

The Silver Lining



*Let your conversation be without covetousness;
and be content with such things as ye have:
for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.
So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper,
and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.*

February 2011

Sermon by Bro. Clint Schmidt, Winthrop, MN

Isaiah 11 and Romans 12

Certainly, dear ones, we want to greet each one in the precious name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus. This morning, as we sang the beautiful hymn of the precious greeting in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus, the power that is in the greeting and as we could sing, the heart warming promise that the Lord will provide.

We come to the pulpit this morning, maybe with a little fear and trembling, but even knowing that we can take courage, knowing that God's presence will be among us. He can speak to us through His Holy Spirit. That each one of us that has gathered together this morning, we would have a desire on our hearts to receive God's instructions through His Word. Even as this morning before church, as we read the story of John the Baptist, there wasn't a prophet sent for four hundred years. Then as he went out and started preaching repentance and salvation, those that came had the desire to hear and many of them were baptized (St. Mark 1:4,5).

It is no different for any one of us today as we gather in God's house. That we come together for one purpose. That we are gathered together in one accord, to gather around God's Word. That in the silence, as everybody had a prayer upon their heart, asking God's presence to come amongst us, that His Holy Spirit would speak to us. We can be thankful for that, dear ones, that God is faithful. The Lord will provide for us, for our every need. How thankful we can be that we have the living Word before us. We can part the pages, not knowing where they will fall open, but trusting. Knowing that through it all, God can provide a blessing for each one of us. So we truly need your prayers and support this morning as we look into God's Word, that each one of us could receive a blessing.

Our Conversation Is In Heaven, Hymn 198 in the Zion's Harp, verse 5 says, Can we have our hearts in heaven And yet earthly-minded live? Can we, who have been forgiven, Not forget and not forgive? Can we hate an erring brother, Only love when we are loved, And not bear with one another, By Christ's Holy Spirit moved? It truly is a good reminder for us this morning, even as our conversation is in heaven. If earthly minded we are, if we live earthly, we know that our mind won't be

in heaven. We will be consumed with too many earthly things. As we are reminded of forgiving and forgetting, it says, not forget and not forgive? If we can't forgive, dear ones, what does the Bible tell us?

The Word is very plain, that if we can't forgive, that our heavenly Father won't forgive us either, of our trespasses, of our sin. We know none of us are perfect. We all make mistakes. But how thankful we can be that God reminds us that we need to be careful that we are not too harsh with one another. But that we would love one another and that we would care for one another. We can't hate an erring brother, for if there is an erring brother, they need our love more when they are erring than when they are not. We need to pick each other up. As we sang in the hymn this morning, that we would go down this life's pathway in one accord. That means together. Hand in hand. That we are helping one another. Because we all have the same purpose. We all have the same common goal in our mind, that we all want to be in heaven some day. It is just a matter of, how are we going to get there? We need to get there together, dear ones. Helping one another, loving one another, that our conversations would be in heaven.

Truly, dear ones, Romans 12 gives good encouragements for us this morning. As we even think that God grants us grace, what do we do with the grace God gives us? As it says in the subheading here, 'Proper use of God's gifts and proper use of God's grace'. God gives us His grace freely. How do we use it?

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God..." Romans 12:1. How thankful we can be that God is merciful. We don't deserve His mercy. He has given us everything we will ever need. Yet we fail. We fall short. Yet He is merciful to us. How thankful we can be that God is patient with us. None of us are a finished product. If we are gathered here this morning and we think we have done enough, we certainly haven't. As it says, it is our reasonable service. God doesn't ask too much of any one of us. He only asks us a simple thing. He wants us to follow Him. He wants us to submit to His will. Because none of us did anything to be able to be here this morning. To be put upon this earth. We

Sermon continued on page 41

Cover Verses

Front: Hebrews 13:5-6

Back: Zions Harp, 173, vs. 4

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

March

1. Lamar, MO
2. Washington, DC
3. Valparaiso, IN
4. Silverton, OR
5. Phoenix, AZ
6. Gridley, IL
7. Garden Grove, IA
8. Morton, IL
9. Congerville, IL
10. Zapata, TX
11. Bloomfield, IA

Suggested Donation: \$14/subscription

Next correspondence due:

For March Issue

(16 Jan. News - 15 Feb. News)

Due: 20 February 2011

The Silver Lining (Vol. 66, #2)
1389 County Road 1600 N
Roanoke, IL 61561

USPS 496780

Published Monthly By The Apostolic
Christian Church of America
Counselors:
Tom Stock, Rick Plattner

Official Apostolic Christian
Church Website
www.apostolicchristian.org

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

cleman@mtco.com
(e-mail is preferred)

The Silver Lining
1389 County Road 1600 N
Roanoke, IL, 61561
309-923-7192 (phone)
866-737-3177 (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

"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God..." (Romans 13:1)

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

February 2011

Submission To Authority

Submission is difficult. We simply do not *naturally* desire to have anyone rule over us. But that is precisely what it means to submit – to yield or surrender to the will or authority of another – even if we have other ideas, desires, or opinions. Human nature rebels against such a thought. We really don't want anyone to tell us what to do.

However, God is the author and creator of an established order. He directs us to submit to His Word and to His method of keeping order in His creation (John 1:1; 8:31-32; Jam. 4:7). As author, He is the final authority in everything. All power comes from the Lord God Almighty and is delegated as He sees fit to earthly authorities. Those authorities are not only governmental such as kings, presidents, judges, police, and military, but include family authority and spiritual authority as well. It doesn't matter if we don't agree with the authority, we are called to submit. In fact, submission almost always includes disagreement. The Bible gives many examples of God-ordained authorities and calls us to surrender our will to theirs and be subject to them as long as we are not asked to violate God's Word. Following are several of these examples.

Governmental

"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God... for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour" (Rom 13:1-7). "Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God" (1 Pet. 2:13-16).

Family

Husbands are to submit to Christ who is their "head" (1 Cor. 11:3). Wives are

to submit to their husbands (Eph. 5:22-24) and children to their parents (Eph. 6:1). All of this is to be carried out with mutual love and respect in the pattern of Christ's unconditional love for us. (John 13:34-35; Eph. 5:25)

Church

"Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you" (Heb. 13:17).

The Word of God clearly calls us to surrender our will and yield to the authorities that He has placed over us – in our homes, in the Body of Christ and in society. We are called to respect and honor those to whom it is due – not necessarily because of their actions, but rather because of their position. Our political leanings should not diminish proper respect and prayer for our leaders.

In the church we are called to submit ourselves to those over us in the Lord, to those who are older than us, as well as to our peers. Isn't it shameful that so often we desire or demand that others submit to us and yet we find it so difficult to submit ourselves? Whether we assert our understanding of Scripture, or our personal conviction, or simply our feelings and opinions, our prideful human nature wants to exert authority and demand "rights" rather than submit. Love motivates us to submit for the sake of the unity and peace of the Brotherhood. Likewise, when Christ-like love is the motivation of those in authority, they, like Christ, will never ask anything that is unreasonable.

We really can't submit if we are of a carnal mind. (Rom. 8:7) However, if we are followers of Jesus, we will be led to submission. *"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross" (Phil. 2:5-8).*

Not only are we called to submit, but also to pray for all authorities. If we pray

that the highest authority (God) would supply them with the wisdom and humility to rule well, and if we trust that God hears our prayers, and has ordained the "powers that be," submission is much easier. *"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour" (1 Tim. 2:1-3).*

It is a very serious error to be at variance with and disrespectful of the leadership body ordained to be over us in the Lord. We are to esteem them very highly for their work's sake and not speak evil of them. (Acts 23:3-5; 1 Thes. 5:12-13; 2 Pet. 2:10) We also recognize that when earthly authorities ask something of us that conflicts with God's Word, we are first responsible to God as the ultimate authority. However, it is necessary to be certain that the earthly authority is asking us to disobey God, and not justify our resistance based on personal disagreement with their requests. *"...be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up" (Daniel 3:18). "Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29).*

The biblical examples of obeying God rather than men were in response to men's denial of God – or in an attempt to place other gods higher than the Lord God Almighty – not mere disagreements with teachings or positions. If we are fully submitted to Christ and His will, we will not be deceived, but will be able to distinguish between corrupted earthly authority and godly direction meant for our good.

Whether we are leaders or followers, *"every one of us shall give account of himself to God" (Rom. 14:12).* This sobering truth should make all of us very cautious about confidence in ourselves and foster a spirit of humility. *"Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God" (Eph. 5:21).*

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

Called and Sent for Missionary Outreach

The Scripture calls Christians to be laborers in the Kingdom of God here on earth. *"Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest."* Luke 10:2

The Apostolic Christian Church is seeking to fulfill this Scripture as we reach out to the lost and needy in the U.S. and in foreign lands. With the growth of outreach opportunities, we have developed a comprehensive process for all aspects of serving, from the initial calling, selection, sending and support. An Outreach Selection Committee (OSC) has been established to meet with all candidates. This article will review the first three steps of this process.

- **Calling**
- **Home Elder Counsel**
- **Application & Selection**

1st Step Called by the Holy Spirit

Submission to an inner calling of the Holy Spirit

"Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me." Isaiah 6:8

Submission to a calling of an expressed need

Some will hear about a specific need that has been expressed by the Mission Committee or the World Relief Board that aligns with the gifts God has given them. After prayer, they may begin to feel the Holy Spirit's call and direction to respond to the needs.

"And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us." Acts 16:9

Submission to a calling as commissioned by leadership brethren
Others might receive their calling when leadership brethren, prompted by the Holy Spirit, "call them out" after seeing the demonstration of a heart and the appropriate spiritual gifts needed for a specific mission or ministry.

"As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them." Acts 13:2

2nd Step Home Elder Counsel

Counting the cost – Have you spent time talking with other missionaries about the difficulties of separation and other tests different than those experienced in your current environment?

Demonstrated passion for outreach – Are you currently participating in local outreach ministries; do you regularly witness to friends in the church, your unsaved neighbors, co-workers.

Victorious living – Are you living an overcoming life? Is there unconfessed sin, or are you currently struggling with besetting sin in your life?

Relationships – How do you get along with your family, church brethren, co-workers?

Submission – Have you demonstrated a submissive spirit to church leadership and doctrine? Are you willing to submit to senders and to those directing your mission?

Motives - Why do you want to be involved? Whose glory are you seeking? Are you running from any God-given responsibilities?

Recommendation - After appropriate prayer and counsel, recommendation by the home elder will be required as a prerequisite to applying, in order to begin the Application/Selection Process.

3rd Step Application & Selection

The candidate(s) or his home elder will contact the Outreach Selection Committee to begin the formal selection process consisting of:

Missionary pre-placement questionnaire - A standard questionnaire has been prepared for all brethren interested in serving the Church in a missionary capacity.

References - Candidate will have a minimum of three individuals complete a personal reference form.

Interview process - Following a review of the completed questionnaire and references, the Outreach Selection Committee will meet to evaluate the candidacy. If an interview is appropriate, the committee will schedule with the candidate.

Final decision - The Outreach Selection Committee will coordinate with the Mission Committee and candidates home Elder on their recommendation for service. A final decision to send a prospective candidate is dependent on specific outreach needs and availability of support funds. The candidate will then be notified of the decision.

