

The Silver Lining

*Lord Jesus, honor, thanks and praise
Be to Thy goodness all our days.
Thy people in Thy grace rejoice,
In comfort they lift up their voice;
"Thou shalt remain in all eternity!"
Thus we repose in blest security.*

March 2010

Sermon by Elder Bro. Tom Stock, Cissna Park, IL

Isaiah Chapter 25 and Galatians Chapter 2

Just a few thoughts on this chapter we've read before we would continue. I had to think how this parallels somewhat what we read this morning in Psalm 27. The psalmist spoke of the Lord being his rock, his salvation, and the anchor for his soul. At one point he says, "He is my pavilion." (Psalm 27:5) As I read this here this afternoon it speaks of, "...a refuge from the storm, a shadow from the heat, when the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against the wall." (Isaiah 25:4)

It took me back to a time, a number of years ago we had a church picnic. We had it in town. There's a pavilion in the park where we meet, as many small towns have. This particular time there was a storm moving in. I remember everyone gathered into the pavilion to avoid the wind, and to avoid the rain. That's what God is for those who trust in Him. He is a pavilion. He is a shelter. He is a refuge. He is a place where we come to find refuge from the elements that are around us; the winds of Satan and the onslaught of the devil. He gives us a place of shelter, a place of comfort, a place where we can gather and find strength. That's what He was to David in the Psalms. That's how Isaiah refers to Him here.

Isaiah speaks of the salvation of God. He speaks of salvation not only for this time in life but also for life in time to come. These words remind us of the words in Revelation, in verse 8 where it says, "He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces;..." (Isaiah 25:8) Something to think about, in this life we have sorrow. There are disappointments that come our way. There are partings that bring tears to our eyes when loved ones are taken from us. Yet, we know it says here that God shall wipe away all tears in the eyes of those who will come to Him.

What a blessing to think that the high and mighty, powerful God that we serve is a compassionate, tender, and loving God also. One who would wipe away our tears. I view that as a mother reaching down to a child who's been disappointed or hurt and wiping the tears from their eyes with tenderness and love. That's what He has for you and I.

There was a struggle in the early church. There were Jews and there were Gentiles. We know the Jews traced their lineage back through Jacob and probably on up the line to Abraham. It reminds me of a verse that we read this morning, that we wouldn't get carried away with endless genealogies and contentions of strife of words. (I Timothy 1:4) I had to think about that a little bit this morning and maybe it applies a little bit here. I think some of the people of that time, in tracking their lineage, maybe took somewhat of a pride or somewhat of a comfort of faith that maybe they could trace their lineage back and say, "I am of the tribe of Judah or I am of the tribe of Levi." But there shouldn't be so much emphasis on that.

We know, when we come together in our fellowship, we love to make connections and associations. I'm finding I ask more and more not who your parents are, but who your grandparents are and so forth when I meet young people. We try to make connections and associations so that we can remember one another. We love the fellowship we have. You know what? Our faith is not grounded in whose son or whose daughter we are, or who our grandpa was. Our faith is grounded in what our relationship is to Jesus Christ and if God is our Father in heaven.

We read that here, in the churches that were in Galatia, they were struggling. Those who were

Cover Verses

Front: Zions Harp #14, verses 1

Back: Zions Harp #14, verses 2-3

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Sermon continued on page 41

"Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart ... that I may discern between good and bad..." 1 Kings 3:9

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

March 2010

Discernment In The Use Of Technology

"There is no new thing under the sun. Is there any thing whereof it may be said, See, this is new? it hath been already of old time, which was before us" (Ecc. 1:9-10). This familiar Scripture may seem a little dated when considering the technology of the computer age in which we live. However, when we consider that a Turkish engineer built the first programmable analog computer in 1206 A.D., we appreciate more fully the timeless wisdom of King Solomon's observation.

Technological advancement fulfills some very worthwhile uses in our daily lives. For many generations our Brotherhood has taken a cautious approach in adopting such advancement slowly. If new devices can be used wisely as tools, then we have incorporated them into our lives with discernment and discretion. We know that God is sorely displeased with *"...inventors of evil things..." (Rom. 1:30)* and that Satan is able to transform himself into an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14). We want to encourage all of us to seek the heart of Solomon when he prayed, *"Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart ... that I may discern between good and bad..." (1 Kings 3:9).* Discernment between good and bad means understanding the differences between them and applying sound judgment. This sometimes involves abstaining from some things even if they are readily available and convenient. Discernment also reveals that even if we have no need for these technologies, we should respect and not judge those who do.

This article addresses the dangers and warnings, as well as the means for discernment in using personal computers, Personal Digital Assistants (PDA's), and cell phones or "smart" phones wisely. Each of these has its specific functions and may be used as a tool. They are all capable of accessing the Internet, and downloading and playing videos, movies and games along with other potentially harmful activities.

"Redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (Eph. 5:16). We might ask ourselves, *"Does my time spent using these devices rob me of my time for personal devotions, family, jobs, or other responsibilities?"* Software is available that will track details of our activities including our time spent on the cell phone, PDA, or com-

puter. Spouses, parents, or accountability partners can monitor this information. Parents should encourage their young children to develop sound time-use habits (Ecc. 12:1).

"But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived" (2 Tim. 3:13). The Internet, email and social networking sites such as Facebook, Myspace, or Twitter enable unscrupulous individuals to hide their identity with false names and outright lies. Danger signals are requests for personal information or arrangements for personal meetings. We do well to exercise utmost discretion when communicating with individuals we have met only through electronic media. No one is completely safe from deception, and we are especially vulnerable when alone. If we have the slightest conviction from the Holy Spirit that we are not using sound discernment, we need to seek the advice and help of someone we trust. *"He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered" (Prov. 28:26).*

"All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any" (1 Cor. 6:12). We can find ourselves logging into Facebook, My Space, Twitter, personal blogs, etc., many times a day. This activity can easily become addictive. In addition, our messages on social networking sites may have a wider exposure than we are aware of—instantly reaching thousands of other people, including advertisers, with no chance of recalling them. As believers, we need to use discernment with the type of comments and pictures that we post, since this is similar to putting them on a billboard: *"...be ye holy in all manner of conversation" (1 Pet. 1:15).*

"A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter" (Prov. 11:13). We could be guilty of gossip or tale bearing when we forward an email or other message that is not true or is hurtful to someone. If we cannot verify the account as fact, we should simply choose not to pass on the information.

"And then if any man shall say to you, Lo, here is Christ; or, lo, he is there; believe him not" (Mark 13:21). The Internet provides a vast amount of information about virtually any topic, including questionable interpretations of the Bible and false doctrine. The ecumenical spirit promotes close interaction with a wide range of "Christian" groups. We

do not desire to judge any other church or group, but we must be circumspect. We must continually seek our direction based directly on the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27). There is safety in the teaching of diligent application of biblical principles in our homes and churches, and we must sincerely seek to obey these timeless truths, by the grace of God. (1 Tim. 3:15)

"...Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like..." (Gal. 5:19-21). The works of the flesh are manifest in these technologies via the Internet or even within some games in the form of pornography, lewdness, gambling, violence, the occult, profanity, alternative life styles, jealous rivalries or substance abuse. The Word of God warns us that having pleasure in them through entertainment is sin even when we do not physically commit the evil acts described in the Scriptures (Rom. 1:32). God's children are called to remain *"unspotted from the world" (Jam. 1:27).*

"...But be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity" (1 Tim. 4:12). Husbands and fathers must show responsibility by their example to ensure safe use of these technologies in the home and elsewhere. Young children especially lack discernment and will readily mimic the misuse of technology if they observe that example. Today's technologies do not intimidate most children, and they often know far more about them than we suspect. Parents need to know how and when their children are using these technologies and set up safeguards for them, including appropriate monitoring of their networking sites, cell phone use and Internet activities. Additional information on Internet filters, accountability software and other safeguards is available in a paper entitled "Guidance on Internet Use" available at www.counseling.org.

Like all of our possessions, as well as our time, we are only stewards, not owners of technology. As such, we have the opportunity to be discerning in our use of these devices now, so that someday we can give account to God with joy rather than grief regarding their use in our lives (1 Cor. 4:2; Rom. 14:12).

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

Mission Information Available Online

We are pleased to share the on-line presence of the purpose, and activities of the Mission Committee. The MC website address is www.acmission.org. This website, along with many other Apostolic Christian organizations, is linked from the official Apostolic Christian Church website. If you don't remember the specific website addresses for one of these organizations, go to the church website (www.apostolicchristian.org), and click on "Special Services."

MC Purpose

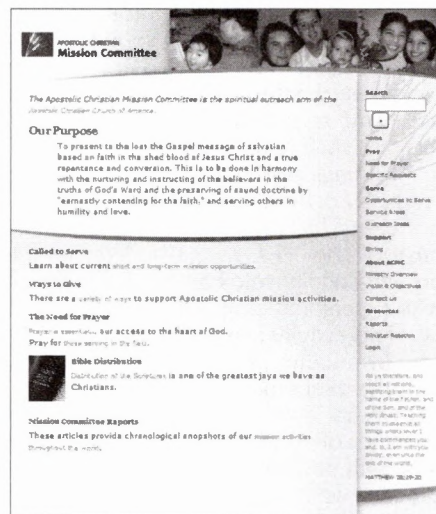
The Mission Committee's purpose is to present to the lost the Gospel message of salvation based on faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ and a true repentance and conversion. This is done in harmony with the nurturing and instructing of the believers in the truths of God's Word, preserving sound doctrine, and serving others in humility and love. The site contains descriptions of locations where there are opportunities to serve, including Mexico, Haiti, Jamaica, Europe, and India. Additional service areas for the Mission Committee include USA, Canada, Europe, Asia, and Japan.

Need for prayer

One thing everyone can do is support the Lord's work through faithful brothers and sisters by remembering them in prayer. The Mission website offers thoughts on the scriptural basis for the need for prayer as well as specific areas for which prayer is requested. One can never underestimate the power of prayer.

Bible Distribution

The fields are ripe for harvest and laborers are needed for Bible distribution in each of our local church communities. The website offers examples and ideas of how to become involved in this important work as outlined in last month's Mission Committee report in the Silver Lining. A collection of many past Mission Committee reports published in the Silver Lining can also be accessed on the Mission Committee website.



Working with World Relief

The Mission Committee and the World Relief Board work together on several projects. Thus the Mission Committee site links to pages from the longer established World Relief website. The World Relief Board's primary function is reducing human suffering through humanitarian aid, but always in the name of Jesus, while the Mission Committee's primary focus is spreading the gospel message to the lost but often accompanied by providing shelter or food or some other life giving necessity.

Minister rotations

Another valuable link on the Mission Committee site is the national minister rotation listings. A group of brothers has coordinated the minister rotation support for all of our churches. One can choose a specific date or a range of dates to find an updated listing of which churches are sending and which churches are receiving ministers as a part of the effort to spiritually support smaller congregations.

Similarly one can choose a particular church supported by the rotations and find a current listing of which churches will be serving that location and when. This may be especially helpful to those serving rotations when schedule changes are desired. It may also be helpful to brethren that want to travel with their local ministers to support both them and the churches they visit.

Supporting the work

Information on how donations can be given directly to the Mission Committee, to the Servant Fund and to specific projects or individuals in the field can be found online. Please consider using automatic electronic transfers on a regular basis to help meet the basic needs of brethren sent to the mission field. The Mission Committee depends on your generous contributions to carry out the Lord's work.

The website is a work in progress. As more information is made available it will be added to the site. We are all called to let our light shine and be ready to give an answer to every man who asks the reason of our hope and joy. We trust the Mission Committee website will be helpful to our brotherhood in fulfilling our calling.



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

Aid to Indonesia

After seven flights and multiple boat rides, four medical personnel from the USA arrived to the coastal islands of West Sumatra, Indonesia. Sent by World Relief and working with Medical Assistance Program (MAP) to evaluate the progress of the Tello Mobile Clinic, we were now en route to the third island of our trip.

MAP provided an Indonesian staff: a doctor, nurse, health promoter, translators and a cook. The area served includes over 100 islands. Only 45 are inhabited and are collectively considered one of the poorest regions in Indonesia. Dismissed by the mainland, 75% of villagers survive on less than \$100/month. They speak an old dialect specific to the outlying islands. Mortality rates are dismal – 6% of children die before age five, and one of every 300 births results in the death of the mother. 26,000 people live on these islands, yet are served only by a handful of medical personnel, including doctors, nurses and a dentist.

Medical care is found only on the most populated of the islands, Tello Island. Malnutrition, poor hygiene, contaminated water, and lack of immunizations are only the beginning of these people's very serious problems. Thanks to the mobile clinic and health promotions, the villagers are learning and slowly improving the quality of their lives.

After almost two hours of travelling upriver in a small boat, we viewed the village through the jungle foliage and pouring rain. We waded to shore through murky water. Although we saw an extremely poor village, the people were beautiful and gracious. Almost the entire

village attended the health promotion, while the medical team examined adults and children, intervening with medicine and wound care. Children were taught basic dental care and provided toothbrushes and toothpaste.



A seven year old child was brought to the clinic with a persistent cough lasting two months, showing signs of chronic lung disease. Diagnosed with chronic bronchitis, he also had a huge inguinal hernia. His young pregnant mother, with four additional little children, was upset with our diagnoses. Months earlier her husband became sick, unable to be healed by the village witch doctor. The wife requested treatment by the doctor on Tello Island. Unfortunately, the extended family and village head first needed to give their consent.

The husband became sicker, and was finally given permission to travel by boat several hours to reach the hospital. He survived the trip, improving with medical care and prayer. However, to the dismay of his encouraged wife, the village head came to bring them home without exception. They returned, and the witch doctor again treated him. The man relapsed and slipped into eternity, leaving his family without a husband, father, provider, or protector.

The family was devastated, and the pain was still present on their faces. Now, the little boy needed treatment and also surgery for his hernia. Both were too expensive for the family, and the village head wouldn't even allow them to go. Beliefs that the hospital was occupied with ghosts, and other fearful myths confined people to their villages, left with witch doctors and outdated remedies that could potentially harm them.

This situation was common in the villages we visited. Many had lives devastated by lack of medical care, immunizations, and malnutrition, with diagnoses of TB, malaria, rubella, etc, which have been eradicated in the USA decades ago. At the end of each clinic, the team visits several homes to pray for the families. We visited the young family above, and the mother stated, "Please, just pray for the children." All were lifted to God in prayer.

While leaving, the villagers thanked us profusely and apologized for their "poor state." Villagers gathered near the river to see us off, including the boy and his family. Never will we forget their faces, especially the mother's, lifeless and hopeless. Our hearts broke for them and many others during our three weeks there, but we were comforted knowing that spiritual seeds are being sown in fertile ground. Silently we ventured back through the jungle's narrow, muddy river to another island, praying for those people's salvation. May God bless World Relief for supporting believers in Christ thousands of miles across the world. Lives are being changed!

~ SUBMITTED BY
BRO. SHAYNE AND SIS. EMILY FEHR

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

To sponsor a student fill out this form and send to the office. A student will be assigned to you and you will be sent further information.

Name _____

Mr. Mrs. Miss

Spouse _____

Address _____

City _____ St ____ Zip _____

Home Ph _____

Cell Ph _____

Email _____

Please check preference:

Haiti Guatemala

Mexico Jamaica

Wherever needed

If possible I would prefer:

Boy - Age _____

Girl - Age _____

No Preference

Cost: \$25.00/month

For details: www.acworldrelief.org

Send to:

ACWR Child Sponsorship

PO Box 36

Morton, IL 61550

Phone: 309-266-6080

Fax: 309-266-5281

E-mail: childsponsorship@acwr.org



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
World Relief

www.acworldrelief.org

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

"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 "Right sizing" 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 to learn more about us, view job opportunities, current events and ways to help.

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDRENS HOME Jeff Waibel

"O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people."

Psalms 105:1

Gateway Woods is truly a blessed ministry. We are blessed by the opportunity that we have to minister to young people and their families, we are blessed to see God's faithfulness even in the most trying of situations, we are blessed by the prayers and support of a loving and giving church. Most of all we are blessed by God's continued hand in each of our lives as we learn to follow Him. The Psalms encourages us to make

known God's deeds and these are just a few of the many ways that God has worked here at Gateway Woods.

This month we would ask each of you to specifically pray for the ministry of Gateway Woods. Pray that the young people and families we minister to are truly open to God's work in their hearts, pray for each staff member in their responsibilities and duties in this service, and finally pray that God will continue to bless this ministry through all the storms of life. We believe that when you pray for us, you join us in this ministry and that God will bless you as well.

NEWS:

- Our quality workers and effective programs have produced increased demand and opportunities for us to share the love and model the truth of the gospel. Available workers from our membership allowed us to dramatically expand service provision in most programs. By the end of 2009, Gateway Woods served 392 clients through its five programs. Percent client growth from 2008 to 2009 is as follows: Foster Care 35%, Home-Based 206%, Residential Care 18%, and School 13%.

- We rejoiced with Bro. Paul and Sis. Nicole Suvar as they celebrated the birth of their daughter, Madeline Nichole, on February 1. Madeline weighed 6 lbs. 3 oz. and was 19 inches long. Praise God for new life!

- Our annual Representatives' Meeting took place on Saturday, March 13, here on campus. This event provides a great opportunity for our Representatives to be more informed about Gateway Woods and to have a chance to hear some life-changing testimonies and stories from Staff, residents, and the families we serve. We are very grateful for our Representatives' active support in promoting God's work at Gateway Woods!

- Praise God that He continues to provide us with the right Staff. We currently have two career positions open at Gateway Woods: Math Teacher and IL Adoption Manager. Please see the notices in this month's edition of The Silver Lining for more information. We

trust that God will continue to provide us with qualified, mature Brothers and Sisters who will be able to serve Him in a ministry that is 'Turning Lives Around'. Perhaps this includes you!

- You are an important advocate to help us spread the word about God's work at Gateway Woods. Please continue to lift us up in prayer, check our website www.gatewaywoods.org often for updates, and make sure that you're on our mailing list. In an effort to be as efficient as possible we are gathering as many email addresses as we can for our E-Post. Please send a message to mail@gatewaywoods.org.

Please mark your calendar for our 2010 Annual Benefit Auction on Saturday, August 7.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL Athens, Alabama Sarah Hodel

Spring has almost sprung round these parts! We had a taste of some beautiful spring weather and were able to finally get outside again after a long and cold winter. The kids were thrilled to be able to go run around and burn off their energy.

We also had a lot of excitement when we had our Valentine's Day party. They love to give their friends cards and candy and they love to see just how many cards and candy they can collect!

Usually in our classroom there is a stack of books checked out from the library. The kids know that they don't get to look at them by themselves very often because we don't want to return a bunch of damaged books. They do know, however, that once in a great while, when there's only a few kids around or they're being really good that they might be able to sit down and read one by themselves. One particularly chaotic day they had asked (again) if they could look at the library books. They were told (again) "No, only once in a great while can you do that." One of the little boys was gazing longingly at the stack of books and said with a heavy sigh "When is it going to be a great

while?"

While putting shoes on one day after a nap, one of our boys was trying to learn which foot was which. He pointed to his right foot and said "This is the right one." He was given confirmation that he was right and then pointed to his left foot and said "And this is the wrong one!"

Some may have heard of those fundraisers where you can call someone in to be arrested and they have to post a certain amount of bail that goes to an organization if they want to go free. Well, Relay for Life was having such a fundraiser and someone had secretly called in and put Miss Cassie's name on the list. The police showed up to arrest her and take her away to jail where she was given a doughnut and a jail cell. She was only gone about an hour, but boy we sure had a lot of explaining to do that evening when the kids kept telling their parents that Miss Cassie went to jail!

ALABAMA, ATHENS Louise Hall

The first weekend of February brought us some visitors as our very small young group had an invite. We had around 25 people come from several different churches. Thank you to all who came and blessed us with your fellowship, along with the work projects you got done. We truly loved and appreciated having you here. Bro. Scott Wegman from Taylor was here that weekend to share with the young group and we thank him for his services as well.

Also bringing us the Word this month was Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit) and Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction). Bro. Sam and Sis. Linda bless us each year by coming and spending a couple weeks with us. They add a special element to our small church and we are thankful for them.

We have been keeping our hospital patients in our prayers. Roslyn Coulter had knee surgery and Bro. Tim Hall had shoulder surgery. We are prayerful for a speedy recovery.

We had a meeting where we elected Bro. David Coulter as our new trustee.

We rejoice in the birth of little Cameron Jude Everhardt. Karman Haggemaker and Christopher Everhardt are his parents. Cameron is the first grandchild of Jim and Bessie Haggemaker and a great-grandson of Bro. Ed Haggemaker. Congratulations!

ARIZONA, PHOENIX Heather Hinrichsen

Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS), Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI), Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Bro. Randy Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and Bro. Neil Ramseyer (Bay City, MI) shared God's Word with us this month and we are grateful for their willingness to serve.

Sis. Deanne DeVlieger and Sis. Marilyn Zeltwanger had medical procedures done and Bro. Ed Frautschi and Sis. LouAnn Klopfenstein had surgery. We pray for God's healing touch and comforting arms to surround them and their families.

The engagement of Bro. Clarence Beyer and Sis. Deanna DeVlieger was made known to the church. We wish them God's blessings.

The Phoenix Sunday School hosted the Altadena, San Diego and Tucson Bible Classes. We thank all the teachers and parents involved that made the weekend a memorable experience for the kids.

We continue to keep the people of Haiti in our thoughts and prayers as well as the various mission teams helping with the recovery effort.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT Denise Steidinger

What is the secret to joy? We were exhorted this past month the answer in Psalm 16:8-9, "I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in

hope."

We have been blessed this past month with many visiting ministers: Bro. Mark Gerber (Sis. Barb, Bluffton), Bro. Seth Gerber (Magdalena), Bro. Fred Funk (Sis. Diane, Morton), Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo), Bro. Nelson Beer (Milford), Bro. Keith Hinrichsen (Sis. Tammy, Phoenix) and Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Sis. Nancy, Phoenix, came twice).

We resumed our Bible Study on Galatians 5 and the works of the flesh, and thank our Elder Bro. Jon and Sis. Nancy for their love and commitment to our congregation.

At our annual business meeting, Bro. Tim Furrer was elected as Secretary/Trustee.

ARIZONA, TUCSON Lisa Knapp

Due to very human error, this column will cover January and February as it seems I neglected to write the Silver Lining in January! My apologies.

January was a busy and rainy month as we welcomed our winter visitors back and as always have the opportunity to meet and greet many brethren "passing thru" Tucson on their winter travels.

The last weekend in January, the Peoria Choir visited the Tucson area and sang for us. Their number was smaller than usual, but their music was very beautiful to us. It was a Sunday filled with worship, music, fellowship and good food.

We have been blessed with many visiting ministers the past few weeks. Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix) was with us to help us prepare for Communion in March. It's always a pleasure to have him and Sis. Nancy with us. On a recent Wednesday evening, we were visited by Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN), Bro. Ron Allenbach (Kiowa, KS) who will be with us for an extended period this winter, and Bro. Fred Funk (Morton) and his wife, Sis. Diane, who lived in Tucson for many years. It was an abundance of riches and we thank them all for their service on the pulpit

on our behalf. The following Sunday, we welcomed Bro. Ron Joos (Bloomfield, IA) and were blessed by his willingness to serve us by sharing the Word. We want to thank all these brothers and their wives for their love and efforts.

That same Sunday, our Bible Class students were in Phoenix enjoying a weekend of fellowship with the Phoenix and Altadena Bible Classes. The report was familiar: good fun, good food, great fellowship! Many, many thanks to the Phoenix Sunday School for hosting such a wonderful weekend for our children!

February started out rainy (which we love but our winter visitors don't!) but we have settled into beautiful days with highs in the 70's and a lot of that familiar Arizona sunshine. We anticipate a beautiful spring due to all the rainfall we enjoyed (and needed!) this winter.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA Daniel Luthi

Bro. Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN) were our visiting ministers this month. We thank them for their willingness to serve us from the pulpit.

