grumbling? Not thankful?

That we may be accepted from Christ. It's our human nature, isn't it, that we would want to please one another, that we always want people to think good of us. That's not all a bad thing because if we have God's Spirit, if we're truly a child of God, then people would naturally be drawn unto those who are kind, those that are loving, those that are generous. All those good attributes. But, what's most important? What's the most important is that we can be accepted of Christ.

We read this word 'accepted'. So often we hear that in nominal Christianity today. That we need to accept Christ. But here we're reminded that it's important that Christ accepts us. That's what's truly important. Are we ready to meet Him? Or, do we have a little bit of fear within our heart, that maybe we need to go and make this right or make that right, or we really ought to clean up our act a little bit, we might say.

I think about our homes if we have company, sometimes someone would drop by unexpected, what would they find? I don't want to make light of it or embarrass any of the sisters with this,

but there's times that the home is a mess, perhaps. Probably a good part of that is because some of us brothers don't do our part to help them in that matter. But what would the Lord find if he came to our spiritual house? If He came and made an inspection? If we're going to put our house up for sale what do we do? We make sure the lawn is mowed, we make sure the bushes are trimmed. If we're going to have an open house or show people, we have it all just right. But what about our spiritual walk of life? From time to time we need to do a little bit of house cleaning. We need to do some maintenance. And the Lord will help us. And, it will be worth it all. We sing a hymn, "*It will be worth it all when we see Jesus.*" (Melodies of Praise #59) So let us take courage that as God moves us, that we labor on, that we may be accepted of Him.

"For we commend not ourselves again unto you, but give you occasion to glory on our behalf, that ye may have somewhat to answer them which glory in appearance, and not in heart." II Corinthians 5:12. Christ sees each one of our hearts. He knows what our thoughts are. He knows what our motives are. We can fool one another from time to time and we can put on a good act, we might say. We can maybe do a

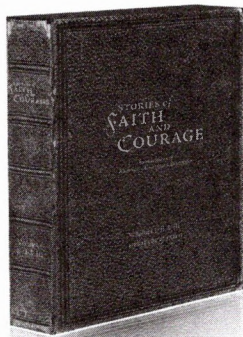
lot of good in this life. We can be a good neighbor. But if we don't truly have the love of God, if we don't truly have His Spirit, if we have not become a new creature, then we won't be accepted of Him.

So lets each one examine our hearts, and I speak to myself first, that we would ask ourselves the question, have we become a new creature? Have we totally denied our self as we read this morning? Have we taken up our cross to follow Him? If not, lets do a little bit of house cleaning, some spiritual housecleaning. That we can be prepared to meet Him whether He would call us individually or whether He would come again in the clouds.

We're reminded of an athlete today. How they have to exercise daily and they have to eat a nutritious diet and all sorts of things so that they can win the race. And we read the Apostle Paul numerous times in the New Testament. He talks about this spiritual race that we're running. When we are spiritually fit, that's when we can truly be ambassadors for Christ. That's when we can be the salt of the earth that we're called to be. May the Lord grant us grace to that end.

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

## Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services

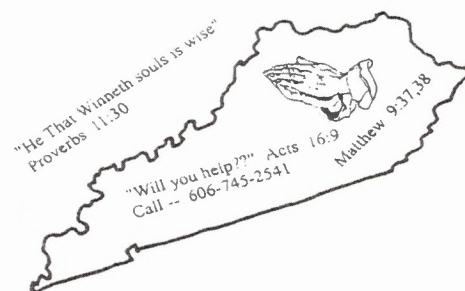
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### Grief/Loss, Part 4

Grief/Loss, Part 1 was written for those who are grieving and was printed in the September, 2009, Silver Lining. Parts 2 and 3 focused on how to help grieving people and were printed in the November and December issues. This article is focused on how to help children grieve. Jesus wants us to minister to those who are in need. Matthew 25:40 *"...Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren (my children), ye have done it unto me."*

Children, like adults, experience grief in many different ways, and each has his or her own pace of recovery. There are things you can do to help a child through the grief process, which are important to do, as children often don't understand their feelings and may need your help, guidance, and support to cope. Psalm 56:8 *"...put thou my tears into thy bottle: are they not in thy book?"*

Studies point out that there are four adjustments that are essential for a grieving child to experience:

1. Reality - accepting the reality of the loss,
2. Pain - experiencing the pain or emotional aspects of the loss,
3. Change - adjusting to an environment in which the deceased is missing,
4. New Normal - relocating the deceased person within one's life with memories and putting energy into new relationships.