For more information, please contact the OSC Administrator:

Bro. Tom Hitz.
734-454-9229
tchitz@sbcglobal.net



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

Aiding Flood Victims in Nashville

In early May 2010, torrential rains fell across central Tennessee with as much as 18 inches of rain falling during a twenty-four hour period. The ground was already saturated from rains received during the previous week. As a result, what were once gently flowing streams quickly became raging rivers of destruction.

Neighborhoods located in low-lying areas were forced to evacuate with little or no time to remove their belongings. In some instances, buildings were swept from their foundations; whole buildings were seen floating down Interstate 40.

In a few days, thousands of homes were flooded, some with water in the second story. Although the waters quickly receded, the damage had been done and the loss is enormous. A long and difficult road faced many shocked and bewildered victims. Few homes were covered by flood insurance since this area was not considered a flood plain.

This event is considered by authorities as a "thousand year flood," a very rare occurrence. Proceeds from FEMA or other government programs were insufficient. There is a great need for help and an opportunity to share the love of Christ.

For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land.
Deut. 15:11

Lending a helping hand

Beginning in January, volunteers have had the opportunity to help in the rebuilding of homes for

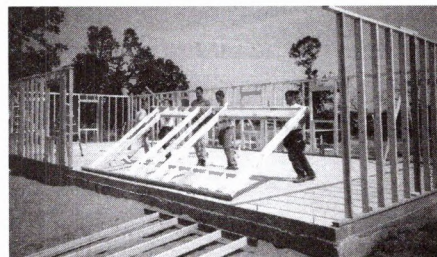
families who suffered loss in this disaster. Modest homes that will meet the needs of these families are being built by volunteers under the direction of experienced tradesmen. World Relief is working with the Cheatham County Long Term Recovery Organization, a nonprofit organization formed to assist flood victims in the recovery process.

Case workers have gathered financial information from the victims and made assessment of their ability to recover from this disaster. Recipients will be chosen based on their financial need. In most cases, monies from the World Relief Disaster Fund will be matched dollar for dollar from this organization. These funds will provide building materials for the construction of new homes for the flood victims.

The efforts of World Relief volunteers are concentrated in Cheatham county which lies just west of the Nashville metropolitan area. Many homes scattered throughout the county are situated along the banks of these normally gentle waterways. Families with little means find affordable housing and a place of quiet solitude among these hills and hollows. Living from paycheck to paycheck, families had little or no reserve to ease the financial burden the disaster has brought. Many have been forced to move in with family or friends.

Those who received aid from FEMA or other government agencies were in some cases forced to spend much of this available cash to meet their immediate needs. Temporary housing such as a motor home were often purchased to meet this urgent need. Clothing, food, furniture and in many cases, the family car, were all lost and need

to be replaced. Soon, the assistance intended to be used to rebuild their homes was all spent on meeting these critical needs. For many, there is no recovery without the help of charitable organizations such as World Relief.



Your opportunity to help

Brethren and friends from churches throughout the country, a total of approximately six hundred volunteers will spend a week serving in this effort. Skilled tradesmen, general laborers, kitchen helpers and willing servant hearts are all contributing to the completion this project. There is something for everyone to do. Work teams are encouraged to worship with the Nashville brethren on the Sunday of their work week. This is great blessing to this small congregation.

Volunteers are being housed in dormitory style housing at Bethany Hills Camp located approximately 15 miles west of the Nashville Apostolic Christian Church near the town of Kingston Springs. This is a peaceful rural setting that affords wonderful opportunities for fellowship with other volunteers. Volunteer cooks are providing delicious meals to satisfy the hunger of hard working laborers.

If you are interested in working on this project, please check the work team schedule for available dates and register on the World Relief web site: www.acworldrelief.org

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

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.”

Jeremiah 29:11

A prayer for the new year:

Lord, we pray that Thou will give us joy to fill our days, peace to fill our hearts, and love to fill our lives. We thank Thee for the plans Thou hast for us in this new year. We wait in anticipation to see all that Thou wilt do.”

We are thankful and feel blessed that this year 2011, the home celebrates 40 years of service. Over the years the “home” including Timber Ridge, Linden Estates, Oakwood Estates and now the 10 CILA houses have been a safe haven for many residents and families of loved ones with special needs. We pray that God will continue to move the hearts of men and provide staff to come to work for us in all capacities. Recently we were saddened by the passing of a longtime staff member who truly loved the Lord and was heard praying and singing with the residents while giving care. What a joy it is to serve and care for these loved ones. Often it has been said the residents give back to us much more than we can ever give to them. Their love and simple understanding of God and His ways warms my heart. At a testimony of one of our dear ones it was asked, “What do you pray for?” She responded, “Snow at Christmas”. Also she was asked, what are you looking forward to? Her response was “heaven”. Are we focused and have our minds stayed on our heavenly goal?

During the cold, snowy, winter months at our various homes, the residents are keeping busy with indoor

activities. Some of the things include various Wii exercise, bowling, table games, making different crafts and decorations for their rooms and holidays. Our residents also look forward to seeing many of you that come for the monthly Friday evening hymn singing.

We thank you for your continued prayerful and monetary support. Without the help of the brethren the home would not flourish. If you feel moved to help or volunteer in any way, please contact us. You will be blessed.

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

“Then they that feared the Lord spoke often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name.”

Malachi 3:16

As with any other industry in this day and age, one of the job responsibilities that can become all-consuming at Gateway Woods is the sheer volume of paperwork required on a daily, weekly, monthly, and annual basis. For example, every day the Residential personnel summarize the entire day for every resident. Similarly, school Faculty logs the entire school day for each student. In addition, every week's grades are calculated for each student in every class, which are then reported to every Houseparent and Counselor.

Furthermore, each therapy session must be documented for every resident and family member that participates in counseling. Also, every psychotropic medicine taken by every resident must be reviewed monthly.

Not surprisingly, all of the information listed above needs to be further summarized into a single report—on a monthly basis for every resident. Additionally, all residents on probation must periodically appear in court to testify of their progress at Gateway. You guessed it: Their entire placement to date must be further summarized into yet another report.

Finally, every year the state audits our hard files to determine whether we are current and compliant with this entire paper trail. With so much paperwork, sometimes it seems that we do not even have enough time to do our real jobs!

Thus, a Book of Remembrance is being written at Gateway Woods—every single day. I recently counted 74 pages in my own personal file for just one resident—who was only here for two weeks. If a resident does not come to us with a large file, then they certainly have one when they leave!

Unfortunately, very few residents fully realize the extent to which the very minutia of their personal lives is recorded on a daily basis. Many residents are willingly ignorant—until it is too late—that this information is subsequently reported to judges and probation officers, who render decisions which potentially affect the rest of their lives.

Of course, the best of our attempts to document the residents' progress is inherently limited and fallible. From daily logs to medicine reviews to monthly progress reports, our assessments are ultimately selective and biased. Indeed, even our best attempts at accuracy are still filtered through our own observations, our own perceptions, and our own reasoning. After all, we cannot possibly witness every single behavior of every single resident, and we certainly cannot peer into their hearts, minds, and souls.

Thus, it is especially convicting to me that we have a Heavenly Father who is also writing a Book of Remembrance. However, God's documentation is not selective or biased—but perfect and complete. Furthermore, the judgments of God are not temporal or fleeting—but eternal and everlasting.

That's why, as I review the daily logs of my residents, I sometimes think: What was written in my daily logs today? As I construct a new treatment plan, I sometimes think: Which objectives do I need to work on? As we prepare for monthly and yearly audits, I sometimes think: How about the Auditor who knows my down-sitting, my up-rising, and my thoughts from afar? As we enter the court room and I submit a written review of the previous three months, I sometimes think: What is my Court Report going to look like as I stand before the Great White Throne?

I am not so much concerned about my Intake Packet, since that has already been nailed to the Cross of Calvary. But what about my Discharge Summary...

What is being written in your Book of Remembrance? Could we with Christ make the following declaration? "Then said I, Lo, I come (in the VOLUME OF THE BOOK it is written of me) to do thy will, O God" (Hebrews 10:7).

"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the BOOK OF LIFE: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works" (Revelations 20:12).

News:

- Gateway Woods welcomed three new residents to campus this past month. Please pray with us as these three young residents become accus-

tomed to their new homes at Gateway Woods. It can be difficult for new residents as they discover a very different living situation than that which they have experienced before.

- Four families signed up for training to prepare to become foster parents this past month. It is encouraging to have such interest from such great families! We are so thankful that the Lord continues to provide qualified families for the foster children we place. From time to time our foster parents move on to adopt their foster child. It's a good way to lose foster parents as they become the permanent home for children. Just as the Lord is faithful to these children, He is also faithful to bring new Christian foster families to our ministry.

- We praise God that He continues to provide us with the right Staff. We currently have two career positions open at Gateway Woods: Assistant Houseparent and IL Adoption Manager. Please see the notices in this month's edition of The Silver Lining for more information or visit the Career Opportunities page on our website at:

www.gatewaywoods.org/supporters/career-opportunities. 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 and our Facebook page at facebook.com/gatewaywoods often for updates, and make sure that you are 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

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL Athens, Alabama Louise Hall

We have had a snowy start to our new year, with the students missing some days of school due to the four to eleven inches of snow that fell! It is always good to get started on another new year, and back in the "swing of things".

Our themes this month are: the New Year, Winter, Dinosaurs, and the color purple.

Our Bible verses for the month of January are:

1. "Even a child is known by his doings..." Proverbs 20:11

2. "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart: and lean not unto thine own understanding." Proverbs 3:5

3. "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him." Matthew 17:5.

We were so thankful to have Sis. Sarah Hodel spend time with us at the Preschool. The children were excited to see "Miss Sarah" again. Thank you for coming to visit us!

ALABAMA, ATHENS Louise Hall

This year we had a White Christmas, which is very unusual for us here in Alabama. It was the first White Christmas in 20 years! We also had our third largest snow fall in the history of Alabama in January!

On January 2, we heard "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." Romans 10:17. We are always thankful for those ministers who take the time to come to Athens and share the Word of God with us. On January 15, Bro. Rex Frieden and his wife, Sis. Vera (Lamar, MO), were here to share God's Word with us, and on January 26, Bro. Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL)

spent time with us in Athens also. We thank them for their time and effort.

“For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve.”

Acts 27:23

Bro. Don Ross went to his heavenly mansion on January 7. His visitation and funeral were on January 9. He was buried in our Athens Church Cemetery beside his wife, Sis. Ruby.

We ask your prayers for Sis. Joyce Ray's niece, Tracy Wagnon. She is very ill and needs prayers. Bro. J.R. and Sis. Louise Hall's daughter, Janice Flanagan, is currently in the hospital and we ask for prayers for her.

We rejoice with Bro. David and Sis. Barbara Coulter who have a new granddaughter, Brooklyn Sierra Storm Kyle, weighing 6 lbs. 8 oz. Her parents are Steven and Rena Kyle. Great-grandmother is Sis. Ola Mae Barnes.

We always welcome visitors to our small church in Athens. This month, we have had visitors from Ft. Scott, KS; Memphis, TN; Rockville, CT; Lamar, MO; Roanoke, IL; and Goodfield, IL.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Heather Hinrichsen

We praise God for the messages brought to us by Bro. Nick Gutwein (W. Lafayette) and Elder Bro. Willis Enhle (Peoria). It is always a joy to see, hear and feel the joy of the Lord in our ministering brothers.

We keep in prayer all those who are unable to worship with us in person Sunday to Sunday and all those undergoing medical testing and procedures. Sis. LouAnn Klopfenstein (Bro. Dave) is home after a brief hospital stay and we pray she feels the healing hand of God upon her.