Retired Elder Bro. John Klotzle (Sis. Lois) recently celebrated his 80th birthday. We congratulate him, and wish him God's blessings. What a blessing it is to be around older brothers and sisters who have gone before us and set good, Godly examples of faithful lives for us younger ones! Bro. John's children were present out here to help him celebrate the occasion.

Believing it is God's will, Sis. Shirley Luthi and Bro. John Cox (Washington, IL) announced their marriage engagement. As a part of the family, I extend sincere appreciation for the many prayers for both of our families as time moves forward and preparations are made for a July wedding.

We continue to pray for Bro. Clarence Graf as he continues to recover from his recent illness. May he feel the Lord's nearness as time moves forward.

Note of Thanks:

It was such a blessing to receive so many wonderful cards and messages for my 80th birthday. Much love was felt and memories renewed of past years of serving the Lord together.

Thank you and God bless you.

Bro. John Klotzle

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO**Yasmin Koehl**

We were thankful for an abundance of visitors this past month. Included amongst our visitors were ministering brothers with their wives: Bros. Tim Zimmerman (Lamont/Gridley, KS), Mike Rieker (Peoria, IL) and Gary Endress (Bradford, IL). May God richly bless these brothers for their love and efforts on our behalves.

Sis. Mary Thiem recently underwent surgery, but now has recovered well and we're thankful to have her in our midst again.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our visitors who've recently assembled with us. It's been a blessing and an encouragement to our congregation.

As a brotherhood, we share a very precious bond where we can greet a brother or sister with a holy kiss and then ask their name afterwards. That precious bond is Jesus, our Lord and Savior. May we all do our part to be obedient in even the small things with cheerfulness in our hearts, so that we can forever be blessed by this treasured gift God has given us until He returns in the heavens above.

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

We're thankful for the safe arrival of our Ursu brothers and sisters: Mike, Barb, Naomi and Jesse. They went to Texas with others on a mission trip to help rebuild houses destroyed in a fire. While they were in Texas, we had managed to get a live sermon from Detroit. We had the microphone from church held up to the telephone that was dialed

to the call-in-service in Detroit. What a wonderful invention and blessing for us!

Other ministers that came this month were Bro. Mark Steiner (Sis. Sue, Smithville), Bro. Dale Banwart (Sis. Missy, Congerville) and Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit) who went through the 2009 Memorandum. "Wherefore, my beloved as ye have always obeyed not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure." (Phil. 2:12-13)

Bro. Phil Rassi's temporary work in our area will soon be over. He has been with us for two years and we have enjoyed when he 'stayed at home' for the weekend. He was also our song leader and will be missed by us all. Bro. Phil, we wish you all the best as you return to your home in Kansas City.

COLORADO, DENVER**Ann Gonglach**

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

Genesis 2:18

Sis. Kristy Schmidt (Bro. Rod and Sis. Cindy) has agreed to become a help meet to Bro. Matthew Moore of Athens, AL. May God guide and bless them as they plan a June wedding.

We held our annual business meeting and Bro. Mike Martin was re-elected as trustee, Bro. Brian Pfeiffer and Sis. Lanette Meyer were re-elected as Sunday school teachers, and Sis. BethAnn Martin was appointed to World Relief sewing. We're thankful for their willingness to serve.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE**Bonnie Bahler
Laura Virkler**

Now thank we all our God, with heart

and hands and voices
Who wondrous things has done, in
whom the world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms, has
blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is
ours today
Zion's Harp #236

Our congregation is rejoicing with several families that have welcomed precious babies into their homes. On January 31, Ian Ernest was born to Bro. Ben and Sis. Carla Lanz. Adrienne is excited to be the big sister. Bro. Sherman and Sis. Joanne Lanz and Bro. Terry and Sis. Cindy Virkler are his grandparents.

Lena Lynn was born on February 1 to Bro. Jon and Sis. Angie Moser. Ethan, Ella, Anna and Abram are excited to have a new sister. Grandparents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Glenna Moser and Bro. Rolyce and Sis. Lori Scheitlin (Remington, IN).

First-time parents are Mark and Carolyn Lagassie, welcoming little Emily Carol into their hearts on February 6. Larry and Barbara Lagassie and Ken and Sis. Jan Boynton are the happy grandparents.

Meredith Anne joined the family of Bro. Ben and Sis. Amber Rocke on February 8. Tristan and Myra are happy for a little playmate. Grandparents are Bro. Robyn and Sis. Jan Rocke (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Duane and Sis. Kay Reutter.

Bro. Nathan and Sis. Mary Hoffman are the thankful parents of Javen Trace born on February 22. Levi and Kaitlyn are looking forward to having a new brother to play with. Bro. Mike and Luann Hoffman and Bro. Matt and Sis. Gail Steiner (Rittman, OH) are his grandparents. We are thankful for these precious children and may the Lord give these parents wisdom in raising them.

January 23 was the wedding day for Jeff Luginbuhl and Kim Browne. We wish this couple much joy in their married life together. Their parents are Bro. Chet and Sis. Pam Luginbuhl and Marion Browne.

We are thankful to have Bro. Robert Luginbuhl assembling with us again after spending some time in the hospital.

A sincere welcome is extended to Bro. Brad and Sis. Deanna Wiegand and their two little daughters, Kayleigh and Kenzie, and also to Sis. Amanda Virkler as they have relocated from Congerville. We hope they will feel welcome as Rockville becomes their new church.

Our hearts go out to Bro. Rudy and Sis. Susan Virkler and their family as Bro. Rudy's mom, Sis. Charlotte Virkler (Croghan/Naumburg), went on to her eternal reward. We have many precious memories of her visits here. May God bless and give extra strength to this dear family.

We are thankful that Sis. Beth Gottier is home safely, after spending over a week in Haiti, helping those who are in such dire need. We pray for those Haitian people who have met with such devastation. Let us not forget to pray for them daily.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WASHINGTON Henrietta Meyer

Our caretakers for January were Bro. Dean and Sis. Dawn Herrmann and family from Princeville, IL. Our caretakers for February were Bro. Robert and Sis. Mary Herrmann and sons from Princeville. They got a real taste of the "Blizzard of 2010"; the street wasn't plowed for several days and they were without heat for a few days, finally going to a hotel.

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

Matthew 5:4

We extend our sympathy to Katherine and Richard Litow of Ann Arbor, MI; Rob and Susan Welk of Richmond, VA; and Margaret and Morgan Cundiff of Arlington, VA; children of our dear friend Robert Welk. After a long and courageous battle, Bob passed away on February 1. Funeral services and burial were in Morton, IL, on February 6. A

memorial service was held in Falls Church, VA, on February 20.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Glen Braker (Sis. Audrey, Princeville, IL), Bro. Alan Schambach (Sis. Sarah, Remington, IN), Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL) and Bro. Gene Metzger (Sis. Dolores, Lester, IA). Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA) joined us via telephone for our business meeting. The last two times Bro. Ben has planned to visit we have had to cancel services due to the snow.

Other visitors this month were from Bluffton, IN, and Princeville, Bradford and Forrest, IL.

We are trying to develop a more up-to-date list of those in the greater Washington, DC area (Baltimore, MD to Richmond, VA) with a tie to the Apostolic Christian Church. You can let us know by contacting those listed below, the contact in the ministers' book or our Elder, Bro. Ben Wiegand.

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

FLORIDA FORT LAUDERDALE Renee Mangold

This has been a very busy and spirit filled month in Ft. Lauderdale, as we dedicated our newly remodeled church. We also had Communion served by Elder Bro. Earl Ringger, and heard the Memorandum as well. We appreciate the encouragement to build on our spiritual walk. What a blessing to have such uplifting events. We are also enjoying our winter residents and visitors, and appreciate their support and contribution to our services.

Bro. Roger Sauder reminded us of the devastation and need in Haiti, and our opportunity to help where we can.

Several teams have passed through our area to provide help and relief. We have a large number of Haitian people in our general area and many of us know people who have close relatives and friends that have been affected. It has been very difficult for them, as a people, and we feel it especially here in south Florida.

Our visiting ministers this month include Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL), Bro. Virgil Kaeb (Sis. Suellen, Sarasota, FL), Bro. Fred Domka (Sis. Connie, Mansfield, OH), Bro. Earl Berry (Sis. Suzanne, Rittman, OH), Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie, Elgin, IL) and Bro. Gene Lehman (Sis. Verna, Wolcott, IN). Thank you to each for their willingness to come and be with us.

Sis. Sally Gress has had surgery and is recovering and back with us and we are grateful to have her in attendance again.

FLORIDA NORTH FORT MYERS Victor Beer

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary Masters this last week, as Sis. Mary's mother, Sis. Mary Plattner, passed away. Her passing away will leave a void in the family of many grandchildren, and we that enjoyed her during her visits to Fort Myers. We pray God's comfort to the family in this time of grief.

This last month we were wonderfully blessed from the ministry of Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie, Elgin, IL). These mid-week services are always a blessing, even though many of our folks drive quite a few miles to attend them.

We were reminded again this last month of our short span of life in the death of the wife of Bro. Don Stoller, our Sis. Mary Ann. Although her health had been less than she desired, her presence was always appreciated, as she had a friendliness we all loved. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Bro. Don and her family.

Our best wishes for better health goes out to Bro. Paul Zehr, as Sis. Wilma

attends to his welfare.

This winter we have had our share of cold weather, but still lots of warm days. Some think we are at the end of the earth down here in southwest Florida, but we are really in the tropics, and the sun shines every day in our winter paradise.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA

DiAnne Brown

Cheerful Spring Greetings! Each season testifies to the greatness of God, but spring is extra convincing. It could be emerging from a particularly cruel winter, or perhaps the anxious anticipation of the first green sprig or bud, or almost certainly the arrival of so many new creatures, great and small. My husband has several nesting ducks on his mail route and we enjoy his daily reports on the egg count or news of hatchlings. With so many fresh beginnings and rebirths, how could Easter be in any other season?

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

Eccles. 3:2

Feeling led by God, our dear Elder Bro. Dale (Sis. Judy) Eisenmann announced plans to retire from the eldership later this year, Lord willing. Our family arrived in Sarasota the same year Bro. Dale began serving as Elder here, and he guided all four of us through repentance and baptism. We've been blessed to witness firsthand how this humble servant serves with his whole heart. Although it's hard to face the end of a season, we trust God is just beginning another season of opportunity to serve for these beloveds, and we wish them every divine blessing.

Several Elder brothers will be assisting Bro. Dale and our church in the next couple of months as we seek the Lord's direction regarding future shepherding of this flock. Your prayers for this work and for dear Elder Bro. Dale and Sis. Judy and the Sarasota congregation in

coming months would avail much and be highly coveted. We pray the will of God will be keenly evident and obeyed, as well as a smooth transition into this new season for our beloved congregation.

A card shower was held for Bro. Ernie and Lucy Buser who celebrated their Golden 50th Wedding Anniversary in February. What a testament to love and commitment they witness to all who know them. May God bless them with many more years together.

Sis. Marie (Bro. Art) Keller has returned home after an extended stay in Venice Hospital. She continues to recover slowly and would appreciate your continued prayers for healing and a return to health. A note of encouragement would mean so much. Her address is:

*Mrs. Marie Keller
791 Taplow Road
Venice FL 34293*

Our cup runneth over! During the month of February, our pulpit was blessed by visiting ministers: Bro. Tom Bahler (Sis. Lanae, Rockville, CT); Bro. Bill Masters (Sis. Mary, N. Ft. Myers, FL); Bro. Gary Endress (Sis. Evelyn, Bradford, IL); Bro. Ed Fritz (Sis. Sally, Washington, IL); Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North, IN); Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL); Bro. Ken Schneider (Sis. Bernice, Remington, IN); Bro. Daron Price (Sis. Monica, Milford, IN); Bro. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN); Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO); Bro. Ron Steiner (Sis. Ruth, Rittman, OH); and Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann), Bro. Mark Steiner (Sis. Sue) and Bro. Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda), all from Smithville, OH.

We've all heard news of over 500,000 lives lost in recent disasters. We have no promise of tomorrow. Has there ever been a better time to consider making a new beginning? To accept the gift of eternal life from the Living God? May this be the season of rebirth for you or someone you love.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

“He hath made everything beautiful in his time...”

Ecclesiastes 3:11

We are very sad the time has come for Bro. Mark and Sis. Julie, Miranda, Rachel, Luke and Reed Maibach to leave our church family here in Atlanta, but we are very excited to see the beautiful things God has in store for them in Leo, IN! Bro. Mark will be serving the Lord at Gateway Woods. The Maibach family was a great joy to the Atlanta church and they will certainly be missed by all.

“...and a time to heal”

Ecclesiastes 3:3

Bro. Brad West had hernia surgery this month and is recovering well.

Our church family was blessed by ministering Bro. Gene Metzger (Lester, IA) and Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN).

“I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be forever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him. That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past.”

Ecclesiastes 3:14-15

What a beautiful promise we have that what God does shall be forever! May we seek to fear the Lord with godly fear as we have the promise He will never change! Praise be to God for His unspeakable gift!

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

Jenn Johnson

Doreen Moser

Sunshine! Sunshine!
I've got a different kind of Sonshine!
Sunshine! Sunshine!
I've got a different kind of Son!
“Rainy Day”

*by Andy Davis & Kathy Salerno
(Bullfrogs & Butterflies)*

As we so eagerly await the arrival of spring and the warmth of the sun, I can't help but think of the above children's song. We really do have a different kind of Sonshine, in Jesus Christ, that proves to be much more powerful than the sun's meager rays that we are so used to here below.

We were blessed to be able to gather with the Elgin congregation on January 23 to hear the reading of the Memorandum from the Conference.

Bro. Art Mueller led a work team to Haiti the week of February 5-12. We are thankful for their safe travels and are glad to have Bro. Art back home.

The monthly hymn sing was held at Bro. Dean and Sis. Carol Steffen's house this past month. It is always a pleasure to fellowship and "make a joyful noise" unto the Lord. On the same note, the Bible Class traveled to Bloomington to sing in ACYF on February 14.

As we are nearing the time of Jesus' death and looking forward to Holy Communion, we were exhorted by Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Sis. Nancy, Elgin, IL) to clean the leaven out of our spiritual houses as the Israelites were instructed to do some many years ago at Passover. We would also like to thank Bro. Dave Steffen (Sis. Linda) for ministering to us that same day.

**ILLINOIS
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL**
Heidi Rinkenberger
Jacki Masters

The beginning of the year is a time for fresh starts and new beginnings, and this year is no different. We are so very thankful for the new grace the Lord gives every day and for his blessings upon our lives and upon our Church.

We have two new converts this month, Marvin and Rita Wenger. We rejoice with them as they draw closer to the Lord through this new journey.

We were blessed with a baptism weekend for Bro. Mike and Sis. Annie

Balch on February 6-7. Bro. Mike and Sis. Annie have four children: Johnathan, Elizabeth, Katheryn and Rebecca. We are rejoicing with their family.

An engagement is always a time of celebration and we give thanks to the Lord for Sis. Casey Nussbaum (Bro. Jay and Sis. Ann) and Bro. Tyler Zimmerman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Nancy) who announced their engagement January 17 and are planning a wedding on June 27.

There were three new babies born in January. Bro. Rocky and Sis. Sharon O'Shea welcomed Anya Noelle into their family on January 3. Her brothers are Rocky and Dayn. Grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Wilma Kieser (Bloomington) and Bro. Tom and Sis. Jean O'Shea (Chicago).

Willow Rose Brim is the fourth girl added to Bro. Trace and Sis. Denise Brim's family on January 15. Her sisters are Autumn, Charity and Felicity. Grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Wilma Kieser (Bloomington) and Mark Brim (Florida) and Sis. Barb Brim (Bloomington).

Bro. Matt and Sis. Rebekah Kaufmann welcomed their fourth, Garrison Wayne, on January 25. Welcomed by brother Joshua and sisters, Darci and Aria. Grandparents are Hisato and Rika Inoue (Bloomington) and the late Sis. Kathie Inoue and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Bonnie Kaufmann (Bloomington).

Bro. Jason and Sis. Debbie Slagel have recently started attending Bloomington. They were recently married and have decided to worship with us and we are excited to have them.

Bloomington Bible Class hosted the Apostolic Christian Youth Fellowship weekend on February 14. Bro. Brad Metz gave the message and all were blessed who were able to attend.

We look forward to all this new year has in store, and pray the Lord will be with us and guide us through every step.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Philip and Donna Nenadov

"Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city."

Revelations 22:14

Our visiting ministers for this month were Bros. Fred Funk (Sis. Diane, Morton) and Steve Stieglitz (Sis. Jane, Leo). We thank them for sharing the Word of Life with us.

Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Sis. Sandy, Eureka) helped Bro. Bruce in reading the Memorandum to our local brotherhood. May the Lord bless them for their efforts.

Those mending from physical ailments this month were Bro. Denny Endress and Jenifer Kieser (Joe and Geri).

The Lord has blessed two couples in allowing them the opportunity to reach special anniversary milestones. Bro. Roy and Sis. Donna Ehnle celebrated 60 years of married life together, while Bro. Jerry and Sis. Wilma Kieser enjoyed 50 years together. May God continue to bless them in their lives and Christian examples.

God be with you 'til we meet again.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN
Jackie Eisenmann

Appreciation: Webster defines it as an "expression of admiration, approval, or gratitude." Do we always take time to show the appreciation to others God has given us who bless us and make a difference in our lives? God's Word has many beautiful expressions of appreciation or gratitude for others. "The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace." (Numbers 6:24-26)

The weekend of February 6-7, our college students hosted an appreciation dinner and singing. Many of their parents were able to come and spend the

weekend with us. The students showed appreciation to their parents who have done so much to support and nurture their children throughout their entire lives. Appreciation was also made for the support the Champaign church gives to them while the students are away from home pursuing their education. It was a wonderful weekend full of fellowship. We were blessed by two of the "dads" who were willing to be used to preach God's Word on the pulpit. Thanks and appreciation goes to Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Glen Braker (Princeville, IL) for their willingness.

Bro. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL) was with us for Wednesday, February 3. We thank Bro. Dan for his service to us in bringing forth God's Word. May the Lord bless him.

We are experiencing appreciation and excitement in a recent engagement. Our Bro. Aaron Walder (Bro. Art and Sis. Kim) has become engaged to our Sis. Heather Messner (Elder Bro. Ron and Sis. Pam, Washington, IL). Engagements don't happen often in our little church, but this is especially exciting for us since we know and love both of them since they are both from our Champaign church! We rejoice how God has worked in Heather and Aaron's lives, and we are confident He will continue to bless them! We look forward to their May wedding!

Our Champaign church was blessed by Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL) speaking God's Word to us on Wednesday, February 24. We thank Bro. Rick for his willingness to be used by God in bringing forth the Good News.

Bro. David and Sis. Jackie Eisenmann and their family are sorrowing over the loss of Jackie's dear grandmother. Grandparents truly hold very special places in all of our hearts, and it is always difficult to see them go. But what a blessing grandparents can be! God can use a grandparent's love and influence in special ways to touch the hearts of their grandchildren.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Julie Eisenmann

It is always special to have visiting ministers to share with us the precious gospel message. We thank Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan, Winthrop) and Bro. Erik Givens (Sis. Debbie, Princeville) for laboring in our congregation.

Sis. LaVirra Lehman recently underwent cataract surgery. Sis. Betty Schlatter also had surgery and is recovering. Please join us in praying for these two sisters.

Our prayers go out to Bro. Paul Leman (Sis. Milli) as he mourns the death of his sister, Sis. Mary Ann Leman Klaus Stoller.

It was a blessing to host another Elder Forum this winter. We are so thankful for the time and effort that our shepherds set forth on our behalf.

Our annual Business Meeting was held January 27. We thank all those who willingly serve our congregation, so we can have the privilege of worshipping in Chicago church.

We rejoice with Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla Rassi as they welcome another grandson, Ashton David, born to Bro. Nathan and Sis. Michelle Rassi (St. Louis). Ashton's maternal grandparents are Bro. Walt and Sis. Lynda Beery (Rittman).

Sis. Rachel Meyer (Bro. Rick) returned from Bangladesh, and we praise the Lord for safe traveling and that she has returned home. She will resume her position as Silver Lining reporter next month.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Vickie Maul Marilyn Maul

Celebrating the wonderful gifts from God are grandparents, Bro. Max and Sis. Beth Kaeb, as Tyson Maxwell was born to their daughter and son-in-law, Bro. Will and Sis. Joanna Manz of Junction, OH. Also, Sis. Judy Edelman gained a grandson, Jonah Martin Yergler, son of Jared and Julie.

Brothers James and Joel also welcome him home.

Prayers of healing are being offered for the sick in the church. We are happy that even though Seth Kaeb (Terry and Sis. Jo Kaeb) was in the hospital, he is now again able to be back in church. Sis. Carolyn Hari (Bro. Marvin) had surgery and is recuperating at Illinois Knights Templar Home in Paxton. Bro. Gerry Farney (Sis. Geraldine) again has had heart problems and is now recuperating at home.

February is the month of Valentine's Day and we often think of love. As the friendship love has turned into a marriage love, we rejoice with Julie Rudin and Mark Sadorus on their February 14 wedding. Julie is the daughter of Bro. Gerald and Sis. Joan Rudin.

As we were recently reminded to appreciate our brethren, we do appreciate all the labors of our Elders as they met at West Bend to make the decisions for the care of the church. May we all continue to pray for them as they oftentimes have difficult decisions to make.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Holly Zobrist

We are rejoicing with Bro. Bob and Sis. Lisa Hartman as their daughter, Abby, has made the decision to repent for her sins and live for the Lord. It is always such a blessing to hear of another soul who has made that decision and our prayers are with her.

Our new Sunday school teachers this year are Bro. James Kieser (Sis. Jennifer), Bro. Scott Stickling (Sis. Jan), Sis. Jenny Walder (Bro. Brian), Sis. Michelle Miller (Bro. Chris), and Sis. Rachel Knapp. Our new usher is Bro. Larry Wettstein. May God bless these brothers and sisters for being willing to allow God to use them.

We'd like to thank Bro. Wayne Wiegand (Sis. Rosemary, Goodfield) and Bro. Greg Stoller (Sis. Jill, Forrest) for bringing God's Word to us this past month.

Bro. Derek and Sis. Rebecca Rassi recently welcomed Thadd Michael into

this world. His siblings include Bonnie, Emily, and Beau. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Diane Rassi (Austin) and Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill Stoller (Forrest).

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

**Amy Gasser
Miriam Gasser**

At our annual business meeting on January 20, Bro. Scott Heiniger was elected as Church Trustee, Bro. Tim Braun as Fellowship Center Trustee, and Bro. Eric Schieler as a director of the Resthaven Board. Bro. Ron thanked the outgoing brothers for their years of service.

On January 23, Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) assisted Bro. Ron in reading the Memorandum. It was a blessed evening, and we thank both of them for reminding and exhorting us in the ways of truth. Bro. Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL) visited on Sunday and shared the services with Bro. Ken.

Our freshmen through senior classes enjoyed hosting Sunday School students from Fairbury, the weekend of January 30-31. Church friendships made in youth often last a lifetime.

Brienne Martin (Ben) has come under conviction and expressed her need for repentance. We are encouraged that the Spirit is still working in troubled hearts and pray that Brienne will grow in the knowledge and understanding of God's will for her life.

Alison Weiss (Bro. Roger and Sis. Karen) and John Sweet announced their engagement and are planning an August wedding. May they seek counsel of God as they begin a life of commitment to one another.

An ACCFS Marriage Seminar was held on February 13 at the Fellowship Center. Whether providing new instruction to some or serving as a refresher to others, the meeting was worthwhile in reinforcing this sacred relationship.

We are thankful that Sis. Lyla Schock has been granted healing and

strength to assemble with us again. Her presence has always been an encouragement and blessing.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

**Dee Baer
Jodi Blunier**

Miriam Grace Wiegand was welcomed into the hearts and home of Bro. Nate and Sis. Cheryl, Reuben, Trina, and Franz Wiegand in Nieder-eisenhausen, Germany, where they are temporarily living. Grandparents are Bro. Stan and Sis. Lola Stoller and Dale and Sis. Freidora Wiegand of Eureka. Trevan Lyle Metzger joined the family of Bro. Clint and Sis. Kayla, Ryan, Kierra and Brenna Metzger. Grandparents are Bro. Harlan and Sis. Shirley Metzger and Kent and Sis. Beth Steffen (Congerville).