It has been discovered that prior to age 3, babies may sense an absence among those in their immediate world and miss a familiar person who is gone, but they are unlikely to understand the difference between a temporary absence and death. A preschool child may talk about death but may still expect the person to come back. Before age 5, most children do not realize that all people, including themselves, will die. By ages 9 or 10, however, most children have developed an understanding of death as final, irreversible, and inescapable. Ecclesiastes 3:1-2 *"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven. A time to be born, and a time to die..."*

How can parents help? Caring parents can help children through the Reality and

Pain adjustments by being open, honest, and loving, and by responding to questions in a way that shows you care. It may help to touch children and look them in the eye as you talk. Take them in your arms and show them the compassion of Jesus. When answering a child's questions about death, adults should keep in mind the following:

1. Tell a child only what he is capable of understanding. There is no need to be evasive, but modify explanations to what the child can comprehend.

2. What is said is important, but the manner in which it is said has even greater significance. Be aware of voice tone. Try to answer the questions patiently in a matter-of-fact way. Remember that what is communicated without words can be just as meaningful to a child as what is actually said.

3. It is not unusual for a child to ask the same question again and again. Repeating questions and getting answers helps the child understand and adjust to the loss of someone loved.

Parents should avoid trying to suppress the child's tears or expressions of grief. It is hurtful to the grieving process to dismiss your child's feelings or disapprove of them. Instead, help them put their feelings into words. One author stated that a child's grief begins when he or she begins to express or demonstrate his/her feelings. Jeremiah 9:1 *"Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night..."*

Like adults, children's first reaction to the loss is usually shock. Feelings of anger, fear and guilt usually follow. Parents may need to redirect children's aggressive angry behavior to acceptable physical behavior—such as running, doing jumping jacks, shaping play dough, sweeping with a broom, or something to keep their bodies moving. In trying to get to the source of anger outbursts, ask open-ended questions such as: "It looks like something is really bothering you. I'm wondering if you are frustrated about something or feeling hurt or perhaps afraid. Could you tell me about it?" It is easier for some children and teens to express feelings in art work and tell you about the pictures. When they talk, really listen. Listen to the point that you feel you can understand what your child is feeling.

Psalm 46:1-2 *"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear..."*

Common fears which grieving children have include the fear of not being cared for or of not having enough information to understand what is happening, the fear that the child is to blame, or the fear that another special person may die.

The Change adjustment is learning to adapt with the loved one gone. This is the time to keep routine schedules in place as much as possible. Have your children keep on doing their chores and activities even though they do not feel like doing them because they are sad. Talk about the changes in your family. There may be someone different cooking meals or driving the children to school. There may be one less person sitting at the dinner table. Help them realize that a family is still a family even if someone in the family dies. Life will never be the same again without the loved one who died, but life can still feel safe and normal again. Psalm 23:4 *"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."*

The New Normal adjustment is having friends and feeling happy again, but also remembering the special things they did with the loved one. Help your child keep these memories by talking openly about them, even though they bring tears. It is also important and necessary to say "goodbye" to the loved one. Some examples are writing a letter, visiting the grave site, or making a memory book. Saying "goodbye" is not forgetting your loved one. He or she will always be a part of your child's life. Finally, your child should be encouraged to play, to enjoy old friends, to make new friends, and to make new memories as "new" becomes normal. Revelation 21:4 *"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."*

Comments taken from: 1996 study by J. W. Worden, pamphlet "Helping Your Child Grieve," *It's okay to cry*, by H. Norman Wright, *A Kid's Journey of Grief*, by Beene and Chung

