

The Silver Lining

*Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name:
bring an offering, and come before him: worship
the Lord in the beauty of holiness.*

May 2010

Sermon by Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter, Junction, OH

Psalm 105 and Romans 14

We have read a reminder here in Psalm 105, of all of those things that happened in the land of Egypt. Of the ten plagues that came on the Egyptians and how God delivered His people. The last verse is a very important verse because it reminds us why God did that. He did it that they might observe His statutes and keep His laws and praise the Lord (v.45)

So when we see the wonders of God, it should cause us to have a desire to serve Him and follow His ways. That we would truly seek to praise Him. Not just with our lips. But with our very lives.

There are times I have to think of the writings of the Apostle Peter, where he says of the writings of our beloved Brother Paul, "...which are some things hard to be understood..." II Peter 3:16. Sometimes this is true. As we read the Scriptures, it is sometimes difficult to know exactly what the Scriptures mean. Yet we are well aware that the Word of God is a living Word. It has value and application for all times and for every purpose in life.

This chapter in Romans that we read together this morning concluded with the thought that, "...whatsoever is not of faith is sin." Romans 14:23. If we think about that deeply, it really points out to us the importance of understanding why it is that we are doing the things we do. We are not going to get to heaven by just adopting a certain life style and say that life style gets us to heaven. But if we understand and by searching the Scriptures, know that that very same life style is something pleasing to God and we do it because it pleases God, then it brings a blessing.

We can see the example of the scribes and Pharisees at the time of Christ. Their life style was right. They were doing the right kind of things in what they did, but their heart was not right. They were condemning of others. There were

other faults in their life that took away the blessing that could have been theirs. Their objective originally was to serve God. But they lost their focus. They started to worship and serve the creature more than the Creator, as we read in the first chapter of Romans, verse 25. This can happen in our lives too if we don't keep our focus right, upon God. It can be that way for us at times. We start putting more focus on even some of the characteristics of God above God Himself.

It is so important for us to remember why it is that we gather together. Why it is that we are living here upon this earth. The reason is because we have a Creator in heaven who made us in His own likeness and image. He wanted us to serve Him of our free will. So it is important then to understand who God is and the fact that He is a Holy God. He has placed us here on this earth, giving us encouragement that we would follow His pattern.

We are reminded of the fruit of the Spirit. Part of the fruit of the Spirit is goodness, which perhaps in its deepest sense is just having the nature of God. God is good and everything that God does is good. We go back to the Creation in Genesis. As He created each thing each day, He looked at it and it was good. God's work was good. He is good.

That young man that came to Christ and asked Him, good Master, what must I do to be saved? And He asked him, why do you call me good? He says, there is none good but one and that is God. (St. Matthew 19:16,17) Yet from the fruit of the Spirit is the expectation that there will be goodness in our lives. That comes from a faith and understanding of who God is. Of His holiness and His righteousness and the fact that He has called us to serve Him. He has equipped us

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Cover Verses

Front: 1 Chronicles 16:29

Back: Zion's Harp #148 vs. 4

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

June

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

Suggested Donation: \$14/subscription

Next correspondence due:

For June Issue

(16 Apr. News - 15 May News)

Due: 20 May 2010

The Silver Lining (Vol. 65, #5)
1389 County Road 1600 N
Roanoke, IL 61561

USPS 496780

Published Monthly By The Apostolic
Christian Church of America

Counselors:

Ron Schambach, Tom Stock

Official Apostolic Christian
Church Website

www.apostolicchristian.org

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

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

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

“Judge not according to appearance, but judge righteous judgment.” (John 7:2)

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

May 2010

Judging

Judging means examining, discerning, passing sentence on, or punishing. Application of each of these aspects of judging can be done properly or improperly. Appropriate and inappropriate judging will be addressed in this article.

The Bible identifies at least four areas of authority or responsibility for making judgments: God, the church, governments and ourselves. First and above all is God's authority to judge mankind in this life and more importantly for all of eternity. The church was given the responsibility to bind and loose by Jesus (Matt. 16:19) and is instructed by the Apostle Paul to "Purge out therefore the old leaven..." (1 Cor. 5:7.). Romans 13:2-5 tells us that governments are given authority to maintain civil order. Finally, as individuals we face situations daily that require us to make judgments. We are instructed to examine and judge ourselves (1 Cor. 11:28 and 31) and to discern between good and evil (Heb. 5:14).

Thus, certain human judgment is appropriate and necessary, but it must be based upon God's Word. The Bible also warns against inappropriate judging. "Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again" (Matt. 7:1-2).

What constitutes inappropriate judging? Any judgment that is outside of our God given responsibilities is inappropriate. For example, any judgment that we would make concerning another person's inner spirit (heart) or their eternal destination is inappropriate. (1 Cor. 2:11) The Apostle Paul wrote: "Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth" (Rom. 8:33).

It may be more difficult for us to accept the fact that we may be inappropriately judging when we are critical of our governmental authorities. We know that we have a constitutional right to say almost anything we want about our officials. Do we have the same right based on what the Bible says? We are instructed: "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. The powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves

damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil." (Rom. 13:1-3). We may have a hard time understanding this, because there are many examples in history where evil people ruled in an ungodly manner.

We may disagree with a decision of government. That is not wrong. However, we must be sure that we are doing so in a godly manner. Even if we disagree, unless the government makes a decision that is contrary to the Word of God, we are instructed to obey. When the Pharisees tried to entangle Jesus regarding authority, He said "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's" (Matt. 22:21).

Some may have difficulty accepting the authority that the church has in placing an individual under discipline. As individuals we have no right or authority to either usurp, or disregard, the judgment of the church with regard to discipline. We may think that an individual is in need of discipline because we feel that he or she is in violation of the Word as we understand it, and therefore feel justified to not greet (or set aside) that individual. We should recognize that we may be in error because we do not have all of the facts and, besides, this is not our decision (judgment) to make personally. On the other hand, we may think that the church has been too harsh, so we are not going to abide by its decision. This would undermine the God-ordained authority to carry out this responsibility and create discord. These very difficult decisions are made after prayerful consideration, searching of the Word of God and usually after seeking the counsel of others. "Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety" (Prov. 11:14). If we undermine the discipline of an individual, we may very well deprive that soul of the spiritual benefit that could be gained from the discipline.

Perhaps the area where it is most difficult to make appropriate judgments relates to decisions we make about our own behavior or the behavior of others. The Scripture gives us ample instruction for this.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus made it clear that we are to remove the beam from our own eye before we can remove a mote from our brother's eye. (Matt. 7:3-6) If we do not follow the Lord's

advice, we are being hypocritical, and since our beam would make it impossible to see clearly, we would be ineffective in removing the mote from our brother's eye. (v. 5). We know in the natural sense if we try to take something out of someone's eye when we cannot see clearly, we could damage their eye. In the spiritual sense, it is even more dangerous to try to remove a minor fault from our brother when we have serious error in our life.

The Apostle Paul gives numerous examples of inappropriate judgment regarding various personal behaviors in Romans 2. A very sobering warning is that if we judge others for something that we are also doing, we condemn ourselves (v. 1) and will not escape the judgment of God (vs. 2-3). We need not take on the task of being the judge of others because "...God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to (His) gospel" (Rom. 2:16). The last part of this chapter instructs us about the hypocrisy of those who would teach against a variety of behaviors that they themselves are involved in: stealing, adultery, idolatry, blasphemy, outward adherence to the law while inwardly breaking the law and so forth.

We should also not fall into the trap of being unconcerned about our brother and using our own imperfection as an excuse to not be helpful. When someone appears to be headed toward spiritual shipwreck, we need to have enough love for him to be willing to examine ourselves, give prayerful consideration, and in true godly love go to him and kindly help him take any needed corrective action. We are our brother's keeper, but we are not our brother's judge. To be unwilling to help our brother is just as inappropriate as it is to be too critical.

Perhaps the most important form of judgment is of ourselves. We are to "judge (with) righteous judgment" (John 7:24), by looking honestly into the mirror of God's Word (Jam. 1:23-25) and lay aside "every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us" (Heb. 12:1). We have the assurance that "...whoso confesseth and forsaketh (his sin) shall have mercy" (Prov. 28:13), and that by grace we can overcome (Jam. 4:5-6).

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

Serving in Japan

Today Japan stands out as one of the largest least-reached groups of the developed world, with over 120,000,000 individuals. Early missionaries may have arrived in Japan as early as 200 AD, but the gospel never took hold in this land where both Shintoism and Buddhism have had strong roots for many centuries.

Missionaries were first legally allowed into Japan in 1859, though they found that there was still antagonism towards the gospel. After WWII, spiritual leadership was needed as well as material administration, and there was a call for 1,000 missionaries to come. Laws were passed to give true religious freedom for the first time. In the following 15 years, around 5,000 missionaries responded to this call.

The most rapid growth in the churches was during the 1950's, growing at about 6% per year. Many Japanese were hungry for truth, and didn't have much else to turn to. But as the country was modernized, and many started to pursue wealth, education, careers and entertainment, spiritual hunger was dampened.

As a result, very few of the current generation have been exposed to the true gospel, which is why the Japanese are now listed as one of the least-reached groups. In the last 50 years, church growth has tapered off to about 1% per year. Vast majorities have never set foot in a church, and only about 0.5% of the population are professing Christians.

The Church in Japan

With the outbreak of the Korean War in 1950, young men in our church were drafted and sent to the Far East. Among them was Bro. Willis

Ehnle, who spent his time working at a hospital in Japan, and passing out Bible literature in his free time. This led to contacts for further Christian work, regular meetings were set up, and eventually three churches were established: Shioda in 1956, Tokyo in 1959 (rebuilt in 2001), and Tamahata in 1962 (has since merged with Shioda church). Church membership grew rapidly during the 50's and 60's.

Outreach work through the years has included English teaching, various Bible study groups, Sunday school activities, and a church kindergarten. The kindergarten at Shioda ran from 1967 through 1992, and was served by faithful brothers and sisters from our US churches.

Today there are 27 members in the churches, about 20 Sunday school children, a couple converts, three brothers serving in the ministry, and many friends. Many of the members are the only Christians in their families. For them, making a commitment to follow Christ did not come easily, or without opposition. One characteristic of the Japanese churches is that there are a large percentage of friends who attend, who have not yet made a full commitment to be a Christian. Please pray for them that they could find the grace to repent and love and serve the Lord with all their heart.

The Japanese

Traditional customs and family relationships are strong, but the divorce rate has grown, and Japan has a high suicide rate. When a person has lost hope, and with no hope for a future life, there is not much they can turn to. There is a great need in this land for God's grace, his gift of salvation, forgiveness, and peace.

Please pray for the application of biblical truths, as believers continually feel pressure to conform to the rest of society, whether at home, at school, at work, or in the culture in general. Pray that they could become Romans 12:2 Christians.

Ways to serve in Japan

In the past 15 years there have been brethren that have come to Japan for a couple months to a few years, either serving short term with families here, or getting a job to live and work. Many Japanese are eager to learn English, so contact with them can begin right away. But to reach the majority, it is necessary to learn both the Japanese language and the culture, which requires time and patience, as it is dissimilar to English. Getting a job as an English teacher is relatively easy, and is the way that several Americans have worked in our church throughout the years for both outreach, and also to support themselves.

Even without a trip to Japan, you can serve the Japanese by taking part in a homestay program for Japanese students. Many Japanese have had their first exposure to God's Word overseas, and bring back with them fond memories of the love of Christians in the US. Several visitors to our churches have been families that came to spend time with previous homestay students and their families.

We welcome anyone with a willing heart to come and serve in Japan, especially those with a long term goal of learning the language and culture, and with a desire to bring the gospel of peace to the many in need. May the Lord strengthen your heart and make you a blessing through your prayers for the people of Japan.



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

Mexico Update

World Relief has been involved in Mexico for 25 years. It may be helpful to revisit each project, how it began and a snapshot of where we are today.

In 1985, several interested brethren met a family from Juarez, Mexico that was feeding children weekday lunches in a poor community. The children were exposed to the gospel as they ate their meal. After prayerful consideration, World Relief partnered with this family and began funding the program. Over the years our involvement has increased, and at this time we send funds monthly.

In addition to supplying food, World Relief funds a doctor, electricity for the building, gas for the stove, and fuel for the vehicles. They stretch the funds to provide around 4,000 meals per month. They have asked that we give prayerful consideration to increase funding, as the economy and violence has decreased the availability of jobs in Juarez.

We have sent many construction work teams to Juarez and have built over 100 small homes for impoverished people and two community centers where the meals are provided. In the early 1990's, World Relief work teams were able to construct a school, which is now funded by the Apostolic Christian Child Sponsorship program.

LaVid is an orphanage in Juarez. World Relief has been providing monthly support for several years. In addition, LaVid has a school that our Child Sponsorship Program supports.

Medical teams have been very important to the Juarez area. The locals have provided opportunities

to send medical teams to Copper Canyon in the interior of Mexico, in addition to the many teams that have held clinics in Juarez.

Unfortunately, due to violence in the city of Juarez, we have not felt peaceful in sending our brethren to Juarez at this time. Some followers of Christ have been threatened. We request prayers for both the believers in the city, and for those responsible for the violence, as everyone has an undying soul. We also need to pray for the leaders of the Juarez ministries; for protection, discernment and wisdom.

Magdalena is the only Apostolic Christian World Relief operated project in Mexico. The responsibility of this ministry in Magdalena is divided between the Mission Committee and World Relief Board. The CVE orphanage in Magdalena reports and updates activities via the website (www.cvemx.org) and the Silver Lining. World Relief provides funds for work teams and operations.

In the past year, World Relief has sent and supported around 14 teams. If you have interest, the fee per person is \$350 for one week. This includes the bus ride from the airport, lodging, and all meals while in Magdalena. Of this \$350, the National World Relief pays \$100, the approximate cost of materials for each team member.

Agua Prieta is a border town across from Douglas, Arizona. World Relief assists an orphanage called Brazos de Amor on the outskirts of Agua Prieta. They house 30 to 40 children in group homes parented by Mexican couples. We continue to be instrumental in developing the group homes. World Relief helps fund the operations, propane for

heat and cooking, and materials and labor to build group homes. Two teams visited there in March. World Relief has had involvement for over 10 years in this community.

World Relief partners with Isaiah 55 in Reynosa, a large city south of McAllen, Texas. Two of the staff are Apostolic Christian Sisters. The focus of Isaiah 55 is for the deaf. A school for the education of the deaf is presently being expanded. Other projects have been a shelter for loved ones of hospital patients, a shelter for women and helping children's homes in the city.

There are many opportunities for work teams with these projects. World Relief has sent two construction teams in the last year. The staff at Isaiah 55 has also been very active in medical teams. We send two medical teams annually, that travel into Mexico's interior providing medical care, Christ's love, and the good news of salvation. Isaiah 55 has great interest in hosting more work and medical teams.

The work in Ixtlan has been primarily sponsored by the Mission Committee, so World Relief has had a minor role in the effort there.

The National World Relief, and the Mexico Board wish to thank each of you for the opportunity to help fund and support these projects in Mexico. Each of us is responsible for bringing God glory and furthering His Kingdom. It would be humbling to meet someone in heaven that was brought into the family of God through a hot meal, a home, a medical visit or other effort; and realize the simple sharing of your resources helped bring eternal salvation to an undying soul. May God be glorified in the work that is happening in Mexico!

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

James 1:2 "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; 3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. 4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."

We are instructed to be thankful for testing because God can use it to mold and shape us. It also teaches us to patiently trust Him. This instruction is not just for individual believers, but for families, groups and organizations.

We have been providing services for nearly forty years and there have been several times that we have been tested. We have never liked it, but these times have truly strengthened us. We have learned to be patient, find joy in hardship and to trust Him.

The past couple of years have been one of those times. We have been blessed in many ways but for our financial needs we have really been called to trust God. Like most people, we have been too anxious at times. We know that we need to have the right level of concern as good stewards of what we do and who we serve, but some of us would have to admit our concern went beyond that level.

In spite of our own lack of trust at times, the Lord has proved to be abundantly faithful. He did not change the circumstances of the state's treasury but He has moved the hearts of people to support us in wonderful ways. Last year we ended the year with a deficit even after donations. At this point it appears we are on track to have enough donations and investment income to make up all that the state doesn't pay and maybe some to use toward staff wages and benefits. We want to express deep appreciation for the generosity of each of you who have helped to meet this need.

In this we have experienced the "joy" of being tested and finding God faithful and we have learned patience again. Because of the financial situation of our

country, we know there will be a need to continue this support and to increase this level of support in order to adequately support the staff who carry out our mission. We are thankful to be a mission of the Apostolic Christian Church and to know the love the brotherhood has for the people we serve. We trust that God will continue to work in the hearts of men as these needs occur.

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

Tim Wiegand

At my house we have a strawberry patch. We bought the house about 2 years ago and the strawberry patch had already been planted. About a month after we moved in, we started harvesting the strawberries. It was great because we picked quarts and quarts of strawberries but we didn't have to do any of the work. Last year I was not as faithful as I should have been in weeding the strawberry patch and while we still had a good strawberry harvest, by the end of the season, the patch was overgrown with weeds. This spring I decided I needed to weed the patch and I was dismayed to find that not nearly as many strawberry plants came up. After pulling all the weeds there only remains a smattering of strawberry plants in the entire patch.

Toiling in the soil has always carried with it lessons that can teach us about our relationship with God. Jesus, in the parable of the sower, explains the four soil types that can receive the Word of God. Soil that is full of weeds represents the cares and distractions of this world that can slowly overtake the Word planted in a person's heart. Soon enough the fruit will disappear if we are not careful to continually weed the soil of our heart.

At Gateway Woods, we as staff members must be on guard that the cares of the world do not choke out the Word. If this begins to happen, then the ministry to the young people in our care becomes compromised. Praise God that He has given us so many spiritual lessons in the

creation around us. May we all protect the seeds of the Word of God in our own hearts and in the hearts of those around us. Please pray for the ministry at Gateway Woods that the hearts of the children would be soft and able to receive His Word.

NEWS:

- We are pleased to announce that Sis. Ann Jacobs will be transitioning from an Assistant Houseparent at the Oak House to the School as our new Teacher's Aide. We are thankful for the experience that Sis. Ann will bring to this position. Sis. Julie Knudstrup has her teaching license and will be pursuing teaching positions for next year. Because of this change, we now have an opening for an Assistant Houseparent. Please see the notice in this month's edition of The Silver Lining for more information.

- Summer is quickly approaching and with that comes our many summer volunteers! As mentioned the other month, Bro. Joel Stickling (Peoria) will be serving as our Summer Volunteer Coordinator. If you are over 18 years old and have a desire to serve with other believers, please visit the volunteer page on our website at: www.gatewaywoods.org/supporters/volunteer where you can electronically submit a volunteer application and obtain a volunteer reference form. Thank you in advance for your willingness to serve!

- We are thankful that God continues to provide us with the right Staff. We currently have three career positions open at Gateway Woods: Assistant Houseparent, Alternate Houseparents, and IL Adoption Manager. Please see the notices in this month's edition of The Silver Lining for more information. We trust that God will continue to provide us with qualified, mature Brothers and Sisters who will be able to serve Him in a ministry that is 'Turning Lives Around'. Perhaps this includes you!

- 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, AL
Sarah Hodel**

Even though it's almost a month past Easter, that was our most exciting time in April. The kids love to see the pictures of Jesus on the cross up on our flannel board. They get so excited when they know it's almost time for that story, then they usually talk about it for weeks to come after we have it. They also look forward to our Easter egg hunt.

Things have been really busy around here lately, a sure sign of that being that I just noticed I still have my Easter window stickers up! We currently have 30 children enrolled which is the most we've had for awhile. Thank goodness we can get outside most days to let them run freely.

We've already started practicing for graduation, and by the time this issue comes out it will be done and over with. Didn't we just breathe a sigh of relief after finishing our Christmas play? It shouldn't be graduation time already, should it?!

One little boy was noticing earrings on one of our girls. After studying them for awhile he wondered, "Did it hurt when you got staples in your ears?"

We are in need of two new preschool teachers. It does not matter if you are married or single. Please consider taking this opportunity. It is more than a blessing! For more information you can contact Bro. Mike Moore (256) 729-0620, (256) 777-3390 or ALM38@aol.com.

**ALABAMA, ATHENS
Louise Hall**

When we have a visiting minister, we love having them share the Word with us, but their fellowship means just as much. We always appreciate their efforts in making the time to drive down here. This month we were happy to have Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL). We were also excited to have our former adult Sunday School teacher back for a weekend. Bro. Ryan and Sis. Hope Stoller (Gridley) were back for a visit. It was a huge blessing to have them here again. Thank you to both brothers for your willingness to serve!

Billy Hall, who is a brother to Sis. Kat King and Bro. JR Hall, was in the hospital this month. We miss seeing our Sis. Joyce Ray (Bro. Milton) in church, as she has been sick for awhile now. Also, Roslyn Coulter (Bro. David and Sis. Barbara) has not been feeling well. Her MS has flared up for a spell and she has been out of school for nearly a month. We are praying for healing for all these who have been sick and hope they start feeling better soon.

**ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Heather Hinrichsen**

Bro. Nick Gutwein (W. Lafayette), Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City), Bro. Tim Ramsier (Rittman), Bro. Bill Schick (Magdalena) and Elder Bro. Tom Klotzle (Altadena) were willing servants to share with us God's Word this past month.

We extend our sympathies to Sis. Joyce Yackley (Bro. Aldo) in the passing of her mother and to Bro. Elton Wiegand (Sis. Loretta) in the passing of his brother. May God be near both of their families in their time of sorrow.

Bro. Ed Frautschi had medical procedures done and he and Sis. Connie appreciates the prayers.

Bro. Todd and Sis. Nicole Steffen welcomed Nina Nicole into their family on March 25. Her siblings are Adelade, Amelia, and Isaiah and grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Christine Baum and Bro. Keith and Sis. Cathy

Steffen (Washington, IL). Matt, Jared, Lindsey and James Klopfenstein were excited to finally meet their new brother, Samuel Scott, on April 14. Bro. Scott and Sis. Katie are his thankful parents along with grandparents, Bro. Dave and Sis. LouAnn Klopfenstein and Sis. Becky Gudeman (Indianapolis) and Dan Gudeman (Chicago).

We rejoice with the angels that Philip Huetter has found peace with God and man and is awaiting baptism. His parents are Bro. Doug and Sis. Jill Huetter.

April 11 was the wedding day of Bro. Clarence Beyer and Sis. Deanne DeVlieger. We wish them God's blessings as they start their life together.

**ARIZONA, PRESCOTT
Denise Steidinger**

We are so thankful for the willingness of ministering brothers to come share God's Word with our small congregation. This past month, we were visited by Bros. Keith Hinrichsen (Sis. Tammy, Phoenix), Al Schambach (Sis. Sarah, Remington), Jay Knapp (Sis. Lisa, Tucson), Jesse Bedolla (Sis. Bonnie, Detroit) and Herbie Knochel Jr. (Sis. Laurie, Phoenix).

**ARIZONA, TUCSON
Lisa Knapp**

Spring has arrived in Tucson and with it the migration of our snowbirds back to the Midwest. We are sad to see each one go but are familiar with the adjustment as our numbers decline and we become truly a "small church" again. We heard in our sermon Wednesday evening that we need to pray that we would not become discouraged but remember Who is in control and Whose plan we say that we trust - so our actions need to reflect that.