Sympathy has been extended to Sis. Nathalia (Bro. Allan) Getz who mourned the death of her brother, Bro. Melvin (Sis. Irene) Stoller, of Latty, OH.

Prayers for the sick have included Sis. Eunice Martin, Sis. Arlene Huette, Sis. Ethel (Bro. Harold) Schmidtgall, Bro. Brent (Sis. Trudy) Blunier, and Bro. Ben (Sis. Wilma) Blunier.

We have appreciated visits from brothers who shared the pulpit: Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (San Diego, CA) and Bro. Tony Manz (Junction, OH).

The past year has held many changes in many places and ways. Our church has experienced a pivotal change as our esteemed Elder Bro. Ervin (Sis. Sandy) Knecht announced his retirement from the ministry and as our Elder.

He was given duties in the ministry in Eureka in 1989, and was ordained Elder of Eureka Church in August, 1992. We are most appreciative of his humble love for God and the church, and, his many faithful labors and sacrifices on behalf of the church. May God reward and bless him with peace and nearness.

We are thankful for God's provisions for ongoing shepherding as Bro. Steve (Sis. Vicki) Martin was ordained as our

Elder on February 21. He has been our Ordained Deacon for the past two years. May God mightily inspire him with courage, wisdom and discernment as he takes up the mantle of leadership. Elder brothers here to help in the ordination service were Elder Bros. Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA), Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), and Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL).

Bro. Melvin and Sis. Irma Walder have moved to Eureka and are worshipping with us. We heartily welcome them.

We sang farewell wishes to Bro. Mark and Sis. Danielle Wiegand and children, Travis and Blake, as they have felt moved to relocate to the Bloomfield, IA, congregation.

The reporters apologize to Sis. Marilyn (Bro. Virgil) Graf for misprinting her name last month.

Note of Thanks:

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Eureka Church family,

We would like to thank everyone for your love and support at the time of Jerry's passing. The prayers, cards, notes of encouragement and the memorials on his behalf were overwhelming. We love each one of you.

Sis. Jane Schumacher, Bro. Steve and Sis. Jill Aeschleman, Bro. Rich and Sis. Julie Lindberg, Bro. Jeff and Sis. Tina Schumacher, Jim and Lynette Schumacher, and Joan and CL Szelove

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all who have helped us so much by your kind deeds, gifts, cards, encouraging words, and continued prayers during the illness and passing of our dear, beloved wife and mom, Sis. Carolyn. May God richly bless each of you.

Bro. Mark Hoerr and Family

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

**Angela Herr
Anna Schmidgall**

It was encouraging and uplifting to hear the testimonies and witness the

baptisms of our new Bro. Melvin Zimmerman and Sis. Arlene Walter on January 20. God truly works in the hearts of people no matter the age. We pray for His richest blessings upon them always.

We are thankful to hear Traci Bunch (Curtis) is repenting. May God bless her, her husband, and two little children as she begins her walk with Him.

God's work in the hearts of His children is again evident as we heard the engagement of Sis. Kristin Schmidgall (Bro. Bill and Sis. Anna) to Bro. Blake Zehr (Bro. Quinn and Sis. Joan) on February 7. We are thankful for God's leading in their lives.

Visiting ministers this month were: Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), and Bros. Dennis Rassi (Austin, TX), Gary Brown (Forrest, IL), James Knapp (Congerville, IL), Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN), Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL), and Al Schambach (Remington, IN). We often lift up our ministers in prayer.

We gathered with the Forrest brethren on February 13 to hear the reading of the Memorandum. Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) assisted Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) and our Elder Bro. Rick Plattner in this work. We thank each of these brothers for their kind exhortations and labors of love on behalf of our precious faith.

Several in our congregation have recently spent time in the hospital, including Bro. Dick Wiegand (Sis. Betty), Sis. Marguerite Bauer, Sis. Karen Stoller (Bro. Rich), Bro. Tom Steidinger (Sis. Dianne), and Sis. Ione Broquard (Bro. Donald). Our prayers are with them as they recover.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

Lynn Dotterer

Lisa Aberle

On the weekend of January 23-24, Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA) assisted our Elder Bro. Marvin to add a new brother and two new sisters to the fold. They are Bro. Pete Walter (LaRae), Sis. Jenna Dotterer (Sis. Kathy and the late Bro. Wendell) and

Sis. Heidi Edelman (Warren and Sis. Cindy). We thank Bro. Ben for being with us for this special event.

We also thank our Elder Bros. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL) who were here for the reading of the Memorandum. May we also strive to support our Elder body.

In addition to these brothers, we also appreciated the work of several visiting ministers. They were: Bros. Bill Dotterer (Lamar, MO), Joe Dotterer (Bloomfield, IA), Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL), Darren Fehr (West Bend, IA), Bruce Frank (Cissna Park, IL), David Hartter (Sabetha, KS), Paul Kilgus (Fairbury, IL), Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL), Mark Schmidgall (Eureka, IL), Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL), and Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL).

Bro. Gary Leman (Bro. Phil and Charlotte) and Sis. Betsy Steidinger (Bro. Glen and Sis. Holly) were united in Holy Matrimony on February 7. Several couples recently announced their upcoming weddings, Lord willing. They are Bro. Jeremiah Rinkenberger (Keith and Sue, Forrest, IL) and Sis. Larissa Steidinger (Bro. Glen and Sis. Holly); Bro. Sean Zimmerman (Bro. Rod and Sis. Micki) and Sis. Ashley Steidinger (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sheila); and Kyle Knapp (Bro. Harlan and Sis. Jean) and Carissa Slagel (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Kathy). As these couples have the adjustments that come with marriage, may they rely upon God and His infinite wisdom.

Also desiring God's wisdom as they endeavor to raise another child are Bro. Matthew and Sis. Katie Schneider. Lauren and Brett are big siblings who welcomed Luke Robert on February 4. His grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Sally Rinkenberger and Bro. Jim and Sis. Sandra Schneider.

We have several in our congregation who need our prayers for their physical conditions. Bro. Harry Johnson (Sis. Til), Sis. Marge Kuntz (Bro. Leland), and Dave Schmidgall have submitted to surgery. Our Bro. Ed Wenger (Sis. Renee) had surgery for cancer. Pres-

ently, Bro. Brian Ricketts (Sis. Marie) is undergoing treatments again in Mexico. Bro. Fred Leman (Sis. Brenda) also made a check-up trip to Mexico and we are thankful that they have returned with a good report. May all these loved ones feel our prayers.

Bob Mueller (Sis. Elaine) passed away suddenly on January 22. His children are Sis. Stephanie Kaeb (Bro. Eldon), Forrest, IL; Stephen Mueller (Tina), Pontiac, IL; Brian Mueller (Denise), Gridley, IL; and Keith Mueller (Danielle), Aventura, FL. Bob's siblings are Sis. Donna Edelman (Bro. Levi), Forrest, IL; Joanne Steidinger (Charles), Fairbury, IL; Nancy Steffen (Harvey), Phoenix, AZ; Bro. Ron Mueller (Sis. Loida), Forrest, IL; Charles Mueller, Bloomington, IL; Bro. Arthur Mueller (Sis. Marlene), Belvidere, IL; and one sister-in-law, Sis. Connie Mueller, Bloomington, IL.

Sis. Mary Ann Plattner died nearly a month later on February 17. She is survived by three sons, John Plattner (Tarry), Bloomington, IL; Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene), Princeville, IL; and Joseph Plattner (Julie), Bloomington, IL; and two daughters, Sis. Marlene Lau (Bro. Stephen), Chicago, IL; and Sis. Mary Masters (Bro. Bill), North Fort Myers, FL. We also extend sympathy to her remaining siblings: Mildred Allen (Fairbury, IL); Sis. Betty Nussbaum (Bro. Dean), Forrest, IL; Ruth Thiel, Denver, CO; and Royalene Toombs, Mahomet, IL. May God encourage and strengthen all these family members in the loss of their loved ones.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Donna Wyss

Rita Bauman

On February 13-14, our Bro. Ed Wiegand (Joanne) gave his testimony of faith and was baptized. We rejoice with his family.

Lord, let me continue ever
In this state, so richly blest,
Until death earth's bonds shall sever
And I enter into rest.

Zion's Harp #187

Bro. Phil and Sis. Kristin Wettstein and their precious children, Jessica, Elana, Kaylie, and Logan have moved here from Bloomfield, IA. We warmly welcome them and hope they will feel at home.

May the Lord bless Kelly Wiegand (Bro. Gale and Sis. Jane) as she plans to marry Jim Wellenreiter (Dan and Linda, Danvers) on May 15.

Our love and sympathy goes out to Sis. Lydia Hohulin (Bro. Bill) as her sister, Sis. Mary Ann Klaus Stoller (Bro. Don, Gridley), passed away in Fort Myers, FL. Her funeral was in Roanoke on February 5. Let us each remember "...that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope." (Romans 15:4)

We are thankful to report that Sis. Pat Kuntz (Bro. Dave) is doing well after her surgery. Sis. Carolyn Ott (Bro. Don), Sis. Sarah Melton, and Norm Ricketts (Sis. Barb) have had health issues. Sis. Shirley Debolt has been unable to attend church due to health reasons. We need to be prayerful for each one.

As we are blessed with the privilege to travel, we are thankful our ministers take advantage of this. May God bless Bros. Ted Hirstein (Sis. Joyce, Morton), Dan Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford, IN), Wayne Leman (Sis. Julie, Roanoke) and our counseling Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley).

"Now the God of peace be with you all."

Romans 16:33

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry A. Klopfenstein

At a family outing, I posed a question to my three-year-old grandson. It was this: "What does the Bible tell us?" He said, "To share, to be kind, and a lot of other things." From a three year-old's perspective, I was very satisfied, and inspired, by that answer.

Bro. Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN) was

a visiting minister here in January. By mistake, he was earlier referred to as Bro. Mark Steffen, and for this we are sorry. Surely, we appreciated his visit here on the New Year's weekend.

Sis. Ruth Gramm observed her 100th birthday on February 10. On a Saturday afternoon, a sizable crowd visited her at our Fellowship Hall for ice cream and cake. She is alert, and it is a blessing to visit with her. Sis. Ruth was a Bucher, and was married to Bro. Henry "Hank" Gramm for many years, prior to his death. She resides at the Eureka home.

The Memorandum was read to our Gridley congregation in late February. Here to help was Elder Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL). As believers, we all need admonition, guidance, and support; and we thank our Elder brothers as they, by God's grace, help to illuminate our spiritual pathway, and warn us of the pitfalls. Believers are wise to heed counsel, and to "obey" them who have the rule over us.

Burton Grusy had hernia surgery, and is recovering. Truly, we wish him well, and appreciate his presence at worship. Bro. Art Schlipf fell on the ice and broke his hip, and had surgery and the outlook is positive. Sis. Rita Metz had an appendectomy. Sis. Joan Aupperle had shoulder surgery.

We mourn the passing of Sis. Mary Ann Stoller, 80, who died on February 5. She left her husband of four years, Bro. Donald Stoller, of Gridley. She is also survived by two sons, William V. Klaus, II, Plainfield, and Edward Klaus, Eureka. Surviving step-children are: Bro. Mike Stoller, Gridley, and stepdaughters, Sis. Kathy Meyer, Bluffton, IN, and Diane Handley and Debra Dillon, Bloomington, and Kellie Heille, Washington. Sis. Mary Ann brought a very cheerful presence to our congregation, and we will miss her.

Our sympathies are extended to Sis. Marge Kuntz over the loss of her brother, Si Schmidtgal of Fairbury. Also, we give our sympathy to Bro. Larry Kiefer, who lost his cousin, Eugene E. Alt, 89, of Leawood City, KS.

Weston Clay Hodel was born on January 14 to Bro. Doug and Sis. Erin Hodel. He has two siblings, Caden, 4, and Sierra, 3. Grandparents are Bro. Curt and Sis. Norma Witzig and Bro. Daryl and Sis. Deb Hodel, all of our Gridley church. Great-grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Rachel Leman, Roanoke, and Bro. Roy and Sis. Helen Zimmerman, Bro. Roy and Sis. Helen Hodel, and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Marjorie Witzig, all of Gridley. May God be with these young parents as they "train up" their children.

ILLINOIS, MORTON Annette Tanner Julie Bahr

On February 3 for our Family Worship Evening, we appreciated Bro. Ted Witzig Jr. for giving the second part of the topic "Keys to Effective Family Relationships".

Our sympathy is shared with Bro. Dave Ploussard (Sis. Krista) in the loss of his father, Eugene Ploussard, of Decatur, IL.

On February 18, our dear Sis. Jan Zimmerman went on to win the ultimate heavenly crown. Sis. Jan fought a good fight, finished her course and kept the faith. Surviving are her husband, Bro. John A. Zimmerman; and their three children, Jeff, John (Holly), and Jody (Jeremy) Shaw; also her mother, Sis. Betty Rassi, and many other family members who loved her.

Bro. Roger and Sis. Margie Ackerman are excited for another granddaughter. On February 24, Rachel Grace entered the home of Andy, Sara, Emma and Claire Vlietstra in Ft. Collins, CO.

Bro. Don and Sis. Lorna Schrock became thankful grandparents to a new little grandson, Simon Edward, born February 5 to Steve and Sarah Schrock in Shiplake, United Kingdom.

On February 23, baby girl, Stella Rose, was born to Bro. Clayton and Sis. Trisha Monfre. The grandparents praising God for little Stella's safe arrival are Bro. John and Sis. Peg Sauder

and Bro. Tony and Sis. Deonne Monfre (Goodfield, IL).

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Pam Fritzenmeier

We rejoice with Bro. Dennis and Sis. Cindy Aupperle, as the engagement of their son, Bro. Jonathan (Magdalena, MX) to Sis. Berenice (Bere) Navarro, was announced Sunday, January 24. Sis. Bere is the daughter of Alfonso and Sis. Teresa Navarro from Magdalena.

Lucy Anne Carlson was born January 17 to Bro. Jim and Sis. Faith Carlson. She is welcomed home by big brother, Ivan, and grandmas, Sis. Ardith Herrmann and Mrs. Wilma Carlson. On February 11, Drake Allen Herman was born to Bro. Nate and Sis. Brook. His big sister, Mae Lee, and big brother, Noah, welcomed him along with grandparents, Bro. Greg and Sis. Beth Herman and Bro. Lee and Sis. Patsy Esslinger (Burlington, IA). Little Drake was born with a blood disorder and has been in the hospital since his birth. Please pray for him and his family.

We are so thankful to report two new converts, Lexi Thomas (Bro. Dean and Sis. Teresa) and Bill Chaffer.

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to Bro. Don and Sis. Velma Hoerr and family. Their daughter-in-law, Sis. Carolyn (Bro. Mark) Hoerr (Eureka), passed away February 4.

We wish to welcome Bro. Alan Huber to Peoria, originally from Alto, MI.

Many thanks to Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley) for ministering to us on Wednesday evening, February 3.

Our Bible Class annual pancake and sausage supper on January 23 was attended by about 600 guests. The most generous donations given that evening are used to fund Bible Class activities through the year, including a mission trip to Jamaica scheduled for June 2010. On Sunday, February 14, our Bible Class hosted the Taylor Bible Class.

The ladies of the church were

treated to a special lunch served by the men on Valentine's Day. We heard about the greatest love of all, John 3:16. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Sunday evening, February 6, was our monthly hymn sing. A group of young sisters from Peoria, Beauty From Ashes, sang some beautiful songs for us and we all enjoyed singing together psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. (Eph. 5:19).

Our Peoria Choir enjoyed the weekend of January 30-31 as guests of the Tucson, AZ, church. Some of the choir members then spent the week of February 1-6 in Magdalena, MX. The warm reception and new friendships were just as welcome as the warm weather.

Please keep in your prayers Sis. Aimee (Bro. Matt) Moser, who is spending several weeks at Mayo Clinic for treatments, and Kathy Rampy, Skylines receptionist, who recently had heart surgery. The country of Haiti is suffering so much. Let's not forget to pray for them, the disaster relief workers, and missionaries, including Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard and family.

Note of Thanks:

When the Lord called "Siegfried Schubert" home on December 27, 2009, he left a gift of memories in exchange. Thank you everyone whom acknowledged his passing and for your generous gifts to the "Apostolic Skylines" and "Paws". Thank you.

Wilma Schubert

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Linda Joos Connie Christ

We remember several in our congregation who have laid dear loved ones to rest recently. Sis. Helen Schick (widow of Herb) was called Home on February 13. We will miss her in our brotherhood. She resided at Skylines but often came for church when she was able. Our prayers are with her children: Bro. Stan

(Sis. Margie) Schick, Hilda (Phil) Carper, and Lois Hoffman. May God grant His comforting Spirit to the family.

Sis. Anna Lou (Bro. Earl) Grimm bid farewell to a dear brother, Bro. Melvin Stoller (Latty, OH).

Also, Elder Bro. Jim (Sis. Marlene) Plattner laid to rest his dear mother, Sis. Mary Ann Plattner (Forrest, IL). How thankful we are for the precious memories and for the hope to meet again in Heaven.

Those who have been in the hospital are Bro. Lawrence (Sis. Elaine) Wagenbach, Sis. Elizabeth (Bro. John) Wieland, Sis. Doris (Bro. Walter) Christ, and Lee Streitmatter. May God be near these loved ones as health is restored.

Our dear friends, Ron and Mary Satzler, have also experienced some physical afflictions. We have missed them at church and keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

Visiting ministers have been Bro. Dave Obergfel (Peoria, IL), Bro. John Bradle (Roanoke, IL), Bro. Daren Metz (Gridley, IL), Bro. Dave Zehr (Gridley, IL), Bro. Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL), and Bro. Gary Sinn (Latty, OH). It is a blessing to have those near and far come to minister to us.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to thank you for all the prayers, cards, gifts, and kind deeds during the death of our mother and grandmother, Sis. Louise Manz. May God bless you for your thoughtfulness.

Sis. Edna Martin and family

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Jamie Hodel Judy Sauder

Bro. Brad and Sis. Patty Hodel became grandparents again on January 19 when Josie Mae was born to Bro. Dustin and Sis. Mandy Hodel (Leo). Older sister and brother, Liberty and Caden, as well as maternal grandparents, Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol Koehl

(Sarasota), also welcome Josie home. We pray for God's blessings upon this dear family as they raise their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

On January 23, a benefit dinner was held at the Fellowship Hall to help fund our Bible Class juniors, seniors and parents' work trip to Magdalena this spring. It was a blessed evening. We thank all those who gave generously to help make this evening a success.

St. Matthew 5:16: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Bro. Jon Zeller (Morton) spoke about "Shining Lights" at our monthly topical Bible Study on January 27. We thank him for his encouraging and convicting message.

We welcome Chris and Sis. Sue Moser, formerly of Rockville, to our congregation. We ask that God would bless them as they make the transition to a new church and community.

On February 3, Elder Bro. Bruce Endress (Bradford) assisted Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman in the reading of the Memorandum. We thank these brothers for their timely exhortations to us, that we strive for holiness and spiritual growth and that we would desire to be ambassadors of Christ.

Psalms 116:15: "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." Sis. Mary Ann Klaus Stoller (Gridley) went to be with the Lord on February 5. She was a sister-in-law to Sis. Ann Leman and Sis. Helen Leman. Other survivors include her husband, Bro. Don (Gridley); sons, William of Plainfield, IL, Edward (Jenny) of Eureka; a sister, Sis. Lydia (Bro. Bill) Hohulin (Goodfield); a brother, Bro. Paul (Sis. Milli) Leman (Chicago); eight grandchildren, four great-grandchildren; one stepson, Bro. Michael (Sis. Peggy) Stoller (Gridley); four stepdaughters, Diane (Kevin) Handley and Debra Dillon, both of Bloomington, Sis. Kathy (Bro. Dennis) Meyer (Bluffton), and Kellie (Eric) Heille of Washington; and 14 step-grandchildren. Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley), Bro. Clark Stoller

(Gridley) and Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield) conducted the funeral services for Sis. Mary Ann. We thank these brothers for their gracious service to us.

Dean (Ann) Freesmeyer of Pekin passed away on February 8. He was a brother-in-law to Bro. Richard Fischer, Sis. Marge Fischer, Sis. Sara (Bro. Jim) Byrd, Sis. Clara Fischer, Sis. Pat Fischer and Sis. Laverne (Bro. Al) Butikofer (Elgin, IA).

Bro. Alvin Farney exchanged his cross for a crown on February 10. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Mary; daughter, Sis. Ann Hoffman; two sisters, Sis. Edna (Bro.) Harold Roth and Sis. Helen (Bro. Don) Brown; four grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Ruth Unzicker of Eureka passed away on February 13. She was the stepmother of our Sis. Jane Schumacher. We extend our love and deepest sympathy to these dear families and pray for the Lord's peace and comfort upon them.

Ecclesiastes 4:12: "...and a threefold cord is not quickly broken." We rejoice with Sis. Sara Maher (Bro. Dan and Sis. Kim) and Bro. Tyler Schick (Peoria), son of Bro. Bill and Sis. Joan (Magdalena), whose marriage engagement was announced on February 14. May God bless this dear couple as they take this step of faith.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Teresa Rowell

Janice Sauder

Isn't life so much more worth living when a person has something to look forward to? Winter is on it's last legs. The sun is beginning to feel warm when it hits my face. I heard birds singing yesterday morning!! The air is not quite as bitterly cold. All these signs show us that Spring is on the way. It is the same in our spiritual life. We have signs to remind us that Heaven is not far away, and we long more and more for it. Won't it be wonderful to actually be there and not have to hope any longer. These thoughts should be in the forefront of our minds at all times, regardless of how

discouraged or downtrodden we get. We just need to focus on heavenly things and not the things of this world.

Bro. Rollyn Aberle (Bro. Pete and Sis. Debbie) and Sis. Suzanne Baer (Tom and Martha) have looked forward to their wedding day, February 14. We wish them God's richest blessings as they establish their own home. Bro. Floyd Frieden (Sis. Jan, Elgin, IA) and Bro. Craig Martin (Sis. Terri, Princeville) were here to preach the Word to us on this special day.

Bro. John and Sis. Jamie Dill were blessed with their first girl after having three boys. Mia Noelle joins siblings, Parker, Brady, and Grayson. Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Amy Koch and Bro. Glenn and Sis. Marilyn Dill.

As the circle of life goes on, for some it begins and for some it ends. Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Merle and Sis. Nancy Sauder in the death of their sister-in-law, Sis. Maryann Stoller, and to Sis. Nola Koch and Sis. Dorothy Stuber on the death of their brother/brother-in-law, Harold Stuber. May God comfort these families in their grief.

Our prayers ascend to God's throne on behalf of Sis. Carol Beutel (Bro. Alvin) as she recovers from a difficult surgery. May she feel the prayers of those who love her.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Nancy Leman

Linda Folkerts

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as a sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal."

I Corinthians 13:1

From the beginning God revealed that marriage was a special union between a man and a woman. On January 25 we rejoiced as the engagement of Sis. Heather Messner (Elder Bro. Ron and Sis. Pam) to Bro. Aaron Walder from Champaign, IL (Bro. Art and Sis. Kim) was shared. On February 7, the engage-

ment of Bro. John Cox to Sis. Shirley Luthi (Altadena, CA) was announced. Then on February 14, the engagement of Bro. Tyler Schick (Bro. Bill and Sis. Joan, Magdalena, MX) to Sis. Sara Maher (Bro. Dan and Sis. Kim, Roanoke, IL) was shared. We praise God for the blessing of marriage and wish these couples rich blessings and guidance as they join their hearts, hands, lives and families.