The Phoenix Single Group hosted

many brothers and sisters for the New Year's weekend. Bro. Keith Hinrichsen (Sis. Tammy) was in Jamaica and Sis. Kathy Woodruff and Sis. Heather Hinrichsen were in Haiti on missions trips and we thank the Lord that all have returned safely.

This past year has been filled with joys and sorrows, mountain tops and valleys, victories and defeats and yet through all the changes in life we can rely upon the one constant that sustains our souls... "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today and forever." (Hebrews 13:8)

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

Denise Steidinger

“But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine: That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed. Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded.”

Titus 2:1-6

Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich and his wife, Sis. Nancy, came up on a Wednesday evening for Bible Study on Titus 2:1-6 with the overall theme being the character of a healthy church. Paul is encouraging Titus how to relate to the various age groups in the church. Holy living is the fruit of healthy doctrine and teaching.

Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville), Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Sis. Nancy, Phoenix)

and Bro. Paul Kilgus (Sis. Carmen, Fairbury) came and ministered God's Word to us. We enjoyed church potlucks and fellowship on both weekends.

We want to extend a thank you to the Phoenix Young Group and Bro. James and Sis. Gina Emch who came up and worked at Hallelujah Horse Ranch one Saturday.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

It is with mixed feelings that I report the passing of our dear friend, Bee Schmidt. Bee had wanted to go home to heaven for some time now but we didn't want to say goodbye. Those left behind are sad that we won't have her here with us but so thankful the desire of her heart has been granted. Bee has been a part of our little church family for many, many years and we will miss her signature hugs and words of encouragement. As we heard in the memorial service, Bee had a gift for encouragement and always handed it out with a big hug. The spot she usually occupied in the church bench will never quite look the same; she will be so very badly missed by us all. Our prayers are with her daughter, Jerry, and her husband, Tom, as they adjust to life without Bee. We pray God will grant them much comfort and peace in the coming days and months. We hope to see them often so we can hug each other in Bee's absence!

Our Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia) was with us on a recent Wednesday evening and shared the Word with us for which we thank him.

Bro. John Lehman (Wolcott) and Bro. Herbie Knochel (Phoenix) spent recent Sundays with us and we wish to thank them also for their service on our behalf.

Our winter visitors keep arriving and we are so thankful for their safe

travels. Our weather was quite cold for a few weeks but our snowbirds are now enjoying warm, sunny days with temperatures in the 70's.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO
Yasmin Koehl

We have been blessed with numerous visitors. We thank each one who has come to worship our Lord and Saviour with us. Amongst our visitors were Bro. Garry Bucher (Sis. Lois, Valparaiso, IN) and Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL). We thank these brothers for their labors of love on our behalf. Bro. Marvin assisted our Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic in delivering the Memorandum to our small flock. May we continue to steadfastly pray for our Elders, that our faith may be preserved for our children and their children, but above all, that the truth found in the Scriptures may always be spoken and not watered down for itching ears.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Bro. Tibor Bozzay Sr. and Sis. Breana Wagenbach. We are very thankful that Bro. Tibor is recovering from a stroke he experienced earlier this month. Our prayers continually lift upward to our heavenly Father on his behalf and his dear wife, Sis. Pearl, and family.

We were saddened to bid farewell to Sis. Breana Wagenbach as she left for Haiti to serve there for several weeks. We miss her presence amongst us, but we pray God's blessings upon her as she lovingly gives of herself to the Haitians. We also pray increasingly each week for God's nearness and protection for not just Sis. Breana but also our Bro. Brent Wagenbach who is also in Haiti as well.

As we have begun a New Year, the message that has been echoed over our pulpit is to be very prayerful. To remember the many needs of our

brothers and sisters in faith, our leadership and our beloved fellowship/faith. May we all be encouraged to pray often as Apostle Paul exhorted us, "To pray without ceasing."

KITCHENER, ONTARIO
CANADA
Kim Leman

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

II Corinthians 5:17

As we begin a new year, our thoughts turn to fresh beginnings and a hopeful view of the year to come.

We appreciated the ministering Brothers who came to serve our small congregation. They were Bros. Lucas Frank (Sis. Crystal, Detroit, MI), Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI), Nandor Weisz (Sis. Jolana, Somogymeggyes, Hungary), and Ted Luginbuhl (Sis. Stephanie, Smithville, OH). May God give them comfort and peace as they preach His Holy Word.

With grateful hearts we welcome Bro. Brandon and Sis. Rhoda Plattner and their three children (Garden Grove, IA – formerly from Sabetha, KS) to our congregation. Bro. Brandon has taken employment at the University of Guelph. We trust God will provide for them as they adjust to living here. Although there are many similarities between Canada and the U.S., there are also many things that are new and somewhat intimidating when settling outside of your home country. Let us all remember that no matter what citizenship we hold on this earth that we need to be sure our spiritual "passport" is up to date - our record clear, that we may be granted entrance into that Heavenly kingdom when our life here is

ended!

REGINA, SK
CANADA
Myrna Shipley

"And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Philippians 2:15

We are very happy and thankful for our dear friends, Andreas and Stefanie Kaiser (their children are Cora, 3, and Lynn, 1). They have confessed that Jesus Christ is their Lord today, rather than after His coming. Throughout personal experiences of each of them, they have come to realize they need a Saviour and a hope of eternal life. We wish them much grace in their lives especially now during their repentance. As well, we wish for much grace for Bernhard and Angelika Kaiser who have recently started repenting.

Bro. Keith Shipley has finally bought a snow blower to help him keep the snow cleared from the church driveway. With all the snow we've had this winter, it will surely be helpful. Bro. Keith and his son, Bro. Kelly Shipley, have been blowing the snow at church for many years. Thank you, brothers, for all the work you have done for us.

God bless all believers across our world who give their all to God.

COLORADO, DENVER
Lily Zarkovacki

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

Romans 10:15

We are thankful for all the ministers and Elders who were willing to

share the gospel of peace during 2010.

Our visiting ministers this past month have been Bro. Tim Roecker (Sis. Diane, Peoria, IL), and Bro. Chris Huber (Sis. Sharon, Francesville, IN).

Our prayers and well wishes go out to Sis. Ruth Pfeiffer; we look forward to her worshipping with us again soon.

All the way my Savior leads me;
What have I to ask beside?
Can I doubt His tender mercy,
Who thro' life has been my guide?
Heavenly peace, divinest comfort,
Here by faith in Him to dwell!
For I know whate'er befall me,
Jesus doeth all things well.

Gospel Hymns #42

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

Laura Virkler

Bonnie Bahler

Thus far, 2011 has been quite a year here in Rockville. We have gotten more than our share of wintry weather, and have enough snow on the ground to last until spring! The year has marked beginnings for some, and endings for others. We trust God will be with us throughout the year as He has been in times past.

We rejoice with the angels in Heaven to share news of souls who have made a beginning in repentance! Janae Bahler (Bro. Steve and Sis. Lori), and Julianne Gottier (Sis. Beth Gottier and Guy Gottier) have our sincere prayers and support as they begin to work out the salvation of their soul.

It was a great blessing to have testimonies and baptisms this month, bringing two dear souls into the fold. We rejoice with Bro. Everett Skinner Sr. (Sis. Sherri) and Sis. Debra Galat (Bro. Dave and Sis. Ellen) as we greet them now as Brother and Sister in Christ. Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA) and ministering Bro. Wes Moser (Sis. Esther,

Lester, IA) were with us on this special occasion. It was such an encouragement to hear about the good work of God in the lives of these two souls, and strengthens our hope for others to find the same joy!

A little son, Mitchell Thomas, was born to Bro. Phil and Sis. Sarah Wagenbach this month. He is welcomed by big sister Gabrielle. Grandparents are Bro. Sherman and Sis. Joanne Lanz and Bro. Don and Sis. Marie Wagenbach (Washington, IL).

Our prayers and support extend to those that have been hospitalized or sick in the past month. Among them are Sis. Alma Luginbuhl (Bro. Ed), Sis. Marie Garrow (Bro. Bernie) and Rachel Virkler. Sis. Eunice Schneider remains in the hospital, and time and the Lord will tell what the future holds. For all that have met with illness and injury, may the Lord provide healing and comfort, that we would trust His good care and leave the future in His hands.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WASHINGTON

Henrietta Meyer

Over the holidays, it is hard to find caretakers, even for part of the month. I hope the snow storms of 2010 don't scare folks away. The Christmas weekend storm spared the Washington area while the rest of the east coast was digging out of snow for days. There are still several months needing caretakers in 2011. If you have a desire to support our small church in this way, please contact Sis. Doreen Steffen for more information at dkgsteffen@gmail.com or 302-540-6574. We have been richly blessed by our caretakers over the past four years, and we look forward to getting to know and fellowshiping with more in the coming year. We also encourage past caretakers to come again!

We extend our sympathy to Steph-

anie Barth and all her family at the death of her grandfather, Bro. Morris Barth from Roanoke, IL. We are glad she was still home on break and didn't have to deal with all the travel delays.

We have just received word of the death of Bro. Joe Bohart's mother, Phyllis Bohart of Dunlap, IL. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Bro. Joe and Sis. Holly.

Our ministers this month were Bro. Troy Leyse (Sis. Kelly, Bluffton, IN), Bro. Ken Schneider (Sis. Bernice, Remington, IN) and Bro. David Steffen (Sis. Linda, Elgin, IL).

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.

FLORIDA FORT LAUDERDALE

Renee Mangold

A new year has begun and we are quickly into our season when our familiar brothers and sisters and their families join us in Fort Lauderdale. We invite any and all who might come to our area to assemble with us.

Elder Bros. Earl Ringger and Dale Eisenmann (retired) were here to have Communion for our church and Bro. Earl and Elder Bro. Joe Braker (retired) will speak to us concerning the Memorandum, Wednesday evening.

We all enjoyed the Christmas season with our families and even though we don't have snow, we felt the Spirit prompting us to appreciate the true meaning of this special time of year. It seems like the years flow by more quickly and now here we are halfway through January and enjoying being reunited with friends we haven't seen in several months as noted above.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our ministers for their untiring willingness to bring the truth to us throughout the year. As Bro. Joe Braker has often said, "it's good to be in church".

Other visiting ministers this past month have been Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO),

Retired Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Sis. Judy, Chicago, IL/Sarasota, FL), Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie) and Bro. Stephen Baner (Sis. Donna), both from Gridley, IL. We are thankful for their efforts and enjoy the fellowship we share with them.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Emmy Steffen and her family at the passing of Bro. Dave from Gridley, IL. They were a part of our winter family. Bro. Bob and Sis. Doris Huber from our congregation were in-laws.

**FLORIDA
NORTH FORT MYERS
Victor Beer**

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

Each little flower that opens
Each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colors,
He made their tiny wings.

These are thoughts that we have when we see nature so bountifully showering such lovely things. This, of course, adds to the glow of vacations of many that have escaped the cold up north, to enjoy our warm weather. There seems to be something about getting away from every day problems that lets joy and peace fill our hearts. Then seeing our friends again that we missed since last winter brings that joyous fellowship that we read about in God's Word. It must be

reserved for us, as we see the lack of that joy in every day business circles.