With this adjustment comes the adjustment to warmer weather and today (April 15) the high was projected to be 90 degrees. I didn't check to verify because I'd rather be in denial. Our mornings and evenings are still wonderfully cool and lovely to enjoy.

Our little church has been blessed with many healthy, beautiful babies over the years and somehow I think I have forgotten to mention that we are anticipating the wedding of two of them. Stephanie Bauer (Steve and Maria) is engaged to marry Sean Keller on December 18. Daniel Bauer (Bro. Brad and Sis. Sandy) is engaged to marry Amy Biesemeyer on July 10. Grandparents of both these "Tucson babies" are Bro. Don and Sis. Gloria Bauer. We are thankful these two couples have expressed a desire to follow God and believe God has ordained their marriages. We pray many blessings on them both.

We wish to thank the two visiting ministers that have shared God's Word with us over our pulpit recently. Bro. Craig Stickling (Peoria) was with us for Good Friday services and Bro. Jim Meiss (Phoenix) was here on Sunday, April 11. We thank them both for their love and willingness to serve.

Our very special friend, Bee Schmidt, has not been able to assemble with us for some time now after being hospitalized and recovering at home. We miss her presence in her usual spot on the bench and I know the ministering brothers miss her smiling face in the pews. We are praying God will grant us the privilege to worship with her again sometime soon.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA **Daniel Luthi**

During the last weekend in March, Elder Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandy, Alto, MI) came out to assist our Elder Bro. Tom Klotzle in serving us Communion. What a blessed privileged time it was to gather together and remember the suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. Many thanks to Bro. Ted and Sis. Sandy for making the effort to travel.

How thankful we are that Christ did not stay in the grave, but, on the third day, He rose again from the grave! On Easter Sunday, our congregation gathered for our annual Easter sunrise song

service on a local mountain. Our usual spot that we have used in past years was not available this time. We found another beautiful spot though and we still were able to meet. Afterwards, we met back at church for breakfast.

Bro. Virgil and Sis. Marilyn Graf have welcomed in a new grandchild to their family. Levi Ray was born to Bro. Doug and Sis. Carol Blunier (Princeville, IL). His siblings, Chloe and Kaden, and aunt, Sis. Elaine Graf, also helped welcome him into their family. We pray for God's blessings on Levi and his family as he grows and matures.

Our prayers continue to be with those in our congregation who are sick, hospitalized, or dealing with health concerns. Bro. Bob Crockett and Bro. John Klotzle (Sis. Lois) were hospitalized this month. Bro. Bob has since been released, and Bro. John is now in a rehabilitation facility. Our prayers continue to be with both of them for God's healing and provision. Also this month, we received encouraging news of answered prayers that Bro. Clarence Graf is making good progress with his recuperation. Lord willing, he will soon be moving into an assisted living facility.

Our annual "snowbirds" have started their travels back east. Bro. Daryle and Sis. Edie Wieland (Bay City, MI) have already left for home. Bro. Reuben and Sis. Chrystol Luthi (Morris, MN) are also making preparations to leave. We have thoroughly enjoyed having both of these dear couples gather with us this winter, and pray for a safe journey home.

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

A sincere thank you to our visiting ministers, Bro. Todd Graf (Sis. Lydia, Akron), Bro. Ted Luginbuhl (Sis. Stephanie, Smithville), Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit), Bro. Dale Stoller (Sis. Sandra, Fairbury), Bro. Wes Moser (Sis. Esther, Lester) and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha). Please know that your work

here is greatly appreciated.

We enjoyed the Easter Program the Sunday School children had for us. They are getting practice for His command to ..."Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:15)

A notice to Kitchener visitors: Our whole church has two invites this summer and therefore there will be no services here on those days. Lord willing, we plan to be in Junction on May 23, and in Detroit on September 19.

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

"But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in Him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth."

1 John 3:17-18

Our congregation was blessed to host the National World Relief meeting this month. We thank these Brothers for their time and effort put forth to serve others in need. Also with us that Sunday were many visiting Elders and ministers. We want to thank Elder Bros. Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN), Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO), Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) and ministering Bros. Virgil Kaeb (Sarasota, FL), and Jeff Bahler (Wolcott, IN) for being willing to stand before us and feed us from the Word. We also want to thank Bro. Darren Fehr (West Bend, IA) for ministering to us on a Wednesday evening.

May God richly bless them for their labor of love.

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

Romans 12:15

We rejoice with first-time parents, Bro. Jacob and Sis. Ashlee Virkler, in

the birth of Anna Elizabeth, who was born on April 15. Grandparents are Ken and Sis. Karen Hunt and Bro. Terry and Sis. Cindy Virkler.

April 15 was also the day that Lindsey Jean was born to Kevin and Jeanette Guay. The Lord had other plans for her, and took her home to be with Jesus that same day. Our sincere sympathy and prayers are with this dear family. She leaves behind her big sister, Alaina, and her grandparents, Bro. Ed and Sis. Terry Mangold and Jacques and Irene Guay.

Our sympathy is also extended to Bro. Phil and Sis. Michelle Bahler and family, in the passing of Michelle's grandmother, Stella Blotniski. May the Lord comfort these families in their time of sorrow.

The engagement of Bro. Jason Reutter (Bro. Dean and Sis. Miriam) and Sis. Diana Vidakovics (Frank and Sara, Akron, OH) was made known to our congregation. We wish God's richest blessings on this couple as they plan for their marriage.

Our church had the privilege to join together and partake of Holy Communion. Much love and appreciation is extended to our Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan and Bro. Warren Zahner for this blessed evening. May we always remember the sacrifice that Jesus paid for us with His death and shedding of His blood for our sins.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer
THE TREES ARE GONE!**

Our caretakers and other visitors in the last three years understand what I am saying. There had been lots of trees behind our lot line. For more years (26) than I have been in this area, there had been talk of the state constructing a major highway between I-270 and I-95 passing right behind our Church. We are now seeing the signs the highway is coming. This made me think of something else promised a lot more than 40 years ago, and we are seeing some signs

of fulfillment — Christ's second coming.

Our caretakers for April were Bro. Ray and Sis. Jeannie Haerr from Ft. Lauderdale, FL. We have an unexpected opening for a caretaker couple or family for the month of June, 2010. We also have openings for November and December, 2010. There is good availability so far for 2011. If interested in serving as caretaker of our church and house, please contact Doreen Steffen at bdsteff@yahoo.com or 302-540-6574.

On March 20, Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand led a Bible Study on the four pillars of our Church.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. John Baumgartner (Sis. Lori, Bern, KS), Bro. Art Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH), Bro. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend, IA) and Bro. Kevin Knapp (Sis. Dixie, Bloomington, IL). Other visitors were from Francesville, IN, Goodfield, IL and Junction, OH.

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**

We were thankful to have visiting ministers who came this past month to support our Ft. Lauderdale church and share God's Word with us. Visiting ministers were Bro. Tom Leman (Sis. Marlene, Denver, CO); Bro. Joe Braker

(Sis. Shirley, Morton, IL); Bro. Mark Zimmerman (Sis. Cheryl, Eureka, IL); Bro. Ron Jones (Portland, OR) and Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH). We pray for His blessings on those that lend themselves to His service.

Easter is such a beautiful time of year and a chance for us to reflect again on the gift of salvation that Jesus gave to us. We enjoyed an Easter potluck where we gathered and shared food and fellowship.

As our winter visitors are leaving, we pray that God would watch over them as they return to their homes up north and that, Lord willing, we will see them again next winter.

Wednesday evening services are not being held at this time until our numbers once again increase.

**FLORIDA
NORTH FORT MYERS
Victor Beer**

Real springtime has come to southern Florida with an end to the record cold weather, and now unusually good rains. However, this time of the year it means that most of our wonderful wintertime church is heading back north for the summer. We will miss them but we pray for their welfare and their return this fall.

Our prayer for complete health to return to Sis. Louise Gerber, as she and Bro. Carroll plan to return to Bluffton to their summer home now. Bro. Carroll has been faithfully helping our Bro. Marvin Steffen in the mid-week church services at Naples this winter.

We were richly blessed this month through the ministry of Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sara, Bloomington, IL). As always, we really appreciate our visiting ministers to share with us from God's Word.

As summer dawns on us, we see our visiting ministers and song leaders leaving, and we did appreciate them all.

Notes of Thanks:

This thank you is for all the lovely brethren and friends who live or winter

in the Fort Myers area. Everyone made my brother, Bro. Al Hunziker, and I feel so welcome to your special church. Your kindness and compassion to us over the last ten years was so appreciated.

Sis. Ardith Herrmann

Sis. Mary Masters and Bro. Bill wish to thank the many brethren and friends for their kindness in the death of Sis. Mary's mother, Sis. Mary Plattner. She is truly going to be missed by her children and grandchildren.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA Kim Ott

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

II Corinthians 5:17

As the spring season arrives, we take great joy in admiring God's creation of fresh plant life and newborn animals, but we also want to reflect on the opportunity God has given us to become new creatures as well. During this recent Easter season we especially remembered the price that was paid for our sin by Jesus Christ, the One who knew no sin, and let us rejoice in the freedom Christ's death has afforded us. Without Jesus Christ allowing Himself to be used as the ultimate sacrifice, we would not be able to enjoy the newness of life free from bondage.

This particular Good Friday, April 2, held another special meaning for Bro. Matt and Sis. Emily Koehl as they welcomed home their new son, Luke Ronald. Big brother, Levi, is also excited for a new playmate. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol Koehl and Sis. Joanni Endress (Morton, IL).

On Saturday, April 10, we had our annual Sunday School picnic at Longwood Run Park. A delicious cook-out and potluck style lunch, along with the pleasure of a warm, sunny afternoon were enjoyed by all. What a blessing it is to have these opportunities for our

church family to gather together!

Our prayers are with Sis. Carol Koehl as she recently had surgery on her knee. We trust that the Lord will bring healing and strength to her according to His will. We look forward to having our dear sister assemble with us again soon.

Elder Bros. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI) and Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Dale and our church in identifying a brother to serve as our Elder candidate. We are so thankful for these Elder brothers as they give of themselves and their time to allow for God's work to be done in this capacity. We are grateful for God's clear direction and offer our prayers to Bro. Jeff and Sis. Lynne Streitmatter who have been called to this duty.

We are also thankful for other visiting ministers who have traveled to be with us and share God's Word to our congregation. These ministers include Bros. James Knapp (Sis. Lisa, Congerville, IL), Howard Plattner (Sis. Kristen, Alto, MI), Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI) and Earl Beery (Rittman, OH).

Sis. DiAnne Brown is ending her term as our Silver Lining correspondent. We want to express our appreciation for her many efforts during these past years, and we are truly thankful for her time of service in this position.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

Sheree Waldbeser (Bro. Tom and Sis. Sue) has made the decision to commit her life to the Lord! Our prayers and thoughts are with her as she has begun her journey of repentance!

Our Easter program took place March 28, during which the question was presented: "Who do you say that Jesus is?" It was based from the scripture found in Matthew 16:13-16.

"When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I

the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."

We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Steve share Holy Communion with us April 18. It is a very powerful time as we consider how we stand before the Lord Jesus Christ.

Bro. Daren Metz and his wife, Sis. Rita (Gridley, IL), were a blessing to our church this month. May the Lord bless you for your service to Him!

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE Jenn Johnson Doreen Moser

Up from the grave He arose,
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes;
He arose a Victor from the dark domain,
And He lives forever with His saints to reign;
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah!
Christ Arose!
Gospel Hymns # 323

As Easter has come and gone, we are filled with thoughts of Christ's death on the cross, and then, His glorious Resurrection! With the stones rolled away, we have such wonderful hope of the life to come!

We are thankful for having had the opportunity to witness the Sunday School Easter program on Palm Sunday. It truly is a blessing to hear the truth proclaimed by our children through verses and songs. Also, a special thanks to Bro. Gary Anliker (Sis. Edie, Elgin) for ministering to us that day.

We were also blessed to be able to gather on Good Friday to remember the death of Jesus on the cross at Calvary and His resurrection on Easter Sunday.

The Bible Class traveled to Peoria, IL, this month to sing and fellowship with other churches during ACYF on

April 18.

As the newness of life is revealed in the world around us, let us remember the price that was paid for us to experience this "newness" in our life through Christ's shed blood.

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

On March 21 we had the wedding ceremony for Bro. David Prevo (Bro. Mike and Sis. Barb, Gridley) to Sis. Tara Hohulin (Bro. Mike and Sis. Faye, Ft. Lauderdale, FL). The officiating ministers were Bro. Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN) and Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington). Bro. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis) had the morning service.

On Palm Sunday the Sunday School had their Easter Program. Then the following Sunday, Easter, we had our Sunrise Service. The Bloomington Choir and the Bloomington men's group sang. Bro. Brad Metz gave the message. Visiting Bro. Tim Hohulin (Roanoke) had the morning service.

The ISU young group hosted the College Weekend on April 10-11. We had four visiting ministers, Bro. Jeff Waibel (Leo, IN), Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Craig Stickling (Peoria, IL) and Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH).

**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Philip and Donna Nenadov**

"For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it."

Matthew 17:25

We are blessed to have two more converts in our assembly. Rebecca Ehnle (Bro. John and Sis. Sara) and Kayla Shernak have answered God's call to repentance and have begun on the way towards a new life in Him.

Bro. Philip Endress (Bro. Larry and Sis. Becky) and Sis. Beth Christ (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Connie, Princeville) have

announced their engagement and are trusting in the Lord as they make plans for a wedding in the future.

Our visiting ministers for this month were Bros. Matt Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville), Gary Brown (Sis. Jane, Forrest), Virgil Metzger (Sis. Mary, Chicago) and Scott Schambach (Sis. Hope, Columbus). May the Lord bless these brothers for laboring on our behalf.

We extend our prayers and sympathies to two sisters losing a parent in the past month. Sis. Ev Endress (Bro. Gary) lost her mother, Sis. Ruth Schrock of Oakville, IA; and Sis. Tracy Kieser (Bro. Matt) lost her father, Claude White, of Indiana. May the Lord comfort them as they bid their parents farewell.

God be with you 'til we meet again.

**ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN
Jackie Eisenmann**

Christian greetings from Champaign-Urbana! Another busy month has passed in our congregation. We want to thank several ministering brothers who came to present topical studies on several Wednesday evenings this past month of April. May God bless Bros. Bruce Frank (Cissna Park, IL), Bob Pflederer (Morton, IL), and Daren Metz (Gridley, IL) for their willingness to serve us!

Our prayers have been with Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Charlen Banwart and their children as they have experienced the loss of Sis. Charlen's mother, Sis. Ruth Schrock (Oakville, IA). May God bless and comfort their hearts with the hope of meeting her in Heaven someday.

"Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord."

Psalms 31:24

The weekend of April 10-11 was a busy weekend for our Bible class students. They hosted a "Friends invite" full of fun and edifying activities. There were about 25 students here from ten of

our churches. It proved to be a blessing for everyone involved. We hope the friendships made will last a lifetime!

The weekend of April 17-18 was a real blessing for our Champaign church! We heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of two souls who have been born and raised in this congregation. We rejoice with Sis. Laura Tucker (John and Mary) and Bro. Joel Furrer (Bro. Sam and Sis. Pam) as we welcome them as our brother and sister in the Lord. Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL), and Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO) were with us that weekend and we want to thank them for lending themselves in the service of the Lord.

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

John 3:5

**ILLINOIS, CHICAGO
Rachel Meyer**

Greetings from Chicago. We thank God for sending us ministering Bros. Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL) and Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL). Thank you.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Virg (Sis. Mary) and Bro. Boyd (Sis. Lois) Metzger upon the passing of their beloved sister-in-law, Mary Jane Metzger, from Lester, IA. She was the wife of Bro. Don Metzger and had been battling cancer for several years. May God be the true Comforter.

On March 24, our Bro. Matthew Rassi presented a Topical Bible Study on "Accountability". Thank you, Bro. Matthew, for sharing God's Word with us.

On March 25 sweet Seylah Joy Nenadov was born to Bro. Sam and Sis. Sherri Nenadov. Big brothers Skylar and Shae also welcome this beautiful baby home.

Our church was filled with joy and visitors on March 28 for the wedding

day of Sis. Carrie Stoller and Bro. Troy Blunier. It was a day of blessing and the presence of the Holy Spirit was felt. Congratulations to the new Mr. and Mrs. Troy Blunier!

April 2-4 found us commemorating Good Friday and celebrating Resurrection Sunday. Praise God for sending Christ Jesus so every person in this world can have forgiveness of sins and the hope of salvation.

Our prayers are with our Bro. Blake Stahl as he joined a medical work team going to Haiti. We know the needs in Haiti are still tremendous.

I would like to say an encouraging word about precious babies crying in church. Many of you know I recently spent six months in Bangladesh. While there, I had the opportunity to listen online to some of our sermons that have been archived, along with a few live sermons. One of the things that comforted me most was hearing the little ones in the background during the sermons. So familiar. So sweet to my ears. There I was, on the other side of the world, but when I heard the minister, the singing, and those sweet little ones...it just brought home right into my room. Listening would not have been the same without them. So to you mothers who may feel distressed when your children are not always quiet – please let me say “thank you” for allowing them to be a blessing to me, as I listened from the other side of the world.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK
Vickie Maul
Marilynn Maul

I serve a risen Savior,
 He's in the world today;
 I know that He is living,
 Whatever men may say;
 I see His hand of mercy,
 I hear His voice of cheer,
 And just the time I need Him,
 He's always near.

Melodies of Praise #86

With us just leaving the Easter Season, we have been reminded of our risen

Savior and just what He has done for us. This past Easter week we commemorated the Last Supper. We thank Elder Bro. Bruce Endress (Bradford) for helping our Elder Bro. Tom Stock with this service.

The Bible class hosted the Eureka Bible class in March. We appreciated having Bros. Mark Zimmerman (Eureka) and John Hartman (Fairbury) with us that day and teaching our Bible classes the way the Lord would have them live.

Bros. Larry Wenniger (Latty), Tim Hohulin (Roanoke) and Ken Schneider (Remington) were here for the Spring Invite-A-Guest. Also, Bro. Dana Indermuhle (Sardis) was here to minister to us. We thank them all for their efforts in bringing the Lord's message to us.

Babies are a gift from Heaven. We rejoice with Bro. Justin and Sis. Jodi Sinn with the birth of their daughter, Ruth Elizabeth. Brothers Carson, Kenton and Jamie are glad to have a sister. Unfortunately little Ruth had to return to the hospital for a short time, but is again home with her family and able to come with the family to church.

On Friday, April 16, we gathered together to serve the Lord with the Family World Relief Night. School and health kits were packed along with several other small projects.

Looking forward to their wedding are Bonnie Stock and CJ Francisco. Bonnie is the daughter of Elder Bro. Tom and Sis. Karol Stock. We pray that they seek the Lord's guidance as they make their plans for the future.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE
Holly Zobrist

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

Ecclesiastes 3:2

Many rejoiced to hear of the birth of Makenna Rae. Her parents are Bro. Josh and Sis. Kate Virkler. Her older

sister is Mollie. Her thankful grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Maureen Virkler and Bro. Kim and Sis. Carol Craig.

“...a time to mourn...”
Ecclesiastes 3:4

Our hearts go out to Betty Miller as she has laid to rest her husband, Chris E. Miller. We are also keeping his children in our thoughts and prayers. They include Bro. Chris (Sis. Phyllis), Bro. Roger (Sis. Crystal), Dennis, and Joan (Richard).

“He hath made every thing beautiful
 in his time...”
Ecclesiastes 3:12

The Lord does make all things beautiful in His time as He has in each of our lives. In His time He transforms the life of a convert and makes them a new creature in Christ. We are thankful to have a new convert this past month. Nathan Anderson (Bro. Jon and Sis. Cyndee) has made the decision to repent for his sins and live for the Lord.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN
Amy Gasser
Miriam Gasser

Forever with the Lord, my blessed lot
 shall be.
 His word is like a shining star and
 gently leadeth me.
 I journey thru this world, I am a
 stranger here.
 I shall pursue my pilgrim's course
 unto my Saviour dear.
 Near to Thee, near to Thee, I'm draw-
 ing near to Thee.
Hymns of Zion, #88

This hymn may have echoed Bro. Matt Steffen's thoughts, as the congregation sang it the afternoon of his testimony and baptism, March 21. We were thankful that Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA) was present to assist with the labors on this blessed occasion. Bros. Art Mueller and Dean Steffen

(Belvidere, IL) and Alan Schambach (Remington, IN) also took part in the day's services. Many family members and friends were there to show their love and support for Bro. Matt and to witness his covenant in the baptismal waters.

Other visitors who recently served us through their ministry were Bros. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH), Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL), Dan Koch (Tremont, IL), and Todd Stoller (Latty, OH). May God bless each one for tirelessly sending out the watchman's call.

On March 28, little Sophie Ann received a joyful welcome by her parents, Bro. BJ and Sis. Mollie Schambach, and many other family members. Bro. Earl and Sis. Susie Beery (Rittman, OH) and Sis. Leann Schambach are Sophie's grandparents.

Ashlyn Dietz (Bro. Fred and Sis. Shaena) had surgery to remove some screws from her leg, and she is happy to again be walking without crutches.

Bro. Jerry Cargill (Sis. Kay) gave a slide presentation of the trip to Israel taken by several church couples in March. We enjoyed seeing the natural beauty of the region, as well as some of the sights referred to in Biblical history and prophecy.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

**Dee Baer
Jodi Blunier**

"How shall it be when we at last returning..." Bro. Bob Wiegand was quickly called to his eternal rest. Missing him are his wife, Sis. Helen; daughters, Sis. Marlene Prather (Bro. Bob, Washington), Sis. Linda Folkerts (Bro. Gary, Washington), and Sis. Janet Streitmatter (Bro. Alan, Peoria); and sons, Bro. Edward (Joanne, Goodfield), Bro. Donald (Sis. Jane, Eureka), Bro. Andrew (Sis. Vicky, Eureka) and Robert (Ellen, Clinton, WI). He leaves sisters, Sis. Elizabeth Blunier, Sis. Norma Hangartner (Bro. Roy), Sis. Charlene Schumacher (Bro. Bob), all of Eureka; Sis. Margaret Getz (Bro. Melvin, Peoria); and brothers, Bro. Willis (Sis.

Betty, Goodfield), Bro. Daniel (Sis. Verla, Goodfield), and Bro. Elton (Sis. Loretta, Eureka).

Sis. Velma Leman (Bro. Gerald) and Sis. Clara Kempf mourn the loss of their brother, Chris Miller (Sis. Betty) of Congerville.

Little Eli Knapp (Bro. Chance and Sis. Shelly) was hospitalized and is doing well again.

We have been thankful for the visit and labors of visiting ministers, Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH), Bro. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO), Bro. Rich Gramm (South Bend, IN), Bro. Randy Mogler (Washington) and Bro. Bill Dotterer (Lamar, MO).

Notes of Thanks:

Thank you, dear ones, for your cards and prayers on my behalf from my recent accident. Also, for the many birthday and get well cards I received, and your calls and visits. We feel so blessed to be in this caring, loving church of Eureka. Thank you so much.