We, too, ask special blessings of strength and healing for: Sis. Helen Woerner as she recovers from surgery, Sis. Sue Ruppert as she recovers from a recent hospitalization and battles physical illness, Bro. Ed (Sis. Louise) Teubel as he regains strength after a recent illness and Sis. Julie (Bro. Dave) Schumacher as she recuperates from surgery.

Joining our pulpit this month was Bro. Brad Metz (Sis. Karen, Bloomington, IL) for an overview Bible Study on James. We also welcomed Bro. Matt Gerber (Sis. Ruth, Ixtlan, Mexico). Along with sharing the Word, Bro. Matt also shared some thoughts on the work in Ixtlan and gave an update on the school program.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

**Kim Meyer
Grace Gerber**

In these drab Indiana winter months I'm reminded of Psalm 147:16, "He sendeth forth his commandment upon earth: his word runneth very swiftly. He giveth snow like wool: he scattereth the hoarfrost like ashes. He casteth forth his ice like morsels: who can stand before his cold?" It's remarkable to think that God's very Word sent down the snow and ice to us for His glory! That gives me a whole new perspective on winter.

Our Bluffton congregation has been on our knees for Ruth Herring, mother of Bro. Bob (Sis. Janet) Herring. Ruth is not expected to live long, and our prayers are with her and the family.

Two of our number went to see Jesus this past month. Their departing is defi-

nately bittersweet. Truly, we're sad to see them go, but we rejoice in their victory! Sis. Nina Aschliman (the late Bro. Herman) and Bro. Kenny Schwartz (Sis. Elizabeth) are with Jesus!

We praise God for His incredible goodness! He has given us five converts: Heidi Carter, Dawn Bailey, Ryan Isch (Bro. Doug and Sis. Tonya), and Britton and Sarah Claghorn (Bro. Tim and Sis. Theresa Claghorn and Bro. Gary and Sis. Barb Schwartz). We rejoice in their decision!

Baptism is such an incredible blessing, and we were able to witness the testimonies and baptisms of three converts. Bro. Blaine Aschliman (Bro. Derryl and Sis. Peggy), Bro. Jason Tonner (Bro. Brian and Sis. Joy) and Sis. Shaunda Bedwell (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Nancy) all shared their stories of God's love and redemption. Romans 6:4 describes their experience. "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." We are so thankful for God's goodness.

The earthquake in Haiti has had devastating results, but nonetheless our prayers are for God's glory to be revealed to the nations through the tragedy. Our Sis. Maria Tucker has been in our prayers as she went to Haiti on a medical mission team. May her skills bring healing to the people and God's love to the suffering.

We praise God for two young people who were joined in marriage. Bro. Spencer Lewis and Sis. Hannah Kaehr (Bro. Jon and Sis. Julie) pledged their lives to each other and we rejoice with this young couple.

Last month, you may recall we had many new engagements and couples. Well this month we celebrate some very lasting marriages. Bro. Dick and Sis. Lil Yergler are celebrating 60 years of marriage! Bro. Luster and Sis. Martha Heyerly celebrated their 67th anniversary. Let's rejoice in the fact that Jesus has been these couples' Solid Rock for many years and that their marriages

have been a glory to the Lord.

In all the happenings and events in Bluffton, Indiana, it's sometimes tempting to be completely absorbed in my own little world. But I'm reminded of Psalm 117:1. "O praise the LORD, all ye nations: praise him, all ye people." We cannot forget that world outside of our own community. Let's go this next month purposing to bring God's magnificent glory to all the earth! He is worthy to receive worship from all peoples and nations!

INDIANA BLUFFTON NORTH Jessie Longenberger Amy Moser

We give thanks to God for the recovery of Sis. Marcia (Bro. Brian) Brewster from her back surgery. Shelly (Gerber) Miller was hospitalized from blockages on left side of the brain. She is a daughter of Bro. Bill and Sis. Carolyn Gerber.

Bro. Vernon Gerber celebrated the birth of a great-grandson on January 14. Marcus Andrew Pfister is the son of Bro. Vince and Sis. Brandy (Bluffton). His grandparents are Bro. Al and Sis. Becky Pfister (Bluffton) and Bro. Kendall and Sis. Sandy Ringger (Bluffton). Marcus is joining his siblings, Lillian, Maxton and Hazel. Bro. Jadan and Sis. Tundy Rauch rejoice over the birth of their new baby, Maxton, who was born on January 23. His grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy Rauch and Bro. John and Sis. Irma Namenyi (Budapest, Hungary). He was greeted by his brothers, Jamin and Benton.

We were blessed with two converts this month. Bro. Dan and Sis. Jacki Kershner are rejoicing as their daughter, Korinn, has decided to give her life to Jesus Christ. Blane Baumgartner, the son of Bro. Brad and Sis. Michelle, has also started a new walk with the Lord. Praise be to God!

Bluffton North is excited to be starting a collective study of the book of James. We are looking forward to growth and new understanding of God's Word.

Our Sunday school students and teachers were blessed with an evening together enjoying pizza, games and fellowship.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

**Jacki Huber
Mildred Clauss**

On a recent Sunday, our congregation was blessed to have an "invite-a-friend" weekend. Visiting ministers were Bros. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL) and Nick Gutwein (Sis. Suzanne, West Lafayette, IN). We wish to thank these brothers for coming and sharing God's Word with us.

Thanks also to our Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein for the topical Bible Study he shared on a recent Wednesday evening, explaining truths in God's Word about Hell. It is a sobering topic, but we were encouraged to take heart if we are walking with the Lord, "because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world". (I John 4:4)

Our Young Group hosted a Valentine's Dinner for some of the older couples on February 13. The love and example shown by these couples' faithfulness to God and to each other, brings to mind the words in Ecclesiastes 4:9, "a threefold cord is not quickly broken." When Christ is in the center of marriages, He is glorified.

Our prayers have been with Sisters Mary Gutwein (the late Bro. Emil) and Judy Wuethrich (Bro. Rick) who have been in the hospital. They are both home at this time, and we pray for their continued healing.

We also pray for those undergoing treatments for cancer, that they will each experience God's peace in the midst of any hard days, and that God's healing hand will be upon them.

Three dear families from Francesville are currently serving the Lord as missionaries in other countries, and work teams consisting of quite a few from Francesville, as well as other churches, have gone to help them recently, or will be leaving shortly.

A group of eight brothers from Francesville went on a work team to Imurus, Mexico in January, where our Bro. Bob and Sis. Joy Huber and their family are residing. Another group consisting of thirty-three from Indiana, Illinois, Arizona and Georgia, is planning to leave at the end of February for the Deaf Village in Jamaica, where Bro. Chad and Sis. Pam Huber and their family assist the deaf, and in March a team of about twelve from Francesville plans to help in Haiti, where Bro. Jan and Sis. Val Gutwein and their family are serving.

As springtime approaches, it is invigorating to see the sun shining, and to hear more birds singing. Even on dreary winter days, if the light of God is shining in our hearts, and His praises come from our lips, it is invigorating as well. If we struggle to be joyful, we can offer God "the sacrifice of praise", which will not only bless Him, but will lift our spirits as well. "By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name." Hebrews 13:15.

INDIANA INDIANAPOLIS

**Gail Bradford
Penny Schroder**

At the annual business meeting, the following were elected to serve:

Trustee
– Bro. Glenn Pfeifer
Usher
– Bro. Ben Standish
Sound system
– Bro. Scott Levy
Silver Lining correspondent
– Sis. Penny Schroder
Kitchen committee
– Sis. Nancy Pfeifer
Mission coordinator – (local)
– Bro. Bryan Steffen
Mission coordinator
– (national and international)
– Bro. Sam Gutwein

They join others already performing important duties and look forward to the joy of shared tasks and fruitful re-

sults.

Bro. Mitch and Sis. Anna Schlatter welcomed their first child, a little boy named Liam Andrew who was born on February 5. Delighted grandparents are Bro. Gus and Sis. LeAnn Schlatter (Latty, OH) and Bro. Dan and Sis. Karen Pfister (Leo, IN).

Bro. Adam and Sis. Jill Merkle welcomed their fourth child and second son, Andre Adam, born January 25. He joins sisters, Madelyn and Cosette, and brother, Hudson. Happy grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Rosie Gramm (Gridley, IL) and George and Karen Merkle (Bluffton, IN).

Sis. Katie Schwab spent several days in Haiti with a medical team, using her care-giving skills to assist earthquake victims. We are glad that she has returned home safely.

A number of our congregation attended mentor training conducted by the Apostolic Christian Church Family Services. Mentoring skills and opportunities were presented in an effective and helpful program.

Couples gathered in mid-February for a Valentine's dinner. Although Valentine's Day is not a sacred holiday, the example of men and women respecting and honoring one another is edifying and should be celebrated.

We appreciate the services of ministering Bros. Kevin Knapp (Sis. Dixie, Bloomington, IL), Bro. Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN) and Bro. Rich Gramm (Sis. Samantha, South Bend, IN). God's Word continues to go forth throughout the land.

"Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him."

Proverbs 30:5

INDIANA, LACROSSE

**Bethany Johnson
Julie Rocke**

The last month was very busy for our congregation. We all agree, that while it was somewhat hectic at times, it actually helped the cold month of January to

fly by. That's something most of us appreciate!

Some sisters enjoyed an evening and a day together of knotting comforters. At the same time, some of the brothers gathered at church to dismantle the kitchen and dining room to prepare for new carpeting. We are thankful that part of the carpet installation is complete now.

We have started a monthly gathering of sisters and friends for a morning coffee and time of sharing. Those who have attended have enjoyed the time together, sharing joys and burdens, and deepening our relationships with each other.

Cole Alan arrived safely on January 22 to join the home of Chris Frank and Amy Koch. His loving grandparents are Lisa Koch, and Elder Bro. Curt and Sis. Lyla Frank.

January 31 found us gathered at church for the reading of the Memorandum. We are thankful Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Sis. Judy, Chicago, IL) was available to gather with us for the day and assist with the evening service. Bro. Don Steidl (Sis. Nan, Akron, OH) was also with us that weekend and we appreciated his service on our behalf.

The engagement of Bro. Brad Frank (Elder Bro. Curt and Sis. Lyla) to Sis. Meagan Wuethrich (Bro. Chris and Sis. Carla) of St. Louis was announced. Bro. Glen and Sis. Sandy Heinold also look forward to gaining a new daughter-in-law as their son, Mark, has announced his engagement to Katie Koch (Leonard and Marie Koch) from Wisconsin. May God richly bless these couples as they each make plans for their wedding and life together.

Many gathered together one evening last month to package soup to send to Haiti. We had a great turnout and were able to get nearly 2000 bags of soup mix packaged and ready to send. We also did a clothing drive and were able to send the comforters from our sewing earlier in the month. It has been eye opening to continue to receive updates and realize the extent of the damage that has been done in that small coun-

try. It feels like we have been able to do "so much" when in the scheme of things, it is but a drop in the bucket. We just strive to be thankful for the opportunity to help however we can, and pray for the guidance and grace to do what God asks of us.

February 7 was the wedding of Bro. Brendan Messner (Bro. Dean and Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN) and Sis. Sharla Heinold (Bro. Eugene and Sis. Evie). We are thankful for more couples in our small congregation and pray that God will richly bless them as they establish their home and life together. We enjoyed the presence of many ministering brothers that weekend: Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emmy, Junction, OH), Bros. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH), Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA), Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend, IA), Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN), Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH) and Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, St. Louis, MO).

**INDIANA, LEO
Elizabeth Schrenk
Abigail Schrenk**

"Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

1 Peter 1:13

What does it mean to gird up the loins of your mind? We were challenged in a recent sermon to keep ourselves ready for God's work, not being distracted by...

The last month was almost a record breaker for our Leo congregation. In a little over two weeks, four little additions were added to our church families.

Bro. Dustin and Sis. Mandy Hodel were the first to welcome little Josie into their family on January 19. Liberty and Kaden are excited to have a new little sister.

Eric Robert Stieglitz was the second to be born, arriving safe and sound on

January 21. He is welcomed by his big brother Gage, his big sister Kiera and, of course, his parents, Bro. Shane and Sis. Laura.

February 1 brought the arrival of Madeline Nichole. Her parents, Bro. Paul and Sis. Nichole Suvar, are glad to have her safe at home. Siblings, Owen and Hannah, are also excited to have a new baby sister.

Last but not least, Bro. Dan and Sis. Karen Pfister are excited to add a grandson to their family. Bro. Mitch and Sis. Anna Schlatter (Indianapolis) became first-time parents when Liam Andrew entered the world on February 5.

Our prayer for these families is that God would give each of them the wisdom and patience it takes to train each heart to learn to serve our Saviour.

Bro. Tyler Stieglitz left for Zambia this past month. He will be volunteering at a Lifesong school. We pray that God would use him to bless the staff and children in Zambia.

We were blessed to have Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago) visit us this past month. We thank him for sharing the Word with us.

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, or by directly consulting the following link:

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

**INDIANA, MILFORD
Paula Haab
Pam Beer**

Our annual business meeting was held on January 21 and those who were elected to new positions are as follows: Bros. Fred Beer, Brent Beer, Abe Habegger, and Marc Beer — Sunday School Teachers; Sisters Kathy Schlipf, Sue Bowerman and Pam Beer — preschool through 2nd grade teachers; Bro. Bill Longcor — World Relief rep.; Bro. Phil Price — trustee; Sis. Paula Haab — Silver Lining reporter; Sis. Monica

Price — sewing committee; Sis. Judy Longcor — food committee; and Bro. Alan Wuthrich — treasurer. We appreciate those who are willing to give their time and commitment to these jobs and also wish to thank those whose terms have recently ended.

It was bittersweet to say goodbye to Sis. Jodi Beer (Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat) as she has felt led by the Lord to give of her talents in Magdalena, Mexico. We will miss her sweet smile and kind spirit but know that she will be a blessing in Magdalena.

We offer our congratulations and best wishes to Darcy Price (Bro. Phil and Sis. Jane) and Loren Schock (Elder Bro. Doug and Sis. Clara) of Bloomfield, IA, as they have become engaged and are making plans for their wedding. We wish them God's blessings on their plans and their future together.

A precious little son, Braden David, was welcomed into the family of Bro. Troy, Sis. Briana and Kylin Wuthrich. We wish them God's guidance and much joy as they raise their children.

Those who have had health concerns and surgeries are: Bro. Don Haab (Sis. Martha), Cody Haab (Tom and Jodi) and Glenn Price (Sis. Kate). We also are sending many prayers heavenward for our Sis. Sue Cockburn (Bro. Bob) who has been diagnosed with cancer and has undergone surgery and is looking to start a lengthy round of chemotherapy in the near future. We trust God to give Sue the strength and courage as she walks through this trial.

Our Milford congregation welcomed Sis. Amy Gerst (Bro. Jon) of Leo, IN, who came and spoke to us after our monthly hymn sing and told us about the work being done by Loving Shepherd Ministries.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Jenni Honegger
Marcella Tyler**

With joy we can report the addition of another little lamb to our fold! Tanner Lee joins the family of Bro. Dana and Sis. Lea Nieman and older siblings,

Kade, Lydia, and Brock. Tanner's grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb Stoller and Bro. Denny and Sis. Kay Nieman (Smithville, OH). We are thankful for his safe arrival and look forward to watching him grow and mature over the coming years.

Bro. Ed Fritz (Sis. Sally, Washington, IL) recently spent a Sunday with us and ministered to us. We are appreciative of his efforts, as always, and are thankful that they are able to visit their family here often.

We ask for your prayers for our hospital patients this month: Bro. Harold Waibel, Sis. Cheri Frantz, and Sis. Arlene Kilgus. May the Lord ease their physical afflictions as well as offer His comforting presence as a balm to their suffering spirits.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**Joshua Martinez
Rachel Langhofer**

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Bethany Kupferschmid (Bro. Garrett) as her father recently underwent surgery. We pray for his speedy recovery.

This month we also had a family World Relief night where we packaged soup for the Haitian earthquake victims.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Marguerite Hoerr

Bro. Garry and Sis. Lois Bucher recently retired from farming, which they had done their entire married life. God gave them a beautiful day for the sale of their land and their implements. It was made more enjoyable because all of their family was present with them on that day. We rejoice with them as they experienced these blessings from God, and wish them peace and joy in their retirement. Sis. Lois had surgery the week after their sale. This enabled them to have double blessings as she is doing well and we were happy to have her back in church.

February 14 was a wonderful day for

Bob and me. The senior class of Sunday school served lunch for us at church. They appeared to enjoy doing it and we certainly were grateful for the love they showed us. They threw their hearts into it and our Valpo church had a very lovely lunch that day. Bob and I have asked God to bless each one of them richly for this act of love and kindness. On a day when the whole world recognizes love, these young people showed us the love of God.

Bro. Rollie Meiss announced the hymn "Whiter than Snow" recently and then in his prayer asked God to give to our five young converts the experience of feeling whiter than snow when they seal their covenant with Him through baptism. We are so grateful to God for these young folks. They bless us with their voices in song each time we congregate and their enthusiasm brightens our hearts with love and joy.

One of our converts, John Pratt, has been a student at Valparaiso University as a law student and is taking his bar exam at this time. Bro. Merle Bucher prayed after our services for him to be able to take it successfully. I know our entire church has him in our prayers as he puts his thoughts and attention to this exam.

In Sis. Loretta Steffen's book, "Applying God's Word to Daily Life", she mentioned what a delightful task it is to keep grandchildren. This past week we had that delightful task; keeping our youngest grandchildren, Malcolm and Amelia. Malcolm is ten and Amelia is six. We were playing Scrabble together. Amelia insisted on playing because she can make words. Her rule was "Don't help me if I don't ask." I enjoyed seeing her make words and she seldom asked for help; however at some point she became frustrated and just quit. After a bit she said, "I really want to keep score." I told her she needed to add big numbers. She said, "I can do it, Grandma." I asked her if she could add 135 and 14. She became silent, wiggled her fingers and thought for just a bit and said 149. I told her she was exactly right, and then I gave her another one that seemed more

difficult. It involved carrying a number from one column to the other. It was the way I was taught to do math. She got the right answer to that one too; using the same procedure, wiggling those little fingers. My amazement and delight was that it didn't take her long and that Malcolm didn't act surprised at her ability. Grandma's old brain finally figured out that there are more ways than one way to teach a child addition. Another thing that was reinforced in this ancient mind of mine was what a wonderful gift and miracle God gave to us in our grandchildren. I'm pretty sure that the next time we play Scrabble, Amelia will be keeping score, and I'm pretty sure that the fingers God gave her will help her find the right numbers.

We're looking forward to having La-Crosse church folks visit us next Sunday, which gives us anticipation and joy. Anticipation of meeting with fellow believers is another one of God's rich gifts to us.

We can always feel welcome in our hearts for others to visit us also. Don't forget we're just 2 3/4 miles South of U. S. 30 on State Highway 49.

**INDIANA
WEST LAFAYETTE
Darlene Walder
Hollie Meister**

We appreciate the opportunity to read and study God's Word on a daily basis.

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

Lam. 3:22-23

We have been studying the book of James and enjoy these teachings and insights to a closer walk with the God of Heaven.

We want to congratulate Curt Schieler (Bro. Duane and Sis. Suzanne) and his fiancé, Ariel Schneider from Lafayette, on their engagement. Curt is a graduate student at Princeton Univer-

sity and they plan to be married in the summer of 2011.

We want to continue to remember those that are serving in mission work locally and/or internationally. We want our Bro. Blake Widmer to know that we continue to remember him in prayer and all the work that goes on in Jamaica. God be with you.

Each and every month we appreciate those that come and serve our congregation. We want to thank our Elder Bro. Curt Frank and Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago) for coming and reading the Memorandum to us and sharing of the Conference report. Other ministers that have preached the Word, we thank you.

We want to congratulate Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorene Furrer on the birth of their third grandchild and Bro. Vernon and Sis. Jan Furrer as well, it being their great-grandchild. Little Braden David was born to Bro. Troy and Sis. Briana Wuthrich of Milford.

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.

**INDIANA, WOLCOTT
Lynell Blume
Donita Edelman**

The Wolcott assembly has experienced much joy this month. Our news begins with the engagement announcement of Sis. Maria Lehman (Bro. Greg and Sis. Mary Beth) and Bro. Jim McCormick (Alto, MI). Bro. Jim's parents are Tim and Laurie McCormick. We want to extend many prayers and best wishes on Sis. Maria and Bro. Jim as they plan their summer wedding.

Our Bible Study this month was presented by Bro. Jeff Bahler. The topic was on "Jonah". What a blessing to be together and learn about a man who walked with Jesus on this earth. We find out that we are not so much differ-

ent today as Jonah was then. Let us each one make sure we are following just what Jesus tells us in our lives so we don't end up "in the belly of a whale" as Jonah did.

It is such a blessing for a church to see the handiwork of God in our midst. We are experiencing the thankfulness of a congregation with three precious souls that have decided to turn their back on the sin of this world and walk the remainder of their life with Jesus. Our three new converts are Katie and Mindy Furrer (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Pam) and Leah Lehman (Bro. Rob and Sis. Beckie). May these three young ladies feel God's nearness and the many prayers of the congregation during this time of repentance.

On February 7 our congregation was blessed by the visit of the Washington, IL, Choir. It is such a blessing to have visitors among us and help fill our church pews. The singing throughout the day was just beautiful and then to be able to receive the blessing of hearing songs of praise to our Lord and Savior again in the evening was wonderful.

We were also blessed with visiting ministers among us this month. Many thanks are extended to Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL) and Bro. Mark Wettstein (Sis. Karen, La-Crosse, IN). May God be their rich rewarder for being willing to stand before us and feed us from the Word.

**IOWA, BLOOMFIELD
Christy Wiegand**

"...thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well."

Psalms 139:13-14

With joy, we announce the birth of another miracle. Mary Luella was born on February 15 to Bro. Doug and Sis. Rachel Stoller. Big brother Joseph helps welcome her to their home. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Tim

and Sis. Mary Maibach and Sis. Luella Stoller (Smithville, OH).

The Lord has led Bro. Phil and Sis. Kristin Wettstein and their family back to central Illinois. We will miss having all their cheerful faces with us every Sunday and we will look forward to their visits!

We enjoyed a visit from Elder Bro. Phil and Sis. Maureen Stettner (Bluffton North). They stopped by on their way home from the mid-winter Conference. We extend a special thank you to Bro. Phil for ministering to our congregation.

IOWA, BURLINGTON
Marilyn Anderson
Karla Gerst

“But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;”

Hebrews 3:13-14

Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville) and ministering Bros. Dale Frank (Oakville) and Erik Givens (Princeville, IL) shared the Word with us this past month. May God reward them for their service.

IOWA, ELGIN
Maria Rocke

Bro. Al and Sis. LaVerne welcomed another grandson into their hearts. Mitchell Aaron was born on January 6 to Bro. Jim and Sis. Diana Butikofer (Iowa City, IA). Hannah Joann was born to Bro. Aaron and Sis. Sharla Frank on January 23 and was welcomed home by her delighted siblings, Keana and Clinton. Hannah's grandparents are Bro. Charles and Sis. Sue Schneider and Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy Frank (Oakville, IA). Bro. Lon and Sis. Sandy Butikofer were blessed with a grandchild on February 9. Jaelyn Liberty is the daughter of Aaron and Andrea

Butikofer.

Sis. Abby Schupbach (Bro. John and Sis. Janet) was announced to Bro. Andy Knoblock (Bro. Terry and Sis. Elaine, Lester, IA). We are so thankful they sought and felt the Lord's direction in this decision and wish them God's blessings and guidance as they plan their upcoming marriage.

Blest be the tie that binds
 Our hearts in Christian love,
 The fellowship of kindred minds
 Is like to that above.

Hymns of Zion #156

We thank all the visitors who came to worship with us this month. It is such a blessing to gather with brothers and sisters of like mind and faith, for it gives a taste of what awaits us on that yonder shore!

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Diana Butikofer

Our prayers are with Sis. Lana Fehr (Bro. Bob and Sis. Barb) as she was hospitalized recently after a series of mini-strokes last week. We are thankful she is back home and has no mental or permanent physical problems from those. The doctors discovered a tumor that is pressuring her carotid artery and are planning surgery once her brain heals from the mini-strokes. We would appreciate your prayers as well for her and her family!