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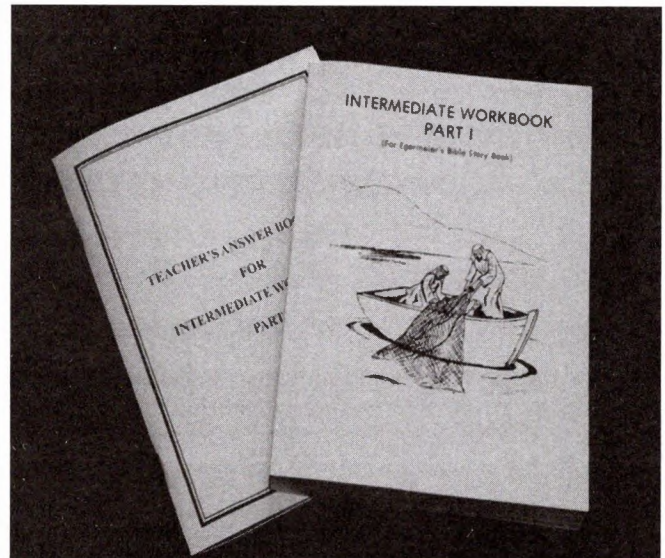


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## CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 2010

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](mailto:lemangm@mtco.com).

### HAITI

Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010 -[www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/](http://www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/)

Project	Year 2010	Coordinator	Capacity				
Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Mar 3-12	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 rick@wuethrichfarms.com	4	Les Cayes MEBSH Maintenance	Mar 26-Apr 5	Jon Zeller 309-266-9009 jzeller@mtco.com	12
Les Cayes FRW Simone Orphanage	Mar 12-19	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 rick@wuethrichfarms.com	12	Les Cayes AWA Water Aid	Apr 23-30	Troy Stuber 309-925-2603 troystuber@verizon.net	4
Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Mar 19-26	Rich Bertschi 309-467-2351 lemangm@mtco.com	12	Les Cayes MEBSH Medical	May 7-14	Keith Knepp 309-467-4691 kknepp@mchsi.com	8
Les Cayes MEBSH Haiti Support	Mar 26-29	Rich Bertschi 309-467-2351 lemangm@mtco.com	12	Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Jun 4-11	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 rick@wuethrichfarms.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

### 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. Bill Leman		Roanoke, IL	Cell# 309-241-0257
* Bro. Tom Neuenschwander		Bluffton, IN	Cell# 260-307-6026
* Bro. Ray Slagel		Fairbury, IL	Cell# 815-848-3714



**JAMAICA**

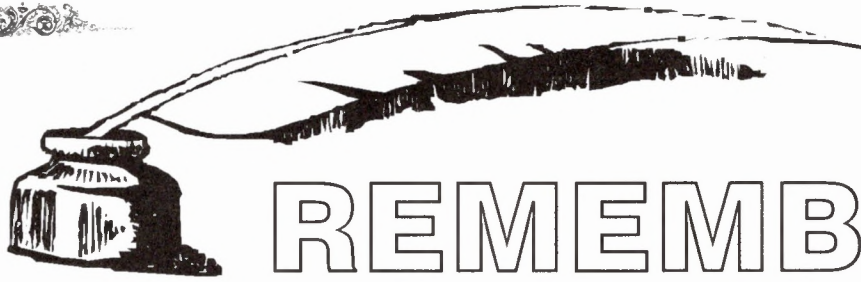
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Project	Year 2010	Coordinator	Capacity				
Kingston School CCCD	Mar 20-27	Roger Stoller 309-747-3228 rstoller@gridcom.net	40	Jamaica Deaf Villg CCCD	Jun 11-19	Ted Hirstein 309-266-8769 hirstein@mtco.com	40
Kingston School CCCD Peoria SS	Jun 5-12	Dean Thomas 309-243-2216 dathomas@mtco.com	Peoria Bible Class Only	Knockpatrick Schl CCCD Mansfield SS	Jun 26 - Jul 3	Peter Webel 419-564-5691 wpw47@aol.com	40

**MEXICO**

If anyone is interested in leading a team to Mexico, contact Bro. Mike Fiechter at 260-597-7330 or [mfiechter@onlyinternet.net](mailto:mfiechter@onlyinternet.net)  
Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010 -[www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-mexico/](http://www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-mexico/)