Bro. Ben Blunier (Sis. Wilma)

We would like to express our deep thanks and appreciation for all the prayers, cards, gifts, and kind words extended at the time of dad's passing. May God richly bless each one of you for the kindness and love you have shared with us.

The family of Bro. Don Bruellman

Bro. Jeff and Sis. Lisa Banwart and family

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

**Angela Herr
Anna Schmidgall**

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

1 Corinthians 11:26

It was good for our congregation to remember Jesus' death and suffering prior to His glorious resurrection, as we shared Holy Communion. Elder Bros. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA) and

Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) served us along with our own Elder Bro. Rick Plattner.

Bro. Dennis Rassi (Austin, TX) assembled with us this month. We are always glad to see them and appreciate him sharing God's Word with us again. Also, Bros. Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL) and Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA) shared God's Word with us.

Philip Hartman (Bro. Ryan and Sis. Lori) has begun his walk with the Lord in repentance. We pray he can feel God's grace and guidance in this most important step.

Bro. Walt and Sis. Janelle Edelman welcomed their first daughter, Haleigh Jo, born on April 1. Big brother Gage is happy for a little sister. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Randy and Sis. Dawn Steidinger and Bro. Walter and Sis. Rose Edelman.

Two families in our congregation have lost loved ones this month. Bro. Roger and Sis. Crystal Miller and family mourn the loss of Roger's father, Chris Miller (Congerville, IL). We also sympathize with Bro. Ken and Sis. Linda Fehr and their family in the passing of her mother, Nadean Weber, a resident of Fairview Haven. We lift these families up in prayer.

Sis. Juanita Walter (Bro. Jim), Sis. Esther Kiefer, Bro. Melvin Zimmerman, Bro. Don Broquard (Sis. Ione), Bro. Ben Lorch (Sis. Marguerite), and Joan Gaston spent time in the hospital. We are thankful they are recovering and we continue to pray for healing.

Russell Edelman (Bro. Walter and Sis. Rose) and Alyssa Philipchuck (Patrick and Cynthia) were joined in marriage on April 10. We wish them God's blessings.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Lynn Dotterer
Lisa Aberle**

On the weekend of April 24-25, Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL) were with us to add more lambs to our flock. Bro. Daren Anliker (Bro. Bob and

Sis. Linda), Bro. Zach Roth (Bro. Ken and Sis. Deb), Sis. Stefani Schmidgall (Bro. John and Sis. Janet) and Sis. Shannon Stork (Bro. Reuben and Sis. Devra) are our new brothers and sisters.

Elder Bro. Bruce Endress (Bradford, IL) and Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL) helped our Elder Bro. Marvin serve Holy Communion. How precious is the sacrifice of our Saviour!

We also had several other brothers bring us the Word this past month. They were Bros. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Kerwin Edelman (Athens, AL), David Eisenmann (Champaign, IL), Chuck Kellenberger (Elgin, IL), Paul Kilgus (Fairbury, IL), Dan Koch (Tremont, IL), Dennis Rassi (Austin, TX), Calvin Schneider (LaCrosse, IN) and Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL).

Bro. Jeremiah Rinkenberger (Keith and Sue, Forrest, IL) and Sis. Larissa Steidinger (Bro. Glen and Sis. Holly) were united in Holy Matrimony on April 4. We wish them God's nearness.

Many dear ones in our congregation submitted to surgery, continued treatments or met with accident this month. Our prayers are with convert Philip Kaeb, Sis. Nettie Kyburz, Sis. Leona Leman, Sis. Jean Martin, Bro. Brian Ricketts (Sis. Marie), Sis. Kathryn Steidinger (Bro. Ivan), Bro. John Teubel (Sis. Lavonne), and Bro. Ed Wenger (Sis. Renee).

Pearl Meister (Fairbury, IL) passed away this month. We extend heartfelt sympathy to her family in our congregation: her daughter, Sis. Lucy Slagel (Bro. Jim), and their children as well as her brother, Henry Friedman (Sis. Marge).

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD Kayla Wiegand Donna Wyss

"A time to be born,..." (Ecc.3:2) Bro. Ron and Sis. Cassandra Wiegand have been blessed with a new daughter, Enlee Grace. Excited siblings are Mya, Lance, and Josie and thankful grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Karen Wiegand and Thomas and Sandra

Beckcom.

"A time to die,..." (Ecc.3:2) Sis. Allene Steffen (Bro. Jerry) and Sis. Corrine Roth's (Roy) sister, Sis. Ruth Schrock (late Bro. John) of Oakville has gone on to her reward. Bro. Willis Wiegand (Sis. Betty) and Bro. Dan Wiegand (Sis. Verla) lost their brother, Bro. Robert Wiegand (Sis. Helen), very quickly as he slipped into eternity. He was from Eureka and was the father of our dear Bro. Ed Wiegand (Joann). Our prayers and sympathy are with these families.

"a time to heal,..." (Ecc.3:3) We need to remember our loved ones who have been in the hospital. Bro. Steve Rocke (Sis. Audrey), Bro. Willis Wiegand (Sis. Betty), Bro. Jared Schieber (Sis. Angie), and Whitney Wiegand (Bro. Brad and Sis. Karen). Also, Sis. Carolyn Ott (Bro. Don) is receiving treatments. We pray that God will continue to grant each one healing according to His will.

"a time to speak,..." (Ecc.3:7) We appreciate the many words of wisdom spoken through our ministering Brothers. Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Sis. Karol, Cissna Park) and our counseling Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley) were with us for Good Friday service followed by Holy Communion. "Oh, can it be, upon a tree the Savior died for me? My soul is thrilled, my heart is filled, to think He died for me!" Gospel Hymns #837

On Easter Sunday, Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH) spoke the simple truth of God's Word and on Sunday, April 11, Bro. Stephen Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley) was led by the Holy Spirit to preach. Elder Bros. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington) and Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley) exhorted us on the Memorandum, Wednesday, April 7. May each one of us be obedient to our Heavenly calling. Once again, on Sunday, April 18, our counseling Elder Bro. Earl was with us and shared about a new minister for our congregation. May God's will be done.

"To everything there is a season..." On Sunday, March 28, our precious youth brought to us the Easter story in

verse and song. Many thanks to all the parents and teachers.

"A time to keep..." May Eric Hinrichsen and Elizabeth Galloway hold each other's hands firmly together as their hearts were united in Holy matrimony on April 10. Their parents are Bro. Chuck and Sis. Brenda Hinrichsen and Jack and Doris Galloway (East Peoria) and Carl and Paula Duckwiler. Also, Bro. Dennis and Sis. Eddis Blunier's son, Bro. Troy, married Sis. Carrie Stoller in Chicago on Sunday, March 28. God bless these two unions. May our great God in Heaven richly bless Sis. Rita Bauman for her many years of service writing the Silver Lining.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank all of you for your prayers, cards and food following my surgery. Our God is truly an awesome God. Thank you and may God bless you.

Love in Christ,
Sis. Pat Kuntz

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry A. Klopfenstein

"I judge all things only by the price they shall gain in all eternity."

John Wesley

The above statement, uttered in the 1700s, still rings true today. And while the believer in John Wesley's day likely faced a worldly torrent, it was probably not what today's true believer in Christ Jesus, faces. Our discernment is well advised to be based on the value of our lifestyle choices as they relate to things that are eternal.

Lawson Levi Edelman was born on March 24. He is the son of Bro. Kyle and Sis. Monica Edelman. He has two brothers, Drew, 11, and Tyler, 10; and a sister, Mya, 6. Grandparents are Bro. Levi and Sis. Donna Edelman (Forrest) and Joe Ortega (Fairbury). Great-grandparents are Raul and Maria Rodriguez of Oswego. The baby, Lawson Levi, had to spend additional time at the hospital

due to a heart condition, but is home now and doing well, thanks to God.

The marriage engagement of Sis. Melissa Kaeb to Bro. Kyle Hangartner of Roanoke was made known. They are planning a July 18 wedding. Her parents are Bro. Harvey and Sis. Judy Kaeb; and his parents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Karen Hangartner (Washington, IL).

Bro. Mark Wettstein was a visiting minister here this month.

Bro. Jim Brown was a medical patient, suffering from chest pains. He has responded well to treatments. Bro. Roy Hodel is recovering from two surgeries, and is back in church.

Our grade school graduates this Spring are: Josiah Wellwood, Rebekah Ehresman, Zach Romersberger, Codee Schlipf, and Miranda Schlipf. Graduating from high school are Bro. Ben Yergler, Sis. Courtney Funk, Hailey Ringger, Sis. Shelby Steidinger, Derek Stoller, and Amanda Vercler.

We offer our heartfelt sympathies to Sis. Lori Steidinger on the passing of her grandmother, Sis. Nadine Weber (Fairbury).

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Annette Tanner Julie Bahr

A Tribute to Mothers!

In the depression era at 5 a.m., a woman showed up on a snowy morning for a job interview. Three hours later she was ushered in for the interview. Can you spell “cook” and can you add 2 plus 2? “Yes” she said and complied with the answers. She was soon hired for the job. The Boss was impressed with her PATIENCE—to wait 3 hours without complaint; her SELF DENIAL—to show up very early on a snowy day; and that she showed NO INDIGNATION or anger when asked to answer extremely simple questions. He commented “I hired her because she will make a fine Mother!”
HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY!

We extend our thanks and appreciation to our visiting ministers: Bro. Paul

Gasser (Sis. Joyce, Akron); Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla) and Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget), both of Chicago; and Bro. Tim Roeker (Sis. Diane, Peoria). Elder Bros. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern) and Ron Schambach (Sis. Nancy, Elgin) were here to assist Bro. Ted Witzig Sr. in serving Holy Communion. Bro. Ed Sauder (Sis. Bonnie, Roanoke) was here to give our Family Worship Service on the Book of Philemon.

The theme for our Easter program this year was “Love Paid the Ransom For Me”. The Spirit filled program was presented by the Sunday School classes, the Mortonaires Men’s group, and Timber Ridge residents.

On April 11 we welcomed two new brothers in Christ into our church family. Bro. Nick Kaiser (Bro. Mike and Sis. Joyce) and Bro. Cory West (Chris and Kim West) shared with us what Christ has done in their lives. We are thankful!

Bro. Randy and Sis. Jane Schick and Jim and Sherri Parker are blessed with a granddaughter, Mara Rae, born to Kirk and Kristen Schick on March 27. On April 2, Bro. Matt and Sis. Emily Koehl, along with big brother Levi, welcomed new baby Luke Ronald. Grateful grandparents are Sis. Joanni Endress and Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol Koehl (Sarasota).

Our sympathy is shared with Sis. Barb Moser (Bro. Bob) in the loss of her dear father, Bro. Floyd Rowell (Sis. Ione) of Oakville.

Note of Thanks:

This thank you is for all the lovely brethren and friends who showed so much compassion and kindness to my brother, Al Hunziker, and I over the last ten years. The visitation, funeral, prayers, cards and memorials were so appreciated. May God bless you always.

Ardith Hermann

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Pam Fritzenmeier

Sunday, March 21, was our annual Sunday School Easter program. Our

children and young people from pre-k through young group presented the Easter message in word and song. The following Sunday our congregation participated in Holy Communion. Easter Sunday, April 4, many gathered early at the Fellowship Hall for breakfast and the Sunrise Service, then went on to church. We heard the glorious message... “He is not here, but is risen.” Luke 24:6. We are a most blessed people.

Bro. Bob (Sis. Eleanor) Pfloderer (Morton) blessed us with his ministry for family night on Wednesday, April 7.

The Strahm family has been blessed with a new baby girl. Her name is Sienna Grey and her parents are Bro. Jason and Sis. Courtney. Jude and Mya are her big brother and sister. Grandparents are Clayton and Sis. Miriam Strahm (Bern, KS) and Bro. Joe and Sis. JoAnne Hoerr.

God’s blessings to Daniel Kummer (Bro. Chris and Sis. Patty) and Dalia Johnson, who were married March 22.

Bro. Dave and Sis. Rita Sauder celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on April 3. We are thankful for their godly example.

We are thankful to report a new convert. Brenna Waibel is the daughter of Bro. Mike and Sis. Rose.

Several have had loved ones leave this earthly home in the past month. Bro. Matt (Sis. Aimee) Moser’s grandfather, Bro. Floyd Rowell (Oakville, IA), recently passed away. Sis. Janet (Bro. Alan) Streitmatter’s father, Bro. Robert Wiegand (Eureka), passed away suddenly April 2. A few days later, on April 6, Bro. Alan (Sis. Janet) and Bro. Doug (Sis. Cindy) Streitmatter’s father, Bro. Alf (Sis. Ginny) Streitmatter (Princeville), finished his battle with cancer. April 9, Sis. Pauline Laidig (South Bend) passed on. She was the sister of Sis. Matilda Faughn, Sis. Bette Binkele, Bro. Richard (Sis. Gladys) and Bro. Robert (Sis. Bernetta) Binkele. May God comfort your hearts.

We would also appreciate prayers for those suffering health problems. Sis. Kathy (Bro. Dave) Obergfel, Sis. Janell

Schaefer, and Elsie Eilers have all had surgery. Sis. Joanna Kummer (Bro. Chris and Sis. Patty), Bro. Harry (Sis. Loretta) Eisenmann and Sis. Maria Graham have all been hospitalized with health issues.

Please continue to pray for all missionaries, including Bro. Jonathan Aupperle in Magdalena and Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard and family in Haiti.

Note of Thanks:

Thank you to all the lovely brethren and friends who remembered me with love during my brother Al Hunziker's sudden death in Florida. It was such a sad time for me. All your prayers, cards, donations, and kindness to me was so appreciated. May God always bless you.

Sis. Ardith Herrmann

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

**Linda Joos
Connie Christ**

We were blessed to partake of Holy Communion on March 27. Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) assisted Elder Bro. Jim Plattner in this solemn evening of remembering our dear Lord and what He has done for us. Bro. Ron was with us on the following Sunday. Bro. Greg Stieglitz (Indianapolis, IN) was with us another Sunday. We thank these dear brothers for their willingness to share God's Word with us.

"Safe in the Arms of Jesus... Sweetly my soul shall rest." Bro. Alf Streitmatter was gently called Home on April 6, leaving his dear wife, Sis. Ginny. Our prayers are with her as well as their children: Sis. Cindy (Bro. Rod) Schmidt (Denver, CO), Sis. Barb (Bro. Phil) Ehnle (Princeville, IL), Bro. Alan (Sis. Janet) Streitmatter (Peoria, IL), Bro. Doug (Sis. Cindy) Streitmatter (Peoria, IL), Scott (Amanda) Streitmatter (Dunlap, IL), Sis. Beth (Bro. Curt) Feucht (Washington, IL), and Sis. Dawn (Bro. Scott) Schick (Washington, IL). May God comfort and encourage during the days ahead.

Our prayers are with Sis. Beulah

(Bro. Dave) Ehnle whose brother, Rod Moser (Oakville, IA), passed from this life recently. We remember Sis. Tina (Bro. Fred) Christ whose brother, Lyle Logsdon (Pekin, IL), also passed away. Bro. Craig (Sis. Cherie) White bid farewell to his father, Claude White (Rossville, IN). May God be near each one who has experienced the loss of a dearly loved family member.

We rejoice with the angels for a new convert, Sarah Stahl (Bro. Doug and Sis. Ann). May God grant her much grace and humility during this time of repentance and conversion.

Sis. Mary Lou Streitmatter (late Bro. Don) recently submitted to surgery, and we pray for her for God's healing.

Bro. Shane Martin (Bro. Alan and Sis. Janice) and Sis. Megan Pardo (Jack and Sis. Laurie) of Alto, MI, have found the faith to believe it is God's will for them to become husband and wife. May God bless them richly in the days and years ahead.

Sis. Beth Christ (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Connie) and Bro. Phil Endress (Bro. Larry and Sis. Becky) of Bradford, IL, have been directed by God in faith to become engaged and look forward to marriage. May God be near them in all their future plans.

Welcoming a baby son, Levi Ray, are Bro. Doug and Sis. Carol Blunier and happy siblings, Chloe and Kaden. He arrived April 12 to bless their home. Thankful grandparents are Sis. Joyce Blunier (late Bro. Dale) and Bro. Virgil and Sis. Marilyn Graf (Altadena, CA). May God's blessings rest upon their family.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

**Jamie Hodel
Judy Sauder**

I Cor. 11:26: "For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death til He come." On Sunday evening, March 21, we were privileged to partake of Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Tom Klotzle (Altadena) and Elder Bro. Ron Messner

(Washington) assisted Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman and Bro. Bill Hodel in this work. It was a blessed evening.

On March 17, Bro. Mike Hohulin (Ft. Lauderdale) was our guest minister. On March 24, Bro. Erik Givens (Princeville) spoke on "Improving Your Serve" at our monthly topical Bible study. Then on April 7, Bro. Lenny Meyer (Chicago) proclaimed God's Word to us. On April 11, we were privileged to have Bro. Willis Ehnle (Peoria) as our visiting minister. We thank all of these brothers for their loving service to us and ask that God would bless each one.

I Peter 3:18: "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God..." Also on March 21, our annual Easter Program was held. We thank our youth and Bible Class for presenting the truths of Christ's death and resurrection to us in word and song.

Romans 10:10: "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." We rejoice with David Zimmerman (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Mary Beth), Hannah Knepp (Bro. Rich and Sis. Janet) and Dalton Hodel (Bro. Jim and Sis. Connie) who have all made confession unto salvation. We pray for God's blessing upon them as they begin their walks with the Lord.

We extend our love and deepest sympathy to Sis. Chris (Bro. Nate) Fehr, whose stepfather, Dave Hoffman, passed away March 27. We ask that God would comfort Sis. Chris and her family.

Our annual Bible Class spaghetti supper was held March 13. It is a blessing to see our young adults working together to benefit others.

On March 20, a presentation was held at our Fellowship Hall concerning the "Penpals for Jesus" program. We thank all those involved who help make this very worthwhile project possible.

On April 9, an informational meeting was held at our Fellowship Hall about the ongoing work in Haiti. We thank Bro. Keith Knepp (Washington) and all those who give of their time and

resources to minister to the needs in Haiti. It was an inspiring evening.

Our Bible Class juniors and seniors along with a number of parents and Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman journeyed to Magdalena March 27 through April 3 to help with concrete work and other projects there. It was a blessed week of work, fellowship, serving and worship.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Teresa Rowell
Janice Sauder

We are thankful for the visiting ministers that we had this month. Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest),

Bro. Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield) and Bro. Lenny Meyer (Sis. Charlotte, Chicago) brought the Word to us, and may God richly bless them for laboring in His vineyard.

David and Tammy Callan are thankful for the safe arrival of their first child, Zoe. Grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy Zuercher. Jordan Moses was born to Austin and Joni Parker. Big brother Ezra and grandparents, Bro. Steve and Sis. Barb Pflederer, welcome him home.

Bro. Cleo and Sis. Nancy Koch, Bro. Charles Sauder, and Sis. Doris (Bro. Bob) Baer are contending with ill health.

We extend our prayers for healing and comfort.

We pray for Bro. Landon Rowell (Sis. Teresa) in the death of his grandfather, Bro. Floyd Rowell (Oakville, IA). May God comfort all those who are in sorrow.

Note of Thanks:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We want to thank everyone who remembered us while I was in the hospital and home again after surgery. Your love and concern and many prayers were much appreciated. Also, the beautiful cards, gifts, and delicious food you brought in - it was overwhelming. May God bless you all.

Bro. Alvin and Sis. Carol Beutel

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Nancy Leman
Linda Folkerts

"And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulcher. And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus."

Luke 24:3-4

His tomb was empty! The empty tomb of Christ can only be explained by His Resurrection. We rejoice in the freedom from sin that only repentance and a true conversion can bring. We serve a risen Lord! On March 27 we had the privilege to participate in the blessing of Holy Communion. We were delighted and thankful to have Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary Ann, Fairbury, IL) assisting in the service. On Palm Sunday our Sunday School children shared the beauty of the Resurrection Story with us through a meaningful Easter Program.

Celebrating the arrival of a healthy baby boy are Bro. Trent and Sis. Jenae Leman. Tate Daniel was born on March 27. His loving grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Marilyn Leman and Bro. Dan and Sis. Tina Sutter (Taylor, MO).

Chris and Margaret Bucher also welcomed a baby boy, Justin Robert, on March 29. This sweet little boy was welcomed home by older siblings, Tori and Jonathan. Justin's grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Vicki Bucher and Bruce and Louise Holland of British Columbia, Canada.

In seeking God's will for his life, John Eisenmann, who has been serving since September 2009 in full time missionary work in the Amazon Basin of Brazil, announced his engagement to Silvia Ribeiro of Santarem, Brazil. John's parents are Merle and Elsie Eisenmann and Frances Young, all of Cissna Park, IL.

Also announcing their engagement are Bro. Kyle Hangartner and Sis. Melissa Kaeb (Gridley, IL). Their parents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Karen Hangartner and Bro. Harvey and Sis.

Judy Kaeb (Gridley, IL).

Our deepest sympathies are extended to the families of Bro. Gary and Sis. Linda Folkerts and Bro. Bob and Sis. Marlene Prather in the sudden loss of their dad and grandfather, Bro. Bob (Sis. Helen) Wiegand of Eureka, IL.

We also extend sympathies to the families of Bro. Curt and Sis. Beth Feucht and Bro. Scott and Sis. Dawn Schick; they too lost their dad and grandfather, Bro. Alfred Streitmatter (Sis. Ginny) of Princeville, IL. Both of these beloved dads and grandpas will be sorely missed. May we find comfort in the fulfillment of their eternal rewards.

Congratulations to Bro. Harold and Sis. Ann Meiss as they celebrated 65 years of marriage this month. We extend a thank you to their son, Bro. Jim Meiss (Sis. Candy, Phoenix, AZ) for coming to share the Word with us on April 18.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Kim Meyer
Grace Gerber

Bluffton is rejoicing in the creativity and blessings of God as spring comes in full bloom! The trees are starting to bud, the tulips are in full swing and the grass is so green! During the winter months, I find myself wishing that I lived in a place where it was seventy degrees all year round. But then God reminds me that if there was no winter there would be no spring, and spring is definitely a season I would hate to miss.

Indeed, spring is a splendid time to worship and adore God for His beautiful creation, but our Bro. Bill Neuenchwander is certainly struggling to find joy in spring as his wife, Sis. Mildred, passed away. We certainly lift him up in prayer and support during this trial. Our Bro. Mark Moser (Sis. Wanda) continues his battle with cancer and we earnestly pray for his healing and strength.

Yet, in the sadness of death and trials, we can still praise God for the newness of life! Bro. Joel and Sis. Erin Drayer celebrated the birth of a little

daughter, Lynne Marie, on March 31. Bro. Lane and Sis. Tara Moser praised God for a little boy, Brant Lane, on April 2. Can't we be so thankful for the birth of two healthy little bundles? Praise God!

We're also thankful for several engagements. Bro. Kevin and Sis. Beth Aschliman are excited to announce the engagement of both of their sons. Bro. Kreigh Aschliman and Sis. Bekah Yergler (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Peg) were engaged as well as Bro. Nathaniel Aschliman and Sis. Krista Fiechter (Bro. Don and Sis. Susie). We also glorify God for bringing together Bro. Kevin Gerber (Bro. Greg and Sis. Joan) and Sis. Sadie Steffen (Bro. Duane and Sis. Karen). Praise God for how He has worked in the lives of these couples and families.