We are again looking forward to the new life that comes each spring and it reminds us that Good Friday and Easter will soon be here as well. “He is not here, but is risen...” (Luke 24:6). What a wonderful statement of the fulfillment of one of our Lord's best promises.

IOWA, LESTER
Gloria Moser
Polly Metzger

Once again, we welcome three new “bundles of joy” to our congregation. Karson Scott was born January 28 to Ross and Heather Metzger. His big brothers are Brayden and Jamin. Bro.

Jim and Sis. Lois Metzger and Don and Jolene Walhof are his grandparents. February 9, Bro. Dana and Sis. Kary Metzger, Jeremy and Daniel, welcomed home Heidi Jo. Her grandparents are Bro. Jerome and Sis. Gail Hartter and Bro. Marv and Sis. Jolene Metzger. Julia Denise was born February 10 to Bro. Cory and Sis. Rachel Leman. Her siblings are Sarah and Seth and her grandparents are Bro. Henry and Sis. Charlene Messner and Bro. Dale and Sis. Lezlee Leman (West Bend). We wish these young parents God's continued guidance and blessings in raising their families.

On January 31, the betrothals of two couples were announced. Bro. Andy Knoblock (Bro. Terry and Sis. Elaine) and Sis. Abby Schupbach (Bro. John and Sis. Janet Schupbach, Elgin, IA); and Bro. Alvie Meyer (Bro. Dean and Sis. Linda) and Sis. Alice Schmidt (Bro. Mike and Sis. Mavis) are planning their weddings and we certainly pray God will bless these two dear couples as they prepare for marriage.

While God invites, how blest the day!
 How sweet the gospel's charming
 sound!

Come, sinner, haste, O haste away,
 While yet a pard'ning God is found.

Hymns of Zion

We rejoice with our new convert, Tim Metzger (Bro. Virg and Sis. Mary, Chicago). He is seeking his salvation and we pray God's grace be with him as he walks this precious path, to find his peace.

The Memorandum was read to us the evening of February 4. Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield) was here to help in this undertaking. For all those who could attend, it was a very blessed weekend. We thank Elder Bro. Mark and Bro. Virg Metzger (Chicago) for visiting in this past month. We truly appreciate our ministering and Elder brothers, for all they do for us. May God continue to bless them all.

Little Olivia Metzger (Bro. Justin and Sis. Jodie) spent a couple days in the

hospital. We continue to pray for the many who are suffering. May they feel God's nearness and His healing strength.

We want to welcome Alissa Messner (Bro. Doug and Sis. Suzi, Minneapolis). She has moved here and will be working in our area. We hope she feels "at home", here among many relatives and friends of her family.

February 4, Peter Ter Wee passed away. He was a brother to Bro. Jim and Sis. Betty Leuthold and Jerry and Mary Ter Wee. We extend our deepest sympathy to these dear families. Their family circle has grown much smaller these past couple of years. We pray that God will continue to comfort them and grant them grace as their needs may be.

**Just a reminder, the annual summer church service at Clyde Park, MT, will be held the weekend of June 26-27, 2010. Please contact ministering brothers, Gene Metzger (712-472- 2187) or Wes Moser (712-478-4622) with any questions.

IOWA, OAKVILLE **Sharla Wiegand**

We appreciated the efforts of Elder Bro. Rod Bajema (Lester, IA) in bringing forth the Word to us on January 17.

Our annual business meeting was held on January 24 and the following positions were filled: World Relief – Sis. Lorna Schulz; Kitchen Committee – Sis. Timna Lanz and Sis. Joni Massner; Usher – Bro. Jeremy Steiner; Cemetery Committee – Bro. Kevin Frank; Fellowship Center Trustee – Bro. Trent Kuntz; and Church Trustee – Bro. Keith Lanz. It is very helpful to have willing brothers and sisters to carry out the various responsibilities of the church. Since Bro. Mark Schmidgall has been put in the ministry, his position of World Relief Representative has been given to Bro. Ron Lanz. We appreciate the years of service Bro. Mark has labored and we give our full support to Bro. Ron.

On February 14, the engagement of Bro. Ben Lanz and Sis. Kasha Kraft of

Lamont/Gridley, KS, was made known. Their parents are Bro. Keith and Sis. Tonya Lanz and Bro. Doug and Sis. Judy Kraft. May the Lord guide them in the days ahead.

Note of Thanks:

Dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends,

We want to thank each of you for your prayer and encouragement through calls, cards, Caringbridge notes and time given during Henry's illness and then the amazing outpouring of love and support we have felt from across the land by your calls, flowers, visits, cards, food, gifts and especially your prayers on our behalf at the sudden loss of our loved one. We cannot express our thankfulness for the support and concern of our brotherhood in times of sorrow as well as joy. We trust the Lord will be the rich rewarder of each one. May we all continue to strive on our own journey to Heaven.

The family of Bro. Henry Wettstein

IOWA, WEST BEND **Janet Fehr** **Leona Fehr**

On November 13, 2009, Charles and Alyse Anliker were blessed with the birth of a daughter, Alexis. She was welcomed home by her big sister, Ella, and grandparents, Bro. Leonard and Sis. Helen Anliker.

In January, we were thankful to have Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, Portland, OR) with us for Wednesday evening services and also Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis, MN) was here to assist in reading the Memorandum.

Our congregation received countless blessings as we worked together preparing for, and hosting, the Elder body for the mid-winter Elder Conference. Our winter weather wasn't extremely cooperative, but we pray they felt the warmth of our congregation as the cold and snow swirled about outside. Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL) shared the Word with us on Tuesday evening. Several El-

der brothers were still with us for services Friday evening and retiring Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL) encouraged our hearts through the Scriptures. May we continue to pray daily for the Elder body.

"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 prayers of healing were with Sis. Gail (Bro. Dennis) Massner, Sis. Ruth (Bro. Kurt) Zaugg, and Bro. Darin (Sis. Twila) Massner as they all spent some time in the hospital. We are thankful our prayers were answered, and each has returned to their respective homes.

JAPAN, SHIODA **Carrie Ito**

We were thankful to hear the announcement that our friend, Kotaro Furuya, desires to repent and live for the Lord. We are grateful for this young man and pray for much grace for him and pray that his mother and little brother who also attend our church will be touched by the changes in his life

KANSAS, BERN **Sheri Edelman** **Jill Meyer**

As we await the sunny days of Spring, we are always thankful that no matter how cold it is, God and His Word bring warmth to our hearts.

Bro. Robert and Sis. Janet Meyer are grateful for a new granddaughter in their family. Elizabeth "Libby" Robinson Meyer was born on December 18 to Matt and Kate Meyer. We congratulate them on this little miracle!

Another miracle God shows on earth is the drawing of two lives together. The engagement of Bro. Brian Edelman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda) and Sis. Monica Strahm (Bro. Ed and Sis. Ramona) was made known on February 7. We wish them God's blessings as they

prepare for their wedding in July.

We extend a warm welcome to Bro. Elmer and Sis. Marylou Kaeb (Cissna Park) as they will be spending some time here in the AC Apartments.

It was a blessing to gather together with the Sabetha congregation to listen to the reading of the Memorandum. We are appreciative that Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie; Oakville) was willing to help with this and also share God's Word with us that Sunday.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Dorothy Strahm who spent some time laid up with a broken arm.

John Menold passed away on February 13. He was a member of the Christian Apostolic church and leaves a host of family. We extend our sympathy to all of his children: Sis. Miriam (Clayton) Strahm, Judy (Eugene) Edelman, Bro. James (Sis. Lou) Menold, Sis. Marge (Bro. Morris) Edelman, Sis. Helen (Bro. Leroy) Meyer, Alice Steidinger (Bloomington, IL), Sis. JoAnn (the late Bro. Fred) Edelman, Wilma (Steve) Kaufman (Silverton, OR), Bro. Don (Sis. Pat) Menold and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren as well. May God fill the void he will leave in your lives.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to thank everyone for the phone calls, food, love and prayers extended to us during my surgery and recovery. May God bless each of you!

Bro. Robert and Sis. Janet Meyer

**KANSAS, FORT SCOTT
Martin Hohulin Sr.**

As I sit and watch the snow come down on this mild February morning, I am amazed at the beauty of the countryside. I am not a fan of cold weather and the activities which come with it. I am thankful that God controls the weather and the universe.

During a week in the hospital and two weeks recovering at home, I've had a chance to pray, meditate, and reflect on God's goodness. I am grateful to Him for the many kind nurses and doctors

who took care of me. I am also appreciative of the Brothers and Sisters in Christ and friends who came with cards, gifts, and words of encouragement.

The weather this year made it difficult to schedule a time for the annual Sunday School Christmas program. In mid-December, the children blessed us with the always inspiring story of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is always a blessing to watch these innocent children every Christmas.

Our dear convert, Jared Bahr, had a sudden appendicitis attack. His father, Bro. Jerry Bahr, is a hospital lab technician and was able to get medical help quickly. Jared recovered quickly and did not have to miss church.

Our oldest Sister in the church, Sis. Lucille Schurter, celebrated her 92nd birthday this month. Although she is in assisted living, her niece, Sis. Debbie Banwart (Bro. Lonnie), sees to it she gets to come to church. She has failing eyesight, but can always tell who we are. When I tell her how nice it is for her to be in church, her expression lights up as she squeezes my hand and tells me how glad she is to be in the House of the Lord. Bro. Lonnie and Sis. Debbie had birthday cake and ice cream at Sunday lunch to celebrate her and four others who had birthdays in February. Her address is Guest Home Estates, Assisted Living, 737 Heylman Street, Fort Scott, KS, 66701. In our Fort Scott church, we have seven members who have passed their 80th birthday. We look to them as examples of Faith.

After three attempts, Elder Bro. John Lehman and Elder Bro. Jay Luthi expounded on the Memorandum report. These faithful Brothers spend a lot of time and expense on our behalf. They seldom accept any help with their expenses. Perhaps the best thing we can do to show our support is display a greater degree of faithfulness to make their job easier.

The World Relief group spent Saturday afternoon sorting and packing clothes for earthquake victims in Haiti. Bro. Chris and Sis. Janelle Wuthrich, along with their daughter, Abby, took

the clothes to Goodfield, IL, in a trailer.

A baby girl, Nadia Leigh, was born February 11 to Bro. Tyler and Sis. Tina Banwart. She is welcomed home by her older sister, Talya, age 2. Grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Darleta (Marti) Gramm and Bro. Lonnie and Sis. Debbie Banwart. Great-Grandmother is Sis. Deloris Marti (Gridley, IL). Sis. Darleta spent a short time in Fort Scott to help out. The Fort Scott church is blessed to have many beautiful and active children. They are precious in His sight.

**KANSAS, KIOWA
Janice Bahr
Jenny Stewart**

'Tis midnight and on Olives' brow
The star is dimmed that lately shone;
'Tis midnight in the garden now
The suffering Saviour prayers alone.
'Tis midnight and from all removed,
The Saviour wrestles lone with fears;
E'en that disciple whom He loved
Heeds not his Master's grief and tears.
'Tis midnight and for others' guilt
The man of sorrows weeps in blood;
Yet He that hath in anguish knelt
Is not forsaken by His God.
'Tis midnight and from ether plains
Is borne the song that angels know;
Unheard by mortals are the strains
That sweetly soothe the Saviour's
woe.

Hymns of Zion #28

As we in remembrance walk the road from the precious Babe in the stable to the cruelty of the blood stained Cross, to the joyous victory of the resurrection morning, may our hearts overflow with love for a God who loved us so much that He found a way, through His Son Jesus, to give us a hope of everlasting life. We can never repay the debt we owe, but we can give our hearts, our lives, our all to Him and walk with Him where we will find a joy that no one can take away from us.

We are so thankful for ministering brothers who give of their time to travel to other churches to share the Gospel.

Bro. Glen and Sis. Sally Funk (Wichita, KS) were in our midst one Lord's day this month, and we were so grateful for the words of love and truth shared with us from the Scriptures. There is a lot of deceit and false teaching in this world, but when a brother stands up on that pulpit and by inspiration opens the Bible, and teaches from the written Word of God, there's little doubt we are being taught the Truth.

To all who share a part in rest home services and World Relief work at Newton, and doing for the sick and the elderly, God bless your efforts. We truly need one another for prayer, for fellowship, for encouragement and for brotherly love

**KANSAS
LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Ester Knobloch**

Elder Bro. Jay and Sis. Jane Luthi have opened their hearts and home to Yolaine (6 years old) and Judith (4 years old). The girls were adopted from Haiti and are welcomed home by their new siblings: Sis. Andrea (Chicago, IL), Bro. Aaron, Sis. Marie, Michael and Hannah. May God bless their family and grant them wisdom as they train up their children in the way they should go.

Colton Isch (Bro. Justin and Sis. Liz) underwent surgery to correct a "lazy" eye. We pray that God will add His blessing on the doctor's labors and grant full healing.

Trusting in the Lord's leading, the engagement of Sis. Kasha Kraft (Bro. Doug and Sis. Judy) to Bro. Ben Lanz (Bro. Keith and Sis. Tanya) of Oakville, IA, was announced on February 14. Our prayers are with this dear couple as they begin to establish a firm spiritual foundation for their coming life together.

**KANSAS, SABETHA
Carrie Grimm
Sally Strahm**

We are thankful for visiting ministering Bro. Galen Rokey (Sis. Nancy, Bern, KS) as he shared God's Word with

us this month.

We rejoice with Bro. Korbin and Sis. Marla Beyer as their twin boys, Ezekiel Anthony and Elijah Benjamin, were born on December 24, 2009. Big sister Samantha and big brother Zackery were excited to have their little brothers home. Grandparents are Bro. Arden and Sis. Dar Stoller (Bern, KS) and Bro. Martin and Sis. Karen Beyer. Great-grandmothers are Sis. Leona Wulf and Sis. Jeanette Huber (Morris, MN).

We also rejoice with Bro. Erik and Sis. Shelli Hertzelt as they welcomed their little son, Austin Jacob, into their hearts and home on February 1. Big sister Elsie and big brother Aaron also welcome him home. Grandparents are Bro. Phil and Sis. Gloria Grant (Latty, OH) and Elder Bro. Gerry and Sis. Ellen Hertzelt. Great-grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Doris Fiechter (Bluffton, IN), Bro. Tom and Sis. Delores Grant (Latty, OH), Bro. Frank and Sis. Ruth Hertzelt and Joyce Plattner of Sabetha.

Twins, Emmy Julianne and Eli Jack, were born February 9 to Jason and Rachel Gibson of Leona, KS. Grandparents are Frank and Sis. Julianne Krogmann and great-grandparents are Bro. Harvey and Sis. Arleta Wenger and Thelma Krogmann, all of Sabetha. We pray these parents will look to the Lord for guidance as they raise their dear families in the name of Him.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Marci Grimm (Bro. Darin), Bro. Steven Edelman (Sis. Kelly), Bro. Matthew Edelman (Sis. Helen) and Sis. Cynthia Fehr (Bro. Todd) and their families as they mourn the loss of their grandfather, John Menold.

Erica Wenger (Bro. Marc and Sis. Julie) is engaged to Travis Kellenberger (Greg and Lisa Mixon and Tim and Paula Kellenberger). They plan a June 5, 2010, wedding. We pray this couple seeks the Lord's guidance as they plan their life together as one.

Our prayers have been with Bro. Rodney Grimm (Sis. Arlene) as he has undergone surgery this month. We continue to pray for those in affliction, and

by God's grace, they will feel His nearness and strength.

Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Oakville, IA) was here for the reading of the Conference Memorandum, which was held in Bern for both our churches.

Our prayers continue to be with each of our dear Elders across the lands as they seek the Lord's guidance and direct their flocks. We pray our Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzelt, as well as all the Elders, felt our prayerful support during the Elder Conference which was held in West Bend, IA. May each of us strive to do the Lord's will in everything we do.

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

Ephesians 6:10, 11

**KANSAS, WICHITA
Emma Miller**

Those from Wichita who were able to go to Newton in January to work at the Mennonite Central Center have been asked to return again on February 23 to prepare more needed supplies for Haiti. As a rule, the Kansas churches have only two work sessions scheduled per year; however this year the needs are much greater and our small group is doing what they can to bring relief to the displaced Haitians.

Here in El Dorado where I live, a local man developed a plan to streamline preparing individual packets of food with directions for adding water and cooking. The grain mixture and supplements are packed and sent to Haiti for the many that are hurting. Hundreds of people met at a location and then worked at tables where each person did one task over and over again. The individual sacks were sealed in clear plastic bags and then counted so each large container held the same number of meals. I worked for an hour and then someone took my place. The plan has worked so successfully and has been re-

peated in nearby communities. A large corporation in Wichita used it for the employee's efforts and according to the newspaper report, custodians and top ranking officials worked side by side on the project.

Bro. Ed Fritz and his wife, Sis. Sally (Washington, IL) spent the weekend of February 13-14 with us. We appreciate their willingness to be a part of the small church effort to encourage us in our Christian walk.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON Barb Huber

"In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge is in God."

Psalm 62:7

How grateful we are for our ministers who give of themselves to share the Word of God. This past month, we had Bro. Ken Eisenmann (Sis. Sharon, Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI), and Bro. John Hartman (Sis. Rosemary, Fairbury, IL). We thank these dear Brothers for their labors of love and words of exhortation through the inspiration of God's Holy Spirit. May the Lord bless you, your families, and all who traveled with you.

We appreciate the fellowship of Christian brethren. We're always grateful for those visitors who count us worthy to come and worship with us. Other visitors who fellowshiped with us were from Forrest, IL; Akron, OH; Bluffton, IN; and Bay City, MI. You truly make the Lord's Day a blessed time of fellowship.

Again, we extend a warm welcome to all who may be in our area or travelling through to worship with us. You may contact Bro. Lester Huber (859) 745-2541. Church services are held at 3938 Becknerville Rd., Winchester, KY. Directions to the church are: **From Lexington:** I-75 exit #110(US60), east about 6 miles to Road #1923 (Combs Ferry Rd.), right about 5 miles to Road

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

MEXICO, IXTLAN Matt Gerber

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

1 Peter 5:8-11

Bro. Jason and Sis. Rebekah Stoller (Washington) spent five weeks encouraging and fellowshiping with the small group of believers in Barra Vieja. Bro. Rudy and Sis. Rosario Troxel also spent a week in Barra Vieja between their several-week long visit to Ixtlan. Our brethren in Barra Vieja need your continued prayers and ongoing encouragement, as it is not easy to be new Christians without a local church or minister, facing temptations and trials just like you do. They face the same enemy as you—the devil—who is constantly trying to weaken and destroy our faith. Yet we can pray always to the God of all grace, who has called us and will also perfect us through our trials.

We are thankful for God's provision for Bro. Jonathan Aupperle and Sis. Berenice Navarro Cervantes, who announced their engagement. They are both serving in Magdalena at Casa Vida y Esperanza. They plan to be married in Ixtlán on April 25, Lord willing, since this is Sis. Berenice's home church. Sis. Berenice is the daughter of Sis. Teresa

Cervantes and granddaughter of Sis. Carmen Cervantes.

Alejandro Rodriguez (convert) and his wife Rosa Cabrera had a baby boy, Isai. In English this is "Jesse", the father of David. We rejoice with them for God's good gifts. It's encouraging to see more families beginning to use biblical names for their children as the influence of God's Word spreads.

We are looking forward to a number of visitors during the next few months. It's always extra busy with visitors here, but it's a special time for fellowship, encouragement, and exchanging of ideas that sharpen both them and us.

In our school we are in the process of looking for a second teacher for the coming year. Please pray God would bring the person He wants. We also ask for your prayers for God's wisdom and guidance as we wrestle to know the best way to serve the diverse needs of children and families in the community.

MEXICO, MAGDALENA Jarrin Rabe

"Así os digo que hay gozo delante de los ángeles de Dios por un pecador que se arrepiente."

Lucas 15:10

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

Luke 15:10

The month of February has been very busy for us in Magdalena and we want to praise God for His faithfulness in all that was accomplished! We are thankful to have had two different groups here in February; a group from Peoria, IL, and a group from Congerville and Eureka, IL, including visiting ministering Bro. Trent Meiss. Both of the teams worked on a variety of jobs including painting, tiling, working on the new group home, adding a kitchen and living quarters for new houseparents, and putting in a new basketball court. Both teams did an amaz-

ing job and our prayer for them is that God can bless them for the giving of their time and skills to help us and help our children.

The church, and especially CVE Staff, were overjoyed and thankful to learn of the engagement of our Bro. Jonathan Aupperle to Sis. Bere Navarro! Bro. Dennis and Sis. Cindy Aupperle (Peoria, IL) are the parents of Bro. Jonathan, and Alfonso and Sis. Teresa Navarro, from Morelia, Michoacán, México, are the parents of Sis. Bere. With God's blessing, Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Bere plan to have their wedding in Ixtlán on April 25.

With the engagement of Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Bere, came a few changes for our children and staff. With God's help, Bro. Joel and Sis. Kristi Leman plan to be new houseparents to several boys and our youngest child who is 5 months old. Please pray that God could give them the wisdom and grace to guide these children in His love. Several of the other staff members will be changing the children they give care to as well, so please pray for smooth transitions and God's hand in helping with new adjustments and new surroundings.

We also want to praise God that souls are still recognizing their need for Christ as their Saviour and want to serve Him! We are thankful that the Lord is able to change tears of regret and sorrow into tears of joy and peace. It is still the greatest miracle to ever take place. We are thankful for the new converts here in Magdalena. Please pray for them, even if you do not know them by name, that they may have joy in the journey as they walk with their Savior.

"The whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen..."

Luke 19:37

MICHIGAN, ALTO

**Listyn Oesch
Melissa Blough**

At the end of January our congregation was blessed with the reading of the Memorandum. Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary Ann, Fairbury IL) assisted in the work. We thank him for his service both Saturday evening and Sunday.

For only the children who seek Him
With hearts yet untouched and still
clean
Can ever experience His Greatness
And know what His Love can mean...
So waste not the hours of "Life's
Morning",
Get acquainted with God when you're
born,
And when you come to "Life's Eve-
ning",
It will shine like the "Glory of Morn".
—Helen Rice

We rejoice with our dear Sis. Ella Louise Blough (Bro. Lloyd) as she celebrated her 90th birthday on February 14.

Thoughts and prayers were with Bro. Joe Oesch (Sis. Melva) as he spent time in the hospital. He is now home and recovering.

"Two are better than one...and a
threefold cord is not quickly broken."
Eccles. 4:9&12

Bro. Jim McCormick (Tim and Laurie) felt the Lord's leading to ask for Sis. Maria Lehman (Bro. Greg and Sis. MaryBeth, Wolcott IN). Our prayers are with them as their lives join as one.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

**Sarah Knochel
Janelle Ramseyer**

We are thankful that Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH) traveled to Bay City for the weekend of January 23-24 and shared the Word with our congregation. May the Lord be his rich rewarder.

We trust the Lord's comforting hand will be with Brad and Michelle

(Ruegsegger) Marciniak in the sudden passing of Brad's father, Ronald Marciniak. Our prayers are with them during this time as they are yet mourning the loss of his mother, Judy, who passed away in September.

We also want to remember Sis. Emma Waibel in the passing of her sister, Sis. Perseda Wieland (Detroit, MI). Sis. Perseda also has several sister-in-laws, nieces and nephews from our congregation.

Sis. Kay Knochel (Bro. Jim) and Clinton Ruegsegger (Sherri) both were surgery patients this past month. We trust that the Lord will be their strength and heal all according to His will. After a brief stay in a nursing home, Bro. Robert Knochel is back at home and we are thankful that he is able to again assemble with the brethren.

Our prayers are with Bro. Jim Knochel (Sis. Kay) as he was recently selected as Sunday School Superintendent. We are thankful for the years of service Bro. Bob Knochel (Sis. Rhonda) provided on behalf of the Sunday School.

As the Easter season is drawing near, may we pause and reflect on the great price that was paid at Calvary that we may be free in Christ and live eternally.