Our church was blessed this month, as Bro. Tom Bahler (Sis. Lanae, Rockville, CT) served us as they spent a short time here. Also, Bro. Dave Marquart (Sis. Lori, Taylor, MO) blessed us with the Word, which our increasing numbers appreciated. We were further blessed as Bro. Matthew Kaufmann (Sis. Rebekah, Bloomington, IL) served us during their short vacation.

It has been delightful to see a few more of our church friends and brethren have purchased winter homes in the Fort Myers area. Due to the downturn in the economy, prices have continually gone down, to make such investments possible.

**FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Kim Ott**

"Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear."

Hebrews 12:28

This month our congregation held it's annual business meeting. Updates on various funds were reported as well as a ballot voting for brothers and sisters to fill new openings in service positions for our church. We offer our support and prayers for Bros. Matt Koehl and Bill Roscher, and Sis. Tricia Koehl, who have been selected to serve as Sunday School teachers and Bro. Art Keller to serve as trustee. We thank all who have completed their faithful service and pray for everyone who is entrusted with the opportunity to serve our beloved church in any capacity.

We were so thankful to have visiting ministers this month to preach God's true and living Word. May God richly bless these brothers for their service: Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart

(Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL), Bro. Tom Bahler (Sis. Lanae, Rockville, CT), Bro. Paul Schmidgall (Sis. Shawn, Morris, MN), Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Debra, Remington, IN), Bro. Clint Schmidt (Sis. Magdalena, Winthrop, MN), and Bro. Nelson Beer (Sis. Minnie, Milford, IN).

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

We were blessed to have Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla Rassi (Chicago) and Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington) minister to our congregation this month. May God be with them as they glorify Him through their lives back in Illinois and Indiana!

The thoughts and prayers of the Atlanta Church family are with Sis. Sue Getz Waldbeser (Elder Bro. Tom Waldbeser) and their children as her father, Bro. Maurice Dale Getz (Remington), has entered eternity. Bro. Maurice is survived by his wife, Sis. Eileen Getz, two sons, Bro. Ed Getz (Morton) and Doug Getz, as well as his daughter and son-in-law, Sis. Sue and Elder Bro. Tom. Bro. Maurice was the loving grandfather of Bro. Drew, Sis. Elise, Sheree, Ashlyn and Wynn Waldbeser. May all those who knew Bro. Maurice remember the wonderful hope we have. (I Thessalonians 4:13).

**ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE
Doreen Moser
Shayla Steffen**

How thankful I am that I've been
giv'n the key
to peace in my heart and life eternally
What more could I ask, But grace to
carry on
and share this great joy I've been
shown.

With sadness we bid farewell to a sister in faith. Sis. Alice Thompson (Bob Thompson) left an empty spot in

our small congregation. We are thankful she could find the key to peace in her heart and have the hope of eternal life. We know she shared her joy in the Lord with her family and others.

When Satan appears and tempts me to be weak
just help me look up, Thy counsel to seek.

Thy word is so clear, I hear it speak to me:

"My grace is sufficient for thee."

Our annual business meeting was held this month. Many reports were given on various committees formed in our congregation and what we hope to accomplish in the coming year. We will never fail as a brotherhood if we continue to seek the Lord's counsel and work together on any issue that comes our way. We can depend on the Word and defeat the devil, if we remember that the Lord's grace is sufficient.

A Christian is what I always want to be,
to let people see Thy love shine through me.
Help me to leave....myself and pride behind,
and be loving, faithful and kind.

We have had a chance to let our love shine as a congregation working on World Relief projects on a recent Sunday afternoon. Although we do not always see where our projects end up, we hope that we have helped others through our efforts.

Some in our congregation also had a chance this month to go on the World Relief project in Nashville, TN. On these projects one really gets to work very closely with those who may not know anything about our Savior! Here one's actions and walk make a big difference in other lives. Truly self and pride need to be left behind as some of the people are not very trust-

ing. We need to be prayerful and depend on the Lord to touch the hearts of those we want to help.

Lord, help me live by the Bible's plan for life...

To shun every evil...Pray in every strife,

And help me stand by my brethren and help them in their need,
And be a true Christian indeed.

Gospel Hymns #755

**ILLINOIS
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL
Heidi Rinkenberger
Shelley Steffen**

On December 19th our Sunday School presented their annual Christmas Program. What a blessing to hear the good news of Christ's birth being told by our young children. We pray that these words will take root in their hearts. Many thanks to Elder Bro. Mark Bahr who was here for the Christmas Program and also ministered to us that Sunday morning.

Hospital patients this month were Bro. George Stimeling (Sis. Shirley), Bro. Ray Ringger (Sis. Nadine), and Brad Gramm (Sis. Luanne). We continue to lift up Brad and his family in prayer as he faces ongoing medical treatments.

We have received a lot of snow in Central Illinois this month. The peaceful snowfall is a gentle reminder that God, the Creator of times and seasons, should be our focus today and everyday.

**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Roseann Stahl
Sandi Joos**

Haste and seek your soul's salvation;
Heed the word of God today!

Zion's Harp #52

We are thankful another soul in our congregation has heeded God's

calling. We rejoice and are prayerful for Marvin Baer (Ron and Sis. Deann) who has begun his repentance.

As a congregation, we are thankful for the leading and direction of the Holy Spirit in revealing that it is God's will that Bro. Barry Dietz (Sis. Rachel) would be put in as a minister here in Bradford. May we lift up all our ministers in prayer, that the true Word of God would come forth, unhindered by man.

Our annual business meeting was held with the election of Bro. Steve Ehnle as trustee and Bro. Phil Endress as usher. We want to thank Bro. David Klumpp for serving as trustee and Bro. Kevin Wagenbach and Bro. Bill Stahl for their labors as ushers.

Sis. Char Dietz broke her wrist and had to spend some time in the hospital after surgery. We are thankful she is on the mend.

Bringing God's Word to us this month on the pulpit were Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Lisa, Eureka), Bro. Greg Stoller (Sis. Jill, Forrest) and Bro. Ken Schneider (Sis. Bernice, Remington). We are thankful for the willingness of Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl, Rockville) to come and help Bro. Bruce with sharing the Memorandum on January 22 as well as ministering to us on Sunday.

Note of Thanks:

It is hard to find words that can convey our heartfelt thanks to our church family for your prayers, memorials, and many kind deeds of love shown to us at the time of our dear mother's death. We also appreciate the love and kindness that was shown to mother in her declining years. May the Lord richly bless each of you for your thoughtfulness.

The Family of Sis. Hilda Dietz

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN

Jackie Eisenmann

When pure and upright hearts, by
flames of love ignited,
Are by the bond of faith, more firmly
yet united,
The light of hope beams forth, in radi-
ance far and nigh,
Invites us to partake, the blessings
from on high.
Zion's Harp #79

Our congregation is rejoicing over two marriages in our congregation this past month! On January 2, Sis. Hannah Waibel and Bro. Grant Herrmann (Princeville, IL) were married in Christ. Their parents are Bro. Brian and Sis. Wendy Waibel (Champaign, IL) and Bro. Dean and Sis. Dawn Herrmann (Princeville, IL). We wish this special couple God's many blessings. We will miss Hannah as she moves and takes her place in the Princeville congregation. We trust they will visit us often in Champaign.

We would like to thank visiting ministers, who came to be with the Waibel and Herrmann families on their special day, and were willing to be used on the pulpit sharing God's Word. May God bless Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL), Bro. Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN), and Bro. Alan Schambach (Remington, IN) for their service.

Sunday, January 30, in Roanoke, IL, was the wedding of Bro. Calvin Teubel from Champaign and Sis. Bethany Leman of Roanoke. Their parents are Bro. John and Sis. Lavonne Teubel (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Clark and Sis. Lisa Leman (Roanoke, IL). May God bless Calvin and Bethany as they begin their life together. Our Champaign church is excited to welcome Bethany, and we hope she feels our love.

Thanks go to Sis. Sarah Drake, as she will be assuming the duties of Silver Lining reporter next month.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Rachel Meyer

Greetings from Chicago. We were thankful to have Bro. Jedd Rocke (Goodfield, IL) share God's Word with us this past month.

Our Bro. Darin Metzger spent some time in the hospital for breathing problems and has since recovered. We thank God for His healing touch.

Bro. Daniel and Sis. Kasey Messner welcome their second daughter, Maille Claire Messner. Big sister Alea is excited and all are thankful. Welcome Maille! Grandparents are Elder Bro. Ron and Sis. Pam Messner (Washington, IL) and Bro. Bill and Sis. Patsy Kaeb (Roanoke, IL).

Another family has made Chicago their home. We are happy to have Bro. Matthew and Sis. Renae Lindberg, along with their son Emmett, assembling with us. We pray they feel at home.

Sis. Kate Jones from Morris, MN, is also assembling with us until March. She is completing her first grade student teaching in Chicago. Welcome, Kate.

An enjoyable singing shower was held for Bro. Rick Kaisner and Sis. Michelle Knapp (Goodfield, IL). As they anticipate their married life, we pray God will be their constant guide.

I would be remiss if I did not mention we rejoiced to commemorate the story that never grows old – the birth of our Savior. As we welcomed a New Year, we were reminded we are in God's hands.

I am reminded of a saying that my grandmother kept beside her kitchen table. It read, "Working for the Lord doesn't pay much, but the retirement plan is out of this world."

If we have put our heart into the hands of Jesus, the best is yet to come.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Marilyn Maul

Tina Walder

We always appreciate the visiting ministers who lend themselves to bring forth God's Word to us. Our thanks to Bros. Dan Moser (Elgin, IL) and Art Mueller (Belvidere).

"Lo, children are an heritage from the Lord..."

Psalms 127:3

Bro. Rod and Sis. Beth Steffen welcome a precious grandson, Obadiah William Steffen, born to Bro. Brett and Sis. Olivia of Peoria, IL.

Our annual church business meeting was held January 12. We extend a thank you to the Brothers and Sisters who diligently served and devoted their time to our church. We lend our support to the Brothers and Sisters who have been chosen to fulfill their new duties: Bro. Josh Walder, Sis. Val Kaeb, and Sis. Jo Kaeb (Sunday School), Bro. Greg Maul (Trustee), and Bros. David Maul and Roland Young (Fellowship Hall).

We extend our thanks to Sis. Vickie Maul for her three years of writing the Silver Lining.

We enjoyed the message of Christmas the children brought forth through song and verse at our program. May the teachers and students receive a special blessing for the efforts. The evening was a blessing for all that attended.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Holly Zobrist

We were blessed to hear the testimonies and witness the baptism of our new brother and sister in Christ, Daniel and Jessica Uphoff. Neither of them were raised in our church, and it was amazing to hear how God spoke to each of their hearts and led them to become a part of our beloved congregation in Congerville. Their humility

and sincerity was an encouragement to us all.

Bro. Daniel and Sis. Jessica both claimed that when they first started attending our church, they would leave for church with a few questions on their minds. They both expressed, during their testimonies, that those very questions would be answered through our Spirit-led sermons. Many of us have experienced those same blessings of our Spirit-led sermons when we go to church. I, for one, have found myself praying about a certain situation before church, and the answer will be right there in the sermon.

May God richly bless the ministers who followed the Spirit's leading as they spoke the Word of God to us this past month. They include Elder Bros. Mark Masters (Mansfield) and Steve Martin (Eureka), Bro. Jacob Kuntz (Croghan-Naumburg), Bro. Mike Wagenbach (Wolcott), Bro. Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield), Bro. Mike Walder (Smithville), and Bro. Dave Hartter (Sabetha).