Still we have more to praise God for! We rejoice with several new followers of Christ! Adrienne Kaehr (Bro. Keith and Sis. Lou Ann) began her walk with Jesus as well as Mark Gerber (Bro. Alan and Sis. Joli). Heaven is singing over the salvation of these souls!

How could I not mention the blessings over the Easter season? It was such a joy to worship Jesus for His death and victorious resurrection with our church family. Our Sunday school blessed us with a wonderful program! We also shared Communion together. Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan) as well as Bro. Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra) partook of the evening with us. God truly blessed us with great love for one another this month as we realized that Jesus is our Peace and Common Bond. With Jesus as our Head and the Holy Spirit guiding us, we can truly be of the same mind and vision. Praise God!

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Jessie Longenberger
Amy Moser**

We had a very inspiring and blessed weekend as our congregation recently shared in Holy Communion on March 20. What a blessing to be reminded of the Lord's suffering, death on the cross,

and victory over the grave. We appreciate the help Elder Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandra, Alto, MI) offered in this sacred celebration.

We were reminded of our dear Savior's death and glorious resurrection as our Sunday School brought forth the message of hope, joy and peace during our Easter program on Palm Sunday. It is such a wonderful blessing to see the young children praising Jesus.

We are saddened by the death of our friend, Doyle Todd. Our sympathy goes out to his son, Bro. Mike (Sis. Karen), and the rest of their family.

Bro. Adam and Sis. Beth Stoller (Bluffton) welcomed a new addition to their family. Bennett Conner was born on March 12. His grandparents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Susan Harris and Bro. Larry and Sis. Sharon Stoller.

**INDIANA
FRANCESVILLE
Jacki Huber
Mildred Clauss**

Psalm 127:3 "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord."

A baby girl, Laney Anne, has brightened the home of Ryan and Tanya Westfall. Laney was born on February 26 and has two "big" brothers, Cayden and Cohen. Bro. Dave and Sis. Julie Westfall (Chicago, IL congregation) are the happy grandparents.

We rejoice with Sis. Melissa Edwards (Patty Hull) and Bro. Jake Tanner (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Gina) as their engagement was announced recently. The love of God is evident in their lives, and we know that the Lord will continue to bless them as they look to Him!

It is always a blessing to have visitors, and among the many visitors this past month were Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Sis. Nancy, Elgin, IL) who was with us on Easter Sunday and blessed us by expounding upon the miracle of Christ's birth, and the reminder that He is coming again! Bro. John Reinhard (Sis. Pam, Bluffton) shared with our Sunday School teachers at the annual Chili supper. Six helpful tips

were shared for teaching children, emphasizing the importance of a teacher's entire life, not just the lesson shared on Sunday morning. On a recent Wednesday evening, Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN) assisted Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein in reading the Memorandum. The topics discussed were each applicable to our daily lives, and we appreciate the advice given. Bros. John Bradle (Sis. Jill, Roanoke, IL) and Jaye Rinkenberger (Sis. Peg, Goodfield, IL) were both with us on a recent Sunday and shared God's Word with us. We were encouraged as believers, that faithful lives do make a difference, and to "start the race" if we haven't yet surrendered to the Lord. We thank all of these brothers for sharing with us!

We also appreciate topicals shared on certain Wednesday evenings. Our Bro. Les Kaeb shared a topical on "Bearing Fruit". As believers, this is always a good thing to consider, and we thank God for the wisdom shared.

Our prayers are with Bros. Earl Anliker and Irvin Yaggie as they have both had surgeries recently. We also continue to lift up dear ones from our congregations who are undergoing chemotherapy.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Bro. Larry Linback, especially his dear wife, Sis. Connie, and sons, Mike (Tammy) and Gary, and the grandchildren, as his earthly life was ended on April 6. We appreciate the testimony he shared that he was at peace with the Lord, and are thankful for the special love he had for his family and many others. These words come to mind at the death of a believer, "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" (I Corinthians 15:55)

**INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS
Penny Schroder
Gail Bradford**

On a recent Saturday, numerous young people from churches throughout Indiana and the Midwest helped with several projects at a local food

bank. Although the work was strenuous, everyone received a blessing from sharing tasks and enjoying the fellowship. Many gathered that evening at Bro. Ron and Sis. Edie Bollier's home for conversation and refreshments. Sunday afternoon following church many of these Indy Outreach participants sang for the residents of a nearby nursing home.

Our prayers and love are traveling to Mobile, AL, as Bro. Adam and Sis. Jill Merkle and their four children have moved there for Adam's work. During their residence in Indianapolis, they lent themselves in many areas of service. We shall miss them and hope they return to visit often.

The Sunday school and the choir helped us worship with songs and scripture as they told the glorious Easter story. We never tire of hearing about the resurrection, on which our hope rests. These special presentations of the Christian calendar (Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas) help focus our attention on the momentous events and blessings of the Christian walk. However, it is important to remember that every day is the Lord's Day. We should worship him 365 days a year with our prayers and deeds. An "attitude of gratitude" can change a moment, or a life!

As this article is written, we are looking forward to a memorable weekend on May 1, with a Communion service and on May 2, with a Remembrance and Groundbreaking service. We will be thanking God for His blessing through the years, remember those who have served us so well in the past and reflect on our responsibilities and opportunities in the future. We hope to have as honored guests some representatives of the families who were instrumental in the early years of the Indianapolis church.

Special Note: Due to the planned church renovations we will be temporarily displaced from our actual church building. If you plan to worship with us on a Sunday or Wednesday after May 15, please contact one of our ministers for details on our assembly location and

times. Once firm arrangements have been made, they will be announced in future Silver Lining articles.

INDIANA, LACROSSE

**Bethany Johnson
Julie Rocke**

We welcome glad Easter! Our Sunday School children and teachers brought the story of Easter to us again in song and verse on March 28. One of the poems that struck several was that of the preschoolers who spoke of how we are to be Christ's hands, feet and tongue here on Earth. As he finished up after the program, ministering Bro. Tom Troxel compared that to how Jesus was treated, and how the hands that handled Jesus and the tongues that spoke to Him were not examples of being His hands and feet.

We appreciate the labors of Bro. Warren Zahner (Sis. Bonnie, Rockville, CT) when they were visiting us for our annual Fellowship Weekend. We enjoyed the presence of many visitors and had time to visit and fellowship Saturday evening at a local school with supper and a singing. It was nice to have the many visitors in church with us on Sunday as well.

On Saturday evening, March 27, we came together in quietness to partake of Holy Communion. We truly appreciate the labors of visiting Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Sis. Karen, Croghan-Naumburg, NY) as he assisted our Elder Bro. Curt Frank in serving Holy Communion as well as his labors on Sunday.

To finish out the weekend, we enjoyed an all-church supper together after the program. We always enjoy our times of fellowship and spending time with one another. Many thanks to those who planned and orchestrated the meal.

Good Friday services were held in the evening - a wonderful reminder to each of us of the price that was paid for us to have the hope of salvation. Easter Sunday dawned beautifully as we remembered the gift of eternal life that

Christ gave each of us in His victory over death.

We welcome little Erin Sue Johnson into our church family. Welcoming her home are Bro. Josh and Sis. Bethany and big sister Emily. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Luann Gerber (Wolcott, IN) and Jeff and Gwen Johnson.

Sis. Dorothy Stewart has been having some health problems. She is currently still down in Florida, but Lord willing will be able to return "home" to us soon.

Our hearts and prayers are with Sis. Jan Nuest (Bro. Elvin) and her family in the passing of her father, Paul Lowery (Sis. Ruth Lowery, Bloomington, IL).

Monthly hymn sing was held April 11. Many were able to get together the evening of Saturday, April 10, to package soup for Haiti. It is so easy to forget the tragedy and devastation of that country (and many others like it) once they are out of the news. Let's remember to pray for them and continue to be God's hands and feet on earth whenever and however we can!

INDIANA, LEO Elizabeth Schrenk Abigail Schrenk

"Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend."

Proverbs 27:17

One blessing we often take for granted is the gift of Christian friendship. As the body of Christ, we all share a bond that nothing can break. The presence of our brothers and sisters makes our life more complete. Praise God for letting us share in this wonderful blessing!

During the last month we have had the opportunity to lift up John Pfister in prayer. Over the past several years, he has struggled with health issues and has been in the hospital recently. We are also praising God that John committed his life to God!

Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville) joined us as we remembered Jesus' last night with His disciples. It was wonderful to be reminded again of Christ's sufficient sacrifice for our sins. We want to thank Bro. Steve for sharing the night with us.

The month of April held several changes for our congregation. Bro. Zach and Sis. Jenny Bertsch, along with their two children, Zion and Moriah, moved to the Bluffton area. We will miss them and hope that they will come back and visit often. Bro. John and Sis. Amy Klotzle relocated to the Fort Wayne area and we are glad they are making Leo their home congregation. We want to extend a hearty welcome to them and hope they quickly feel at home.

INDIANA, MILFORD

**Paula Haab
Pam Beer**

Our high school students and teachers were invited to Latty, OH, for a weekend of activities and fellowship. We appreciate the effort and time Latty took to make this weekend special and memorable for our students.

On Sunday, March 28, our Sunday school children and a men's group blessed us with songs and verses when they presented the Easter program to our church. It brings a joy to all who sit and listen, and we wish to thank the teachers who help the children prepare for the program. The following Sunday we gathered early at our fellowship hall to celebrate Easter morning with our annual Sunrise service and then shared a breakfast meal together.

Those who have needed our prayers for healing and renewed strength are Sis. Kate Price (Bro. Glenn) and Sis. Mary Ann Beer (Bro. Cap). We hope they feel our love and may God touch them with His healing hands.

Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy Schlipf are thrilled to be grandparents again when little Adilynn Grey joined the family of Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Kristi Reinhard (Leo, IN). Sis. Kristi is the daughter of

Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy. We look forward to meeting Adilynn when they come visit us in Milford.

We appreciate Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) traveling to Milford and sharing the Gospel message with us this past month.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Jenni Honegger
Marcella Tyler**

Jesus Christ is risen! Is there any message more filled with hope, any truth that brings more joy to the heart, any event more miraculous, than the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour? We were privileged to once again hear our Sunday School children tell of this wonderful event with their songs and their stories and to hear our ministers speak from the pulpit about the victory over sin and death that Christ won for us, His brothers and sisters. "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift." II Corinthians 9:15

Our Bro. Alan Schambach (Sis. Sarah) presented to our congregation and the Wolcott congregation a Topical Bible Presentation titled "Sing unto the Lord". We were reminded that when we sing, we are praising God as much as when we hear a sermon. Even for those of us who, like me, have difficulty staying on key, God desires to hear our songs of praise and thanksgiving. Every hymn we sing gives us an opportunity to express the joy in our hearts that comes from knowing the Lord and His love.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to extend a thank you to all from near and far that sent your love, prayers, support, many cards and gifts of remembrance during the illness and passing of a dear wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Sis. Arlene Kilgus. We have certainly felt God's nearness through the continued prayers. May God richly bless each and every one.

Bro. Earl Kilgus, Bro. Ron & Sis. Brenda Clark, Kathy Jefferson, and Elder Bro. Dan & Sis. Jenna Kilgus and

families

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**Joshua Martinez
Rachel Langhofer**

Easter Sunday our services started at 9:00 in the morning with breakfast following. Our Sunday School students then shared with us the Easter message during the Easter program.

On April 9 we gathered to partake in Communion. Our Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse), along with Elder Bro. Lynn Fiechter (Bluffton), served us. Bro. Lynn Fiechter had the message and he challenged us on our relationship with Christ. Bro. Lynn also brought with him several couples from Bluffton whom we enjoyed fellowshiping with.

We grieve with the Laidig family with the passing of Sis. Pauline Laidig. For many years Sis. Pauline's mind had been failing, so while we are sad, we are also thankful she is finally with her Lord.

While we say good bye to one faithful sister, we welcome a precious little one, Owen Edward, who was born to Bro. Garrett and Sis. Bethany Kupferschmid. Owen is welcomed home by big sister and brother, Ava and Jack.

We always enjoy a fresh face on the pulpit and this month we had two, Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse) and Bro. Randy Beer (Milford). We thank them for their service.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Marguerite Hoerr

I am grateful to Sis. Julie (Bro. Tim) Bucher who wrote the news for me last month. Julie and Tim, in their quiet ways, do so much for the Valpo church. I observe them always being where they are needed and once again, Julie filled that spot. I needed her and she said "yes".

"And Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it and gave to them and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And He took the cup and when He had given thanks,

He gave it to them; and they all drank of it. And He said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many.”

Mark 14:22-23

These precious words, spoken by our Lord Jesus, impressed on us the importance of partaking of the Lord's supper the first part of April. We were served by our Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna) and by Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla). It seems there is always a hush over the congregation when we take Holy Communion with each other. It means more to us the older we get.

Bro. Rollie Meiss had tests that pointed out health problems and we are remembering him in our prayers. He's been so faithful to take care of Sis. Jo, and we know it's becoming more difficult as his own health is not up to standard. We think of them daily and offer prayers for their well being. They have both been avid gardeners during their entire marriage and have been so generous in sharing with others. We share with them, not produce, but prayers in this springtime.

We're thrilled to have some of our snowbirds back with us. Bro. Ken and Sis. Carol Bucher have returned from Florida. We look forward to Bro. Art Heinold's return also. Bro. Lyle and Sis. Marilyn Zeltwanger are expected the last of this month. We missed them during the winter months but know they blest other congregations with their presence, because they certainly bless ours when they're at home with us.

We were unable to be at our spring program because I was recuperating from eye surgery so Sis. Lois Bucher shared the blessings of the program. I am so grateful to her. Just hearing about it gave me many blessings and we hope it does for you also.

Bro. Ross Feller guided the program, which included three hymns sung by him and his sister Hannah, who has recently found the Lord. Sis. Dawn Ailes shared a touching story about a teacher and a disabled boy who found a way through his infirmities to tell her about

the empty tomb. Bro. Joe Feller, Sis. Marsha and Bro. Dennis Weiss contributed with readings. Four young brothers from Francesville enriched the program with three hymns. In their last song, "Peace like a River, Joy like an Ocean" they asked the congregation to join in the last chorus. Rachel Feller, twin sister to Hannah and also one of our converts, read a poem that she recently wrote. She gives her permission to share it with all of you:

Life through Light and Love

There was nothing to celebrate before
Jesus showed me the light.

It took away my darkness and it scattered
the night.

Life in this world was nothing, till
light drove me to my knee.

I found life in His Light, could really
set me free!

And now that I am free, I can celebrate
every day,

Because God brought forth His light
and showed me the way.

He opened up my eyes to see, how I
was fearfully and wonderfully
made.

For this reason I will celebrate, what
He has mercifully...displayed.

My Jesus came into this world, His
love to all He shares.

My Jesus loves you too, His blood
shows how He cares.

Through God's Light of life, Love to
this world found its way.

His love is better than life, a cause to
celebrate each day.

And now I have the answer, for life
and what it's worth.

I'll strive to celebrate the days, and
show His light, through all the
earth!

—Rachel Feller

Ben Bucher and Tracy Zimmerman announced their engagement this past March. They are planning a September wedding. Tracy is the daughter of Bro. Joe and Sis. Barb Zimmerman (Morton, IL) and Ben is the son of Bro. Tim and Sis. Julie Bucher. We wish this happy couple a lifetime of happiness and the Lord's blessings on their future plans.

Please remember how we love visi-

tors in Valparaiso. Drop in some Sunday and bless our worship together.

**INDIANA
WEST LAFAYETTE**

**Katie Widmer
Beth Tonner**

We are thankful for safe travels for our Purdue Young Group as many used Spring Break to serve in Magdalena, Mexico. The Widmer family was blessed to travel to Jamaica and visit Bro. Blake Widmer and our brethren serving the CCCD deaf campuses. After 3 months of drought, Jamaica had a slight reprieve of much needed rain. They are thankful for all the prayers interceding for rain in Jamaica.

The last service in our old church was the day before Good Friday. We then celebrated Easter in our new church. It was a blessing to see the hard work of so many come together, right up to the day before our first Sunday, when many gathered to help move over and get things organized. We are now located just one mile down the road; we start services at 10:00 AM on Sundays and 7:00 PM on our Thursday night services. We love our new church, but we were reminded by our Elder Bro. Curt Frank that "the church" is much more than a building; it is brothers and sisters lifting each other up in the love of Christ. We look forward to our Dedication Service scheduled for May 2.

We also rejoice that Clayton Walder (Bro. Russ and Sis Darlene) has been announced for peace and is looking forward to baptism. We want to thank visiting Brothers who have come for our mid-week services from the following churches: Francesville, Bluffton North, Leo, Milford, and LaCrosse. Please visit us at our new church address: 6101 N CR 75 E, West Lafayette, IN 47906, phone 765-463-1500.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

**Donita Edelman
Lynell Blume**

We were blessed at our Bible Study this past month. Bro. Al Schambach

(Sis. Sarah, Remington, IN) shared with us "Sing Unto the Lord". Let us each one "Sing Unto the Lord" each and every day of our lives.

Bro. Les Kaeb (Sis. Christine, Francesville, IN) was our visiting minister. Bro. John Lehman was alone on a recent Sunday and we are so thankful to Bro. Les for coming and sharing the duties with Bro. John. May God richly bless Bro. Les for his willingness to be used in His service.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Ruth Ann Lehman (Bro. John) in the recent passing of her grandfather, Paul Lowery. May Sis. Ruth Ann and her family feel the comfort of our Savior at this time of loss.

We assembled on Good Friday evening for our Easter Program. We very much enjoyed the songs and poems shared with us from our Sunday School children. Our prayer is that when each of these children reaches the age of accountability they will remember the importance of the story they recited to us. May God richly bless each of the teachers who so willingly spend their time to teach our future church.

We have two sets of happy grandparents in our congregation. Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla Bahler are happy to report the birth of another grandson, Caleb Lowell. Caleb's parents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Sherice Reinhard (Detroit, MI). Bro. Bob and Sis. Luann Gerber are excited to welcome Erin Sue as their newest granddaughter. Erin is the daughter of Bro. Josh and Sis. Bethany Johnson (LaCrosse, IN).

Our congregation gathered to share Holy Communion on April 25. It is such a blessing to come together as brothers and sisters to partake of this holy sacrament. We are truly unworthy when we stop and consider what our Lord and Savior endured so we can have the hope of eternal life. We are also grateful to our dear Elder brothers who serve us. Elder Bros. Ted Witzig, Sr. (Sis. Cindy, Morton, IL), John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia, Latty, OH), were here to assist our Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN). We pray God will

richly bless them for their efforts in serving us this year.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Sis. Theresa Blume (Bro. Derek) has she has spent some time in the hospital. At the time of this writing, we are happy to report she is home and beginning to feel better.

IOWA, BLOOMFIELD Christy Wiegand

"Praise ye the Lord. I will praise the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation."

Psalm 111:1

We were greatly blessed to be able to share Holy Communion recently. We are thankful Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA) could come and help serve and minister to us.

We enjoyed listening to our Sunday School Easter Program on Palm Sunday. The students did a nice job telling us the story of Jesus' death and rising. Thanks to the teachers and parents who worked with the students. The story that never grows old always makes us thankful for the victory that can be found in Jesus our Savior!

IOWA, BURLINGTON Marilyn Anderson Karla Gerst

It was we who caused His death
With our sins and our transgressions,
Yet rejoice while ye have breath;
Jesus bought for us remission;
Reconciled us unto God.
Death and suffering pardon brought.

Zion's Harp #243 v. 6

We were thankful to have visiting ministers with us once again this past month. Bros. Matt Steffen (Princeville, IL) and John Steiner (Oakville) were in Burlington for our services on Good Friday. Bro. Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville) also spent a Sunday with us.

Bro. Lee and Patsy Esslinger moved

to Peoria, IL, this past month. We pray that they will feel God's presence with them as they make their home there.

Another form of farewell was said when Bro. Floyd Rowell (Oakville) passed away. We pray that the Lord will bless his son and daughter-in-law, Bro. John and Sis. Nelda Rowell, and their family with His comforting peace during this time of change.

The afflictions of our time
Are not worthy of the glory
Promised in that realm sublime
To the patiently enduring.
See how Jesus as a lamb
Suffered for the sins of man!

Zion's Harp #243 v. 5

IOWA, ELGIN Maria Rocke

O, may we all united stand
By holy tie and sacred band
As members of Christ's body here
Led by Thy Spirit true, sincere,
With one accord.

Zion's Harp #200

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Sis. Karol, Cissna Park, IL) here to assist our Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA) in sharing Communion with us. Other visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kansas City, MO), Bro. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville, IA), Bro. Greg Braker (Sis. Wendy, Lamar, MO) and Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA).

We rejoice with Sis. Abby Schupbach and Bro. Andy Knoblock as they were united in marriage on April 11. We wish them God's blessings and nearness as they make their home together near Lester. Their parents are Bro. John and Sis. Janet Schupbach and Bro. Terry and Sis. Elaine Knoblock (Lester, IA).

Bro. Phillip and Sis. Kristin Wyss were blessed with another little girl on April 18. Esther Joy joins her sisters, Naomi, Rachel and Anna. Her grandparents are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Donna Wyss (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Mark and

Sis. Tammy Roth (Congerville, IL).

We will miss Jill Schupbach as she plans to move in the near future. Her new address will be 30953 N. 1500 East Rd., El Paso, IL 61738.

IOWA, IOWA CITY Diana Butikofer

We are thankful for the opportunity to gather to hear the Memorandum read and exhorted by our Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Oakville, IA) and Bro. Joe Gerst. Bro. Jon and Sis. Julie were here on Sunday and we thank Bro. Jon for his service on the pulpit Sunday also. Bro. Floyd Frieden (Sis. Jan, Elgin, IA) visited recently and we wish to thank him for his service as well and pray the Lord will bless these labors.

As we look forward to Father's Day, I pray the Lord will bless the fathers in this world that strive to serve Him and teach their children to know Him. May they always look to God as the perfect example of a loving Father.

IOWA, LESTER Gloria Moser Polly Metzger

Many things about tomorrow,
I don't seem to understand;
But I know Who holds tomorrow,
And I know Who holds my hand.

Melodies of Praise #112

We rejoice with Jesse Te Slaa (Ronda and Jim Thielen) that he is seeking his soul's salvation. May he feel God's nearness and direction as he walks this path.

Our hospital patients this month were Bro. Verlyn Kellenberger (Sis. Linda), Sis. Lois Metzger (Bro. Jim), Sis. Irene Knobloch, and Heidi Metzger (Bro. Dana and Sis. Kary). We ask God's healing strength be with them. A special prayer for Sis. Betty Popkes (Bro. Jeff) as she continues to fight her battle with cancer. May she feel encouraged and uplifted as she presses on.

"Break Thou the bread of life ... Teach me to live, dear Lord..." (Hymns of Zion #10). March 27 was our Commu-

nion service. We appreciate Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) for coming to assist in this undertaking. We enjoyed a blessed weekend. Our other visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Virg Metzger (Chicago, IL), Bro. Greg Braker (Lamar, MO), Bro. Bruce Frank (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA). May God continue to bless these dear brothers as they teach us the truth of His Word.