Location	Year 2010	Coordinator					
Agua Prieta Construction	Mar 6-13	Kevin Gerber 260-565-3313 kevgerber@yahoo.com		Reynosa Medical	Apr 7-14	Cheryl Herrmann cherrmann@verizon.net	
Magdalena Construction	Mar 6-13	Adam Adrian/ISU Illinois State University 573-231-6433 adam_adrian@hotmail.com		Magdalena Construction	Jun 5-12	Stan Schick Princeville Sunday School 309-243-9281 schickfam@juno.com	
Magdalena Construction	Mar 13-20	Sam Kaufman/Purdue Purdue University 260-494-8733 sjkaufma@purdue.edu		Magdalena Construction	Jun 19-26	Benj Knapp Washington Sunday School 309-467-5274 benjknapp@homewayhomes.com	
Reynosa Construction	Mar 20-27	Tristan Herrmann/U of I University of Illinois 309-712-6902 tristanherrmann@gmail.com		Magdalena Construction	Jul 17-24	Blake Stahl 630-740-7461 bcstahl@aol.com	
Magdalena Construction	Mar 20-27	Linc Rinkenberger Bluffton Senior Class 260-565-4155 rinkfamily@adamswells.com		Magdalena Construction	July 24-31	Scott Bahr Detroit Bible Class 248-924-7547 spbahr@yahoo.com	
Agua Prieta Construction	Mar 20-27	Aaron Beery 330-927-6926 beeryaaron@embarqmail.com		Reynosa Medical	Oct 6-13	Cheryl Herrmann cherrmann@verizon.net	
Magdalena Construction	Mar 27 - Apr 3	Curt Hodel Roanoke Bible Class 309-923-8091 cjhodel@juno.com					



# REMEMBERING

## *Our Spiritual Heritage*

*The following is a continuation of the funeral of Elder Bro. Noah Schrock of the Oakville, Iowa, congregation. His funeral was held on April 8, 1976. This is a description of the funeral, and is not a transcript of the funeral comments. His passing, after many years of leadership along with his spiritual influence across the entire church for many years, was significant and a multitude of brethren attended the funeral. Elder Bro. Leo Moser of the Lester, Iowa, congregation had the main part of the funeral.*

### **The Funeral Service**

It fell on Elder Bro. Leo Moser of the Lester, Iowa, congregation to deliver the funeral message. The fore-reading text consisted of Jeremiah 23:3-4. The choir then sang the beautiful song, "Our Blessed Portion," from the *Zion's Harp Hymnal*. The second Scripture reading was from the book of Acts, Chapter 20, beginning with verse 24. This is an account of the Apostle Paul's farewell to the Ephesian Elders.

Bro. Moser, while not eulogizing Bro. Schrock, nonetheless referred to the departed one's many God-given gifts and to the endless campaigns he waged over the years on behalf of the church. And although he could engage in long discourses regarding spiritual matters, the deceased's often-expressed sentiment was that he desired to know nothing, "save Jesus Christ and Him crucified."

Bro. Moser alluded to his many years of service in the Lord's vineyard and how the church will miss him, not only the lay brethren, but the Elder Body of the church as well. The man-

tle of leadership, both of his local Oakville congregation and of his influence on the church as a whole, must now be passed on. Bro. Moser expressed the confidence that this mantle would fall on the shoulders of several younger brethren whom God has raised up for leadership.

Reference was made to the Old Testament practice of posting "watchmen on the wall" to warn the people of coming dangers, and how our Elder brethren today perform such a function in the New Testament churches and, out of love, sound the trumpet when they see the sword coming.

Bro. Noah, as a "watchman", had sounded the warning many times during his lifetime and could testify at the end, as Paul did, "that I am pure from the blood of all men; for I have not shunned to deliver unto you all the counsel of God." He was a true watchman and stood on "guard duty" that his brethren might be alerted to the many dangers of the enemy, and they could thus walk closer to God. He had a ringing idealism as to how a child of God should conduct himself, and as he sought to promote the high standards of God in the church, according to Scriptures, he did so with pure motives.

He went from coast to coast, and to Japan, preaching the glorious gospel of salvation. His life touched multitudes of people. Yet, he remained a humble man – a tiller of the soil – and he sought only to do what was right. Not a "menpleaser", he was one who sought to please the Lord, whom he deeply loved.