Eric Zimmerman (Bro. Ben and Sis. Kathy) has become engaged to Jodi Wettstein (Bro. Jon and Sis. Rita, Bloomfield). We wish them God's nearness as they start this new phase of life together.

Bro. Kevin and Sis. Rachel Schrock recently brought their new little blessing, David Alexander, home from Russia. He is welcomed home by his older siblings, Rebekah, Caleb, and Hannah. His grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet Schrock and Bro. Tom and Sis. Edie Stoller.

Our hearts rejoiced to hear the news that Reuben and Joel Wettstein have decided to turn their lives around and have come to God in repentance. They are sons of Bro. Denny and Sis. Emily Wettstein. We pray that God will be so near to them as they begin on the road to Heaven.

Sis. Amber Wettstein (Bro. Denny and Sis. Emily) and Bro. Daniel Maibach (Bro. Tim and Sis. Mary, Bloomfield) have followed God's leading and made the decision to become one in the Lord. We were thankful to hear their engagement and wish them God's blessings as they begin this new phase of life together.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Amy Gasser

Miriam Gasser

We thank Elder Bros. Art Metz (Silverton, OR), Peter Petrovic (San Diego, CA), Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN), and Tom Waldbeser (Atlanta, GA) for edifying us through their ministry during January's Elder Forums. On earlier occasions, Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA) and Bros. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL) and Alan Schambach (Remington, IN) brought us special blessings through their services.

Bro. John Klein is receiving chemotherapy and would appreciate our prayers. Sis. Bekah Braun is doing well since her surgery.

Sis. Sally Schieler passed away on December 22 at Fairview Haven Nursing Home in Fairbury. She was the beloved grandmother of Bro. Eric Schieler (Sis. Nancy).

Bro. Dave Steffen (Sis. Emma Lou) of the Gridley congregation died on December 24 at his residence. Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Judy Klopfenstein (Bro. Dick) and Bro. John Steffen (Sis. Wava) in the loss of their brother.

On those dear familiar faces
There will be no trace of care;
Ev'ry sigh was hush'd forever
At the palace gate so fair.
I shall see them, I shall know them,
I shall hear their song of love,
And we'll all sing hallelujah
In our Father's house above.

Gospel Hymns #791

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Dee Baer

Jodi Blunier

"O'ercome now are all pains of pilgrim life," (ZH 170). Bro. Earl Zimmerman was laid to rest. Left to grieve are his wife, Sis. Elsie, and his children: Sis. Dianne (Bro. Mikel) Schmidgall, Bro. Dale (Sis. Sue), Sis. Elaine (Bro. Scott) Frank, Bro. Loren (Sis. Mary), Sis. Ruth (Bro. Ed) Leman, and Sis. Gloria (Bro. John) Cottrell, all of Eureka. Also surviving are his brothers, Bro. Roy (Sis. Helen, Gridley), Bro. Robert (Roanoke), William (Myrna, Dacula, GA) and sister, Sis. Mary (Bro. Robert, Roanoke) Bradle.

Prayers for sick include Sis. Laura Kupferschmid, Sis. Clara Lou Blunier and Bro. Rich (Sis. Marge) Rocke.

We thank visiting ministers, Bro. Mike Walder (Smithville, OH), Bro. Joe Dotterer (Bloomfield, IA), Bro. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA) and Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN).

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Angela Herr

Kay Steffen

"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out..."

Acts 3:19

We are thankful Tyson Fehr (Bro. Ivan and Sis. Cinda) and Mandy Payne (John and Sharon) have made a beginning in repentance. We pray they may feel God's grace and His nearness as they yield to Him in true submission and begin their walk with the Lord.

My lifetime doth pass away;
Hourly to the grave I hasten,
and I know each fleeting day

my allotted span will lessen.
Think, man, death comes soon or late.
Tarry not, it will not wait!
Zion's Harp #253, vs. 1

We bid farewell to our Bro. Jesse Huber who passed away on January 9. May God comfort and be near his wife, Sis. Donna, and his children, Bro. Rich (Sis. Dawn), Keith (Susan), Sis. Christa Sauder (Bro. Verle, Morris, MN), and Sis. Ann Hofstetter (Bro. Kevin, Washington, IL), as well as his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren as they mourn the loss of their husband, father, and grandfather.

Our prayers are also with Sis. Dorothy Streib (Bro. William) in the loss of her sister, Sis. Irene Traub of Forrest, who passed away on December 26. We also extend our sympathy to Sis. Laura Knapp as her brother, Bro. Norman Knochel (Sis. Leanore) of Bay City, MI, passed away on January 7. Our thoughts and prayers have also been with Bro. Vernon Hartman (Sis. Pat) and Bro. Warren Hartman (Sis. Louise) in the recent death of their sister-in-law, Edith Hartman (Art) of Arizona. Sis. Esther Koehl (Dick) is grieving the loss of her sister, Vera Foster, of Normal, who passed away on January 10. Our prayers are also with Sis. Lila Fehr (Bro. Anthony) as she mourns the loss of her brother, Sid Schmidt (Dulci) of Gibbon, MN, who died unexpectedly on January 23. We extend our deepest sympathy to each one who has lost a loved one and lift them up in prayer.

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

Bro. Kevin and Sis. Kati Meiss welcomed little Clara Jane into their hearts and home on January 20. Her siblings, Darla, Twyla, Eli, and Clayton, are excited to have another sister. Thankful grandparents are Bro.

Jerry and Sis. Donna Kaisner and Bro. Carlos and Sis. Jane Meiss.

We appreciate each visiting minister who recently shared God's Word with us, including Bro. Gary Brown (Forrest, IL), Bro. James Knapp (Congerville, IL), and Bro. Dennis Rassi (Austin, TX). May God bless these brothers for their willingness to be used in the Lord's service.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with those recovering from recent surgeries, including Bro. Rich Stoller (Sis. Karen) and Sis. Jane Meiss (Bro. Carlos). Bro. Melvin Zimmerman, Bro. Dick Wiegand (Sis. Betty), and Bro. Kyle Steidinger (Sis. Alicia) have also spent time in the hospital. May God heal and provide for each one.

Note of Thanks:

Many thanks to all of my church family for your prayers, food, gifts, flowers, cards, and phone calls. At the moment all is bearable. God bless you.

Sis. Anna Lou VanAntwerp

ILLINOIS, FORREST
Lisa Aberle
Lynn Dotterer

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:"

Matthew 28:19

We rejoice with our new brothers and sisters in Christ: Ben Kuntz (Bro. Rollyn and Sis. Brenda), Jessica Wenger (Bro. Rich and Sis. Jill), and Damon and Lorri Lanz. We thank Elder Bros. Gerry Hertz (Sabetha, KS) and Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Jacob Kuntz (Croghan-Naumburg, NY) for ministering to us that weekend.

We are thankful Tim Gerber (Bro. Alan and Sis. Marcia) has answered

God's call to repentance!

Bro. Ben Rudin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy) has found employment in the Croghan-Naumburg, NY area. We will miss Bro. Ben, but we are confident he will feel welcomed in the Croghan-Naumburg congregation.

Our sincere thanks to Bro. Roger Steidinger (Sis. Sheila) and Bro. Kent Zimmerman (Sis. Paulette) for their years of service teaching Sunday School. Our prayers are with Bro. Ben Leman (Sis. Lori) and Bro. Dan Eisenmann (Sis. Abby) as they begin their teaching terms.

We extend our congratulations to Sarah Ifft (Bro. Duane and Sis. Mary) and Kyle Steidinger (Doug and Karen) on their engagement. Bro. Jesse Zimmerman (Bro. Kent and Sis. Paulette) and Sis. Karla Steidinger (Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish, Fairbury, IL) have announced their engagement.

Bro. Shawn, Sis. Tami, Aaron, Abigail, Laurel, Jordan and Caden Aberle welcomed Colton Wayne into their family circle. Colton's grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Jane Brown and Bro. Mark and Sis. Laverne Aberle. Orrin Carlos joined Bro. Erik and Sis. Michelle Schaffer's family. Happy siblings and grandparents are: Thane, Ethan, Lyndon, Eli, Quinn, Bro. John and Sis. Sally Schaffer and Bro. Carlos and Sis. Marty Bahler (Gridley, IL).

Bro. Chad Leman (Kitchener, ON) and Bro. Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL) also ministered to us this month. May God bless them!

Bro. Leland Kuntz passed away. We extend our sympathies to his wife, Sis. Marge, and his children, Sis. Carla Stoller (Bro. Curtis, Gridley, IL) and Kevin, and his granddaughters.

Notes of Thanks:

I want to thank everyone that remembered my 90th birthday with

cards, gifts, phone calls, visits, and prayers. Everything was sincerely appreciated. May God bless every one of you!

In Christian love,
Sis. Doris Koehl

We sincerely thank everyone for their prayers, phone calls, cards and many kind deeds we received at the time of Mom Traub's death. May God bless you as only He can.

Bro. Wayne & Sis. Judy Anliker and family

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

**Donna Wyss
Kayla Wiegand**

We appreciate the visiting ministers we had this past month. They include: Bro. Tim Drayer (Sis. Gwen, Bluffton North, IN), Bro. James Knapp (Sis. Lisa, Congerville, IL) Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL), Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jacki, Francesville, IN), Bro. John Bradle (Sis. Jill, Roanoke, IL), and Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL). We pray that God will bless them for their labors.

Kathy Wagner (Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill) and Adam Herrman (Bro. Mark and Sis. Tammy, Washington, IL) have announced their engagement.

On November 28, Bro. Tony and Sis. Deonne Monfre became grandparents again when Jersey Rae was born to Bro. John and Sis. Brooke Widmer (West Lafayette, IN).

Several in our congregation have recently experienced the loss of a loved one. We extend our sympathy and prayers to Bro. Noel Davis (Sis. Molly) in the death of his mother, Marie Davis. Our thoughts and prayers are also with Sis. Betty Wiegand in the passing away of her brother, Bro. Dave Steffen (Gridley, IL). We trust that each of these families may feel God's nearness and comfort during the days ahead.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to our dear Sis. Sarah Melton who has been hospitalized this past month. We trust that God will provide healing and comfort to her as she recovers.

We continue to keep Stephen Reeser (Bro. Harold Reeser's son) in our prayers through this difficult time with his health.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry Klopfenstein

Already we are well into the year of 2011. Time surely does seem to "fly", and 2010 brought many blessings. It was announced on New Year's Eve that our Gridley congregation had 7 weddings, 9 births, 10 baptisms, and as of December 31, 2010, had 11 converts. There were 7 funerals, and this is a joy when the deceased were brothers or sisters in faith. So the work of God goes on, and to live for Christ Jesus is a high calling.

The times we live in are declining in morality, so our high calling becomes even higher — so we can, by the Grace of God, live out Christian values for an unredeemed world to see. One's prayer is not to take this calling, and duty to live in Christ's righteousness, lightly. For sure, there is an enemy who seeks to disturb the brethren, and to overthrow each true believer. Let us resist him, daily and hourly as we seek a Power greater than him.

Bro. David Steffen, 90, passed away on Christmas Eve at his home at Lake Bloomington. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Sis. Emma Lou. Also four children, Sis. Vicki Zehr, Gridley; and three sons, Alan, and Bros. Mark and Brian, all of Gridley. He is survived by three sisters and two brothers, nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Bro. Dave's congeniality and winning smile will be missed, both at church and in his social interactions. He was

an Elgin, Illinois, native, and served his country in the U. S. Army during World War II.