April 11 was the wedding day of Bro. Andy Knoblock (Bro. Terry and Sis. Elaine) and Sis. Abby Schubach (Bro. John and Sis. Janet, Elgin, IA). We welcome Sis. Abby to our congregation and pray God's blessings for them throughout their married life.

When the dark midnight is over,
Watch for the breaking of day.
Whispering hope, O how welcome thy
voice,
Making my heart in it's sorrow rejoice.
Gospel Hymns #789

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Don Metzger in the loss of his dear wife, Mary Jane. She passed away on March 29. Also surviving are their children, John and Peggy Metzger, Lloyd and Mindy Metzger and Jennifer and Brett Puetz, their grandchildren, and her in-laws from the Lester area, Alvin Metzger, Bro. Art and Sis. Kris Metzger, Bro. Glen and Sis. Joyce Metzger, Bro. Harv and Sis. Mary Metzger and Bro. Rodney and Sis. Polly Metzger and their families.

Our sympathy is also extended to the family of Bro. Ron Kellenberger. He passed away March 31. We enjoyed Bro. Ron's friendship throughout the years and he was a solid example to our congregation and especially our single group. He is survived by his siblings, Bro. Bob and Sis. Rosella Metzger, Bro. Dennis and Sis. Shirley Kellenberger, Leroy and Lou Kellenberger, Bro. Verlyn and Sis. Linda Kellenberger, Calvin and Edna Kellenberger and Ladell and Shelly Kellenberger (all of the Lester area), Bro. Orlan and Sis. Mary Kellenberger and Bro. Curt and Sis. Martha Kellenberger (both of

Lamar), Bro. Doug and Sis. Connie Bergstrom and Bro. Doug and Sis. Suzi Messner (both of Minneapolis), and Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa Kellenberger (Sabetha), and all their families. May comfort all these dear families in their loss and sustain them in the days to come.

IOWA, OAKVILLE Sharla Wiegand

The Sunday School Bible Class hosted the Lester, IA, Bible class on April 10-11. What a great opportunity to make new friends that will last for years to come.

Our hearts ache with Bro. Mark and Sis. Sally Schmidgall as baby Daniel was born prematurely on March 19 and was taken into the bosom of our Heavenly Father. His older siblings are Nolan, Olivia and Nathan and his grandparents are Elder Bro. Jon and Sis. Julie Schmidgall and Bro. Gary and Sis. Jean Heyer of Lester, IA.

On March 24, Bro. Floyd Rowell laid his armor down and passed from this life to eternity. May the Lord comfort his wife, Sis. Ione; and children, Sis. Barbara and Bro. Bob Moser of Tremont, IL; Linda Gerst of Mediapolis, IA; Bro. John and Sis. Nelda Rowell of Burlington, IA; and Phyllis and Dave Walk of Dallas, TX.

Sis. Ruth Schrock passed away on April 3 leaving her children, Sis. Charlen and Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart of Champaign, IL; Cathy and Jack Larson of Mediapolis, IA; and Sis. Evelyn and Bro. Gary Endress of Bradford, IL. My God comfort this dear family.

We thank our visiting ministers for sharing the Word with us, including Bro. Todd Graf (Akron, OH), Bro. Scott Wegman (Taylor, MO), Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Wolcott, IN) and Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN) who helped with Communion.

Calista Wiegand and Tommy Buckallew were married on March 27. Calista's parents are Bro. Brian and Sis. Cindy Wiegand. We wish God's bless-

ings for this couple as they travel life's road together.

On Easter Sunday, April 4, the engagement announcement was made of Sis. Kelsey Lanz and Bro. Jason Banwart of West Bend, IA. Rejoicing with them are their parents, Bro. Tom and Sis. Mary Lanz and Bro. Kent and Sis. Beth Banwart.

Notes of Thanks:

The family of Bro. Floyd Rowell would like to thank all of our church family for your love, cards and especially your prayers. We appreciate all the deeds of kindness shown to our loved one during the last few months of his life.

The family of Sis. Ruth Schrock would like to thank the brethren and friends for their expressions of love and sympathy during her illness and passing. May God bless you.

IOWA, WEST BEND

**Janet Fehr
Leona Fehr**

Our friend, Bob Sigsbee (Algona, IA), passed from this life on March 27. Left to cherish Robert's memory is his wife, Sis. Ruth; daughters, Muriel (Martin) Secker and Judy (Tim) Boyd, and sons, Robert and James (Debrah) Sigsbee.

Hearts were also saddened when Bro. Don Bruellman left us on March 30, although we rejoice that he could be relieved of his earthly pain. Survivors include his loving wife, Sis. Verda; his children, Mona (Don) Haverman, Bro. Mark (Sis. Deb) Bruellman, Lori (Mark) Skoglund, Sis. Joan (Bro. Jim) Wirtz, Sis. Lisa (Bro. Jeff) Banwart, and Shon (Julie) Bruellman; as well as his brother, Bro. Harley Bruellman, and a sister, Elaine Blasey.

We wish to extend our sympathy to Sis. Helen (Bro. Leonard) Anliker in the loss of her sister-in-law, Mary Jane (Bro. Donald) Metzger from Lester. May God's nearness be felt in the lives of all those mourning the loss of a loved

one.

"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

Isaiah 41:10

We were again blessed to have visiting ministers this month. March 21, Bro. Glen Braker (Sis. Audrey, Princeville, IL) gave of himself through the Spirit.

Palm Sunday was a blessed day for us as Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction, OH) and Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL) were with us to share the Word. It has been a tradition for the Bible Class to sing Easter songs at noon on Palm Sunday. It was heart-touching to see and hear our future church sing of Christ's death and resurrection. As evening fell, we gathered as brethren to partake of Holy Communion. We appreciate Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart coming home to assist Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm.

We rejoice with two young souls, Bro. Jason Banwart and Sis. Kelsey Lanz (Oakville, IA), as they, by God's direction, announce their engagement and upcoming marriage. Parents of the couple are Bro. Kent and Sis. Beth Banwart and Bro. Tom and Sis. Mary Lanz.

Garth Fehr (Bro. Byron and Sis. Anita) spent a short time in the hospital and is recovering from an injury.

JAPAN, SHIODA

Carrie Ito

We enjoyed visits from Sis. Kendra Baer (Leo) and Sis. Tricia Zuercher and Sis. Sarah Steiner (both Tremont) recently. It is always a pleasure to share Japanese culture with our visitors and to have the blessing of Christian fellowship.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Jana Klaus

We had a very blessed Easter day beginning with morning Easter service, then after lunch, the Sunday School Easter program. The children, and several adults, did a wonderful job, as usual, presenting the Easter story to us.

This year, for the first time, we included singing at the nearby home for the elderly as part of the program. We had sung there after our Christmas program (for the first time) and decided to ask if we could come for Easter. We weren't sure what they would say as Easter is not as well known here as Christmas and we didn't know if they would enjoy hearing songs they didn't know. However, they gladly accepted us, much to our delight. A rather large group of us, from young pre-schoolers up to mothers/fathers and grandmothers went over and sang seven or eight Easter Hymns to an audience of about 20 elderly residents and several staff.

We had song booklets with us, and they gladly received the ones we offered, and amazingly, many sang along. As was at Christmas, some cried and some clapped their hands. They loved it when afterwards, we all made a line and walked through and greeted them. It was heartwarming to see how the little children lifted the spirits of the aged, just by shaking their hands and saying hello. How we pray that the words of those songs reach the hearts of those dear souls who are in the twilight hours of their life. We ended the day with a gyudon supper (thinly sliced beef and onions fried in a soy sauce/sugar mixture served over rice) and more fellowship.

The Suzurikawa family are first time homeowners as they have moved to a lovely new home, which they had custom built. It's in the town of Mitaka and only about a 15 minute drive to church. We pray the Lord blesses them richly in their new home!

KANSAS, BERN
Sheri Edelman
Jill Meyer

We extend our congratulations to Clint Meyer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Kaye) and Eva Husakova (Dagmar and Henry Husak; Prague, Czech Republic) who were married on April 20 in Prague, after becoming engaged last fall. We look forward to meeting them at their American ceremony and reception on June 12.

It was a blessing and privilege to be able to partake of the Lord's Supper on March 27. Our appreciation goes to Elder Bro. Ben Walder (Sis. Juanita; Congerville) for helping with this work.

See the husbandman, his seed now
 strewing
 on the earthly field in hope and fear,
 In God's promise still his trust renew-
 ing,
 till spring sunshine makes the sprouts
 appear.

Zion's Harp #244

As we enjoy the beauty and warmth of the spring after a long winter, may we bask in the light of the Son, that we may bring forth fruit for the harvest.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT
Martin Hohulin Sr.

A precious baby boy came to brighten the lives of Bro. Tim and Sis. Nicole Banwart. Jonah Alan Banwart was born March 25. Happy grandparents are Bro. Lonnie and Sis. Debbie Banwart and Steve and Beverly Scott, all of Fort Scott.

The first day of Spring was ushered in by a big snowstorm. Due to difficulty in getting the snow removal equipment to the church, services were cancelled for March 21. At times such as these, the call in services to areas that offer them are a real blessing. We have the Word, but miss the fellowship.

The next Sunday we were treated to the Sunday School Easter Program. The children were smiling as they sang and presented their pieces. Some of our young converts sang and assisted with

the children. Refreshments awaited everyone in the dining room.

Several in the church lost loved ones since the last writing. Maxine Thomas of Bronson, KS, a great aunt of Darcy Sinn (Doug), went to her reward. The family of Bro. Rick and Sis. Karen Kellenberger lost a brother-in-law, Bro. Don Bruellman (Sis. Verda) from West Bend, IA. As we read the obituaries in the paper, death is no respecter of age. To me it is a sobering thought when I read of those I knew who were much younger than myself who for various reasons are called from life into eternity. Let's be ready.

The last time Bro. Don and Sis. Verda were in Fort Scott, we passed in the church dining room. As we met, he said, "I want you to meet my wife, Verda. She has been a good wife for me." What a special tribute!

Word was received on the morning of April 7 of the passing of Bro. Alf Streitmatter from Princeville, IL. His niece is Sis. Gloria (Streitmatter) Fischer (Bro. Jeff). I was acquainted with that entire family. Now their ranks are being thinned.

KANSAS, KIOWA
Janice Bahr
Jenny Stewart

Jesus in the night of His betrayal,
 When His covenant He did endow,
 When His blood, in love and grace
 eternal,
 For transgression and for sin did flow.
 He established for His church a token,
 That His covenant might ne'er be broken,
 This His holy sacrifice and feast,
 For His own, from sin and death re-
 leased.

Come then to the feast of His new cov-
 enant,
 Members of His church your faith re-
 new;
 Thank the founder of this precious
 covenant
 Through the chalice He pours out for
 you.
 Here your hands in faithfulness unit-

ing
 And the fire of brother-love new light-
 ing,
 Let your common prayers rise to His
 throne.
 Thank and praise Him who hath made
 you one!

Therefore, when ye to your Master's
 glory,
 Come to keep this holy feast of love,
 Ye must truly hear salvation's story,
 Joining those whose homeland is
 above!
 Then true love will heart to heart bind
 ever,
 And no discord will this union sever;
 One in Jesus Christ they all shall be
 He the Head of His community!
Zion's Harp #26, vs. 1,6,8

The words of this beautiful hymn were reflected in our hearts and souls this past month when Elder Bros. John Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ) and John Lehman (Bern, KS) came to minister the Lord's Supper to us. Besides the humbling reminder of what our Lord suffered on that night so long ago which ended with His painful death on a cruel cross (for us, dear brethren – may we never forget, it was for us), the inspiring words from the pulpit gave us hearts full of hope and joy and peace and love for our God who cares about us so much that He gave His own precious Son for the pleasure of sharing our company in His beautiful eternal home (specially made by His own hands). We are so grateful for this precious evening with those of like mind and faith to remember, to share, to unite our hearts and souls in Him.

We extend our sincere love and sympathy to Sis. Mildred Frieden whose sister, Esther Durfee, passed away this month at the age of 87. Ethel had resided in the Kiowa Home for quite some time and Sis. Mildred spent many hours helping to feed her sister. May the love of our Saviour be a comfort in her loss.

We have two graduates this year: Bethany Hamilton (Sis. Sandra) is graduating from college, and Carter Stewart (Bro. Kelly and Sis. Jenny) will be going to high school next year. Our

young people are so very precious to us and we lift them up in prayer to God for guidance, for strength, for direction in their choices and in their daily walk through this life. May God bless them both.

I mentioned earlier that our children are precious to us, and the Good Lord just gave our congregation another little bundle of joy through the family of Tom and Shawna Sterneker. Little Adam Joseph has an older brother Nate at home and his grandmother is Gale Robb. Great-grandparents are Bud and Sis. Helen Murrow. May God richly bless their family, and rear him in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

**KANSAS
LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Ester Knobloch**

We were reminded of our Lord's suffering and death as we partook of Holy Communion. We appreciated Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Oakville, IA) being with us and trust that God will bless him for his labors on our behalf. May we never take lightly the price of our redemption!

April 25 was the wedding day of Sis. Kasha Kraft (Bro. Doug and Sis. Judy) and Bro. Ben Lanz (Bro. Keith and Sis. Tanya, Oakville, IA). May God be near this new couple as they walk the path of life together! We will miss Sis. Kasha, but trust that she will soon feel at home in Oakville. The visiting ministers with us for this special occasion were Bro. Tom Lanz (Sis. Mary, Oakville, IA), Bro. Dave Hartter (Sis. Beth, Sabetha, KS), and Bro. Brandon Emch (Sis. Maria, Kansas City, MO). We appreciate their willingness to stand and speak the Truth.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Susan Emch welcome a new granddaughter, Alice Caroline, into their family circle. Also thankful for her safe arrival are Alice's parents, Bro. Brandon and Sis. Maria Emch, and siblings, Anna, Timon, and Jesse, from the Kansas City, MO, congregation.

**KANSAS, SABELTHA
Sally Strahm
Carrie Grimm**

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

Isaiah 61:11

We were thankful to have visiting ministers, Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) and Bro. John Baumgartner (Sis. Lori, Bern, KS), share His Word with us this month.

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

Matthew 4:9

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Bro. Gene and Sis. Marian Kellenberger and their family as they mourn the loss of Gene's brother-in-law, Bro. Don Bruellman (Sis. Verda, West Bend, IA). Sis. Arlene Grimm (Bro. Rodney) lost her sister-in-law, Mary Jane Metzger (Bro. Don, Lester, IA), and Bro. Brad Kellenberger (Sis. Teresa) lost his brother, Bro. Ron Kellenberger (Lester, IA). May the Lord comfort each one as they mourn their loss.

Our prayers have also been with Sis. Ruby Grimm (Bro. Gerald), Amber Strahm (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Sally) and Sis. Ulista Banwart as they have all spent time in the hospital this past month. May the Lord strengthen and heal all those dear ones who have had conflicts of the flesh.

We shared Good Friday services with the Bern congregation in Bern. As we remember the crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, may we humbly fall before Him and renew our faith in Him.

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

Ecclesiastes 3:1

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

**KANSAS, WICHITA
Emma Miller**

It was our pleasure to meet convert, Samantha Brown, a pre-med student at Oklahoma Baptist College in Shawnee, OK. Samantha's home church is Gridley, IL. We hope she will feel welcome to make the drive from Shawnee to Wichita as often as the opportunity presents itself.

Elder Bro. Jay Luthi presented the Conference report to the congregation in April. He is so thoughtful to check with me to see if I need transportation to get to church. It so happened that my daughter was ill and yes, I was thankful for a ride.

We have been blessed with weather conditions that helped the flowering trees burst forth in color—a welcome sight after a drab winter. The wheat fields resemble plush green carpet and the native redbud trees tucked in the timbers accent the background scene.

We observed Easter with a carry in church breakfast. After the breakfast the Sunday School children presented a short program before the morning service began. With Easter and Mother's Day so close together, we have the opportunity to combine worship, fellowship and food.

**KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON
Barb Huber**

Greetings in the precious faith of our dear Lord and Saviour!

"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth." (III John 1:4) These were words read as Elder Bro. Andy Stoller shared the Memorandum in February. May we each strive to have a closer walk with our dear Lord and Saviour always bringing honor and glory to His dear name. We are thankful

to Elder Bro. Andy and Sis. Roberta for all their efforts and many labors of love to serve in the Lord's vineyard.

Other visiting ministers who broke the Bread of Life with us recently were: Bro. Sam Schlatter (Sis. Linda, Junction, OH), Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL), and Bro. Art Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH). Each of these Brothers provided many rich treasures from God's Word to strengthen and encourage in our walk of faith with the Lord. Words fail to express our appreciation for all the visiting ministers, their wives, and those who traveled with them, for coming to support the "cause of the Gospel" here in Lexington. May the Lord reward you richly is our prayer.

We were also blessed by the fellowship of visitors from the following churches: Bluffton, IN; Eureka, IL; and Morton, IL. It's always an encouragement to have you worship with us.

MOTHER

Ears that truly listen; arms that always hold;
Love that's never ending, a heart that's made of gold!

"...A woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised." (Proverbs 31:30). We appreciate our dear mothers, and, especially this Mother's Day, we pray God's blessings be with each one.

Visitors are always welcome here in Lexington. Anyone who may be in our area or traveling through 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 (US 60), east about 6 miles to Road #1923 (Combs Ferry Road), 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

"The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore."

Psalm 121:7-8

The last month has been a flurry of activity here in Ixtlan, with many coming to visit and others leaving to visit family. We give thanks to God for protecting all of us who have been traveling. We've been blessed by many visitors, too many to name. A special visitor was Sis. Kike (Barra Vieja) who came with her two daughters and her sister, Matias. Ever since Sis. Kike was converted she had wanted to come to the Ixtlan church to spend time with the brethren. We hope that the bonds of brotherhood can continue to grow and be strengthened between all our churches and fellowships here in Mexico, even though they are far apart in distance.

Ministering Bro. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis) and his wife, Sis. Betsy, together with Sis. Julie Hoerr (Phoenix), formed the eye surgery team for a strenuous but rewarding week. Many people experienced improvement from severe vision problems. God is to be thanked ultimately, for He is the one who gives men wisdom to develop technology and medicine, and skill to fix the delicate human eye.

We are making a request for single brothers willing to serve as English (ESL) teachers for the Ixtlan school, a minimum two-year commitment. For more details please contact Bro. Matt Gerber (magerbe@gmail.com).

Mexico is seeing increased drug-related violence and more kidnappings. The area we live in is rural but not immune to these dangers. Please pray for Mexico's leaders and government to be able to restrain corruption and evil, and for God's protection over all people and us (cf. Rom. 15:30-31).

MEXICO, MAGDALENA Jarrin Rabe

"Para que sean consolados sus corazones, unidos en amor..."
Colosenses 2:2

"That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love..."
Colossians 2:2

Once again the month of March has brought several visitors to us in Magdalena and we are thankful for them all! We were blessed to have groups from Bluffton, IN; Roanoke, IL; as well as our Board of Directors for a meeting. The groups from Bluffton and Roanoke worked on several different projects, and completed a lot of work! We are very thankful for all they accomplished and hope they feel God's blessings in all they did here.

Sis. Jodi Beer from Milford, IN, has felt God's hand in leading her to our family at CVE, and has made her home here with us. We are very thankful to have her here with us, and pray that she can feel God's nearness as she adjusts to life here.

Last month we wrote about our preemie baby (Josías) needing prayers. His condition wasn't improving, so after much prayer and consideration, we took him to the hospital. Since then, he has had a successful brain surgery and is now in the care of Social Services in another area. Though he was only here for less than two weeks, it was a very emotional and intense time for our staff here. Please continue to pray for Josías and for those who were his caregivers for the short amount of time he was here. We also have another 7 year old boy who was entrusted to our care recently. Please pray that he could learn of the love of God and grow to be a man after the heart of God.

Again, we want to thank you – the church – for your support and willingness to come and give of yourselves, and your time in the last few months. Your

deeds haven't gone unnoticed and will be appreciated for years to come! Praise be to God that He provided safe journeys and safety while you were here with us!

"The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever."

Isaiah 40:8

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Listyn Oesch
Melissa Blough

The Alto congregation was reminded through the voices of little ones of our Savior's death and resurrection at the Easter program. It is precious to hear God's truth proclaimed by His children. Let us remember the sacrifice of Christ now and in every day while we yet live.

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

Genesis 2:18

Our hearts rejoice with Sis. Megan Pardo (Jack and Sis. Laura) with her engagement to Bro. Shane Martin (Bro. Allen and Sis. Janice, Princeville, IL). We lift them and their families in prayer as they take this step together in the Lord. As life often is, we experience both joy and sorrow. Sis. Megan was in a serious car accident near her home in Illinois soon after her engagement. Despite her great injuries, we see the work of God's mercy through healing. She is now home after spending much time in the hospital. Our prayers are with Sis. Megan and Bro. Shane as they carry this burden of trial. We have faith to believe God will not leave them but be their Rock and Shelter.

Grandma's House

I will always remember the precious time shared
 The laughs and smiles, love and tears
 Grandma's house
 A childhood memory, a forever safe haven

It was at Grandma's house
 Where my guard could be dropped
 For within someone believed in me
 Grandma's house, as a child
 A place to play, learn, explore
 O comfort was found when I scrapped my knee
 A little Grandma Blough salve to aide the need

Joy was spread around the table
 With fresh baked cookies
 And milkshakes in the 'ole red cups
 No matter the cares of the world
 And burdens on my back
 At Grandma's house I could spend hours

Surprise visits; family gatherings
 Somehow life continued to lead me
 Back to Grandma's house
 But it's not just the memories
 That impacted me
 It was the walk they chose
 Both Granny and Gramps
 Humility and service to God
 Love for all, faith unshaken
 In sorrow and pain, Joy and happiness
 Their life desires never changed
 Even though they may not know
 Little eyes were watching them
 Even though they may not know
 Their characters blessed
 Even though they may not know
 There was a little girl who thanked
 God she was given
 Both Granny and Gramps
 Even though they may not know
 They helped this little girl grow into
 the woman she is today.
 ~A granddaughter of
 Sis. Marguerite

It is with heaviness we express the passing of a dear sister, mother, and grandmother. On April 15, Sis. Marguerite Blough was called home to enter eternal rest with her Lord. We have both sorrow and joy knowing a hole has been left in her family and in the church body, yet there is joy in recognizing she is forever in the hands of God. Our sympathy and prayers extend to her family as she has left behind 5 children: Sis. Luanne (Bro. Curt) Kaeb, Gary (Laurie) Blough, Joyleen (Ed) Zaagman, Carl (Brenda) Blough, Bro. Martin (Sis. Michele) Blough, and a number of grandchildren and great-grandchild-

dren.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank all who visited Sis. Marguerite, prayed for, and sent gifts of encouragement prior to her passing and for the prayers, love and support to the family after.

The Blough Family

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Sarah Knochel
Janelle Ramseyer

Greetings of love in our Savior's name! We trust that each one is enjoying the beautiful springtime weather similar to what we have been experiencing in Bay City.

Our congregation was recently reminded of the brevity of life as Suzanne Meylan passed away on April 14. Our earnest prayers have been for her husband, Dale, and her sons, Dale (Lisa), Daniel and David. We also want to remember her two special grandchildren, Micaela and Hunter Meylan. We trust that God's presence will continue to be with Dale and the rest of the family in the coming days.

Our prayers are also with Sis. Marlene Mosher as she spent time in the hospital recently.