Have you read the story of the Cross
Where Jesus bled and died;
Where your debt was paid by His pre-
cious blood
That flowed from His wounded side?

Have you read that he looked to
Heav'n
and said, 'Tis finished? 'Twas for
thee!
Have you ever said, "I thank Thee,
Lord,
For giving Thy life for me"?"
Gospel Hymns #816

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

**Manuela Denes
Kay Rauhe**

"For thou hast been a strength to the

poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shadow from the heat, when the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against the wall.”

Isaiah 25:4

We were encouraged to keep praying and remembering the people of Haiti as they are still in need of so much. It can be a time of reflection as we count our blessings and know that our Lord and Savior is always there in time of need; in fact, He is already there before we realize that we really do need Him. “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.” (Jeremiah 29:11)

Bro. Joel Virkler (Sis. Amber) is home from Haiti and wanted to express his thankfulness to everyone who had said prayers on his behalf. We are glad that he is once again home with his family. We are thankful that Bro. Tom Hitz (Sis. Cindy) and Bro. Stan Virkler (Sis. Beth; Remington, IN) were also able to fly into Haiti and accomplish much-needed World Relief activity and mission work. Prayers were answered when they arrived back home safely.

Our love to the Sabados family, Sis. Suzanne, Sis. Anna, Pauline, and Joseph, and to John and Sis. Linda Reardon as they have been unable to worship with us for a long time; and we really miss them! We need to remember to keep them all in our thoughts and prayers.

We are so thankful for our diligent prayers as Sis. Martha Szilagyi is home after being hospitalized with another heart attack. We will continue to pray for her as she rests and gets stronger at Woodhaven. Bro. Hartzell Kaisner (Sis. Mary) recently had knee surgery and was hospitalized for a few days but is now resting at home. We were encouraged to pray for healing and that the pain will be decreasing every day.

Our Elder Body gathered for the mid-winter Conference in West Bend, IA, and our Elder Bro. Mark Bahr sincerely thanked us when he returned

home as he was profoundly aware of our fervent prayer support while he was there.

Since Bro. Marc and Sis. Stacie Knepp are expecting twins in May, she was instructed by her doctor to have complete bed rest...so the month of February we are showering her with gifts and taking meals to help them both during this time. We are thinking of them and keeping them in our prayers.

Our entire congregation was deeply saddened by the death of Sis. Perseda Wieland on February 8. Our heart-felt sympathy, continued prayers, and love to her daughters and their husbands, Judy and Doug Bargerstock, Ann and Steve Jenkins, and Bonnie and Ernie Jermo; her grandchildren; her first great granddaughter, Lillian Grace Anderson, born the morning after the funeral; her many nieces, nephews, and cousins; and their entire family as they are entrusting the Lord to ease their deepest burdens and hurts during this most difficult time... who better to put our faith and trust in... the only One who can really give comfort and healing. Bro. Bill Waibel (Sis. Carol; Bay City, MI), who was Sis. Perseda's nephew, had the main part of the service as well as the prayer at the cemetery; and Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue) from our congregation had the closing comments and closing prayer. We will surely miss Sis. Perseda, but so thankful that she's safe in the arms of Jesus!

“But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”

Isaiah 40:31

May Sis. Jamie Bahr (Bro. Scott) feel the Lord's peace and know the gentle comfort of His healing touch as they mourn the death of her grandfather, John Menold of Sabetha, KS. He was preceded in death by his two wives, Dorothy and Loree. He was a very Godly man and will be greatly missed.

Our love and congratulations to

Curt Kaisner and Meredith Mueller from Dearborn, MI, on their recent engagement. May the days leading up to their June 26 wedding be filled with joy, and we pray that God will guide and bless the life they'll soon be sharing. Happy parents are Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Mary Kaisner and Jim and Patricia Mueller of Dearborn, MI.

It was wonderful to get an update from Bro. Tim Sauder and Bro. Jeff Waibel from our Leo, IN, congregation and from Sis. Alexis Stoller from our Latty, OH, congregation about Gateway Woods and the important and necessary work that is going on with so many deserving young people.

Sis. Kristie Meyer just returned from a Bastrop, TX, work team, and we're happy to have her home again. What a wonderful time she had helping others!

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

1 John 4:12

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

MINNESOTA MINNEAPOLIS

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

Romans 10:15

We appreciated Elder Bro. Tom Klotzle (Sis. Jody, Altadena, CA) bringing the good news, the message of salvation to our congregation. Their visit was a blessing as we enjoyed their fellowship and the presence of God's Spirit among us.

We pray God's blessings upon Alissa Messner (Bro. Doug and Sis. Sue) as she has found employment in Sioux Falls, SD. Having watched Alissa grow from a small child, she has become a special part of our church family and we will

miss her. Blest be the tie that binds...

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

**Susie Wulf
Sheila Reuter**

Our hearts rejoice with Sis. Tara Fehr (Bro. Randy and Sis. Lori), Sis. Ashley Fehr (Bro. Gary and Sis. Sandy) and Sis. Alissa Knobloch (Mark and Sis. Brenda) as they gave their testimonies and were baptized into the fold.

We are so thankful for all the visiting ministers we had this month. They were Bro. Floyd Frieden (Elgin, IA), Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Elder Bro. Dave Graf (Akron, OH), Bro. Tim Ramsier (Rittman, OH), Bro. Ted Luginbuhl (Smithville, OH), Bro. Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO), Bro. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA), Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA), Bro. Glen Steiner (Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Jerry Meeks (Sabetha, KS). May God bless them for preaching the Word of Life unto us.

Bro. Doug Feuchtenberger (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Karen) and Sis. Kim Luginbuhl (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Rose) were united in marriage. May God be with them as they walk this pathway of life together as one in the Lord.

Lucas and Tracy Koehl are thankful for their precious son, Landon Lucas. Grandparents are Bro. Roy and Sis. Jenell Koehl. Also, Bro. Damon and Sis. Stephanie Knobloch welcome Owen Dennis into their hearts and home. Excited siblings are Sawyer, Lily and Maggie and grandparents Sis. Carol Ann Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Larry Knobloch (Lester, IA).

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

**Julie Schmidt
Lindsay Schmidt**

How shall it be when we at last re-
turning
From weary wand'rings and from toil
and strife,
Shall reach the home for which our
heart is yearning
And enter into everlasting life?

When from our feet the dust of earth
has vanished,
The last sweat from our brow is wiped
away,
Our eyes behold what oft earth's care
has banished
And gave to us new courage on our
way.

Zion's Harp #146 vs. 1

Several in our congregation have felt the sting of death. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Dan and Ann Lind as they grieve the loss of Dan's mother, Ellen Lind, and to Shirley Demm and Randy and Jean Stresemann in the tragic loss of their 19 year-old grandson and nephew, Eric Ward (Mike Ward and Monica McNeal), as a Marine in Afghanistan. Death is never easy no matter the age or situation. We pray that they will be able to lean on God and gain strength from Him in their time of need.

Many from our congregation were privileged to go to LaCrosse, IN, to witness the marriage of Bro. Brendon Messner (Bro. Dean and Sis. Wanda) and Sis. Sharla Heinold (Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie, LaCrosse, IN). It was a blessing to be present and rejoice with them for what God has done in their lives. Hand in hand, may love bind them and for each other's welfare strive. May God be with them as they become one.

Our dear friend, Melvin Messner (Vernita), has spent some time in the hospital. May God strengthen and bring healing to his body.

Our thoughts and prayers went out for our Elder brothers as they met in West Bend, IA, for the Mid-Winter Conference. We are thankful to have these brothers that are willing to serve and care for our church. May each one individually be mindful to serve our Lord and Savior first and foremost.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

**Dana Kellenberger
Rebecca Dotterer**

Thankful parents of another baby boy are Bro. Michael and Sis. Kristi Huber when Aden Lee was born on February 13. Also welcoming him home are

siblings, Laura, Seth, Emily, Eli and Mariah. Aden's grandparents are Bro. Gary Huber (Eureka, IL), Karen Huber (Peoria, IL) and Bro. Ray and Sis. Vi Luthi of our congregation.

We have had many visiting brethren this past month, including ministering Bros. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA), Larry Bahr (Sis. Julie, Ft. Scott, KS), Ron Isch (Sis. Jane, Lamont, KS), Beirne Messner (Sis. Joyce, Morris, MN), Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, Portland, OR), and Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Lisa, Eureka, IL).

There have been several hospital stays this month, including Bros. Rex (Sis. Vera) Frieden and Ben Braker (Bro. Roy and Sis. Judy) and Sis. Jodi (Bro. Calvin) Luthi. We pray the Lord will heal and strengthen each one as He sees best.

Our sympathy goes to Bro. Bill and Sis. Sharon Dotterer on the passing away of his sister, Sis. Carolyn Hoerr (Bro. Mark) of the Eureka congregation.

Reminder: March is the month for Silver Lining collection for Lamar.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

**Meagan Wuethrich
Betsy Schrenk**

"...the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD."

Job 1:21

Two months after his wife, Berniece, passed away, our dear friend, Harold Stuber, went to be with the Lord on February 10. They were originally from Tremont, IL, but moved here about 5 years ago to be near their married daughters. It was such a blessing to have an older couple in our little church. They are sorely missed by us all.

As the verse at the beginning expresses, as the Lord took away, He also gave. On February 5,

Bro. Nathan and Sis. Michelle Rassi became the parents of a much anticipated little Ashton David. His thankful

grandparents, Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla Rassi and Bro. Walt and Sis. Lynda Beery, are rejoicing along with his many aunts, uncles, cousins, and our entire congregation. We are so thankful for his safe arrival!

The engagement of Sis. Meagan Wuethrich (Bro. Chris and Sis. Carla) and Bro. Brad Frank (Bro. Curt and Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN) was announced, and the blessed young couple is preparing for a May wedding. We look forward to seeing them often when they visit Sis. Meagan's family, as they will reside in LaCrosse where Bro. Brad farms.

Although our St. Louis congregation is small in number, we have experienced an engagement, a birth, and a death all within a month. We are so very thankful for the evidence of the love and care of the Lord in our lives.

We have been so blessed to have several visiting ministers over the past couple months:

Elder Bros. Bruce Endress (Sis. Elizabeth, Bradford, IL) and Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN) and ministering Bros. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL), Brandon Emch (Sis. Maria, Kansas City, MO), and Tim Lehman (Sis. Amber, Taylor, MO). Special thanks to each these brothers and their wives and families for their faithfulness and fellowship.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR Kathy Eberhardt

When we see a rainbow in the sky, what do we think of? Do we remind ourselves of God's faithfulness and goodness? We were challenged to resolve in our hearts the answer to the question "Is God good?" We were thankful for Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN) for sharing the Memorandum to our church family. Bro. Lynn encouraged us to keep an eternal perspective on all things, and make Jesus known to all.

We are rejoicing with Bro. Reed Yackley (Bro. Elwood and Sis. Trudie), with his baptism in Gridley, IL, on February 7.

We enjoyed a Bible Study with Bro.

Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL) entitled "In the world, but not of the world". May we strive to be more like Jesus. God has used many types of people to do His work like Luke, Joseph, Esther, and David and He wants to use us, too. He quoted a song to finish his study, the name of the song is "Just One More Soul". Here are the words:

The preachers are weary
The singers are tired
The church as we know it
Is losing its fire
Some are discouraged from bearing
the load
But we must be determined to keep
pressing on.
Cause if just one more soul were to
walk down the aisle
It would be worth every struggle
It would be worth every mile
A lifetime of labor is still worth it all
If it rescues just one more soul
So preachers, keep preachin'
And singers, go sing
Laymen, keep sharing, that Jesus is
King
The angels have gathered,
They're surrounding the throne
And they'll start rejoicing for just one
more soul.

We have started a Berean Prison Ministry at our local jail. We would like to thank Peoria church for our study lessons.

We pray for healing power on Sis. Marian Pflum, Sis. Cheryl Stratton, Bro. Tyler Haerr, and Sis. Dianne Sutter.

We want to express our sympathy to Bro. Nick Hoerr on the death of his mother, Sis. Carolyn (Bro. Mark, Eureka, IL). We also express sympathy to Sis. Alicia Steffen, as her grandfather, Bro. Kenneth Schwartz (Bluffton, IN), recently passed away. They have gone home to be with Jesus. What a blessed reward we are promised!

We are thankful for a safe return of Sis. Tina Sutter (Bro. Dan) from Haiti. She has written a news article to be included in the Silver Lining:

First and foremost, I would like to thank all of you who prayed for the safe return of the work team that was in Haiti during the earthquake. There was several men from Ohio, one from Indiana, one from New York, and Alabama. There was eleven men all together plus Martha Braker and myself. We stayed at the AC guest house, located in Les Cayes, which is approximately 100 miles from Port (about a four hour drive). We flew into Port au Prince on Friday, January 8; we were then shuttled to the smaller airport where Martha and I, the Pfiester family, along with a medical team from North Carolina took a small plane into Les Cayes. The men split off from us and took a plane to Jeremy to work on a roof. They stayed there until Tuesday. They were suppose to return Wednesday but the project went well and they returned one day early. They arrived at the guest house about 45 min after the earthquake had taken place. The road was so bad and treacherous it took them twelve hours to travel about 50-60 miles; they also did not feel the earthquake because the road was so rough.

Martha and I were in the guest house when the whole house was rocking back and forth and there was a strange noise. We did not know what was happening. There was a Haitian man standing at the door saying God is in control, that was an earthquake.

Before long we realized that there was massive destruction in Port au Prince and in thirty seconds God allowed thousands of people to die and a city to be destroyed. And believe you me, He got our attention.

We continued to do our work at the center the rest of the week even though all the women were distracted and upset. We learned that Olga's cook, that cooked for us at noon, had a daughter going to college at Port. We soon learned she did not survive. Her son and daughter-in-law had been badly hurt and they could not find her seven year old grandchild.

We knew we were not going to travel home as planned. Ron Palitto, among

other people started working on how we would get out. I think it was on Friday they thought there was a chance that some small planes would get us from Les Cayes, but no one knew for sure. Ron was thinking maybe we could charter a boat to the DR. While Jan Gutwein took a trip in a beat up truck with three Haitians and gas to get back in to Port to see if that would be possible. On Saturday we sat at the Les Cayes airport from 2 pm to 5:30 hoping these planes would come and get us. We had to return to the guest house that night, everyone was getting pretty tense by then.

Sunday we went to the airport and a short service there while waiting. We all were very excited to hear the planes coming in. About four or five small planes landed. They had a priority list and we loaded the planes accordingly. We left all but ten pounds of luggage and landed on the island of Inagua in about an hour and a half, leaving behind three men from our team. An airport and a salt plant was about all that was there. We filled out papers saying we were entering the Bahamas and re-boarded the planes. I was shifted to a four passenger. We flew about 2 ½ hours or so to Nassau and checked into the Hilton and waited for the others to arrive. We then could make the rest of our travel plans. We boarded the plane the next morning and everyone made their way back home. I arrived home safely at 9 pm.

Thank you all so much caring and praying for our return. Please remember to pray for all the desperate people in Haiti and the missionaries. The Pfiester family I learned this evening has decided to return home soon. The conditions in Les Cayes is deteriorating with the arrival of so many people from Port being moved there for medical treatment at the clinic and to live with family members. There has been reports of riots taking place within walking distance of the AC missionary's compound where we were staying.

The first time I went to Haiti I was convicted of my unthankfulness. This time I came home, the verse Mathew 10:39 came to my mind as I sat on the

beach in Nassau reflecting on the earthquake. "He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it." I said to Martha several times, "I just feel like my life is so insignificant." That is because my life is insignificant. It is only when He is glorified and used for His purpose that my life is significant. That means if He needs to use us by allowing us to die in an earthquake or a plane accident He will, because it is all about Him not us. It was then it occurred to me that we are on this earth for one purpose and that is for His plan. And I become fearful when I am not willing to lay it all down for Him and trust that He is control. How much more I can be used if I have no fear. No fear of losing my life, no fear of getting hurt, no fear of anything because God is in control. When I left for Haiti, I knew God would teach me something valuable and I was waiting for Him to reveal it to me. One thing through it all I know I was right where God wanted me. I had a peace about the trip from the beginning. I was wondering how Tim and Joan could continue after their huge earthly losses. And it all makes sense to me now — they already know that God has a reason for everything that happens and they accept the fact that He will use us even when it involves pain and suffering. Well, it took exactly 45 years for me to learn this (today is my birthday). Thank Thee, Lord, I only hope I won't forget it soon.

NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Hope Graves

A potluck dinner was shared together before we packed health kits for Haiti on January 29. What a blessing to be able to do even this small thing for those who are suffering.

Our prayers are with little Angelise Kuntz who broke her leg on February 6. She had a cast put on and has been home learning how to adjust to not being able to walk around!

Our hearts were saddened with the death of Sis. Charlotte Virkler who died

on February 16 at the age of 90. We extend our heartfelt prayers and sympathy to her family. She is survived by three sons, Bro. Andy and Sis. Becky Virkler (West Bend, IA), Bro. John and Sis. Maureen Virkler (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Rudy and Sis. Susan Virkler (Rockville, CT). Her daughters are Sis. Alice Virkler (Croghan), Sis. Eleanor and Bro. Ron Herzig (Beaver Falls), and Carol and Tony Foti (Watertown). Our congregation will greatly miss Sis. Charlotte and the smile she always had for everyone. We were thankful to have ministering Bro. Dan Goric (Rockville, CT) with us for her funeral service. We also appreciated several brethren from Rockville who helped with the beautiful singing. Sis. Charlotte would have been pleased to see the church filled with so many family and friends who traveled many miles to be here.

NEW YORK CITY Secaucus, New Jersey

There are friendships that we cherish, in our daily walk of life...

Hymns of Zion #91

We were blessed to have a number of brethren with us as we gathered to worship recently in Secaucus. It is always encouraging for our Church to see the effort that the brethren make to come the miles to visit us. One of the many blessings of our faith is the blessed fellowship that we enjoy — may we never forsake the assembling of ourselves together.

We would like to share the remaining 2010 Secaucus worship schedule. Lord willing, we plan on meeting on 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.

OHIO, AKRON
Erika Gal

“For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”

St. Matthew 16:26

We are so thankful that David Laubli has found grace to humble himself in repentance. We rejoice with his parents, Bro. Gaius and Sis. Ilona Laubli, as well as all his younger siblings. We continue to pray for more souls to yield their lives to the Lord.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Bro. Paul Gherian wishes to thank all the dear brothers and friends for the love, prayers, cards, food, and gifts sent to comfort us in our time of grief. May your kindness be richly rewarded by our loving Heavenly Father.

Humbly in Christ,
Sis. Sharon Gherian
Bro. Ted and Sis. Anna Gherian
Bro. Micah and Sis. Marcy Gherian
Bro. Justin and Sis. Lisa Gherian

OHIO, COLUMBUS
Esther Saurer

We appreciated being joined by our Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) and Elder Bro. John Jackson (Bay City, MI) for the reading of the Memorandum. Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH) also visited this month.

In Columbus we are often blessed to have college students worship with us. We are thankful that Sis. Jenna Dotterer was recently baptized in Forrest, IL.

We were recently able to complete our church remodeling project which included many volunteers from the Columbus congregation assisting in the painting of our church's interior. We also were able to get new carpet installed to complete the project. Please come and visit to help us get it broken in.

OHIO, JUNCTION
Vicki Boroff

We would like to thank Bros. Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonita, Cissna Park) and Bill Brake (Sis. Miriam, Sardis) for bringing the Word to us. We should always appreciate the efforts of our home and visiting ministers.

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

God called Sis. Inez Rose home on February 24. We will keep her family in our prayers during this difficult time.

We were excited to hear that April Manz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen) has decided to repent. We wish her God's grace as she learns to walk with Him.

OHIO, LATTY
Amanda Wenninger
Carmen Eisenmann

Our congregation is rejoicing this month as three dear souls have turned their heart to the Lord in humble repentance. We pray that God will bless Arthur Stoller (Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth), Mallory Rosswurm (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Amy), and Karl Klopfenstein (Bro. Leon and Sis. Deb) with grace, mercy, and joy in their walk with Him.

We also have three new babies to report this month. January 18 was the birthday for Heather Joy born to Bro. Chet and Sis. Amanda Wenninger. Reid is her older brother, and Bro. Larry and Sis. Joyce Wenninger and Bro. Donn and Sis. Karen Steffen are thankful grandparents. Bro. Doug and Sis. Bonny Wenninger welcomed another son, Nathan Reid, into their family on February 7. Older siblings are Makaela,

Luke, and Lane. Happy grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Joyce Wenninger and Bro. Mike and Sis. Pat Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL). Bro. Jeff and Sis. Sarah Stoller traveled to Ethiopia and brought home a new daughter, Selah Tekean. She was born on July 2, 2009. Her big sister, Shiloh, helped to welcome her home along with her grandparents, Bro. Rod and Sis. LeAnn Stoller and Bro. Larry and Sis. Beth Moore (Elgin, IL). We pray that God provides these three families with strength, peace, and love.

We had several in our congregation that underwent surgery or spent time in the hospital this past month. Our prayers have been with Sis. Mary Klopfenstein (Bro. Marvin), Sis. Lillian Schlatter, Sis. Dorothy Stoller (Bro. Wayne), and Sis. LeAnn Stoller (Bro. Rod). May they feel the presence of Almighty God during this time.

Finally, we pray for the family of Bro. Melvin Stoller (Sis. Irene) as he fought a good fight of faith and was laid to rest. He was a dear older brother who left many fond memories in our hearts. He will be missed, but we know that he has finally made it home.

OHIO, MANSFIELD
Tami Griffey

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

II Timothy 4:2

After a time of praying and searching out God's will, our congregation welcomes two brothers who will assist in the Lord's work. Bro. Mark Rufener (Sis. Julie) and Bro. Curt Walter (Sis. Elizabeth) have our prayers, love and support as they begin preaching God's Word. We are thankful for their willingness to serve as ministers of the Gospel.

We appreciate the recent visit of Bro. Ronald Steiner (Sis. Ruth; Rittman, OH) and for his labors of love, reading and sharing God's Holy Word.

Loved ones that have been hospital-

ized recently include: Sis. Abigail Keever (Bro. Jared), Elmer 'Bud' Sauder, and Sis. Lore Stuenzi (Bro. Arthur). We will continue to keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

OHIO, RITTMAN
Heidi Rufener
Marge Stoller

"Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the Lord Jehovah is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation. Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation."

Isaiah 12:2-3

Two dear souls have found themselves thirsting for the living water and have called upon our Lord in repentance. They are David Acker (Bro. Brian and Sis. Darlene) and Arthur Stoller (Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth, Latty), who is worshipping with us while he attends school in the area.

Several new babies have arrived this month. Bro. Andrew and Sis. Esther Raifsnider are first-time parents to Brandon Andrew born January 28. Grandparents are Sis. Diane Raifsnider and Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon Rupp. Ashton David joined the family of Bro. Nathan and Sis. Michelle Rassi (St. Louis, MO) on February 5. Grandparents are Bro. Walt and Sis. Lynda Beery and Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla Rassi (Chicago, IL). On February 7, Summer Danielle was born to Bro. Scott and Sis. Rachel Hartzler. Grandparents are Dick and Sis. Karen Hartzler and Sis. Sherri Schlatter (Forrest, IL). Milan Timothy was also born on February 7 to Bro. Dan and Sis. Kim Stoller (Smithville). Siblings welcoming Milan home are Sis. Lydia, Sis. Roseanna, Wayne, Karleen, Chad and Janae. Grandmothers are Sis. Lucille Blough and Sis. Luzekia Stoller (Smithville). We are thankful for the safe arrival of each of these little ones!

The engagement of Sis. Jenny Raifsnider (Sis. Diana) and Bro. Chet

Manz (Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy, Junction) was made known to our congregation. We wish God's rich blessings on this couple as they plan for their marriage.

Hospitalized recently were Bro. Bob Steiner (Sis. Betty), Sis. Margaret Betz, Bro. Jim Rupp (Sis. Sharon), Sis. Shirley Rufener (Bro. Darrell) and Bro. Ken Rupp. May God's healing hand rest upon each one.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Adam Howell. Our prayers and heartfelt sympathy go out to his sister, Joy Fortner, and grandmother, Sis. Rowene Howell.