Several have been ill during the past while: Bro. James Funk, Sis. Marilyn Schieler, and Darci Poppin.

Our sympathies are extended to Bro. Roy Zimmerman who lost his brother, Bro. Earl Zimmerman of Eureka; and to Sis. Carla Stoller, who lost her father, Bro. Leland E. Kuntz, Forrest.

In the past year the sorrows of death have resulted in new widows and one new widower: Bro. Don Stoller, and Sisters Wilma Zehr, Louise Kiefer, Carolyn Schlipf, Lucille Wagner and Emma Lou Steffen. May the nearness of God and His presence be a daily solace to them.

Bro. Michael and Sis. Candice Dohman became the parents of their third child, Audrey Lee, born on December 30, 2010. She has two brothers, Landon, 4, and Carson, 2. Grandparents are John and Sis. Judy Dohman, and Bro. Lynn and Sis. Elaine Stoller, all of Gridley. Great-grandparents are Sis. Alma Bolliger, Tremont, Shirley Dohman, Bloomington, Sis. Lucille Stoller, Eureka, and Bro. Dean and Sis. Betty Nussbaum, Forrest. May God be with this dear couple as they nurture their children in the ways of the Lord.

Bro. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN) was a visitor here on New Year's Eve.

ILLINOIS, MORTON Annette Tanner Julie Bahr

We are rejoicing with the angels in Heaven for the faithfulness of God our Father! The evening of January 5, and the weekend of January 8-9, we were privileged to hear the testimonies of four dear souls as they cried out to God seeking forgiveness and redemption. We welcome into the Body of Christ, Sis. Angi Massner, Sis. Lori

(Ron) Bieber, Bro. Ken (Sandra) Schmidgall, and Bro. Jack (Sis. Elaine) Schmidgall. Hallelujah - What a Savior!

Our thanks to Bro. Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend) and Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary Ann, Fairbury) for serving us in the work of the ministry.

We ask for God's comfort for our Bro. Bob Barth (Sis. Jean) in the loss of his dear father, Bro. Morris Barth (Sis. Ida Mae), of Roanoke.

Our sympathy is also shared with Bro. Bill Kaufman in the loss of his brother-in-law, Bro. Earl (Sis. Elsie) Zimmerman of Eureka.

On December 20, baby girl Caitlin Jani, was born into the family of Casey, Julie, Preston and Addison Matlock. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. Jan Gudeman (Silverton) and Rocky and Candy Matlock.

Congratulations to first-time parents, Bro. Blair and Sis. Natalie Neihofer, who welcomed baby girl Adela Grace, on January 4. Thankful for her safe arrival are first-time grandparents, Bro. Jeff and Sis. Sue Neihofer and Bro. Doug and Sis. Peg Hoerr (Washington).

We are thankful for God's mercy and we extend our congratulations to grandparents, Bro. Dana and Sis. Kris Taufer, and parents, Jed and Vicki Taufer, as they welcome into their hearts adopted baby girl Nima, from Nepal. The US and Nepal governments are in much need of our faithful prayer for orphaned children to not be left abandoned.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA **Pam Fritzenmeier**

Our thanks to Bro. Brad Bauer (Sis. Sandy, Tucson) for preaching the Word on December 26.

January 9 was our annual business meeting, where it was made known the names of the new trustees

and Sunday School teachers. Bro. Jim Rieker and Bro. Todd Hoerr will begin their terms as trustees. Outgoing trustees include Bros. Randy Kieser and Jack Hoerr. Newly elected Sunday School teachers include Bros. Kyle Eaton, Brandon Schock, and Gabe Stickling and Sisters Tarla Gibbs, Crystal Klopfenstein, and Joanna Kummer. Those finishing their terms include Bros. Dan Meister, Mike Kaisner and Mike Waibel, and Sisters Jill Gutwein, Cheryl Grassi and Debbie Steidinger. May God bless each of you for your willing service for our church, impacting lives both now and in the future.

We were blessed by the ministry of song at our monthly family hymn sing January 9. Thank you, Kindred Spirit, for your willingness to serve in this way.

May God comfort the family of John Hyler, who passed away January 4. He was the father of Sis. Shari Fehr.

Many are in need of prayers as they experience health issues. These include Sis. Aimee (Bro. Matt) Moser, Sis. Elsie Eilers, Sis. Ella Plattner, Sis. Barb Schafer, Sis. Mary Swadley, Sis. Louise (Bro. Wilbur) Triplett, May Thomas, Sis. Kathy (Bro. Dave) Obergfel, Bro. Mel (Sis. Margaret) Getz, Bro. David (Sis. Rita) Sauder, and Bro. Tim (Sis. Joan) Reinhard.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to thank everyone who showed kindness and love in all different ways to Bill and our family during his illness and since his passing away.

In Christ's love,
Joyce and the Waibel Family

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE **Linda Joos** **Gloria White**

On December 30, Mark Baer (Bro.

Larry and Sis. Vera) wed Tiffany Brown (Randy and Jean Brown) in Little Rock, AR. We pray God will be with them in their marriage.

January 2 was the wedding day of Bro. Grant Herrmann and Sis. Hannah Waibel in our Champaign congregation. Bro. Grant's parents are Bro. Dean and Sis. Dawn Herrmann. Sis. Hannah's parents are Bro. Brian and Sis. Wendy Waibel (Champaign, IL). We welcome them to our congregation and wish them God's rich blessings as they begin their life as one. Kendall Stoller (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Mary) was united in marriage to Hannah Passage (Chillicothe, IL), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Passage, on January 15. May God be with them in the building of their home.

We were blessed with many visiting ministers this month which included Bro. John Grimm (Columbus, OH), Bro. Ned Stoller (Alto, MI), Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), Bro. Daren Metz (Gridley, IL), Bro. Mike Rieker (Peoria, IL), Elder Bro. Steve Ringger (Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Howard Plattner (Alto, MI). We thank these dear brothers for ministering to our needs.

Our hospital patient this month is Sis. Cheryl Herrmann. We wish her God's healing hand.

God has blessed two families this month with baby girls. Bro. Darin and Sis. Keri Blunier had a precious little baby girl, Maleigha Rose, born January 5. Big siblings include Cody, Mallory, Clayton, Madison, Colton, Connor and Morgan. Thankful grandparents are Sis. Joyce Blunier (late Bro. Dale) and Bro. Howard and Sis. Mary Ann Herrmann. On January 17, Bro. David and Sis. Leann Berchtold added another girl to their family. Awaiting at home for Sophie Marie are Lynelle, Rhea, Claire, Cassie and Tessa. The grandparents are Bro. Lavern Berchtold (late Sis.

Joan) and Bro. Larry and Sis. Becky Endress (Bradford, IL). May God grant the parents much wisdom in raising their children.

Our annual business meeting was held Wednesday, January 5. We appreciate all the efforts of the brethren who have spent their time in the past years to serve our congregation. May the brethren who have taken on new responsibilities feel the support from us all.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE
Jamie Hodel
Judy Sauder

Psalm 116:15: "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." Our congregation is lifting up in prayer those who have said farewell to loved ones here on this earth. Bro. Morris Barth passed away on December 28, leaving behind his wife, Sis. Ida Mae; sons: Bro. Bob (Sis. Jean, Morton), Bro. Jim (Sis. Julie, Washington), Joe (Terri) and Bro. Mike (Sis. Joyce); his daughters: Sis. Sandy Beer (Bro. Lee, Milford) and Sis. Carol Feucht (Bro. Randy); and his sister, Sis. Marge Plattner (Bro. Russ). We also think of Bro. Bob Zimmerman and Sis. Mary Bradle (Bro. Bob) in the passing of their brother, Bro. Earl Zimmerman (Sis. Elsie, Eureka), on January 7.

As we sorrow with those who have lost loved ones, we also rejoice in the miracle of new life. On December 29, Delaney Kay came to bless the home of Bro. Nathan and Sis. Jamie Hodel. Also welcoming Delaney home are older sister, Haley, and grandparents, Bro. Brent and Sis. Marge Hodel, and Bro. Jim and Sis. Kay Knochel (Bay City, MI).

Bro. Tony and Sis. Katie Mueller welcomed another son, Brody Steven, born on January 11. Brody is welcomed home by older brother and sis-

ter, Jordan and Tess, and grandparents, Sis. Joyce Hodel, and Bro. Jim and Sis. Jan Mueller.

On January 15 we were thankful for the opportunity our Bible Class had to serve at Loaves & Fishes, a soup kitchen and food pantry in Peoria.

Bro. Steve Sauder (Tremont) was with us for the reading of the Memorandum on January 19.

We continue to lift up in prayer those with infirmities of the flesh. Our prayers are with Sis. Pat Sauder and Bro. Rich (Sis. Janet) Knepp.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT
Teresa Rowell
Janice Sauder

Our Tremont congregation wants to thank our visiting ministers from this past month: Bros. Glen Steiner (Winthrop, MN), DeWayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN), Fred Funk (Morton, IL) and Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL). God blessed us all, as they willingly gave of themselves in the service of the Lord.

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."

Genesis 2:24

Our congratulations to Derek and Meaghan (Van Dyke) Kaiser as they exchanged wedding vows in December of 2010. Derek is the son of Bro. Don and Sis. Sandy Kaiser. Our "best wishes" also to Drew Aberle and Lindsey Gilliland, as they plan for a May 21, 2011, wedding. Drew's parents are Bro. Andy and Sis. Chris Aberle and Lindsey's parents are Greg and Susan Gilliland of Monmouth, IL. May God continue to bless these two young couples!

On Christmas Day, our Sis. Wilma Aberle was able to 'look up at the

sound of the trumpet' calling her home. We rejoice in her victory, but extend our sympathy to her surviving family: her dear husband of many years, Bro. Emil; and two foster daughters, Cindy (Bro. Dick) Miller of Tremont and Sandra Johnson of Pekin, IL. We also want to pray for God's comfort on behalf of Sis. Amy (Bro. Ken) Koch, at the passing of her sister, Leona Susan Sisler of Groveland, IL.

Our church family has joined in praying for our loved ones who spent time in the hospital because of illness and/or surgery. These dear ones include: Sis. Jane (Bro. Tom) Bolliger, Bro. Joe (Sis. Marcella) Steiner, and Sis. Ann (Bro. Dave) Dill. What a benefit to each of our hearts, when we remember others and bring their needs before the Lord in earnest prayer. We continue to pray for God's presence and strength as they recover.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON
Linda Folkerts
Nancy Leman

Now thank we all our God,
 with heart and hands and voices,
 Who wondrous things has done,
 in whom the world rejoices,
 Who from our mother's arms
 has blest us on our way,
 with countless gifts of love,
 and still is ours today.

Zion's Harp #236

Beginning a new life as one in the Lord on January 2, was Bro. Kent Levy and Sis. Holly Plattner (Peoria). Their parents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue Levy (Indianapolis) and Bro. Howard and Sis. Kristen Plattner (Alto). May God bless this dear couple in their life together.