We rejoice with Sis. Yvonne Arnold as her daughter, Terra, recently gave birth to a son, Easton George. Easton's great-grandparents are Bro. Floyd and Sis. Marian Knochel.

As we near the day that is set aside to remember our mothers, may we give thanks to our Heavenly Father for providing godly examples in our lives that we could learn of God and His will for our life.

May God be with each one in the coming days.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT
Manuela Denes
Kay Rauhe

"And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children."

Isaiah 54:13

Caleb Lowell Reinhard was born on March 24 to thankful parents, Bro. Mike and Sis. Sherice Reinhard. Big sister Erica was anxiously awaiting him at home with kisses and hugs. His excited grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores Reinhard from our Remington, IN, congregation and Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla Bahler from our Wolcott, IN, congregation. A child is such a joy and a blessing from God, and we rejoice with this happy family as they add a new little bundle of joy to their lives!

We were encouraged to pray for Zuzana Gallo as she recently had surgery, and her recovery is going quite well.

Who Is He? was the theme of our Easter program on March 28. We would like to wholeheartedly thank everyone for their contribution in making this a most wonderful and blessed evening! The choir, Sunday School and congregation ended the evening singing, "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name",

All hail the power of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall,
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him, crown Him,
crown Him, crown Him,
And crown Him Lord of all!

Hymns of Zion #80

What a perfect song for a perfect evening, to crown our dear Lord and Saviour. "We at His feet may fall and We'll join the everlasting song" in Heaven—a place we all are looking forward to being with Him forever in eternity singing and praising His name!

Our heart-felt thanks goes to visiting ministering Bro. Howard Plattner (Sis. Kristen; Alto, MI) for sharing the Word with us for our Good Friday service. We sincerely appreciate his willingness to "serve the Lord with gladness." Psalms 100:2

We were sad to hear of the passing of Sis. Eva Anna Kotecz on April 16 at the Isabella County Medical Care Facility in Mt. Pleasant, MI. Our prayers and

deepest sympathy are with her family, and may they find strength in His presence and comfort in His love. "Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me." Psalms 3:4

Our love and congratulations to Jeff Kujawa and Toni Rumschlag as their wedding is quickly approaching. May the days leading up to their April 27 wedding be filled with joy, and we pray that God will guide the life they'll soon be sharing. Happy parents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Darlene Kujawa and Jim and Becky Lee of Findlay, OH.

"O sing unto the Lord a new song: sing unto the Lord, all the earth. Sing unto the Lord, bless His name: show forth His salvation from day to day."

Psalms 96:1-2

We would like to warmly encourage one and all to attend our annual Choir Benefit Weekend on Saturday, July 17, for a 5:00 p.m. dinner followed by the choir program at 7:00 p.m. and then to worship with us at church on Sunday. Please contact Bro. Phil and Sis. Dawn Bahr for more details and accommodations at (248) 477-0495 or pdbahr@yahoo.com. What a blessing it would be to see you!

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

I John 4:12

MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS

"To satisfy the desolate and waste ground; and to cause the bud of the tender herb to spring forth?"

Job 38:27

The evidence of God's existence is seen as spring unfolds: the birds that sing, the flowers that bloom and the trees that are budding. It shows renewal and hope for life after a long winter.

We rejoice with Micah Mogler (Bro. Kent and Sis. Mary) as he has begun a new life in Christ. We pray for him and

our other converts who are seeking grace to put off the old man.

"Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;"

Philippians 1:27

Bro. Greg Lehman and his wife, Sis. Marybeth (Wolcott, IN) were here to share the Gospel with us. It is always a blessing to have a day of fellowship and encouragement. He encouraged us to continue to pray for those who have not yet repented and not to give up on them, even though they seem miles away from God.

We are also thankful for our visitors that have spent time with us over that last month. Let us encourage and love one another.

"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."

John 13:35

MINNESOTA, MORRIS Susie Wulf Kim Feuchtenberger

"As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God."

Psalms 42:1

We are so thankful that our longing after the water can be satisfied by sitting under the sound of God's Word. We have had several visiting ministers recently. Bro. Dale Wulf (Lester, IA), Bro. Todd Stoller (Latty, OH), Bro. Wayne Fehr (Portland, OR) and Bro. Mike Ursu (Kitchener, Ont.) shared in the responsibilities on the pulpit. Also, Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) was here for the baptisms of two souls, Bro. Matthew Wulf (Bro. Stan and Sis. Pam) and Sis. Elizabeth Schaefer (Bro. Steve

and Sis. Pam). Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sabetha, KS) came to share Communion with us on April 10. May God richly bless these Brothers as well as our home ministers for sharing the Word of God with us as the Holy Spirit reveals it unto them.

Three of our converts were announced as having peace with God and man. Scott and Alyssa Wulf (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy) and Kayla Feuchtenberger (Bro. Bob and Sis. Gwen). We are very thankful for these dear souls as they have taken the proper measures to prepare themselves for baptism.

Sis. Rachel Zeltwanger (Bro. Dale) was hospitalized recently. May God's healing hand be on her if it is His will.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS NORTH

**Lois Schmidgall
Wanda Gramm**

Greetings in the name of our loving Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! How blessed our young congregation has been to have visiting brothers serve us through the ministry of the Word. They include Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan), Bro. Glen Steiner (Sis. Rachel) and Bro. Clint Schmidt (Sis. Magdalena), both from Winthrop, MN, Bro. DeWayne Dill (Sis. LaRae, Minneapolis, MN) and Bro. Ed Strahm (Sis. Ramona, Bern, KS). We appreciate the efforts of these ministers who have served us in preaching and teaching God's Holy and precious Word.

"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. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved."

John 3:16-17

On Easter morning our congregation gathered for a Easter breakfast which was then followed by a Easter Program given by our Sunday school

students. The students proclaimed, with enthusiasm in word and song, the wondrous resurrection of our risen Lord.

The Morris North congregation would like to extend a warm invitation for visitors to come and worship with us.

"Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you..."

James 4:8

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

**Julie Schmidt
Lindsay Schmidt**

God sent His Son,
They called Him Jesus,
He came to love,
Heal and forgive;
He lived and died,
To buy my pardon,
An empty grave is there
To prove my Savior lives.
Because He lives
I can face tomorrow,
Because He lives
All fear is gone,
Because I know
Who holds the future,
And life is worth the living
Just because He lives.

—*Words by William and Gloria
Gaither*

Because He died the price was paid.
Because He lives we have a hope of eternal life.

This Easter season reminds us of the gift God gave to us. As redeemed, let us daily be thankful for the gift of Salvation. To those that are still standing without, we pray that they will take the gift that is freely offered.

We want to thank our Sunday school students and teachers for their efforts of making and serving the annual Easter breakfast. It's a blessing to have the opportunity to gather and visit with friends and family.

Along with several other visitors on Easter, ministering Bro. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth) from the West Bend, IA, congregation shared God's Word. We would like to thank him for la-

boring on our behalf.

McKenzie Elder (Bro. John and Sis. Joleen) and Bro. Doc Schmidt (Sis. Hazel) have recently undergone surgery. We pray for their quick recovery.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

**Dana Kellenberger
Rebecca Dotterer**

Several in our congregation mourned the loss of a sibling in the past few weeks. Our sympathy goes to Bro. Orlan (Sis. Mary) Kellenberger and Bro. Curt (Sis. Martha) Kellenberger as their brother, Bro. Ronald Kellenberger (Lester, IA), passed away. Also, Bro. Dale (Sis. Corrine) Marti and Bro. Joe (Sis. Evelyn) Marti experienced the loss of their sister, Sis. Ruth (the late Bro. John) Schrock (Oakville, IA).

We partook of Holy Communion recently, and we were thankful to have Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) here to assist in this special occasion.

Our thoughts and prayers extended to Bro. Ben Braker (Bro. Roy and Sis. Judy) as he spent some time in the hospital. May the Lord heal as He sees best.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Meagan Wuethrich

On Easter morning, our little St. Louis gathering enjoyed breakfast together before the Sunday School children (with help from their families) told us the never-old story of hope and salvation. We were then blessed to hear the Spirit bring forth the Word from the pulpit; what a beautiful reminder of the joy that is ours who are washed in the blood.

We would like to especially thank Bro. Jim and Sis. Linda Vierling (Eureka, IL) for ministering to us in so many ways. Thanks also to all of the families that came along with them and joined us for supper and singing Saturday evening and fellowship on Sunday. We enjoyed the presence and energy of all the children and babies, appreciated the food everyone brought, and the effort each family put forth to make the weekend such a blessing.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Kathy Eberhardt

We would like to thank Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl, Rockville, CT) for sharing Communion with our Taylor church family. We were told that Communion is not about us, it is about remembering Jesus' death. The greatest injustice was Jesus dying on the cross.

Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. Dwight Stoller, (Sis. Lori, Latty, OH) and Bro. Ron Joos (Sis. Christy, Bloomfield, IA). We appreciated them sharing the Word of God.

We wish God's blessings on two babies born recently. On March 27, Bro. Trent and Sis. Jenae Leman (Washington, IL) were blessed with a baby boy, Tate Daniel. First-time grandparents from Taylor are Bro. Dan and Sis. Tina Sutter. Bro. Tim and Sis. Amber Lehman with were blessed with a little daughter, Brie Emory. She joins brother Cade and sister Tess.

We wish to express our sympathy to the Rod Moser family, as Rod has gone to his eternal home.

We pray for God's healing power to the following individuals in our church family: Bro. Josh Sutter, Bro. Joe Yackley, Bro. Roy Grimm, Bro. Arnie Gerst, Sis. Marge Gerst, Jared Haas, Bruce Huber, Nikki Miller and Bro. Jeff Roche.

We wish God's blessing in the holy matrimony of Bro. Joe Marquardt and Sis. Becca Mauer. They were married in Bloomington on April 18.

We are thankful that the Lord has given peace to Caleb Sutter. May he feel our love and encouragement leading up to his baptism.

NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG

Hope Graves

It was a blessing to have ministering Bro. Jerry Bauman and his wife, Sis. Martha (Rittman, OH), with us for Good Friday evening and Easter services. Our Sunday School Easter pro-

gram was presented on Sunday afternoon. How wonderful to see these young children telling us what they have been learning about the true meaning of Easter and that Jesus loved us enough to die for us. How blessed we are! "Oh, the love that drew salvation's plan! Oh, the grace that brought it down to man! Oh, the mighty gulf that God did span at Calvary!" (Hymns of Zion #151)

Our prayers went out for Sis. Anna Mellnitz and Sis. Bernice Hirschev who were hospitalized this past month.

OHIO, AKRON

Erika Gal

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

II Timothy 4:2

We are very thankful for the service of our visiting ministers this month. We especially appreciate the labors of Elder Bro. Art Metz (Silverton, OR) who came and helped our Bro. Dave to serve us Holy Communion. We appreciated his faithful service on the pulpit on Sunday as well. We were also exhorted by our Elder Bros. Ron Messner (Washington) and Lawrence Luthi (Lamar) as well as Bro. Gene Lehman (Wolcott) for our Invite-a-Guest Weekend.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Esther Saurer

We were blessed this month to have multiple visiting ministers. Bro. Ron and Sis. Ruth Steiner (Rittman, OH) joined us one Sunday. Then, as we enjoyed our Easter season, Bro. Fred and Sis. Connie Domka were with us on Easter Sunday to share God's Word. We also enjoyed a special weekend of being served Communion on a Saturday evening by Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH). Bro. Sam and Sis. Linda Schlatter (Junction, OH) then joined us for Sunday services the following day.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Vicki Boroff

We would like to thank Bros. Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonita, Cissna Park) and Rich Gramm (Sis. Samantha, South Bend) for bringing the Word to us.

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

Brynley Elaine was born to Brandon and Holly Manz. Grandparents are John Manz and the late Elaine Manz. Excited siblings are Sidney and Cloey.

OHIO, LATTY

Amanda Wenninger Carmen Eisenmann

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. John Jackson (Sis. Peggy, Bay City, MI) here to worship with us on our Good Friday services. We were also thankful to have many of the Junction brethren with us on a Wednesday evening service this month along with ministers, Bro. Sam Schlatter (Sis. Linda), Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie), Bro. Ben Manz (Sis. Carolyn), Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy), and Bro. Tony Manz (Sis. Denise). May God bless these ministering brothers for their efforts.

Our congregation has several new babies to report this month. March 15 was the birthday for Josiah Luke born to Bro. Corbin and Sis. Katie Stoller. Happy older sisters are Tori and Cameron and thankful grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Barb Stoller and Bro. Art and Sis. Carol Anliker (Eureka, IL). Graham Isaac was born on March 22 to Bro. Matt and Sis. Wendy Miller. He is welcomed home by older sister Claire and grandparents, Bro. Roger and Sis. Kay Miller and Bro. Paul and Sis. Sandra Manz (Junction, OH). Ryan and Kayla Bagley are the thankful parents to Hudsyn Carol born on March 31. Briley is her big sister and grandparents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol Stoller. On April 4, Damon Joseph was welcomed home by Bro. Bruce and Sis. Amy Rosswurm. Grateful grandparents are Bro. Dick and Sis. Eileen Whitman and

Sis. Irma Stoller. Siblings are Mallory, Rachael, John, Dana, Adrienne, Bryce, and Seth.

We rejoice with our converts, Marla Sinn (Bro. Todd and Sis. Janet) and Rachael Rosswurm (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Amy), as they have professed peace with God and man and have a desire to be baptized. We will continue to pray for them that God will continue to be with them and meet their every need.

Sis. Vera Laukhuf was a hospital patient this month and we continue to pray for her that the Holy Spirit will be her Comforter and provide healing according to God's will.

Note of Thanks:

We want to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for the many cards and well wishes on the occasion of our 60th wedding anniversary. May God bless you.

Bro. Ephraim and Sis. Marilyn Kipfer

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Tami Griffey

On March 20 we gathered together for Holy Communion. We thank Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Sis. Bonnie; Rittman, OH) for assisting our Elder Bro. Mark Masters during the service. This yearly remembrance of our Savior Jesus Christ helps us focus on all that Jesus endured for our sins and the amazing love and gift of Salvation He has for each one of us.

We enjoyed the Easter Program of our Sunday School students on March 28. They recited in verse and song the events of Jesus Christ's suffering, death and resurrection. May God bless each one for their efforts to share His Word in a very special way.

The evidence of spring is all around us. New life and growth can be seen daily in the trees, grass, and flowers. It renews and refreshes our physical bodies. Our spiritual bodies are also encouraged as we see the Lord's continued working in loved ones of our congregation. Our hearts were made glad on

April 11 with the announcement of two dear souls that are at peace with God and man. Aaron Masters (Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Jeannine), and Anthony Baumann (Bro. David and Sis. Lucy) have our prayers and love as they look forward to giving a testimony of their faith.

Our congregation would like to express our sincere thanks to Bro. Mike and Sis. Florina Baumann for their many years of faithful service in the ministry. Bro. Mike's last sermon over the Mansfield pulpit was April 18, and later that day an appreciation meal followed by a singing was held.

As they retire from this service in our church, we pray God's abundant blessings upon them. Their labors of love have touched and encouraged the hearts of many.

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

Romans 15:33

OHIO, RITTMAN

Heidi Rufener Marge Stoller

These souls betrothed before Thee stand;
Thy blessing we implore;
Unite Thou them in heart and hand,
And guide them evermore.
Hymns of Zion #286

Sis. Alicia Gasser (Bro. Neil and Sis. Donna) and Bro. Brad Stoller (Bro. Ken and Sis. Lori) were united in marriage on March 28. We wish God's rich blessings on this couple as they begin their life together.

Several new babies have been born in the past weeks. Calvin Jerry arrived on March 18 into the family of Bro. Eric and Sis. Lisa Gasser. Older siblings are Caleb, Clara, and Corbin. Grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Ellen Gasser and Bro. Rich and Sis. Pat Steiner. Sophie Ann was born on March 28 to first-time parents, Bro. Brently and Sis. Mollie Schambach (Elgin, IL). Grandparents are Bro. Earl and Sis. Susie

Beery and Sis. Leann Schambach (Elgin, IL). Isaac Joshua made his appearance on March 31. Parents are Bro. Josh and Sis. Megan Riggerbach (Smithville). Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Lorie Riggerbach and Bro. Mark and Sis. Sue Steiner (Smithville). April 13 was Rebecca Joy's birthday, arriving into the home of Bro. Aaron and Sis. Holly Steiner. Grandparents are Bro. Matthew and Sis. Gail Steiner and Bro. Ed and Sis. Verla Stoller (Smithville). Rosalie Jayne was born on April 14, joining the family of Mike and Sis. Myra Pierce. Older siblings are Rita and Ben; grandparents are Bro. Rich and Sis. Pat Steiner and David and Peg Pierce.

Hospitalized recently have been Sis. Violet (Bro. Mitch) Baltic, Bro. Reinhart (Sis. Betty) Keiper, Bro. Nelson (Sis. Aldine) Ramsier, Evelyn Hessidence, and Klæ (Stacey) Stoller (Bro. Steve and Sis. Mary Lynn). We wish God's protective and healing hand upon them according to His will.

We were saddened by the passing of Bro. Ken Rupp. His children are Richard (Kathy) Garrison, Bro. Ken (Sis. Carol) Rupp, Kate Walley, Mary Rupp, and Jean (Barry) Smithberger. May God grant comfort and strength to the family in their time of loss.

Serving us in the ministry this month have been Elder Bro. Dave Graf (Akron) and ministering Bros. Fred Domka (Mansfield), Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) and Steve Pamer (Akron).

OHIO, SARDIS

Faith Beard

I am Jesus' little lamb;
Therefore glad at heart I am:
My good Shepherd watches o'er me
And He tenderly cares for me,
Knows me, loves me e'er the same,
Even calls me by my name.

The Children's Harp, no. 13

On April 1, John Charles "Jack" Weslow III entered the family of John and Amanda Weslow. Little Jack is the baby brother of Emma and Ashlyn and

the first grandson of Bro. Allen and Sis. Janet Indermuhle. We never grow tired of hearing about this miracle of life, and we wish God's blessings on John and Amanda as they raise up their children in the fear of Him.

Arise, my soul, arise;
Shake off thy guilty fears;
The bleeding Sacrifice
in my behalf appears.
Before the throne my Surety stands;
My name is written on His hands.

My God is reconciled,
His pardoning voice I hear;
He owns me for His child,
I can no longer fear:
With confidence I now draw nigh,
And "Father, Abba, Father" cry.

Tabernacle Hymns, no. 346

We were richly blessed and encouraged to witness the testimony and baptism of our new brother, Josh Ramsier, son of Bro. Mark and Sis. Alice Ramsier. Bro. Josh is the grandson of Bro. Howard and Sis. Emily (Toledo, OH) and Bro. Bob and Sis. Inez (Smithville, OH). Here assisting with this work was Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH). Also ministering to us that weekend were Bro. Tim Ramsier (Sis. Jonell, Rittman, OH), Bro. Mark Steiner (Sis. Sue, Smithville, OH) and Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago, IL). We thank all these brothers for their ministrations of love to our congregation.

It is that time of the year again to extend an invitation to all to attend the annual memorial service at our New Martinsville, WV, church on the last weekend of June. This service is held high in the hills in a small white church, similar to how services were 100 years ago. For more information and accommodation arrangements, contact Bro. Ken Indermuhle at 740-483-1593.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Lydia Stoller
Gina Brake**

Give faithful servants ever
who have but one endeavor,
Thy Gospel to proclaim;
who heed Thy Spirit holy
and strive and labor solely,
O, Lord, to glorify Thy name.
Zion's Harp, #207, vs.8

Our prayers are with Bro. Marvin Zollinger (Sis. Pam) and Bro. Mike Walder (Sis. Susie) and their families, as they have been asked to serve in the ministry. May God bless them with wisdom and courage to speak the truth and be their rich rewarder for the sacrifices they will make in His service.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Lucas Frank (Sis. Crystal) and Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev), both from Detroit. Bro. Mark assisted with our Communion service, along with Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman). We appreciate their willingness to serve us.

Bro. Josh and Sis. Megan Riggenbach welcomed their first baby, Isaac Joshua, on March 31. Grandparents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Sue Steiner, and Bro. Bob and Sis. Lorie Riggenbach (Rittman). Bro. Ed and Sis. Verla Stoller are thankful for another granddaughter, Rebecca Joy, born to Bro. Aaron and Sis. Holly Steiner (Rittman) on April 13.

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

Acts 3:19

We are so thankful that Mitchell Maibach (Bro. Steve and Sis. Dawn) has begun repenting. We pray for grace for him in the coming days as he seeks to leave the world and follow the Lord.

Hospitalized this month were Lauren Bauman (Bro. Aaron and Sis. Becky) and Isaac Riggenbach (Bro. Josh and Sis. Megan). We are thankful for God's healing for both of them.

OHIO, TOLEDO

**Rebecca Beard
Teresa Rywalski**

We were pleased that Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Diane, Rockville) stopped in Toledo on his way home one Sunday. We thank him for being willing to help our brothers on the pulpit to bring us the precious Word of God.

"Jesus answered, Verily, Verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the spirit, He cannot enter into the Kingdom of God."

John 3:5

On the weekend of April 10 and 11, we gathered with many for the testimonies and baptisms of Sis. Rachel Powell (Bro. Don and Sis. Carol, Rittman) and Sis. Sarah Nolan (Abraham and Sarah). What a blessing to sit and hear the wonderful work that our Lord and Savior is doing in the hearts of these young sisters. Ministering brothers joining us for the weekend were Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction), Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sis. Alice, Sardis), Bro. Jesse Bedolla (Sis. Bonnie, Detroit) and Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit). May God bless these brothers for their willingness to serve as only He is able.

Madison Jean Harris arrived in the home of Jeff and Shawna Harris. Sharon Harris is looking forward to spending much time with this little granddaughter and teaching her about the love of Jesus.

Our prayers are with Sis. Sharon Rager (Bro. Walt) on the passing of her mother, Sis. Pauline Laidig (South Bend). We trust that Sis. Sharon will feel the love and prayers that are being raised on her behalf in the days that are ahead.

Our church gathered together on a recent Saturday evening to partake of Holy Communion. Elder Bro. John Jackson (Sis. Peggy, Bay City) was here to help our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction). They also were with us on Sunday and served us again from

the Word of God.

OREGON, PORTLAND
Renee Angstrom

Our visiting ministers this month from Silverton were Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty) and Bro. Don Sinn (Sis. Linda). We are always so thankful for their support.

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

We were so delighted to have Bro. Ray and Sis. Ginni Cooper come and worship with us last Sunday. It has been a long recovery for Bro. Ray and we are so blessed that he is doing much better and able to get out.

OREGON, SILVERTON
Deb Roth
Kris Luthi

We thank you loving teachers too, for all your love and care. You teach us of the heavenly home, how we may enter there.

Hymns of Zion #73

On a recent Sunday we did our Sunday School teacher balloting. We want to sincerely thank the outgoing teachers for their many hours of labor and love towards our youth. Their gifts of time and dedication are appreciated by all of us. They are as follows: 11th and 12th grade teacher, Bro. Jason (Sis. Jo) Kuenzi, will be replaced by Bro. Jim (Sis. Tresa) Zollinger; 6th grade teacher, Bro. James (Sis. Tonya) Schneider, will be replaced by Bro. Kyle (Sis. Trisha) Walter; Bro. Rick (Sis. Ruth) Metzger will be replaced in the 4th grade class by Bro. Jason (Sis. Colette) Snook; Sis. Lanette Feuchtenberger has finished her term teaching the 2nd graders and Sis. Betsy Dettwyler will take her place; and in the first grade class, Sis. Alice (Bro. Eldon) Metz will be replaced by Sis. Kris (Bro. Bill) Luthi.