Elder Bros. Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA) and Andy Stoller (Smithville) were with us to assist with the reading of the Memorandum. Ministering Bro. Tom Bahler (Rockville, CT) also shared God's Word with us this month. We thank these brothers for their time and effort on our behalf.

OHIO, SARDIS
Faith Beard

"God thundereth marvellously with his voice; great things doeth He, which we cannot comprehend. For He saith to the snow, Be thou on the earth; likewise to the small rain, and to the great rain of his strength."

Job 37:5-6

Our area has had greater amounts of snow than is normal here, and along with that our children have missed a good deal of school. Each snow flake is amazing in its individual beauty and indiscernible weight - at least to the human hand, yet how destructive it can be when piled together with billions of other flakes. So it is with the tongue; no matter how small a member of the body it may be, yet it cannot be tamed - and how great a fire it can kindle! (James 5)

Our prayers are for Sis. Paula Figel (Bro. John), in the loss of a brother-in-law, Terrel Johnson (Linda), of Sardis, OH. We also acknowledge her burden of lingering arm

pain due to the misplacement of a flu shot.

While leaving Christmas not too far behind us and entering into the Easter holiday, we see that most of the world puts the greater celebration on Christmas. Yet as Christians, we celebrate Easter as our most holy holiday, and remember the meaning of the "Rising of the Son" early on the first day of the week.

"And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun. And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre? And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away; for it was very great."

Mark 16:2-4

OHIO, SMITHVILLE
Lydia Stoller
Ruth Gasser

Flourishing youth, thou our hope and our fond expectation,
 Hark to the voice that is calling in kind invitation!
 That hand obey Which oft has pointed the way
 To the dear Saviour's salvation!

If thou wilt seek Him, His angels around thee will hover:
 In their communion great happiness thou shalt discover,
 If thou wilt stay With Him until thy last day,
 Who is thy bridegroom and lover.
Zion's Harp #168

We rejoiced as two young souls were added to the fold on February 21. After sharing their conversion experience, Zachary and Morgan Pertee (Bro. Dave and Shelly Colvin and Ron Pertee) were baptized and became our Brother and Sister in faith. We thank Elder Bros. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) and Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH) for assisting Bro. Andy on that weekend. We also thank the ministering brothers

who attended and took part: Bros. Steve Pamer and Ron Palitto (Akron, OH), Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH) and Bros. Earl Beery, Ron Steiner and Tim Ramsier (Rittman, OH). On another Sunday, Bro. Mike Ursu (Kitchener, Ontario) visited and shared the Holy Word with us. May God continue to bless and inspire those who have been called upon to speak His Word.

It gives us joy also to see the Word take root in the beginnings of faith as souls seek the Lord in repentance. Corbin Stoller (Bro. Ed and Sis. Verla) has answered God's call and begun his walk with the Lord. We pray that each who has begun upon this way can yield to the Lord's leading and be abundantly blessed with His grace and peace.

Many homes are rejoicing with the gift of new life in the past months. Bro. Dan and Sis. Beth Kellenberger were blessed with Salome Elizabeth on January 2. Reuben is her older brother and Bro. Keith and Sis. Ida Kellenberger (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Ed and Sis. Verla Stoller are the grateful grandparents. On January 22, Tanner Lee was born to Bro. Dana and Sis. Leah Nieman (Remington, IN). Grandparents, Bro. Denny and Sis. Kay Nieman and Bro. Dan and Sis. Debra Stoller (Remington, IN), heartily welcomed him. Milan Timothy was born to Bro. Dan and Sis. Kim Stoller, and was warmly greeted on February 7 by siblings, Sis. Lydia, Sis. Roseanna, Wayne, Karleen, Chad and Janae. Grandparents are Sis. Luzelda (late Bro. Don) Stoller and Sis. Lucille Blough (Rittman, OH) and Joe Blough. Bro. Doug and Sis. Rachel Stoller (Bloomfield, IA) were blessed by the arrival of Mary Luella on February 15. Sis. Luella (late Bro. Harold) Stoller and Bro. Tim and Sis. Mary Maibach (Bloomfield, IA) are the grandparents.

Bro. Mark Steiner conducted the funeral services of Sylvia Auxter, aunt of Sis. Dorothy Ramsier (Bro. Jim). Amber Lanz suffered the loss of her grandmother, Sis. Charlotte Virkler, whose funeral was conducted in Croghan-Naumburg, NY. May God comfort those who are grieving.

Bro. Herbert Bauman was hospitalized in recent weeks, but thankfully has been able to assemble with us again.

OHIO, TOLEDO
Teresa Rywalski
Rebecca Beard

We spent a quiet Saturday evening together as we listened to the reading of the Memorandum. Helping our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) with the Memorandum was Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH). Both brothers were then with us on Sunday. What a blessing it is to know that our Heavenly Father still provides for His children.

Our annual business meeting was held the last Sunday in January. We wish to thank those brothers and sisters who served in the past and those who will serve in the future.

Congratulations to Jeffrey Harris (Sharon) and Shawna Gallagher as they were united in marriage recently. We pray the Lord will bless them as they establish their home together.

OREGON, PORTLAND
Renee Angstrom

Our visiting ministers this month from Silverton were Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty), Bro. Todd Zollinger (Sis. Michele), and Bro. Harvey Kuenzi (Sis. Jennifer). We were blessed and encouraged by the beautiful messages that were spoken. We appreciate their support.

Our annual business meeting was held in February. We support our Brothers and Sisters who were elected into new positions: Sunday school teacher is Bro. Ilijah Gavrilovic (Sis. Nada). Trustee is Bro. Monte Kuenzi (Sis. Kellie). Sound system is Bro. Lee Jones. Kitchen committee member is Sis. Sarah Kuenzi (Bro. Nathan). We thank those that served these positions in the past.

Our continued prayers are with Bro. Ray Cooper (Sis. Ginny) as he is still at home recuperating from heart surgery.

We look forward to the day he can worship with us again.

OREGON, SILVERTON
Deb Roth
Kris Luthi

“Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord and the fruit of the womb is his reward.”

Psalm 127:3

Lyle and Andrea Kuenzi are the happy parents of a new baby boy they named Emerson Bohm. Henry and Adeline are his adoring siblings at home. Emerson's grandparents are Bro. James and Sis. Barb Kuenzi and Bohm and Ramona Townsend and James Buss.

“Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.”

St. Matthew 5:8

The weekend of January 30-31 was a blessing for all that could witness the provings and baptisms of Sis. Abigail Sinn (Bro. Mark and Sis. Elsie) and Sis. Megan Kuenzi (Bro. Jason and Sis. Jo). Our own Elder Bro. Art Metz was assisted by Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy) from Forrest, IL. We are very appreciative of the time and effort our Elder Brothers devote to the teaching and edification of the church. We were exhorted to earnestly contend for the faith.

“Blessed are they which hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.”

St. Matthew 5:6

We are rejoicing with two converts and their families. Darren Sinn (Bro. Don and Sis. Linda) and Luke Zollinger (Bro. Todd and Sis. Michele) profess that they have repented of their sins and found peace with God.

“Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.”

St. Matthew 5:4

Our hearts grieve for Sis. Diane Kuenzi (Bro. Myron) as her father, Alfred Gulstrom, passed away. Our love and sympathy is also extended to his grandchildren, Sis. Sara, Sis. Tamara, Sis. Ruth (Bro. Rick Metzger), Bro. Zach (Sis. Rachel), Melanie and Josh.

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

II Timothy 4:2

We are always grateful for the ministering of our own local ministers and also for any visiting ministers. Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy) and Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Lisa) of our Portland congregation exhorted us on recent Wednesday nights. May we never turn our ears away from the truth.

"Hold fast to the right, wherever your footsteps may roam
but forsake not the way of salvation,
my boy,
that you learned from your mother at home."

Aaron Luthi (Bro. Bill and Sis. Kris) has moved to the Lamar, MO, area to work for a season. We miss him very much but trust that he is in the hollow of God's hand. We are thankful to have Jonathon Sinn (Bro. Dean and Sis. Heidi) home again after a term of study in Illinois. Ryan Bence (Bro. Sam and Sis. Lily) is welcomed back after working for several months in the Akron, OH, area. Tristan Kuenzi (Bro. Todd and Sis. Melissa) moved to the West Bend, IA, area for work and study. All of these young men are precious to us and we pray that they can feel the love of their parents and brethren wherever they go.

**PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA**

"For God so loved the world, that he

gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

We are thankful to hear of the good news that our converts, Bonnie and Joel Isch, have found peace with God and man and desire to bring forth a testimony of faith to the Church. We know that many prayers on their behalf have been answered and trust that they will continue to feel the Holy Spirit's guidance as they prepare for this special weekend.

We had our annual business meeting and want to thank all of the brothers and sisters who have held offices over the last year. It is encouraging to see how smooth things work together operationally for our Church when each one does their job. We were also exhorted to remember how the Bible reminds us of our similar responsibilities in the body of Christ (I Cor 12). It is only our reasonable service.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

Mike and Monica Fritz

We have been encouraged and strengthened in the past month by God's Living Word, brought to us by our visiting ministering brothers: Bros. Wes Moser (Sis. Esther; Lester, IA), Brian Huber (Francesville, IN), Craig Martin (Sis. Terri; Princeville, IL), and Dana Indermuhle (Sis. Joy; Sardis, OH). We have also appreciated the fellowship of brethren and friends visiting from Bradford, Congerville, Forrest, and Princeville, IL; Francesville, IN; Lester, IA; and Mansfield and Sardis, 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: Cissna Park, IL (3/21); Fairbury, IL (3/28); Wolcott, IN (4/11); Winthrop, MN (4/18); and Philadelphia, PA (4/25). We do not currently have a visiting minister scheduled for Easter Sunday, April 4, but if local brethren are in the area, we will gather for recorded ser-

vices. If you are planning to worship with us, please call ahead to confirm our schedule. Often we gather on Saturday evenings for fellowship, and all are heartily welcome. We also usually meet on Wednesday evenings at 7:15 p.m. for singing or Bible study and would welcome any midweek visitors. Contacts are Bro. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder, (615) 373-8928; Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz, (615) 866-5543; and Sis. Gwen Leuthold, (615) 356-5755.

TEXAS, AUSTIN

Serenity and Jasmine Ringger

In a sermon recently we were reminded why we go through hard times. It's a time of testing. When Job was hit with all of his calamities, God was proving him. Trials are also a time of purifying. We draw closer to God. Sometimes we don't know why things happen to us, but we can have confidence that God is in charge and knows what He is doing.

We are thankful that our convert Gideon Ringger has peace with God and man, and is ready and desires to be baptized. The date is set for March 28.

It was a blessing to gather together for the Memorandum and Communion. Our Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian, San Diego), Elder Bro. Ben Walder (Sis. Juanita, Congerville), and Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata) were here to exhort and encourage us.

Our visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville), Bros. Joe Klotzle (Sis. Sue, Altadena), and Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris).

The following is the minister schedule for April: (4) Bluffton; (11) Elgin, IL; (18) Rockville; and (25) Bloomington. 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.

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 1 1/2 blocks off the Expressway on 10th Street. Services will be held at 10:30 and 12:30. Please see ministers' directory for local contact information.

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 Retired Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, Portland, OR), Retired Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Sis. Sandy, Morris, MN), Bro. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville, IA), Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris, MN), Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Sis. Pat, Congerville, IL), and Bro. Ron Isch (Sis. Jane, Lamont, KS).

Bro. Alvin and Sis. Phyllis Banwart (West Bend) and Bro. Roy and Sis. Donna Enhle (Bradford) both celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary while here in Zapata.

We thank those that made a special effort to come to Zapata to work on the Fellowship Hall. We certainly appreciate all the help that was given to complete the project.

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

VERMONT NORTH CLAREN- DON/NORWICH

Nathan and Miriam Reutter

The quiet lack of activity throughout this month in our congregation brought the following verse to mind. "It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD." (Lamentations 3:26). Quiet

times are good if we take the opportunity they afford to reflect upon the goodness of God.

Our visiting minister schedule has been operating smoothly so far this year. We have enjoyed and appreciated the ministry of willing servants, all from the Rockville, CT, congregation this month: Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Diane), Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl), Bro. Tom Bahler (Sis. LaNae), Bro. Dan Goric (Sis. Mary Lou), and Bro. Warren Zahner (Sis. Bonnie). We pray that God would bless their endeavors. We are pleased when their spouses, children, and sometimes grandchildren come with them. It adds much to our Christian fellowship!

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.

Since Bro. Kirby and Sis. Areli Reutter have moved, the head covering information will now be placed under the Leo, IN, column of the Silver Lining.



Make plans to attend the
2010 Athens/Tennessee Memorial Day Weekend
on May 29-30

"Serving Jesus" will be the theme for this year's Athens/Tennessee Memorial Day Weekend. Two ministers will plan to speak on the topics of "The Joy and Reward of Serving Jesus" and how we can serve Jesus by serving others in our communities, nationally and internationally through church sponsored World Relief activities. We anticipate having a blessed weekend and invite everyone to come and join us. Below are more details about the weekend activities which include an auction that begins at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, singing, fellowship and worship.

Saturday, May 29 — All activities at the Tennessee Fellowship Area located in Pulaski, Tenn.

- 12:00 p.m. — Registration (and donation of auction items)
- 2:00 p.m. — Auction commences with song and prayer
- 6:00 p.m. — Supper
- 7:00 p.m. — Singing
- 7:30 p.m. — Minister speaks on "The Joy and Reward of Serving Jesus"
- 8:00 p.m. — Singing

Sunday, May 30

- 10:00 a.m. — Church services at Athens Apostolic Christian Church in Athens, Ala.
- 3:30 p.m. — Fellowship begins at Tennessee Fellowship Area
- 4:00 p.m. — Singing
- 5:00 p.m. — Minister speaks on "Serving Others through World Relief Activities"
- 5:30 p.m. — Supper
- 7:00 p.m. — Singing

Bus from Central Illinois: A bus will again be chartered from Morton, Ill. If you are interesting in riding it to the Tennessee Fellowship Area, please contact Ed or Barb Kaiser at (309)263-8944 or e-mail them at ed.kaiser@comcast.net.

Local Motel Accommodations: Fellowship Area in Pulaski, Tenn. Super 8 (800)800-8000 or (931)363-4501 Athens, Alabama Area - Best Western (356)233-4030; Comfort Inn (800)228-5150 or (256)232-2704; Country Hearth Inn & Suites (256)232-1520; Days Inn (800)329-7466 or (256)233-7500; Quality Inn (800)424-6423 or (256)232-0030; Holiday Inn Express (800)465-4329 or (256)232-7931; Sleep Inn (256)232-4700; Super 8 (800)800-8000 or (256)233-1446.

Directions: The Tennessee Fellowship Area is located in Southern Tennessee off of Interstate 65 at Exit 14 (Pulaski). From the North, you will be turning left onto Hwy 64 after exiting and traveling approximately 1/2 mile. Turn left immediately before the bridge onto Old Hwy 64 and you will see the Fellowship Area on the left. If you are traveling from the South, take Exit 14 (Pulaski) and turn right onto Hwy 64. Follow the directions above.

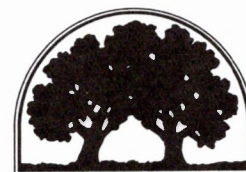
RSVP by May 3: Please RSVP to one of the contacts below if you plan to attend the weekend by Monday, May 3, 2010. Also, look for more communication on weekend details in upcoming issues of The Silver Lining, through your local church and via the AC e-mail list.

- Sis. Gwen Leuthold (Tennessee Fellowship Secretary) — 615-356-5755 or leutholdg@aol.com
- Bro. Don Sauder (Tennessee Fellowship Chairman) — 615-373-8928 or don.sauder@juno.com
- Bro. Mike Moore (Tennessee Fellowship Treasurer) — 256-729-0620 or alm38@aol.com

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matthew 5:16

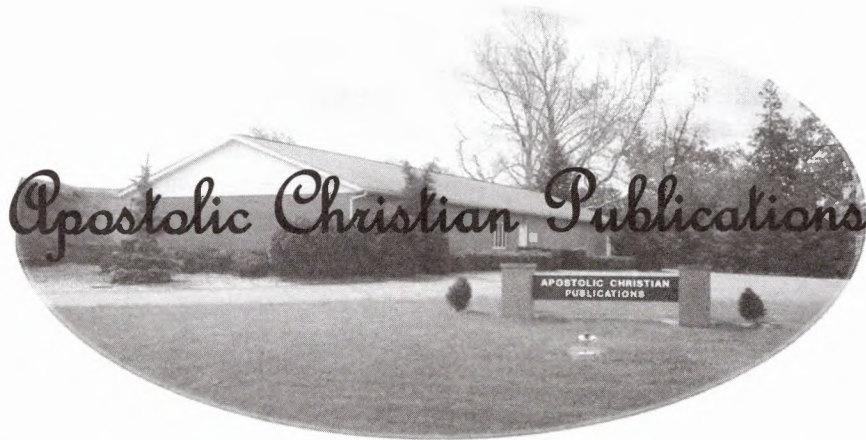
Teaching Position Available

Gateway Woods is excited to announce an opening for a Math teacher at Gateway Woods School. Gateway Woods School is a fully accredited educational facility serving 6th-12th grade students who have difficulty in public school. Qualifications include a Bachelor's Degree in Education and/or an active teacher's license. Special Education Certification and previous teaching experience is especially useful, but not required. If you hold these qualifications and have a heart for children, please ask the Lord if this is the position He has in mind for you. For more information please contact one of the brothers listed below.



Tim Wiegand
 Director of Education
 PO Box 151,
 Leo, IN 46765

Lynn Stieglitz
 Counseling Elder
 15417 Doty Rd.
 New Haven, IN 46774

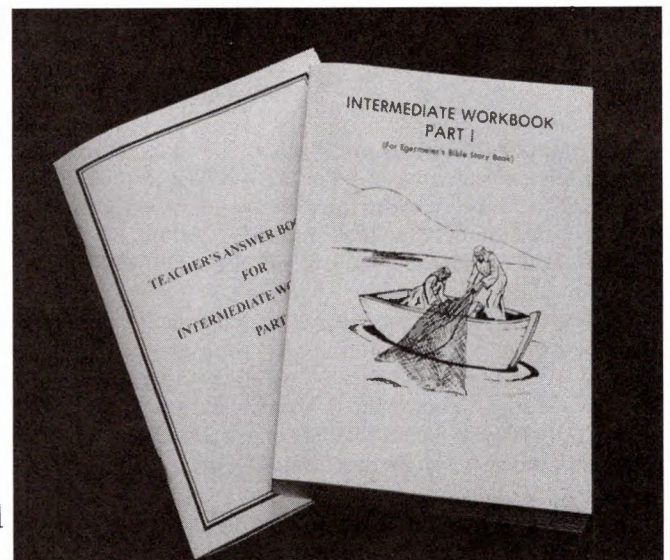


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Sermon continued from page 2

Jews said we need to observe the law, the Old Testament. Those who were Gentiles, who had faith in Jesus Christ and His blood, did not feel compelled to follow the Old Testament law. These are things that they wrestled with. And, as they wrestled with them, there was even a rebuke that Paul brought to Peter. Peter, when the Jews weren't there, associated with the Gentiles. When the Jews came, he kind of withdrew and didn't want to be seen being close to those who were Gentiles. Paul rebuked him to his face. He said that's dissimulation. (Galatians 2:13)

'Dissimulation,' I think if we take that back to the root of the word, it is dissimilar. That's when you're behaving differently in the presence of these people then you did when they weren't here. That's something for all of us to think about. Who are we on an every day basis? Are we one way or one person in church and when we're with God's people, and are we different when we're out in the world, maybe at our jobs or in school or wherever we would find ourselves? It shouldn't be different. It should be the same. There should be that same love and care for our fellow man even as we have for one another.

As we read here in the Gospel, part of the question was of fulfilling the commandments in the law. Yet, Paul refers here to the liberty which they have in Christ Jesus and that they would not be brought back into bondage of the law. The law had a purpose in the Old Testament. We'd read in the New Testament, when it's referring back to the Old Testament, it says the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ. (Galatians 3:24) And we sing in a hymn in our Zion's Harp, Repentance #45, v.3, The law to me reveals the volume of my sin. The law was given as a reference point, we might say, for people to judge their lives and to see whether they were in accordance with God's

Word.

It was an imperfect way but it was the only way that they knew, until Christ came. Christ came to abolish the law. He came to fulfill the law. He came to reaffirm some points of the law. As we read through the Word we find that He would stress and ratify, so to speak, some of the concepts of the Old Testament law. Of our relationships with one another, that we should love one another and our neighbor as our self. That's what the law was trying to do. It was trying to get people to love their neighbor. It told them how they ought to behave toward one another in their relationships. It told them how they ought to serve their God.

Yet, it tells us in Hebrews that the sacrifices that were offered in the Old Testament law were not sufficient to bring about a change, a lasting change. (Hebrews 9) That's why year by year they had certain sacrifices. Then in between, they brought their sin offerings to the altar before the Lord as they would come into the temple. But Christ became, for you and I, the ultimate sacrifice upon the cross of Calvary. He, being part of God come down from heaven, took upon Himself a body of flesh and blood like you and I have. He felt pain. He probably felt ridicule and scorn of men. We read that in the Word, "He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief:..." (Isaiah 53:3) All of the things that you and I are faced with here. It says He was tempted like we are and yet He was victorious over sin. (Hebrews 4:15)

Not one here can say that I have lived a perfect life. But He could say that. He could've taken a selfish attitude but He didn't. Being perfect, He could have said I don't need to die on that cross. I don't need to give my life. I don't need to offer My blood, because it's for them. They're the ones who are the sinners.

But why would He do that? He

didn't do it for Himself, did He? He did it in submission unto the Father's Will and He did it out of love for each one of us. And to think that the very Son of God loved you and I enough that He was willing to give His life on the cross. We sang it there in the hymn that we would sit and pause a while, that in spirit and mind our hearts would go back to the great miracle that we would behold, that we would see the King of Highest Merit on the cross so bare and cold. Out of heaven God has given His own Son in love untold. (Golgotha, Zion's Harp #226, v.1)

The love that we can not count. The love that we can not comprehend. God the Father giving His Son knowing His destiny would be that cross at Calvary. And Jesus Christ coming and being willing to yield Himself unto the Father, and go to the cross because He loved us that much. It was for us. It says, "These, the fruits of our transgressions, fell unto Thee, Savior dear, While this wrathful condemnation we deserved as sinners here. These afflictions and convictions we unworthy ones should bear." (Zion's Harp #226, v.4) It says He bore our transgressions. It says the chastisement of our peace was upon Him and that by His stripes we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5)

Have you ever seen it happen? Maybe think back to some things that we can relate to. Maybe someone gets caught in school doing something bad, and they're sent to the principle's office and going to face punishment. When I was growing up we got spankings. They don't do that anymore today. They try to use other means, and maybe that's good. But I'm old enough that I can say they still spanked us in school. Anyway, did you ever see another student come in and say: why don't you spank me in his place, I don't want him to have to suffer that. I wouldn't have done it and no one did it for me. But its pretty much

Sermon continued on page 42

Sermon continued from page 41

what took place when Christ was willing to take the punishment for our transgressions.

And so much more than just a little physical pain, it was torture that He endured on the cross. The pain is beyond anything you and I could ever understand or relate to. And then the anguish that He bore, that was placed upon Him when He who was so close unto His Father in heaven would feel that separation caused by sin. Because He took upon Himself our sin, the sin of everyone of us who are here, the sin of all mankind. He took upon Himself the consequences and the punishment for that sin. He bore that anguish there upon the cross.

Sometimes we wonder; I think there's a hymn that we sing that says He died of a broken heart. And then not to take it too technical, but when they pierced His side blood and water flowed forth. Did He die of an actual ruptured heart there, and that the blood was in the cavity there when they pierced His side that it flowed out after His life was gone?