A precious baby girl, Presley Elizabeth, was welcomed into the lives of Bro. Will and Sis. Holly Kellenberger on December 30. Big brother, Trace, and grandparents, Bro. Randy and

Sis. Ruth Kellenberger and Bro. Lynne and Sis. Elaine Stoller (Gridley) are also excited to welcome her. On January 14, Logan and Ashley Hangartner (Morton) became first-time parents to a sweet baby boy, Taevin Reid. His happy grandparents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Karen Hangartner and Tom (Gwen) Hoerr and Becky (Dave) Fuelberth. We are prayerful for little Taevin, as he is having to spend some time in ICU due to low oxygen levels.

Our congregation has been blessed with several visiting ministers this past month. They include Bro. Brent Kellenberger (Sis. Beth, Kansas City), Bro. Steve Stieglitz (Sis. Jane, Leo), and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha). We thank them for their service in the Lord.

We extend our sincere sympathy to those in our congregation who have lost loved ones recently. Bro. Jim Barth (Sis. Julie) lost his father, Bro. Morris Barth (Roanoke), and Sis. Ann Hofstetter (Bro. Kevin) also lost her father, Bro. Jesse Huber (Fairbury). May these families feel our love and prayers.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

**Kim Meyer
Suzie Fiechter**

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, the everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”

Isaiah 9:6

Emmanuel! God with us! How can we fail to rejoice at Christmas, the celebration of our Savior's birth?! Hope is born: for without Christmas, there can be no Easter!

We thank Elder Bros. Lynn

Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo) and John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia, Latty) for worshipping with us on December 19. We were doubly blessed on that day as we also enjoyed our Sunday School's Christmas program.

Our love and sympathy are extended to Bro. Chip and Sis. Angie Topp on the death of his mother, Jewell, and to Bro. Eugene and Sis. Elizabeth Krizan on the death of her father, Henrik Zimmer of Pogany, Hungary. Sis. Clara Gerber has also gone Home. We lift up her family in prayer: Bro. Wilmer and Bro. Darryl and Sis. Jinny Gerber and their family.

As the angels in Heaven rejoice, we join them in praising God that Joanna Gerber (Bro. Nathan and Sis. LeAnn) has turned her back on the world to begin her walk with Him. May God bless and guide her as she humbly seeks Him!

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

Psalms 127:3

Praise God for the miracle of new life! Sunny Elizabeth was born on December 17 to Bro. Clint, Sis. Amy, Hudson and Cline Gerber. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Keith and Sis. Kay Gerber and Bro. Don and Sis. Suzie Fiechter. First-time parents, Bro. Matt and Sis. Julie Freed, welcomed Kayla Jane on December 19. Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy Freed and Bro. Larry and Sis. Deb Reinhard are excited for their new granddaughter. On December 22, little Clay Brian arrived to bless the lives of Bro. Travis and Sis. Alyssa Fiechter. Grandparents, Bro. Brian and Sis. Joy Tonner and Bro. Doug and Sis. Jill Fiechter, rejoice as their families grow.

God has led Bro. Rex Gerber (Sis. LaVon - dec.) and Sis. Cheryl Gerber (Bro. Don and Sis. Mary) to be mar-

ried. We pray He will continue to direct and bless them!

Our prayers follow many of our loved ones as they serve the Lord away from our home congregation. Bro. Bill and Sis. Lou Ann Rager and Bro. Josh Fiechter are currently in Haiti for a month, along with Bro. Rich and Sis. Amber Pfister, who are serving long term there. Bro. Chad Fiechter has traveled to Bulgaria for mission work. Bro. Stan and Sis. Genny Isch are spending 3 months in Nashville, where they are coordinating work teams doing World Relief Construction. Sis. Cassie Bertsch is traveling to Japan to serve the Lord and the Klaus family. Many have recently traveled to Renosa as well. We also continue to pray for our Bros. Seth Gerber and Joel Rinkenberger in Magdalena and Bro. Kevin and Sis. Erica Kipfer in Ethiopia. We know that we don't need to journey far from home to obey the Lord and minister to others. He has given each of us a sphere of influence that He desires us to fill with His presence, by being faithful witnesses in word and deed. May He grant us the grace, desire and courage to saturate our worlds with Him!

As our congregation begins the Titus Bible Study, we pray that we will be diligent in seeking God's will, hearing His voice and obeying His Word!

INDIANA BLUFFTON NORTH Jessie Longenberger Amy Moser

“Come now, let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”

Isaiah 1:18

Our congregation lost a dear sister this month. Sis. Lorene Geisel went

to be with her Lord on December 10.

Sis. Patti Troxel (Bro. Dick) unexpectedly lost her mother, Hilda. Your prayers for the family are appreciated during this time of loss.

Sis. Cindy (Bro. Brett) Shorb, Sis. Rhonda (Bro. Ed) Maller and Bro. Jeff (Sis. Val) Lemman lost a brother this month. Matt Lemman passed away in New York. Let us be prayerful for the family during this time.

Dan Graham, son of Sis. Mona Craighead, started his repentance. Let us be prayerful for him as he starts his walk with the Lord.

Bro. Lucas Gerber is engaged to Sis. Andrea Neust of Latty. Lucas is the son of Bro. Steve and Sis. Gayla Gerber. We wish them God's richest blessings as they plan for their lives together.

On December 12 we were treated to the Sunday School Christmas program. The children did a wonderful job sharing the good news about the birth of our Savior! It was good to be reminded again of the reason for the season through the simple message of song. We thank the children, teachers, song leaders and parents for their dedication and hard work.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

Mildred Clauss

Jacki Huber

At times we feel discouraged when we hear of and observe so many sinful things happening in our world. Our best defense against evil is to keep Satan from infiltrating our own attitudes and by doing the work Jesus asks us to do: ministering love and kindness and compassion to those around us!

Our congregation was blessed to have Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington) as our visiting minister on New Year's Eve and we thank him for sharing with us.

Bro. Chad and Sis. Pam Huber and children have returned to their mis-

sionary duties in Jamaica after spending time here with their families and in our congregation. We pray God will bless and keep them.

Bro. Les Kaeb recently accompanied a group on a mission trip to Reynosa, Mexico, to assist with "Isaiah 55" project. Bro. Chris Huber led a work team to Imurus, Mexico, and we thank the Lord for safe travels and for blessing the efforts of these loved ones.

Several from our congregation have been in the hospital: Bro. Harold Fritz, Bro. Jim Bogart, Bro. Andre Neihouser, Sis. Sandi Ward and Sis. Carolyn Levy. We pray for each of them to reach a full recovery.

We extend sympathy to Kevin and Heather (Gutwein) Cox at the death of his father, Donald Cox. Sis. Sandi Ward's mother, Alma Long, has passed away and we also extend sympathy to her and her husband, Bro. Roger, and their family. Surely the Lord is our Comfort and our Strength!

We recently elected the following:

Sunday School teachers: Bro. Earl Johns, Bro. Phil Lemman, Sis. Karel Anliker

Church Trustee: Bro. Phil Gutwein

Fellowship Center Trustee: Bro. Dale Gudeman

Missionary Committee: Bro. Dave Metzger

Ushers: Bro. Andrew Huber, Bro. Nick Wuethrich, Bro. Larry Lemman
Parkview Haven Board: Bro. Roger Overmyer

On January 23 our congregation hosted Invite-A-Friend Sunday. It was good to have numerous visitors, including 4 ministers: Bro. Mark Wettstein (Sis. Karen) and Bro. Tom Troxel (Sis. Luann), both from La-Crosse, Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis) and Bro. Neal Widmer (Sis. Kris, West Lafayette). We were encouraged and edified by

their timely messages and the closing statement of the afternoon service was the words of a beloved hymn, "Surely the Presence of the Lord is in this Place". What a blessing!

INDIANA INDIANAPOLIS

**Gail Bradford
Penny Schroder**

On Sunday, January 9, we joyfully worshipped in our newly remodeled church building. It was good to be "home" and so thankful for God's faithfulness during the past months. Our Sunday worship services now begin at 9:45. This time is different than the time printed in the Apostolic Christian Churches and Ministers book.

We rejoice with Bro. Tom and Sis. Kathy Freed on the arrival of their grandchild, Kayla Jane Freed. Kayla was born on December 19 to Bro. Matt and Sis. Julie Freed of our Bluffton congregation.

It is always a joy to welcome new families to our congregation. Bro. Dave and Sis. Jan Roberts recently relocated to the Indianapolis area from Peoria. We welcome them and their two children, Grace and Henry.

Our annual business meeting was held recently at church. We are thankful to those who have served in specific positions within the past year and appreciate those who have agreed to fill the roles for this year. The new positions include: Trustee – Bro. Darl Schieler, Treasurer – Bro. Jim Bucher, Usher – Bro. Chad Hoerr, Missions Coordinator – Bro. Eric Franz, Sound System Coordinator – Bro. Scott Klopfenstein, Silver Lining Correspondent – Sis. Sandy Lichtle and Kitchen Committee – Sisters Peg Sauder and Cindy Schieler.

We appreciate the efforts of the following brothers who shared God's Word with us this past month: Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Sis. Jeni, Bluffton,

IN) and Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL).

INDIANA, LACROSSE

Bethany Johnson
Julie Rocke

As we reflect on the past year and even on the past month, we have seen many changes in our congregation. There have been 6 births, 2 weddings, 2 baptisms and one death. God's Word is still going forth in truth and strength, seeking hearts are finding joy in repentance, and God is continuing to lead and guide us by His Spirit and power.

Jeremy Johnson has chosen to turn his heart to the Lord in repentance. We are thankful that another soul has found the way of truth.

"Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD:"

Psalm 127:3

Bro. Brendon and Sis. Sharla Messner were blessed with a newborn baby boy this month. With joy, we welcome little Zachary Roland into our congregation. His loving grandparents are Bro. Dean and Sis. Wanda Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie Heinold.

And even as we have loved ones joining us, we have several leaving. Sis. Michelle Steidl has followed God's direction to move back to the Akron, Ohio, area for employment and to be near her family. We enjoyed an evening of fellowship and singing as we bid farewell to this very loved sister. Others that are leaving for a time are Sis. Bertha Carrillo de Gonzalez and Sis. Gloria Gonzalez, as they have come to the end of their visit here. We have so enjoyed having them with us for a short period and wish them God's blessings as they head back to their respective homes. Sis. Mary Ann Feller has left to spend several months in Florida. May God

watch over her and keep her as we all look forward to her return in the spring.

Several visiting ministers gave of their time and talents in teaching and preaching God's Word this month. Bros. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI), Lucas Frank (Sis. Crystal, Detroit, MI) and Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA) allowed themselves to be used on our behalf.

We failed to mention Sis. Ruth Elcock was involved in an automobile accident last month. We are so thankful that she was spared great harm and our prayers continue with her as she recovers. Sis. Connie Knobloch, Sis. Ruth Heinold, and Sis. Carolyn Levy each spent some time in the hospital for various reasons. We're thankful that they are each home at this time.

May God continue to be with each of you and with us through the coming year. May we live for Him, seeking out opportunity to do good and to serve others in His name.

INDIANA, LEO

Kirby Reutter

"Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular"

I Corinthians 12:27

There were several important changes within the Lord's Body this past month. First, our dear Sis. Natalie Stieglitz has accepted a thirteen-week stint as a Traveling Nurse in southern California. Natalie can be contacted at her new address: La Jolla Villas, Unit 251; 120 West Malan Street; Brawley, California, 92227. We will certainly miss Natalie's warm smile over the next three months! "Wherefore we labor, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him" (II Corinthians 5:9).