Palm Sunday was the day we were blessed to witness the Sunday School Easter Program. With many songs, verses and Bible readings, our Sunday School youth reminded us of the wonderful fulfillment of prophesy. They told us of the supreme sacrifice our Lord Jesus made by dying on the cross. Their story did not stop there but continued with the good news of the empty tomb. What a wonderful way to be reminded of the holiness of the holiday. What a blessing to see the faces of all the children; from the youngest with innocent, sweet adoration clearly evident and on up through the youth as they begin to mature and finally to the high school students who are coming into the days of accountability. Our hearts are full of love and thankfulness for these children that God has blessed our church with. We pray that each one of them can ponder these teachings in their hearts and truly worship Him at the foot of the cross one day.

Two new babies were born to brethren in our congregation. Davis Lynn was born on Good Friday to Bro. Christopher and Sis. Mary Kuenzi. Arlen, Alex and Eliza are his excited siblings at home. Davis' thankful grandparents are Bro. Lynn and Sis. Marilyn Kuenzi and Elder Bro. Art and Sis. Betty Metz. Another baby boy, Jonas Andrew, was born on April 16 to Bro. Tyler and Sis. Amy Kuenzi. Jonas has a big brother, Mitchell, at home. Bro. Terry and Sis. Ann Kuenzi and Bro. Dean and Sis. Jackie Knobloch (Goodfield) are his grandparents.

We appreciated the recent labors of visiting minister Bro. Mike (Sis. Lisa) Leman, from our Portland congregation.

PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA

“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.”

Colossians 3:23

Our Annual Church Spring Clean-

ing gave us yet another opportunity to work for the Lord. As we cleaned the yard, the kitchen, the Sunday School rooms and the sanctuary, we were reminded that our hearts likewise need to be clean and ready for the Lord.

We also had the opportunity to sing at a nearby assisted living residence. It was a wonderful experience to see the residents' smiles and faces, as we sang some of their favorite hymns. It is always good for us to be reminded that Jesus loves each one of us, no matter what stage of life we are at.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE
Mike and Monica Fritz

We were privileged to share Holy Communion on Palm Sunday and want to thank Elder Bros. John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia; Latty, OH) and Ted Witzig, Sr. (Sis. Cindy; Morton, IL) who came to serve us.

We are thankful to have Bro. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder back in our midst after they returned from their winter in Zapata, TX.

We are thankful for the encouragement from God's Living Word, which was brought to us so powerfully by our visiting ministering brothers: Bros. Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonita; Cissna Park, IL), Michael Wagenbach (Sis. Erica; Wolcott, IN), and Glen Steiner (Sis. Rachel; Winthrop, MN). We are also thankful for the fellowship of brethren and friends visiting from Rockville, CT; Belvidere, Cissna Park, Congerville, Eureka and Morton, IL; Francesville, Leo and Wolcott, IN; Winthrop, MN; and Latty, Mansfield and Rittman, 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: Morton, IL (5/23); Minneapolis, MN (5/30); Goodfield, IL (6/6); Morris, MN (6/13); Chicago, IL (6/20); and Kansas City, MO (6/27). 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

It was blessing to welcome a new Brother in Christ, Gideon Ringger, when he was baptized on March 28. Our Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian, San Diego) was here to conduct the service. "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." (Rom. 6:4)

We rejoice that Bro. Scott and Sis. Rachel Hartzler, with their baby daughter Summer, have been led by the Lord to move to the Austin area. We hope, as they create memories here, that it will begin to feel like home, and that we can all support and encourage each other in the pathway of humility. "...Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble." (I Pet. 5:5)

Also we are thankful to have Cassandra Yen, a convert from San Diego, working in our area for a period of time, and LaNae Sauder coming from Mansfield to make her home in Austin.

The World Relief Project that started here the last week of December came to a close during mid-April. Thanks to the many brethren and friends who came to share in the project and fellowship. There was a World Relief dedication held at the church near the end of the project on March 25. Recipients of the project were present for a meal and church service. After the service, there was a meeting in the dining room and many recipients shared from their heart how their need fulfilled was an answer to prayer. The appreciation and gratitude expressed by recipients

was very touching.

Our visiting ministers were Bros. Allen Stoller (Sis. Susan, Bluffton), Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Dave Steffen (Sis. Linda, Elgin, IL), and Dan Goric (Sis. Mary Lou, Rockville). We were thankful for all our visitors from Morris, Congerville, Bluffton, Francesville, Elgin, IL, Sabetha, Eureka, and Smithville.

The following is the minister schedule for June: (6) Chicago, (13) La-Crosse, (20) Philadelphia, (27) Remington. 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. Directions to our church and contacts are now in the 2010 minister book.

In the church, there are two furnished bedrooms for the ministers and others 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

Joyce Nohl

Greetings of love from McAllen, Texas!

This month was the time of year to bid our winter visitors farewell. We wish them a good summer and hope to see them again in the fall.

Elder Bro. Ben Walder (Sis. Juanita, Congerville, IL) was here for our Easter service. We appreciated his effort to come and serve us on this special day. We enjoyed getting to know him and his family, as his parents, Bro. Bob and Sis. Gloria, winter with us. After services the congregation had dinner together and the children enjoyed a Easter Mexican tradition and a good time of fellowship.

We were also blessed to have Bro.

Randy Gudeman (Sis. Becky, Francesville, IN) and Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata, TX) come and share God's Word with us. May God bless each one for the labors of love on our behalf.

On Sunday, April 11, we held services in our home with 12 attending. While we had no minister available, we used the telephone for our services.

The following churches are scheduled for services: (May 9, Elgin, IL), (May 23, Taylor, MO), (June 6, Silverton, OR), (June 20, Lester, IA).

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.

VERMONT

NORTH CLARENDON

Nathan and Miriam Reutter

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

Psalm 127:3

It is with much joy and thankfulness we announce the birth of little Micah Stevenson. Micah is the newest addition to the family of Bro. Adam and Kris Stevenson and big brothers, Kaylo and Zenon. Our prayers are with them as they make new adjustments and strive to raise their children for God's honor and glory.

"And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, this is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you."

Luke 22:19-20

Our small congregation had gathered to commemorate the death and suffering of our Lord and Savior earlier in the month. Here for the solemn occasion of Holy Communion were: Elder

Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl) and ordained deacon, Bro. Warren Zahner (Sis. Bonnie), both of Rockville, CT. We appreciate the extra efforts that were made for this midweek service.

We want to thank those who have been in our midst worshipping with us this past month. We especially want to thank the ministering brethren and their dear wives who were used on our behalf. They were as follows: Bro. Dan Goric (Sis. Mary Lou, Rockville, CT); Bro. Joe Klotzle (Sis. Sue, Altadena CA); Bro. Mike Ursu (Kitchener, ON);

and Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Diane, Rockville, CT).

Now that spring is here and summer is right around the corner, it's a wonderful opportunity to come and visit beautiful Vermont. We look forward to fellowship with you. Please contact Bro. Chad and Sis. Jenny Virkler (802-293-2724) so you can find out information about service locations and dates. 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.

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

Lord willing, the 19th annual Athens/Tennessee Memorial Day Weekend will be held on Saturday, May 29 and Sunday, May 30. Everyone is invited and welcome to attend. The theme for this year will be "Serving Jesus." On Saturday afternoon, the weekend begins at the Tennessee Fellowship Area with an auction followed by evening activities of Bro. Troy Leyse (Bluffton, IN) speaking on "The Joy and Reward of Serving Jesus" and singing. On Sunday, church services are scheduled at the Athens, Alabama Apostolic Christian Church. In the afternoon, fellowship and singing resume at the Tennessee Fellowship Area followed by another minister speaking on how we can serve Jesus and others in our communities, nationally and internationally through church sponsored World Relief activities. Below are more specific details about the weekend activities.

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. — Bro. Troy Leyse 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. — Bro. Virgil Kaeb 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.

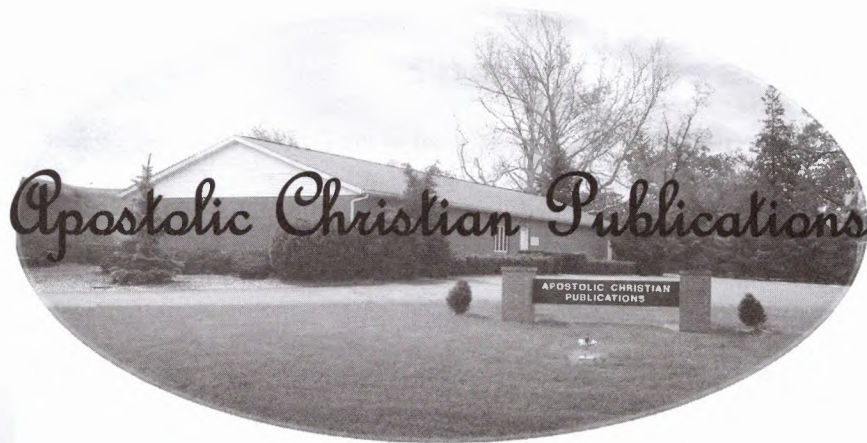
RSVP by May 3: Please RSVP to one of the contacts below if you plan to attend the weekend by Monday, May 3, 2010. Also, look for more communication on weekend details in upcoming issues of The Silver Lining, through your local church and via the AC e-mail list.

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

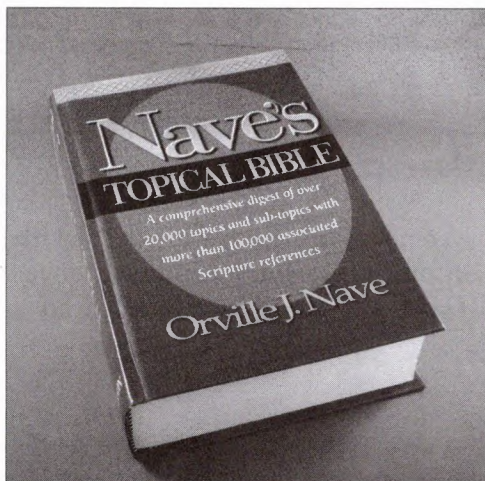
Bro. Mike Moore (Tennessee Fellowship Treasurer) — 256-729-0620 or alm38@aol.com

"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



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Interested in Houseparenting?

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



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

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

"We have always considered our position a ministry for our entire family not just a job for us. Relationships built during this time can last for a lifetime."

- Bro. Jason & Sis. Joy Kilgus, Houseparents

Pre-School Teacher Needed

The Apostolic Christian Preschool has an immediate opening for a teacher directed of the Lord, with a degree and/or experience in Elementary or Early Childhood Education. It is a wonderful experience to teach children about the Lord in a loving, Christian environment. If you feel the call and want to find out more please contact:

Bro. Mike Moore
(256) 729-0620
(256) 777-3390
Email: ALM38@aol.com

Summer Worship Services in Colorado

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

July 18 - Best Western Alpenglo Lodge - Conference Center

Located downtown Winter Park (78665 U.S. Highway 40)

Office: 888-726-8088 (Toll free)

www.wplodging.com

August 1 - Best Western Alpenglo Lodge - Conference Center

Located downtown Winter Park (78665 U.S. Highway 40)

Office: 888-726-8088 (Toll free)

www.wplodging.com

July 25 - Ponderosa Conference Center (Fox Run Room)

Located near Colorado Springs at Larkspur

15235 Furrow Road

Larkspur, CO 80118

(719) 481-2482

www.visitponderosa.com

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

Home telephone: (303) 696-1540 E-mail: lemantom@comcast.net

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with the grace and strength and help to be able to live as He wants us to live. So He is teaching us here that we need to have faith in Him. From that faith comes a way of life that glorifies and honors Him.

It seems that this chapter that we read together this morning has a focus on how we are to work together and how we are to help each other on the pathway toward heaven. He begins by pointing out to us that there are going to be some who are weak in faith. We could probably spend a lot of time this morning talking about, what does it mean to be weak in faith? It just seems, though, as we go through life, that there are periods of time and there are different things that we face in life, where any one of us at any point of our lives may be among those who are weak in faith. Then there are other times, and sometimes it may only be a day or two later, when we are revived and strengthened spiritually that we maybe find our self stronger in faith. So I think it would be a mistake for any one of us to look around at others and say, okay, that individual is weak. That individual is weak. And start to think that we are strong. The Bible reminds us, take heed if we think we are strong and if we think we stand, lest we fall (I Corinthians 10:12). There is a reason why the Scripture is talking about those who are weak in faith. Because He is addressing on any given point in time in life, any given issue that we face, we may be at different ends of that strength or weakness spectrum. He is pointing out then, at whatever end we are, how we need to help each other. How we deal with one another.

So he starts out, "Him that is weak in the faith receive ye..." Romans 14:1. To receive somebody else is to reach out with arms of love and compassion and try to help them. It is a natural thing in life, that if we are going to be involved in something - we can see that in

schools for teams, whatever kind, whether it is academic or athletic teams - they always want the best, the strongest on the team so the team is stronger. That's a natural type of thing in life. But in the spiritual sense and in the church, he is pointing out that if somebody is weak, we receive them. We want them to be a part of us because we can help them. Our goal is to help each other reach the kingdom of heaven. So we want to be careful that we don't reject the weak because they might weaken us. That would be the thought of the world. That's the thought when people have organizations of whatever kind: business, sports or other activities, civic activities. They always want to pick the best because it makes the team stronger. That's not God's way. He is telling us, as the body of Christ, we receive those who are weak. But he says, "...but not to doubtful disputations." Romans 14:1. He doesn't expect us at that time to start disputing the ways of God.

We read the account back in Acts, as the Apostle Paul was up on Mars Hill. It says he was disputing daily with those (Acts 19:9). It would imply that there were disagreements, maybe arguments. Maybe that is not quite the right word, but there was reasoning together too, maybe. But the thought is, a strong disagreement is involved in the disputation. So he is saying, but not to doubtful disputations. Not arguments that might unsettle anybody's faith.

Then he goes on and talks of some of the differences. Now today we face a little different differences. Some of these still apply. But there are other things that we might face in our lives. Here he uses a couple of examples. Today we might call it, one person's a vegetarian. Another person is not. So one person thinks they can eat certain things. We do somewhat have the same thing today. Some people put a lot more attention on natural

health products and natural health healings and others maybe conventional medicine. It is not my intention to get into that area. It is one example where we can have differences in life.

There can be other examples where we believe differently about certain things. So this Scripture is addressing those differences. What is important for us is not whether or not either part of difference is more right or more wrong. What is important in this Scripture is how God is teaching us to deal with those differences. That is what makes the difference for us as a body of Christ.

So he says, one believes one way, one believes another. The implication here is, the one that is eating whatever he wants, the other one is maybe saying, is that really right? There are the dietary laws of the Old Testament. Or maybe it is not quite healthy for you. So the one that is eating everything, there is the implication that they are really not as watchful as they could be. Where the one eating herbs is paying more attention to the details of life and the details of health. Some of those things. So the natural reaction, that is what we have to watch out for. We sing in one of our Zion's Harp hymns, Go up against your nature, And you'll go straight and fine: (The Journey To Zion #185). So let's think about that natural reaction we have. For the one that is eating looks at the one that is eating not and says, we are not to despise them. The other way it says, we are not to judge the other. The one that is careful will say, the one that is not paying attention, they are wrong. They are condemned or whatever level of condemnation there may be. So they are judging. The Bible says, we don't have that right. We cannot judge the other one in these areas.

Now, we have to be careful here. The Bible is not talking about if we see somebody walking in a lustful manner, where they are heading

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towards fornication or adultery or uncleanness or lasciviousness. Those things are in the works of the flesh. It says, they who do such things shall not enter the kingdom of heaven. (Galatians 5:19-21) Or it could be in other areas of greed and covetousness in life and in Timothy we read that if we are coveting the material things of life, it points out that the love of money is the root of all evil, which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith (I Timothy 6:10). The Bible is not talking about those things that the Bible specifically points out are right and wrong.

But in other areas of life, it is telling us, let's be careful. The one that holds back is not to judge the other. But the other is not to despise. To despise is to look down on. It is kind of the opposite of esteeming highly. The Bible tells us in Philippians, let each esteem other better than themselves (2:3). So our responsibility - and it doesn't qualify who 'others' are - let each, each one of us, esteem other better than ourselves.

We read in the Prophet Isaiah, where it prophesied what was going to come, and it happened to Christ. It says, they esteemed Him lightly (Isaiah 53:3). Didn't put much value in Christ, the value of His teaching and the value of His life. When the mobs cried out, crucify Him, crucify Him (St. Luke 23:21), they clearly were not esteeming Jesus at that point. To esteem; to place a high value on. So to despise is the opposite of that. We are not placing or esteeming highly our brother. So the warning is, opposite sides of certain issues - and again, not issues of clear sin, if the Bible doesn't specifically address it - on opposite sides of that, the Bible is saying, let's not judge if we are on one side. Let's not look down on and put the other person aside and say they are of little value to us. So he is talking about how we deal. He never does answer the question in the letter, is it more right to eat or

not eat? That really is not the point. The point is, when there are differences, what is far more important is how we relate and react to one another than what the specific issue may be.

So he goes on and says, "Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth..." Romans 14:4. So he is making a point here and it is a point that is very relevant for us today. We might look at another person and think they are taking a lot of liberties in life and they are going down a path that is going to cause them trouble. Maybe that is. Maybe it is true. But the point that it seems the Scripture is making here, is that if we let our focus be totally on those other people, we have taken our focus off of God. We ourselves will start to get in trouble because we have not looked to God ourselves. So he is reminding us, let's be careful about judging somebody else. To judge them is to pronounce sentence upon them. And again, we go back and we have to make sure that we are rightly discerning the Word of truth.

The Bible here says, who art thou that judgest another man's servant. Does that mean we don't judge what is right and what is wrong? The Bible is not addressing that. That is not the point that is raised here. The Bible clearly does address it. Because we go back to when Jesus talked about the scribes and Pharisees tithing mint and anise and cummin. He told them they have omitted the weightier matters of the law which include faith and mercy and judgment. (St. Matthew 23:23) So Jesus Himself pointed out that judging judgment is very important. It is one of the most important things in life.

But what is it that we judge? We go to the Prophet Isaiah and he talks there with a warning. He says, woe unto them who call good evil and evil good (Isaiah 5:20). Very clearly we have a responsibility, as God's children, to make judg-

ments in this life as to what is right or wrong for us. But to make a judgment on another person and say that person is condemned or that person is way off base, we maybe don't know all the answers. The Bible very clearly says we cannot judge another person. We cannot judge another man's servant.

It goes on and says, "...Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand." Romans 14:4. So what should our responsibility be if we see somebody that we feel is going the wrong path? Does that mean we don't care about them? Not at all. That would be completely contrary to a thought that carries through the Scripture. We go back to the time of Cain and Abel. (Genesis 4:3-4:10) We know the account where Abel offered a more excellent sacrifice than Cain did. We read that in the letter of Hebrews 11:4. Cain became angry and he slew his brother Abel. God spoke to him, Where is Abel? He said, am I my brother's keeper? We find, as we go on through the Scripture, God is pointing out that we do have a responsibility to care for one another. Not to control each other. Not to direct each other's lives. But to truly, sincerely care.

So if we see somebody walking in a path that is troubling to us, our first responsibility is to get down on our knees and pray for them. Pray for ourselves, that we can have proper discernment. It seems like that is why Christ taught that parable or the account that says if we see a mote in our brother's eye, let's examine our own eye for the beam (St. Matthew 7:3-5). It should be clear to us, if we have something interfering with good vision in our eyes - and he is not talking about the physical eye, he is talking spiritually - if we have something obstructing our vision so that we cannot see clearly, to make clear spiritual discernment, we aren't really going to be able to help the other person. So it is important for us at that time, to pray. Pray for

discernment for ourselves and an understanding of how we stand before God. So we pray for one another. God is able to make him stand.

It is interesting, as we read that phrase. It doesn't mean that that individual is standing in the right position at that time. It says, God is able to make him stand. When we think of standing, I think it is in Ephesians (6:13) where he talks about the armor of God. The need for us to fight a good fight of faith. Then that one short passage of Scripture keeps reminding us to stand. And in the end, to stand. We need to stand in faith, trusting God. We need to stand in the ways of truth. So God is able to make him stand. God is able to bring the straying soul back. We need to pray for them and care for them. But the Scripture is saying, we don't judge them. We don't condemn them. We don't say they are unworthy of any further help or prayer.

He goes on, "One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind." Romans 14:5. We have an example of that in our society. There are some faiths that feel so strongly that we must worship on the seventh day of the week, the Sabbath day. We worship on the Lord's day, the first day of the week. Well, first of all, when we think about an issue like that, one person esteeming one day above another, that is a good example for us to think about. Who among us can be sure exactly what day of the week we are worshipping on? We look at our calendar and on our calendar, Sunday is red. It is on the first day of the week. It goes Sunday through Saturday. But if you get a calendar from Europe, it is printed Monday through Sunday. Which one is the seventh day? So sometimes we could take an issue like that and it could become a great burden to us. We could have endless disputations about it

and in the end, how do we know we are right anyhow, either way? How could we clearly define which way it is? God wants us to worship. So here is one example. God is clearly pointing out, we can esteem one day above another. Maybe some of us put more value on birthdays or less value on birthdays. More value on Christmas or less value. The Bible says, let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.

That doesn't mean that we are just stubborn in our thinking. We know what we believe and we are not going to think about it. But to be fully persuaded would mean that we have thought through it in faith. Again, we go to the end of the chapter, whatsoever is not of faith is sin (Romans 14:23). Well, if we find ourselves where we have maybe a difference of opinion with others as to whether or not one day is important or not, rather than debating it, have we gone to our knees? Have we sincerely implored God to give us wisdom and understanding? To give us a peace about what we should be doing? The Bible is telling us, if we have done that, if we are fully persuaded in our own mind - not from a human, rationalization stand point, not just because we just assume we are right - but because we have sincerely prayed it through and we feel we should be doing something or we feel we should not be doing something, the Bible says we need to be fully persuaded in our own mind.

Then most of all, it goes on and says, "He that regarded the day..." Romans 14:6. Again, loved ones, I think it is so important that we don't think of it as just esteeming one day above another, but that we can think of it and apply it to so many of the situations in life that sometimes bring distress among us. In talking about a day, he says that he that regardeth a day, regardeth it unto the Lord. He that regardeth a day not, regardeth it not, unto the Lord. So what is important is that we are prayerful in

allowing the Spirit to guide us. In the things we do, the choices we make - and not just say the Bible is giving us liberty to do whatever we want to, whatever seems good in our own eyes. It is not telling us that. It is telling us that we need to pray through these things and if we feel the direction of the Spirit in one way or another, we need to be content in that. To be fully persuaded in our own minds really implies that we are at peace with the situation. It doesn't mean that we have all of our arguments gathered together, that we can really put anybody else down that has a contrary opinion. It really does mean that we are just at peace with the issue and we feel that God has given us that peace.