Closing remarks were uttered by Elder Bro. Roy Farney of the Phoenix, Arizona, congregation. In a moving

account of his last visit with Bro. Noah, he said the departed brother indicated his willingness to leave this earth. He then requested that Bro. Roy deliver his "farewell greetings" to the western churches he had served for so many years. On doing so, Bro. Farney related how, when it was apparent that the end was nigh at hand, he carried out this wish to his Phoenix, Arizona, congregation, and it caused many tears to flow down the cheeks of the brethren. Bro. Farney surmised that had Bro. Noah known this, he would have said, "Weep not for me, but for yourselves."

During the entire day, it was a fitting tribute to Bro. Noah that there was a tremendous feeling in the air, despite the sadness, of that wonderful kindred spirit of brotherhood which is so associated with the members of the Apostolic Christian Church as they gather in the name of the Lord. The great love that flows from heart to heart, which is so essential to the church and which Bro. Noah loved and promoted so strongly, was very evident during these final rites.

*By Perry A. Klopfenstein*

### **Next Issue:**

Final segment of this series.

### **Please Note:**

This writing is available, free of charge, in booklet form, and can be obtained by writing to P.O. Box 404, Pontiac, IL, 61764. Ask for the Noah Schrock funeral report. Or call 800-847-6686.

# The Light Of Hope

## “Christianity Is Practical”

*Retired Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, formerly of Shioda, Japan*

Practical means to be useful and helpful in our daily lives. When we repent and put our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for forgiveness and salvation, it might be thought by some that this is good so we can go to heaven when we die, but as for living here on earth, it is inconvenient because the way is narrow and you always have to think about whether or not what you plan to do is edifying and to the glory of God. However, I have been thinking that the Christian life as taught in the Bible, a life of dying to self and living for God, is a very practical life and much better than the life apart from God.

The first reason why Christianity is practical is that the life in Christ is less stressful. You do what the Bible says to do and you don't do what the Bible warns against and therefore, you are able to reduce or eliminate all the stress caused when you do whatever you feel like doing and get yourself into some very difficult situations. I Peter 5:7 reads, “Casting all your care upon Him for He careth for you.” We do have a place of refuge when accident, illness, or death, strikes.

The second reason is that the life in Christ is more joyful. “Rejoice in

the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.” To have joy in the Lord is much better than to have joy in the interesting and captivating pleasures of this world. Joy in the Lord is more lasting and encouraging.

The number three reason is that the life in Christ saves us money. We don't spend money on things that are harmful to our minds and bodies and we don't spend money on worldly pleasures that might be harmful to our spiritual lives. The life in Christ is a win, win situation. Isaiah 55:2 asks the question, “Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread?” In this case “bread” may mean anything that is good for you.

The fourth reason is that there is more fulfillment in the life in Christ. The Bible teaches us that we are here to bring God glory and that we should help others. This is so much more fulfilling, so much more satisfying, than living for self. Revelation 4:11 reads, “Thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.” Also, we are taught to love our neighbor as ourselves.

The fifth reason is that the child of God is honest and that brings many benefits not realized by those who are dishonest. We read

in Luke 8:15 that the seed of the sower which brings forth much fruit is that which falls in “An honest and good heart.” This is a teaching for us to be honest if we expect God's Word to bring forth fruit in our lives. The fruit includes the assurance that I didn't cheat anybody nor make claims that are not so.

The sixth reason that Christianity is practical is that we can trust each other in the Lord. What a blessing that is. It saves a lot of checking with the Better Business Bureau or any similar organization which checks on people's honesty. If you are my brother or sister in Christ, your word is as good as mine. We really don't need a contract but it may be useful to avoid any misunderstanding. Paul writes to Philemon in verse 21, “Having confidence in thy obedience I wrote unto thee, knowing that thou wilt also do more than I say.” This indicates that Paul had complete trust in his brother, Philemon.

Christianity is not just a theory, it is very practical, useful, and beneficial in this life and makes us ready to live for God forever in a better world, the spiritual world.

# 希望の光

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*Oh, watch ye faithful brothers mine,  
While in this pilgrim's dale;  
The mighty Word of God divine,  
Your compass, will not fail.*

*Ye sisters all, stay on the way  
In service for the Lord,  
In watchful striving, fervent prayer,  
You'll find a rich reward.*