Nevertheless, however it was, that blood was shed for you and I in sacrifice for our sins. To atone for our sins. To take away our guilt and our condemnation. It says even further then and I've thought of this many times, that the chastisement of our peace was upon Him. As we think about that, as children of God, there are times when we fail and we grieve our Father when we trespass against His Word. When it says the chastisement of our peace was upon Him, I think it means that even the punishment for those failings that we had before Him, can be covered by His blood that was shed there upon the cross when we approach Him as the advocate at the right hand of God the Father.

So it is here they had their times in the early church and it was made very plain here, when they gathered together, that salvation is by faith in the blood of Jesus Christ. It says,

knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ that we might be justified by the faith of Christ and not by the works of the law. For by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. (Galatians 2:16) So we know that the Old Testament law is something that's in the past. We don't observe the feasts and many of the other aspects of the law. The moral aspects of the law came forward and were confirmed by Christ, and were confirmed by the apostles. The moral aspects of the law, the laws of purity and the laws of human relations and how we should live and treat one another, those are things that were brought forward. But the sacrifices and the feasts of old and those things, they were left behind because so much better was come.

We read in I Corinthians Chapter 12 towards the end of the chapter, when he's speaking of those outward signs that they had, he said yet I show unto you a more excellent way. And that was the way of love in Jesus Christ. And that's what we're reminded of: the love of God.

So we come towards the end of this chapter here. We're reminded of our high calling in Christ Jesus. It says "But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid." (Galatians 2:17) We're to live in newness of life. That old nature needed to die, as last evening, these three souls testified to us that their nature was dead. The evidence was that they no longer had the desire for a life of sin that they once enjoyed. They no longer had a desire to go back and live in the way that they had lived previously. But their desire is to live in Jesus Christ and to be ambassadors for Christ. He's called everyone of us to be His ambassadors. So Christ is not the minister of sin as it says here. It says "...God forbid. For if I build again the things that I destroyed, I make

myself a transgressor." (Galatians 2:17,18)

Dear ones, Satan will try to draw us back unto him. But the Bible says that "...greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world." (I John 4:4) By His power and His grace we can be faithful unto Him. It says "For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God." (Galatians 2:19) Then again as I said last night, one of those verses that I quote more often than anything, we come to it at the end of this chapter. It says, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me." (Galatians 2:20)

So it is this afternoon, three souls who love the Lord, who have been called by Him who called each one by name. I believe He knoweth us each by name. That's something that our finite minds can not comprehend. We come here today and it's been many years since I've been here. There are faces that are familiar but I can't remember all the names. Yet God knows each one of us by name. It's a very personal loving relationship that He has. He loves us and He cares for us. And it's in that love that we live and abide in that newness of life.

This afternoon as we witness the baptisms that are going to take place, we will witness a burial. For all practical purposes it's a burial service. But there's not a sorrow in this case, as it is when we come together for funerals of our loved ones. There's a joy because the old nature, that which was the carnal nature, has been crucified with the cross of Christ. And we, as children of God, take up our cross daily and follow Him. That old nature needs to remain in the grave. So it is that old nature, which has beforehand been crucified with Christ, will be laid in a watery grave. These souls will make a covenant of faithfulness to their God and to their Father in

heaven, to be true and faithful unto Him all the days of their life. They will rise from these waters and will become children of God, part of the body of Christ, brothers and a sister in faith. As was brought out last night, even a brother or sister to the Lord Jesus Christ. What a high calling we have dear ones. Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

In the last verse here in this chapter, we sense Paul's coming to the conclusion of these thoughts, and yet we read it by chapters and the letter is all one. And we're stopping at a point when it's maybe not complete, but he says "I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain." (Galatians 2:21) But to those of us who are redeemed Christ has not died in vain.

Dear souls, perhaps there's some who are young, perhaps there are some who are old, who've often

come and assembled around the Word of God and sat under the sound of His Word, and have not yet yielded your hearts and lives to the Lord in repentance. May it be a calling to you to be a witness as three very young souls have experienced the power of God unto eternal life. May it be a calling to you. You stand before God with fear in your hearts. God is mercy, we spoke of that this morning. He has mercy and compassion for us. His longing would be that none should perish but that all should come to the knowledge of salvation through Jesus Christ.

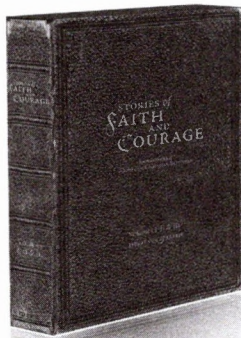
I am reminded of a hymn in our Gospel Hymns that we often sing together, that I believe even before I was converted spoke to me and moved my heart. It kind of goes along with that thought dear ones if you're yet standing outside the gate. The hymn writer wrote, "I stood outside the gate, a poor, way-faring child; within my heart there

beat a tempest loud and wild; a fear oppressed my soul, that I might be too late; and oh I trembled sore, and prayed outside the gate, and prayed outside the gate. O, "Mercy!" loud I cried, "Now give me rest from sin!" "I will," a voice replied; and Mercy let me in; she bound my bleeding wounds, and soothed my heart oppressed; she washed away my guilt and gave me peace and rest. In mercy's guise I knew the Savior long abused, who often sought my heart, and wept when I refused; O what a blessed return for all the years of sin! I stood outside the gate, and Jesus let me in, and Jesus let me in." (I Stood Outside the Gate, Gospel Hymns, #85)

Dear ones, He wants to lead you in. If you hear His voice don't harden your heart. Yield your hearts and lives, and you too can experience the peace and the grace and the love of God the Father.

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Bro. Lynn Stieglitz
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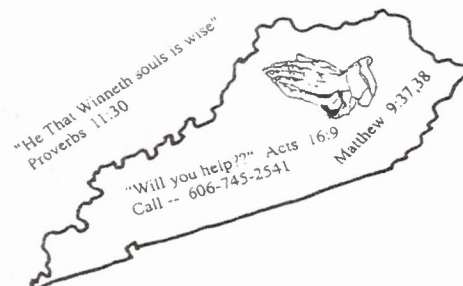
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Grief/Loss, Part 5

Four earlier Grief/Loss articles were printed in the September, November, and December 2009 and February, 2010 Silver Lining issues. This last article in the series is focused on helping teenagers manage grief. Psalms 25:17 *"The troubles of my heart are enlarged: O bring thou me out of my distresses."* Psalms 31:9 *"Have mercy upon me, O LORD, for I am in trouble: mine eye is consumed with grief, yea, my soul and my belly."*

While people in all age groups struggle with losses, teenagers face particularly painful adjustments following the death of a loved one. Teens go through many changes in their body image, behavior, attachments, and feelings. These are the years in which teens break away from their parents to develop their own identities. While the need for teens to create distance from parents is normal, it is easy to see how a sense of guilt and "unfinished business" may complicate the teens' mourning if a parent dies. Teens grieve deeply but often work very hard at hiding their feelings. They may act as if nothing has happened while they are breaking up inside. They can turn off feelings quickly, much like flipping a light switch. They may not realize that they are looking for distractions rather than staying with the grief process long enough to find real relief. Teens feel an overwhelming loss when someone they love passes away. This loved one may have helped shape the teens' fragile self-identities. These feelings about the death become a part of their lives forever.

Sometimes teens are told to "be strong" or "carry on." They are expected to be "grown up." They are often expected to support other members of the family. When teens feel a responsibility to "care for the family," they do not have the opportunity, or the permission, to mourn. They may not know if they will survive themselves let alone be able to support someone else. Sometimes teens "choose" to take on the role of caregiver as a distraction while denying their own grief. These kinds of conflicts hinder the "work of mourning."

When teens are ignored, they may suffer more from feelings of isolation than from the death itself. They may feel all

alone in their grief. They should be encouraged and allowed to tell their stories as much and as often as they like. This helps them accept the reality of the death of their loved one. They begin to realize that their lives will be forever changed; their loved one will not return to them. If teens have said or done something hurtful to the departed loved one that cannot now be reconciled, they may feel unresolved guilt. James 5:16 *"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed."* Encourage teens to talk about their guilt—to confess the problem to a trusted adult. Encourage them to ask God for forgiveness. Teens will go through a period of reconstruction, of learning that life goes on without their loved one, and they can adapt and move on.

How do you gain the trust of teens to talk with them during their times of grief? Teens often trust only their peers, but unless their peers have experienced grief themselves, they are not a reliable source of help. Instead, their peers become a distraction to the grieving process. To gain the trust of teens, adults should be good, nonjudgmental listeners. Make time to be with teens alone. Acknowledge their grief; and if they want it, offer your thoughts of how to ease their pain. Teens grieve whether or not they talk with you about their grief. They often need caring adults to confirm that it's all right to be sad and to feel a multitude of emotions when someone they love dies. It is ok for teens to cry—yes, for boys to cry, too. Help teens realize that the feeling of grief is a natural expression of love for the person who died. Teens also need help understanding that the deep hurt they feel now won't last forever.

Although adults cannot shield young people from the sorrow caused by the death of a loved one, they can guide and comfort them through the process of mourning. Just as Jesus took the time for little children and blessed them (Mark 10:16), take the time to be with grieving teenagers alone and listen, really listen. Share your love for them. Invite future conversations. Initiate them regularly if they do not. Talk openly of the departed loved one at meals, at work, in the car. Do the grieving teens have a memento of the

loved one? A picture? A memorial tree planted where teens can see it often? Allow teens to help in the decision-making process for mementoes or memorials.

It is wise to talk to teens about preparation for heaven. Help them understand David in II Samuel 12:23: *"But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me."* If teens have not already done so, they need to make preparations in this life to be with loved ones in heaven. 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."*

Some teens who are having serious problems with grief and loss may need extra help or safe and nurturing emotional outlets. Although most people grieve less over time, additional help might be considered if teens (or children) exhibit several of these behaviors over an extended period:

- * an extended period of depression in which the teen loses interest in daily activities and events
- * inability to sleep, loss of appetite, prolonged fear of being alone
- * acting much younger for an extended period
- * repeated statements of wanting to join the dead person
- * withdrawal from friends
- * sharp drop in school performance or refusal to attend school
- |* ack of concentration
- * over-activity, acting too busy
- * drug and/or alcohol use
- * risk-taking behavior
- * promiscuity
- * self-destructive, antisocial, or criminal behavior
- * suicidal thoughts

These warning signs indicate that professional help may be needed.

Comments taken from articles written by John Schwiebert, Sharon Strouse, and Dr. Alan Wolfelt. Also from "Facts for Families" and "The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry."

Important Notice to Americans Crossing the Canadian Border by Land.

All adults will need just one of the following documents:

1. Regular U.S. Passport
2. U.S. Passport Card
3. **Enhanced** Driver's License
4. any Trusted Traveler Program (*ex Nexus card*)

U.S. citizens under the age of 16, or under the age of 19 if travelling with a school, religious, or other youth group, may present a birth certificate, Consular Report of Birth Abroad, or a naturalization certificate. Birth certificates can be original, photocopy, or certified copy.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Light From The Word

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

After entering the web site, click on the item located in the left hand frame entitled, "Light from the Word Reprints". The entire set of editorials are available in a complete download (*June 1987 through March 2010*).

BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

Sharing The Word In Love

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

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

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

To order, contact,

Apostolic Christian Church
Bible Distribution
 PO Box 30
 1254 S. Main Street
 Bluffton, IN 46714
 Phone and Fax 260/824-5587
 E-mail: bibledist@adamswells.com

Rochester, MN Services

Times:

7:30 - 3rd Wednesday of the month

Location:

310 16th Ave SW,
 Rochester MN, 55902
*(within a few blocks
 of the Mayo campus)*

Contacts:

Sis. Anne Wagenbach
 (507)993- 6916
 Bro. Jim and Sis Deb Tilbury
 (507)281-2875.

Any that are in the area are welcome and encouraged to worship with us.

Haiti Earthquake Relief

Haiti Update

In early February several brothers from the WR Board and Caribbean Committee traveled to Haiti to participate in an earthquake evaluation. The purpose of the trip was to review the devastation that has occurred, meet with leaders of the Haitian organizations that World Relief regularly supports to determine the scope and timing for disaster relief resulting from the earthquake on January 12, 2010. The team traveled to Port au Prince, Haiti through Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

Medical teams

The immediate relief response was to provide 7 medical teams to work at King's Hospital in Port au Prince, Cayes Clinic and Hopital Lumiere in Bonne Fin. World Relief provides regular support to these facilities, so we had an immediate location to assign medical professionals to serve those with significant injuries from the earthquake.

The teams treated more than 250 patients over the period of seven weeks. Treatments ranged from minor wound care to major surgeries to repair broken limbs and amputations.

In addition to serving the medical needs for those injured, the team members were able to share the love of Jesus and lift the spirits of the patients and families. The Haitian people likewise ministered to our team members by their faith and unwavering love for Jesus.

Drilling water wells

The well drilling team has been deployed to the Port au Prince area to drill 6 wells for Hopital Lumiere and other church communities in need of clean water sources. An additional 5 wells will be drilled in several other communities that sustained significant damage from the earthquake.

At home, many people have been involved in coordinating the medical team members, securing medical supplies, organizing food, clothing, shelter and other relief items in great need in Haiti. Two shipments have been sent with two more to be sent in March.



Future World Relief aid

The brothers on the team will be developing a detailed plan to continue support for Haiti consisting of Relief, Recovery and Rehabilitation.

Relief

Provide medical teams and supplies for the hospitals and clinics. Shipments of food, water, clothing and temporary shelters prior to the rainy season.

Recovery

This phase will focus on clean up of debris and rebuilding damaged buildings. The plan is to hire Haitians to provide labor for cleanup and masonry construction. Construction work teams from the States will be deployed for construction of roofs and building furniture for schools. Water wells will be drilled for areas with limited clean water sources.

Rehabilitation

The earthquake has left Haiti with many amputees, living in a country that is not disabled friendly. There will be need for orthotics/prosthetics and physical therapy. World Relief will expand support for the clinics and schools we have supported for many years.

Opportunities to serve

Opportunities will be available for persons with training and experience to travel to Haiti to assist the team presently in Haiti. With all organizations, the desire is to reach the spiritual needs of the people of Haiti. One church has experienced a 10% growth with conversions since the earthquake. A major component of the rehabilitation will include distribution of Bibles, testaments, tracts and Bible story books.

Commercial airlines have resumed travel to and from Port au Prince Haiti on February 19, 2010. The regular schedule for work teams will be resumed and teams that were cancelled will be rescheduled. The revised work team schedule is posted on the WR website.

Financial donations

Contributions 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

Updates

For current information on the status of Haiti relief work or work teams, visit the World Relief website at 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 to keep informed about the work in Haiti.



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
World Relief

www.acworldrelief.org

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.

HAITI

Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of March 10th, 2010 - www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/

| Project | Year 2010 | Coordinator | Capacity | | | | |
|--|--------------|---|----------|--|-----------|--|----|
| Les Cayes MEBSH Haiti Support | Mar 26-29 | Rich Bertschi 309-467-2351 lemangm@mtco.com | 12 | Les Cayes MEBSH Medical | May 7-14 | Keith Knepp 309-467-3468 kknepp@mchsi.com | 8 |
| Les Cayes MEBSH Maintenance | Mar 29-Apr 5 | Jon Zeller 309-266-9009 jzeller@mtco.com | 12 | Les Cayes MEBSH Const/Quake Relief | May 21-28 | Rich Bertschi 309-467-2351 lemangm@mtco.com | 12 |
| Les Cayes MEBSH Const/Quake Relief | Apr 12-19 | Rod Weiland 989-284-2626 rhweiland@speednetllc.com | 12 | Les Cayes FRW Vocational School | Jun 4-11 | Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 rick@wuethrichfarms.com | 4 |
| Les Cayes AWA Water Aid | Apr 23-30 | Troy Stuber 309-925-2603 troystuber@verizon.net | 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

Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of March 10th, 2010 -www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/

| Project | Year 2010 | Coordinator | Capacity |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|---|----------------------------|
| Kingston School CCCD Peoria SS | Jun 5-12 | Dean Thomas 309-243-2216 dathomas@mtco.com | Peoria Bible Class Only |
| Jamaica Deaf Villg CCCD | Jun 11-19 | Ted Hirstein 309-266-8769 hirstein@mtco.com | 40 |

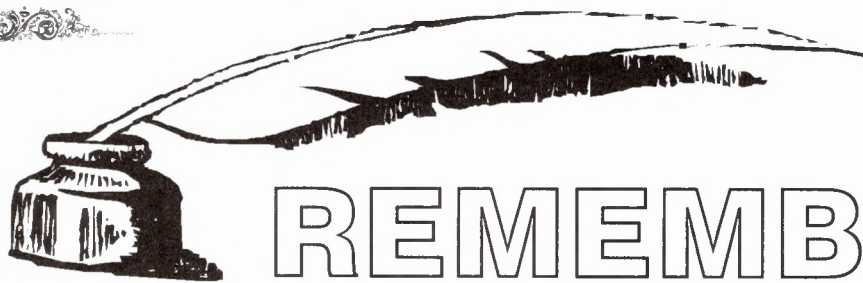
| | | | |
|---|----------------|--|----|
| Knockpatrick Schl CCCD Mansfield SS | Jun 26 - Jul 3 | Peter Webel 419-564-5691 wpw47@aol.com | 40 |
|---|----------------|--|----|

MEXICO

If anyone is interested in leading a team to Mexico, contact Bro. Mike Fiechter at 260-597-7330 or mfiechter@onlyinternet.net
Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of March 10th, 2010 -www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-mexico/

| Location | Year 2010 | Coordinator |
|-----------------------------|----------------|--|
| Reynosa Construction | Mar 20-27 | Tristan Herrmann/U of I University of Illinois 309-712-6902 tristanherrmann@gmail.com |
| Magdalena Construction | Mar 20-27 | Linc Rinkenberger Bluffton Senior Class 260-565-4155 rinkfamily@adamswells.com |
| Agua Prieta Construction | Mar 20-27 | Aaron Beery 330-927-6926 beeryaaron@embarqmail.com |
| Magdalena Construction | Mar 27 - Apr 3 | Curt Hodel Roanoke Bible Class 309-923-8091 cjhodel@juno.com |
| Reynosa Medical | Apr 7-14 | Cheryl Herrmann cherrmann@verizon.net |

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------|--|
| Magdalena Construction | Jun 5-12 | Stan Schick Princeville Sunday School 309-243-9281 schickfam@juno.com |
| Magdalena Construction | Jun 19-26 | Benj Knapp Washington Sunday School 309-467-5274 benjknapp@homewayhomes.com |
| Magdalena Construction | Jul 17-24 | Blake Stahl 630-740-7461 bcstahl@aol.com |
| Magdalena Construction | July 24-31 | Scott Bahr Detroit Bible Class 248-924-7547 spbahr@yahoo.com |
| Reynosa Medical | Oct 6-13 | Cheryl Herrmann cherrmann@verizon.net |



REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

This is the final segment of the funeral of Elder Bro. Noah Schrock of the Oakville, Iowa, congregation held on April 8, 1976. The funeral sermon of this long time church leader was given by Elder Leo Moser of the Lester, Iowa, congregation assisted by six other Elders.

The burial took place in the small, quaint, and peaceful cemetery not more than a stone's throw from the church. It was a good place to be that morning! Nearby, the birds were singing, a farmer was tilling the soil in preparation for planting, and the cows were grazing contentedly in an adjourning pasture. The simple, calm surroundings, framed by a glistening sky, were very eloquent in their simplicity. The family and brethren gathered for one last song and prayer before the mortal remains were committed to the dust, from whence they came.

Here, in the place he loved so well, where his roots were deeply attached — this lush Mississippi Valley — was to be the last resting place for his mortal body. His cares, conflicts, and concerns were laid aside, and peace was his. Here the days will be peaceful and quiet "from the rising of the sun to the going down thereof" as he might have referred to it himself.

To begin the graveside service, Bro. Leroy Huber of the Eureka, Illinois, congregation read the last song, and the chorus uttered one last refrain. Then, Bro. Joshua

Broquard of Fairbury, offered the last prayer before the assembly returned to the church dining room for a delicious meal.

In his life of service to the church, Bro. Noah was a man for the times. With his forebears having been acquainted with Bro. Samuel H. Froehlich in Europe, he grew up and was nurtured in faith under those who had come under the doctrinal influence of Bro. Froehlich prior to immigrating to the United States. From this, and with the help of Almighty God, he acquired a unique and in-depth understanding of Scriptures, history, and man's response to both.

He did his best to insure that the church remained true to the Scriptures. His vision of truth was based solely on the Word of God, and on such a basis he sought and promoted among his peers the concept of rejecting this present world of vanity and pride, and instead, through Christ, seeking to lay up treasure in heaven where moth and rust could not corrupt—and where one day a cross could be exchanged for a crown.

This self-educated man of the soil pointed out clearly, based on Scriptures, that the life of humility and obedience to God was the best (and only) way to sojourn on this earth. The straight and narrow way allowed men to find peace with their Maker. The common and humble man, practicing self-denial and taking up the Cross of Christ

daily, not fashioning himself according to his former lusts, and coming out from the world and leading a separated life, could much easier find the essence and enjoyment of living for our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

The brotherhood will indeed miss this unselfish, loving, and tireless servant of God. But our parting will not be forever. A hymn writer said it well when he wrote:

*We shall sleep, but not forever,
There will be a glorious dawn!
We shall meet to part, no, never,
On the resurrection morn.*

As we who are left behind leave Bro. Noah to this rest, perhaps the words of the Apostle Paul written to Timothy are appropriate:

"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."

By Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next Issue: Misc. History

Notice: 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

“Rich Toward God”

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

The Lord Jesus told a parable as recorded in Luke 12, beginning at verse 16, of a man who prospered abundantly. The man decided to build bigger barns and say to his soul, “Take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.” That night, his soul was required of him. Jesus ended his parable as recorded in verse 21, “So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.” The theme of this message addresses the question as to how we become rich toward God.

The Lord Jesus said, in his conversation with Nicodemus, “Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” John 3:3. Therefore, I believe we can say that in order to be rich toward God, we first of all, need to repent, put our faith in Jesus Christ, and surrender to God. It is in the surrendering and in staying surrendered that we tend to fall short. I believe that was the problem with the man in the above parable. We also have a tendency as believers, to become attached to material things and to think that that is where our security lies. It is true that our financial security lies in material possessions, up to a point, but we must remember that God can take away our material blessings at any time, and He also can take away our souls

at any time. In case of the latter, God asks the question in verse 20, “Then whose shall those things be?”

After we are born again and established in the faith, we are to continue to be rich toward God. This means that we are to keep in mind that our real treasure is in the non-material things which we possess, such as the salvation of our souls and the fruit of the spirit. I have been told that in one of my sermons many years ago here in the States, I made the statement that I am the richest man in the world because I have Christ. Spiritually speaking, there is a lot of truth in that statement.

We need to be true to our vows in the waters of baptism, when we promised, by God’s grace, that we would be true and faithful to God all the days of our lives. In our zeal to serve God faithfully, we also need to remember that we are instructed to esteem others better than ourselves and to have unity. Sometimes this may be more difficult than being true to God, as we understand it, although it can be said that being rich toward God includes having an attitude of “I’m wrong, you’re wrong, but God is right.” If I understand the New Testament as a whole, we are taught never to put ourselves

above others, as if we of ourselves, are better than others. If there is any good in us, it is because Christ dwelleth in us.

Sometimes in life, everything seems to go wrong. It happened to the Apostle Paul, too, and yet he wrote from prison to the Philippian Church, 1:12, “But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the Gospel.” Also, as recorded in Genesis 50:20, Joseph said to his brothers, “Ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good.” This attitude of believing that God can bring good out of difficulties, is probably a part of being rich toward God.

Let’s all cast ourselves at the foot of the cross and put emphasis on spiritual things rather than on carnal or material things. And let’s not forget what is written about our Lord Jesus Christ in Acts 10:38, “Who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.” We are to follow in His footsteps, I John 2:6, “He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked.” Let’s try to be rich toward God, by God’s grace.

希望の光