Then he reminds us in the seventh verse, "For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself." Now it brings us back to the point, what is our impact on other people's lives? Are we helping them? Are we hurting them? The Scripture goes on and points out what is important. "Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another." Romans 14:19. Follow after the things which make for peace. So what becomes important in our lives? It isn't whether we eat meat or don't eat meat or eat a certain diet or don't eat that or whether or not we regard one day above another or whatever else it might be. What really counts is, what is the impact of our lives on other people's lives. Are we helping them find peace? Are we creating more joy in the Lord Jesus Christ? Because he says here, "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink..." Romans 14:17. It isn't these things. That is not what matters. What really matters, he says, is the "...righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." It is in those things, if we edify one another in that way, we help other's joy. The Apostle Paul

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wrote to the Corinthian people and he told them in II Corinthians 1:24, "Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand." It needs to be that way in each of our lives. That we are not seeking to control somebody else's faith, having dominion, but helping their joy.

Now again, we need to look at the other side of that, to make sure we are addressing it appropriately. Because if we think that that means that I should be able to do whatever I want to and you should make me happy about that, that is not what the Scripture is talking about. Joy in the Holy Ghost. Joy in spiritual matters. So we need to think about, how is my life impacting others? How am I helping the joy of another person?

The Apostle told the Corinthians there that we are helpers of your joy. We need to help each other find joy in the Lord Jesus Christ. We need to help each other have that feeling of righteousness that is imputed to us through faith. The Bible teaches us we need to work at preserving that righteousness and building it up and strengthening it.

So how do we help each other do that? Yes, we need to have a concern if our brother or sister is going in a direction they shouldn't. But if we visit with each other and we visit with clear vision, we can see that there is a reason behind what they do. One of them that becomes more obvious to us than others is if we have a brother or sister among us who have an unbelieving spouse. There are things that they feel compelled to do to maintain peace in their marriage. We can understand that. We can be compassionate about it and we need to be.

The Bible also teaches in I Corinthians, if ye be invited to a feast and you felt moved to go, it says, eat what is set before you, asking no questions for conscience sake (10:27). There are times that indi-

viduals may have to do something for a purpose that we might not understand. But if we are willing to visit with them and understand their purpose, if it is valid, if it is for a good purpose, motivated out of love for another individual, a desire to maintain peace and harmony in a family, if it isn't directly sinful, we can support that. But that doesn't mean it is right for everybody to do those things. There are times that we have to be very careful, even if we are on the side where we are doing something to maintain peace, we think about the peace in our individual family, the peace within the church, the peace within the national body of our church. We need to strive for those things which make for peace and things whereby one may edify another.

It is interesting, towards the end of the chapter, he says, "It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak." Romans 14:21. Again we come back to that thought of what is good. God is good. God has called us to goodness of life. Part of the fruit of the Spirit again. He is saying there are times we need to make a self sacrifice in our lives, if any thing would make our brother to stumble or become offended or become weak. We need to think of that.

We go back to Christ talking about offence. Woe unto the world because offence may come (St. Matthew 18:7). Sometimes we might tell another person, when you do that, it offends me. Well, sometimes that may not be a valid statement. It might hurt us a little bit. It might make life a little more difficult for us. Or it could offend us. But here the Apostle Paul is talking three things here. If we cause our brother to stumble; to stumble would imply that they fail in faith and maybe sin before God. But he also talks about, is offended. Another term. The stumbling, they may be able to recover from. But of-

fending, it may be an unrecoverable sin. It may get to a point where they can't recover. But he also says, or is made weak. So if we weaken somebody and then when they face a temptation, they fail, we have to look at whether or not we have contributed to that.

He says, "Hast thou faith? have it to thyself before God. Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth." Romans 14:22. Two ways of looking at that verse. Happy is that man that condemneth not himself in that which he alloweth. I am not sure what the correct interpretation is for me. Every one of us would have to answer this question for ourselves. Perhaps this verse means that if we have thought through something, we have made a choice in life and we are not condemned in that choice, happy is that man. It is almost like saying, good for you.

But maybe the verse says, when we stand in eternity, we will be happy if in our lives, we have not brought condemnation into our lives. As we read through this chapter, in some ways the chapter could be interpreted to say that we have some freedoms in life and let's not others tell us we can't do that. In other ways, the chapter is saying, let's be pretty careful. We get to this verse, we can look at it a couple of ways. But I think the best way it would seem, is if we could stand before God and know that we have done our best. We have done the things that make for peace. We have done the things that edify other people. We have done the things that help bring joy in the Holy Ghost. There is a blessing if our life is totally motivated by faith in God.

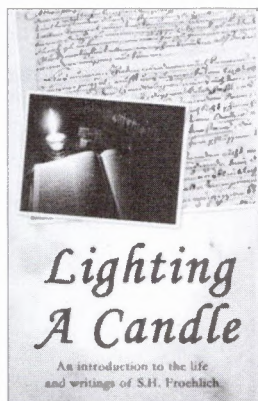


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Samuel H. Froehlich's writings are now available in Adobe Acrobat format for use on a computer. If desired, this PDF document allows the user to search the entire set of writings for a specific topic or phrase. Currently, the contents of the black books published by Apostolic Christian Publications are included:

Hebrews	Ephesians	Baptismal Truth
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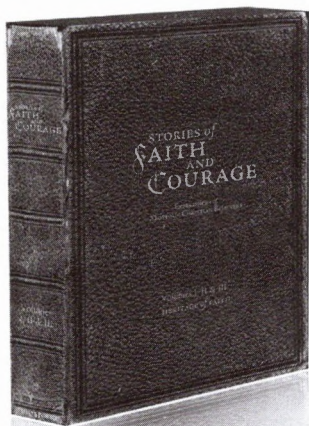
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Workplace Communication

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

Ephesians 4:29: "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers."

With these two verses as a reference point, we could conclude that there really isn't a need to write anything more on this topic. Although this does establish a biblical basis for maintaining our Christian integrity, for some of us, the workplace is vastly different than our home environment and we may be involuntarily placed into situations that may be difficult to handle. No workplace is perfect and unhealthy conflict between employees is likely to arise no matter how large or small the operation is. We are reminded in God's Word to take the short end, if necessary, to end strife or to avoid it. That doesn't mean we are to just give in all the time but rather, in the spirit of meekness, be ready to accept something less than what we had bargained for. The example in Scripture of Abram allowing Lot the choice of grazing land even though he knew which was best is a model for us to follow in extending to others the first choice and being willing to accept that.

Genesis 13:8-9: "And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren. Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left."

All workplace environments require some level of interpersonal relationships with fellow employees, but office politics should be avoided if possible. With many employees on a continual hunt for a better position, it may be difficult for us to completely avoid that quest as well. Nearly all employees would accept an increase in salary if not also an advancement in position. However, the political backbiting and strife that can occur during these jockeying-for-position ordeals is an area in which we should not become involved. Even

with our best of intentions, we can get caught in the crossfire between an employee hungry for a better position and the manager. Keeping ourselves uninvolved in the potential name-calling and mudslinging can take effort. We may even know information that could keep another employee from advancement but we must be very careful to divulge only that information which might ultimately be harmful to the company or to the personal safety of other employees. Before we discuss anything with the manager, we must examine ourselves for pure motives. Anything less will cause conflict and diminish our Christian light.

John 3:21: "But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God."

1 Corinthians 11:28: "But let a man examine himself..."

Much of the communication in the workplace today is done through email. Unfortunately, email cannot provide our tone of voice inflections or non-verbal communications and the context in which a message was composed and sent may not be readily apparent. Unnecessary misunderstandings and conflicts can arise when a recipient doesn't recognize the real essence of a message. Or, we may send a message in haste while we are angry or upset when we would have normally waited to calm down before visiting with someone face-to-face. It is a good idea to proofread every email before we send it and maybe even just wait for awhile and reread it later to make certain we aren't sending an unintended message that we might regret, especially if we are upset or angry.

Ephesians 4:31: "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:"

Proverbs 29:22: "An angry man stirreth up strife, and a furious man aboundeth in transgression."

Some workplace environments are much more conducive to continual conversation than others. In an open office, where numbers of employees are in close proximity to each other, the opportunity to visit is likely more frequent and with the

increased use of email, office conversations can occur over great distances. Although we may not intentionally wish to steal from our employers, excessive visiting in person or electronically does exactly that. Any time we spend on the job not doing our job is effectively robbing from our employer.

Romans 2:21: "Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal?"

Leviticus 19:11: "Ye shall not steal, neither deal falsely, neither lie one to another."

A further consequence of too much time spent in conversation is the spreading of misinformation or gossip. Office gossip is known for its content and not in a good way. Emails are so easily forwarded and we may not know what they contain. We must be certain that there is nothing in an email we forward that we wouldn't want to say ourselves about someone or about the company. We can so easily be drawn into a volatile situation without realizing it. Also, writing or forwarding emails that are purposely harmful to others does not portray the love we should have for our neighbor. Minimizing our conversations will help us to avoid those uncomfortable, and potentially damaging, situations.

Romans 15:2: "Let every one of us please his neighbor for his good to edification."

The use of slang or swear words is very unprofessional but yet can be prevalent in the workplace. This practice was once generally assumed to be reserved for the male gender but isn't so much that way anymore. God's name may be routinely used in vain and is painful for a Christian to hear. Inappropriate and embarrassing comments, jokes, and information can also enter into a conversation. We may need to walk away from such discussions to be an example and to keep ourselves pure from unclean thoughts.

2 Timothy 2:16: "But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness."

Ephesians 5:11-12: "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. 12For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret."

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

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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 May 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,

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

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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.

Providing Hope in the Aftermath of Great Destruction

World Relief Child Sponsorship Responds to the Haiti Earthquake

January 12, 2010 is a date that will be etched in the minds of Haitians for generations to come. The devastating quake captured the attention of much of the world, and there has been a massive outpouring of aid from the international community.

Our Brotherhood has responded as well through donations to the Haiti Disaster Relief Fund and medical/work teams. The Child Sponsorship Committee has been working closely with both organizations in Haiti where we sponsor children. MEBSH is located in Les Cayes on the same compound where our World Relief efforts are headquartered, Help a Child in Haiti (HCH) is located in the Puits Sales area which is between Port Au Prince and Les Cayes. While no children actively in the program lost their lives or were seriously injured, some student's relatives died. One student, Jean Mere Augustin, was at the gate of her house when the earthquake happened. The house has lot of cracks, but thankfully did not collapse. Her cousin, who was married on Saturday, had moved to Port the day of the earthquake. Sadly, she died with her husband.

Adline Cameus, Director of HCH, had to relocate out of Port as a result of the quake but no one in her family was injured. In the HCH schools, there was fairly serious damage to the school and church at Boucan Mouran causing school to be out for several months. The Caribbean Committee of World Relief will be providing funds and/or work teams to repair the damage there and to a wall that collapsed at Mayette.

Other than these issues, all of the schools and infrastructure necessary to support the Child Sponsorship Programs in Haiti remain intact. After viewing the incredible destruction in Port Au Prince, we

are very sobered and thankful for this fact. However, the aftermath of the quake is putting strain on the schools in the program. For instance, in Puits Sales, there are 60 additional students attending who previously lived in Port and have been displaced. In the MEBSH Simon Elementary school, many of the students displaced from Port willingly shared their stories.

Many of the students had heart-rending stories to tell. One little boy was holding hands with two others while attempting to get out of his house. He was thrown against the wall, but was able to run out. The other boys were crushed and died. The physical wounds may have healed, but the emotional toll will long be with these children.

In the MEBSH schools, there are 1,600 displaced students attending school. Most of them can't afford books or uniforms, and few if any are able to pay tuition. Uniforms are an important part of the schools in Haiti and without them the students appear as outsiders. They are also not as safe in their travels to and from school without a uniform. The load on the schools without any additional tuition has also brought big challenges.

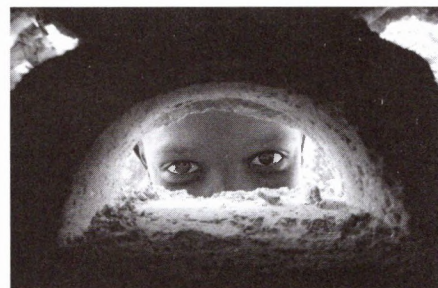
To address these issues, Child Sponsorship has provided \$30,000 that has been matched by another organization to provide partial tuition to the schools to cover the rest of this school year and money for uniforms, books and other necessities for the students. These funds are made up of specified donations sent direct to Child Sponsorship and an allocation from the Haiti Disaster Relief Fund, and are a direct link from our donors to these needy children. Thanks to each of you who have opened your hearts.

How can you help?

While this assistance helps meet the immediate needs, the future remains uncertain. We believe that around

one-half of the displaced students will remain in the countryside for the next school year and maybe beyond. Their families lost much of what little they had, and it will be difficult to afford basic necessities, let alone pay for schooling. To meet the longer-term needs of these children, we will need many additional sponsors. For \$25/month, you can provide tuition, uniforms, books and assistance toward living expenses for one of these children.

Please consider whether you could be a part of providing hope for a child in Haiti. While many children's lives are being touched by the Child Sponsorship Program, many more are still on the outside looking in.



This picture was taken during the recent evaluation trip. The curious boy was enjoying peeking in at the white men inside the school. Help us provide hope to him and others like him through a Christian-based education.

Visit us at www.acworldrelief.org and select Child Sponsorship on the home page of the website, or email us at childsponsorship@acwr.org. ACWR Child Sponsorship, PO Box 36, Morton IL 61550

Let's continue to pray for the people of Haiti and remain committed to showing them the love of Jesus Christ through action long after the world has moved on to the next headline.



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 May 13th, 2010 -www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/

Project	Year 2010	Coordinator	Capacity
Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Jun 4-11	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 rick@wuethrichfarms.com	4

JAMAICA

Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of May 13th, 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	Knockpatrick Schl CCCD Mansfield SS	Jun 26 - Jul 3	Peter Webel 419-564-5691 wpw47@aol.com	40
Jamaica Deaf Villg CCCD	Jun 11-19	Ted Hirstein 309-266-8769 hirstein@mtco.com	40				

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

MEXICO

*If anyone is interested in leading a team to Mexico, contact Bro. Mike Fiechter at 260-597-7330 or mfiechter@onlyinternet.net
Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of May 13th, 2010 -www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-mexico*

Location	Year 2010	Coordinator			
Magdalena Construction	Jun 5-12	Stan Schick Princeville Sunday School 309-243-9281 schickfam@juno.com	Magdalena Construction	July 24-31	Scott Bahr Detroit Bible Class 248-924-7547 spbahr@yahoo.com
Magdalena Construction	Jun 19-26	Benj Knapp Washington Sunday School 309-467-5274 benjknapp@homewayhomes.com	Reynosa Medical	Oct 6-13	Cheryl Herrmann cherrmann@verizon.net
Magdalena Construction	Jul 17-24	Blake Stahl 630-740-7461 bcstahl@aol.com			

USA World Relief Committee

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

* Bro. Kent Heimer	<i>Counseling Elder</i>	Taylor, MO	Cell# 573-248-5701
* Bro. Paul Kaeb	<i>Chairman</i>	Bern, KS	Cell# 785-547-5269
* Bro. Chuck Kellenberger	<i>Sec/Treasurer</i>	Elgin, IL	Cell# 224-629-6531
* Bro. Les Schambach	<i>Administrator</i>	Elgin, IL	Cell# 630-247-5271
* Bro. 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

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

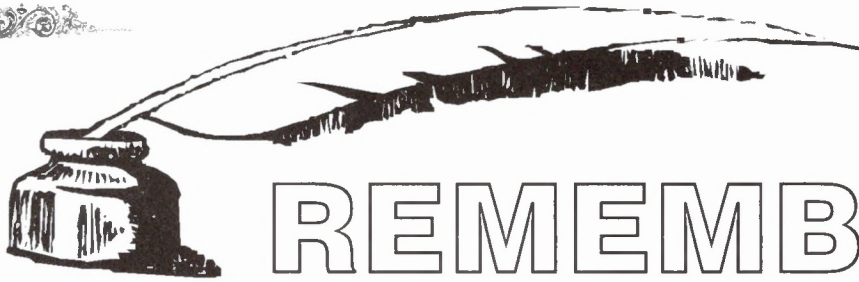
If possible I would prefer:

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



REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

This is a continuation of the funeral of Elder Bro. David Mangold, held at the Eureka, Illinois, congregation on December 8, 1964.

Elder Brother John Bahler, Rockville, CT

Beloved, in the Lord, it is indeed as Brother Getz has mentioned. The loss and the sorrow are not confined to the family alone, which, of course, we realize, feel and experience this more keenly; however, we believe that even through the length and breadth of our land there has been a gloom cast through the parting of our dear Brother Dave. Words would fail us and possibly be of little avail if we did not have the Holy Scriptures—the precious Word of God that reveals unto us comfort, and that we know that this is the way of all flesh that even though possibly God in His infinite wisdom and His loving kindness rather prepares us for the day, then yet it is all too soon, and yet we know that finally flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God.

So we are thankful that we have the precious Word of God to be able to open and wherein we hope that God will provide for us blessings.

We have been reminded, dear ones, that there comes a time in every one's life when we have to face these realities, that finally God is going to terminate our days here upon earth. We have many wonderful Scriptures, how that the God-fearing of yore sought refuge on the Lord, and we were already impressed with the hymn we have heard sung that even David, the great king of olden times, comforted himself in the fact to know the Lord was his Shepherd, and that he could even face the future and believe that even in crossing the dark valley of the shadow of death, the Lord would be with him.

We find that many that followed had the same faith, and, however, also had a great concern upon their hearts for the work of God, for their church, and for

their loved ones.

I have before me in the Acts of the Apostles, the farewell address on the part of the Apostle Paul that he directed to the elders, and possibly others, when he sent for the elders of Ephesus and realized that possibly he would see them no more. So let us endeavor to read, prayerfully, this account beginning at the 17th verse in the fore-named Chapter 20.

(Elder Bahler completes the Scriptural reading and offers a prayer)

Meditation by Elder Bahler:

Beloved, one and all, as we read these words of the faithful Apostle Paul in his last charge and farewell address, as it were, to the elders, first of all at Ephesus and we believe many others were present. We can well understand, as we read here, that they wept, especially over the words that he had spoken to them that they would see his face no more. Beloved, this is a reality that is before us now, and we believe that even as the Lord and Saviour wept at the tomb of Lazarus, where the Scripture tells us when he saw the sorrow on the part of the sisters, the Saviour wept.

Beloved, it is hard; I must humbly confess that it is hard for me to stand here and to endeavor to speak the Word of God upon this occasion of our dear brother whom we fondly loved; we respected and held him in high admiration. Yet, we are glad that we have the privilege to be with our loved ones to share in their sorrow.

Beloved, without in the least eulogizing, which we know has little value; however, we have the teaching even of this great apostle that we should follow the examples of those who have faithfully served the Lord, and he said especially of those of the apostles and reminded the various churches to follow the examples of their elders. In order that we can do this, beloved, it is necessary that we rather review and call to mind the attributes and virtues that stood forth, and which have been a

great comfort to us. I believe, beloved, that if we do this in all humility to seek a blessing and a help from God, surely we will not miss it very much, that we will be able to learn and God will be able to bless us.

I believe that many will concur that our beloved Brother Dave, above all, was a real humble brother. His first ambition and desire was to serve his God with all his heart and to serve Him dedicatedly and faithfully. He had a great concern for his church, and being as it were, a master builder, we believe he sought to build with precious material upon the foundation that the apostles laid. We know, beloved, that we are all possibly of a different nature, and we cannot make ourselves over, yet God has a place for us and possibly can use us somewhere in His plan of spreading the Gospel and bringing souls to a realization of their need and finally to salvation.

I believe, beloved, that Brother Dave was a man that had a great unwavering faith in God, and it was not only confined to God, but he also had faith in his fellowman, in his brethren; and by giving kind advice, which I know you will agree, he often from the pulpit gave kind advice and urged to obedience, withheld threatenings, but that we should be obedient to the Word of God, to the simplicity that is outlined in the Holy Scriptures, and thus we would remain as a holy people, and that we would be able to work out our salvation. We believe, beloved, this was his innermost desire in his service to his God that he would be able to give an account of his stewardship when that day would come.

Next Issue: Continuation of Funeral

Notice:

Free copies of the Elder Noah Schrock funeral are available by writing to P. O. Box 404, or calling 800 847 6686 (during working hours).

The Light Of Hope

“Regret”

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

It would be good if we could live our lives without any regrets. I don't know how you are doing, but I have regrets. Esau regretted selling his birthright to Jacob for a mess of pottage. It is written in Hebrews 12:17, “For he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.”

When we are young it is very important that we live our lives carefully so that we don't have regret over what we have done. Young people sometimes challenge each other to try things that they know are wrong or unsafe. The consequences and regrets are long lasting. Young people, always keep in mind that you want to live so you will not have regrets.

Those of us who have repented and put our faith in Jesus Christ for salvation and for living a new and holy life, by God's grace, don't regret it. However, after we have repented and been baptized, we may not live as carefully and as wholeheartedly as we should, and that brings regrets. The lack of obedience to God's Word brings regrets. The lack of loyalty to one's own church, may bring regrets. I believe that lack of compliance with the traditions of the church, which are scriptural or for the good of the people in the church, may bring regrets

later on.

The reasons for the possible regrets mentioned above are the breakdown of loving relations within the Brotherhood, and also, our worship services may become too much like a secular meeting where self is exalted. Humble compliance has no regrets.

We may think we know, but the Apostle Paul writes in I Corinthians 13:2, “And though I ... understand all mysteries, and all knowledge, ...and have not charity, I am nothing.” We need to have a better understanding of the importance of charity or love. Even to memorize the entire Bible, word for word, is still not the answer.

The Apostle Paul loved his brethren so much that he wrote, I Corinthians 8:13, “Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend.” Paul believed that it was perfectly all right for him to eat meat, the flesh of animals which had been offered to idols, but if it was an offense to his brother, he would refrain from doing so while the world standeth. The Bible doesn't say he has to eat it so he would refrain from doing so. However, if doing what the Bible says causes offense, then it can't be helped, in my

opinion.

The Apostle Peter denied the Lord three times at the time of His trial. The Bible doesn't say that he regretted it but it does say, Luke 22:62, “And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.” That indicates extreme regret.

When we are baptized, we promise that, by God's grace, we will live faithfully for the Lord Jesus Christ, so long as we live here on earth. We may interpret that to mean that we will not lie, cheat, steal, commit adultery, or murder anybody, but if to live faithfully means that we should try to live without regrets, now or in heaven (if it is possible to have regrets in heaven), then we have our hands full. We are going to have to be more careful how we handle each other and how we speak of each other.

In the book of Revelation, 3:2, the angel of the church in Sardis said, “I have not found thy works perfect before God.” They were instructed to hold fast and repent. It may be that we are in need of repentance instead of being too sure we know it all. May the Holy Spirit keep us believers in a state of repentance, so that we might be recipients of His power to live so that our regrets, if not completely eliminated, will at least be few and minor in nature.

希望の光

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*Daniel's den of lions teaches true and sure
when on God depending we can feel secure
so in all distresses I can pray to thee
faith my heart possesses
God is still with me.*