Secondly, the Leo congregation's

annual business meeting was held in January. New candidates were nominated and balloted for the following positions: Kitchen Committee, Bible Fund, Special Fund, Trustee, and Usher. We are thankful for those who have served in these capacities in the past, and are thankful for those who are willing to accept new responsibilities. We are also thankful for a great God who provides for His Body at all levels! "For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another" (Romans 12:4-5).

Thirdly, we recently became privy to the betrothal of our dear Bro. Jeremy Stieglitz and Sis. Maria Tucker from our beloved congregation in West Lafayette, IN. Jeremy's parents are Elder Bro. Lynn and Sis. Leonda Stieglitz, and Maria's parents are Dan and Sis. Barb Tucker from our beloved congregation in Mansfield, OH. "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh" (Genesis 2:23-25).

Fourthly, the upcoming testimony and baptism of our dear friend and convert Tashi Bent was also recently announced from the Leo pulpit. Tashi is from Jamaica but spent four years in the greater Fort Wayne area as a college student, and worshipped with the Leo flock during this time period. Although Tashi has since returned to Jamaica, she still regards the Leo congregation as her home church! "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:38).

Fifthly, we were recently exhorted again to remember Bro. Zach and Sis. Jenny Bertsch in our prayers. Zach continues to receive medical treat-

ment for his diagnosis of cancer, including another major surgery. Zach used to be a full-time employee at Gateway Woods, and Jenny remains employed on a part-time basis. Both worshipped with us here in Leo before their recent relocation to the Bluffton community. "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2).

INDIANA, MILFORD

**Janie Price
Paula Haab**

We closed out the year with another church family laying to rest a loved one. Sis. Sandy Beer's father, Bro. Morris Barth (Roanoke), passed away. We pray for God's comfort for Bro. Lee and Sis. Sandy and their immediate family, all of Milford.

We started out the New Year with a more joyous occasion. Loren Schock and Darcy Price were married on January 1. We wish them much happiness and many blessings. Their parents are Elder Bro. Doug and Sis. Clara Schock (Bloomfield) and Bro. Phil and Sis. Janie (Milford). It was a blessed weekend for us. New Year's eve, Bro. Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend) had a few words for the couple and our congregation. We welcomed Elder Bro. Doug to our pulpit on Sunday and the others who stayed to be with us. Taking part in the service from the pews were retired Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Sis. Shirley, Morton) and retired ministering Bro. Russel Wuthrich (Bloomfield). We thank all who came.

Sis. Ruth Beer is back in the nursing home. Sis. Mayedean Lehman was able to go back to her assisted living apartment. Sis. Kate Price is able to come to church some Sundays. We would think these sisters have had a "bad" year, but they attest that God is good. They covet our prayers.

We met on January 6 to fill some expiring offices that help keep our

church in good order. New Trustee - Bro. Fred Beer; Bible Class Teacher - Bro. Dean Lehman; other Sunday School teachers - Bros. Rob Schlipf and John Frauhiger, Sis. Pat Beer and Sis. Elise Maller. Others that will take on new responsibilities are Bros. Dick Steffen, Stan Wuthrich and Bob Bowerman, Sisters Kathy Schlipf, Sandy Beer, Martha Haab, and Janie Price. We pray for God to guide all of them and richly bless those who have fulfilled their terms.

Every Sunday is a blessing when we are able to come together. There were added blessings on January 16 when the Drayer family and Psalm 100 (Bluffton North) worshipped with us. Bro. Tim (Sis. Gwen) Drayer lent himself in expounding of God's Word. We appreciated all of them and may God reward them in the time to come.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Jenni Honegger
Marcella Tyler**

"Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."

Luke 15:10

We rejoice with the angels that Nelson Knobloch (Bro. Neil and Sis. June) has found the grace and humility to grab hold of the salvation that Christ offers through His blood. We will be prayerful for Nelson as he begins this new walk of life, and we are mindful of our responsibility to set a good example for him of what it means to be a Brother in the faith.

We recently held our annual church business meeting. It is always interesting for me to hear the reports from each of our church stewards on how they have handled the various funds that are entrusted to them. It reminds me that each one of us will someday be asked by the Lord to

stand and give an account of what we as individuals have done with the gifts He has given us as well. Several brothers and sisters were elected to new positions. We thank each outgoing one for their service and dedication, and we will be in prayerful support as each of the newly elected begins their term.

We wish to thank our visiting ministers, Bro. Todd Graf (Sis. Lydia, Akron, OH) and Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL) for opening and sharing the Word with us this past month. Elder Bro. Ron was with us for a New Year's Eve service and we were reminded that we must keep our eyes on God because He is the One who is in control of all things, not us. We should "relax" because He cares deeply about us and is more than capable of taking care of us. Are we willing to trust and to let Him?

The Midwinter Conference is coming up soon, and we want to remember to be prayerful for our Elders as they meet. As we get closer and closer to Judgement Day, the attacks on faith and truth in our society seem to grow - in scope, in ferocity, and in subtlety. How grateful we can be that we have faithful shepherds who desire to guard our flock from this onslaught, and how very necessary for them that we consistently and fervently uphold them in prayer!

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Natalie Virkler

It's a new year full of new beginnings. A fresh start. What are you resolved to change in this new year? When I think about what I'd like to improve in my life, this familiar verse comes to mind: "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." (Romans 12:2). I pray that God will give me grace to align my mind

with His will that I might be a better servant for Him.

We have very little to report this month as things are pretty quiet around here! We are thankful to have Bro. Bob Beebe back safely from a recent trip to Haiti. We pray God blesses Bro. Bob's work there as well as all the many others serving in Haiti.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Marguerite Hoerr

Writing news for the Silver Lining this month is difficult because we have not been able to attend our Valpo church since the first part of December. Needless to say, we are both ready to be back with our little flock, and our medical prognosis looks as if that will be possible.

Our Valpo congregation is always grateful to Bro. Todd Feller, retired from the ministry, when he assists our ministering Bro. Mike Thomas at times when he's asked. Willingness to cooperate is a beautiful gift for the person who asks a favor. It's a gift for our church, too.

I do feel led to report a happy occurrence that has taken place with two of our loved former Valpo folks. Bro. Ed Lester, Jr. and Sis. Tricia are now members of the South Bend congregation, but to us will always seem like they're part of our Valpo group, too. They are in Medellin, Colombia, S.A. at this time and are in the process of adopting two sons, 3 and 8 years old, whom they will bring home with them in the coming month. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Ed Lester, Sr. and Sis. Caroline of our Valpo church. We rejoice with the entire family.

Sis. Karen Feller (Bro. Todd) was hospitalized this past month for a surgical procedure and has reported in a conversation with her that she is feeling much better and is so grateful to God. We are too.

We feel love and sympathy for Dale and Sherry Meiss, also Stacia and Anthony in the loss of their uncle, Lavern Meiss. Lavern lived next door to Bro. Rollie and Sis. Jo in LaCrosse. Both brothers have now gone to meet their Lord within a few months time. God blessed them with long life and good years.

Our congregation was happy to help celebrate Bro. Art Heinold's 95th birthday with phone calls and cards. Bro. Art's optimistic attitude and cheerful manner make him very loved and essential in our congregation. We have to say it again, "Happy Birthday, Art! Enjoy your time with the Ft. Myer's congregation."

INDIANA WEST LAFAYETTE

Beth Tonner Katie Widmer

We are always grateful for the visiting brothers who have served on the pulpit this past month as well as the love and encouragement of our Elder Bro. Curt Frank.

Many members of the Purdue Young Group as well as our local Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorene Furrer, daughter Amber Furrer, Bro. Andre Gutwein, Bro. Brad Widmer and Sis. Katie Widmer traveled to Reynosa, Mexico over Christmas break. They were involved in construction for the Isaiah 55 Ministry. We are thankful for their safe return and are reminded to continue to pray for and serve those in need. "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." (Isaiah 55:11)

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Donita Edelman Sasha Kyburz

Wolcott has had some visiting

ministers in our midst this past month. They have been Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IN) and Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Sis. Nancy, Elgin, IL). We extend our humble thanks and wish the Lord's blessings on these two brothers for lending themselves in the service of our Lord.

We recently heard of the engagement of Tyler Bryant (Mike and Sis. Nancy Scott) to Megan Johnson. They both are residing in the St. Louis area. May this dear couple look to God as the threefold cord in their upcoming marriage.

Sis. Brittany Gerber has returned to Wolcott from Las Cruces, NM, where she worked for the past few months. We extend a warm "welcome back" to Sis. Brittany. We missed you and are glad to see you assembling with us again.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Levi (Bud) Klopfenstein. Bud went to his eternal rest on January 16. Bud has many nieces and nephews that attend the Wolcott congregation. Bud also has a surviving sister, Sis. Wilma Knapp, of Eureka, IL. May the Lord comfort each one.

Sis. Marge Hofstetter at the time of this writing is spending some time in the hospital. We pray for the Lord's healing for Sis. Marge so she may be assembling with us again.

Our annual business meeting was held in January. We would like to take this opportunity to say a special thank you to those leaving office. Those not on the various committees or teaching Sunday school do not always understand the time and effort involved by those who are. We appreciate all that you have done and we extend our support and love to those who have assumed new responsibilities. Special thank you to Sis. Lynn Blume, who for the past several years was a Silver Lining correspondent. Welcome to Sis. Sasha Kyburz as she

has accepted this responsibility.

IOWA, BLOOMFIELD
Christy Wiegand

“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.”

Isaiah 26:3

We were thankful to gather together on Saturday, January 8, to listen to the Memorandum. Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Sis. Nancy, Elgin, IL) was with us to assist Bro. Doug. We thank them for their efforts and pray for willing, humble hearts to apply the words spoken to our lives. We also thank ministering Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove) for being with us on Christmas and the day after and ministering unto us.

It seems like there is a verse that is very appropriate this month for our congregation.

“Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.”

Gen. 2:24

The wedding of Loren Schock and Darcy Price was held in Milford, IN, on January 1. We rejoice with this newly married couple and pray that they can continue to seek the Lord's guidance in their repentance. Parents are Elder Bro. Doug and Sis. Clara Schock and Bro. Phil and Sis. Jane Price (Milford, IN).

We had two engagements in our congregation recently. Jodi Wettstein and Eric Zimmerman are engaged and are planning a March wedding. Parents are Bro. Jon and Sis. Rita Wettstein and Bro. Ben and Sis. Kathy Zimmerman (Congerville, IL). Bro. Daniel Maibach and Sis. Amber Wettstein's (Congerville, IL) engagement was announced on Janu-

ary 9. They are also planning a March wedding. Bro. Tim and Sis. Mary Maibach and Bro. Denny and Sis. Emily Wettstein (Congerville, IL) are their parents. We are thankful for these couples and our prayers continue with them as they make plans for their weddings and lives united as one.

IOWA, BURLINGTON
Marilyn Anderson
Karla Gerst

This past month we welcomed visiting ministering brothers once again. Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville) and Bros. Scott Wegman (Taylor, MO) and John Steiner (Oakville) shared the Word with our congregation. May the Lord bless them for their labors.

We also had our annual meeting this month. Bros. Michael Steiner and Richard Taeger will be the new Trustees, and Sis. Mary Knapp will join the Kitchen Committee. May God bless those who have given of their time and efforts to carry out these duties.

IOWA, ELGIN
Maria Rocke
Brianna Strahm

On November 13, Michael Schupbach (Bro. John and Sis. Janet) was united in marriage to Nikki Wittmayer (Kreg Wittmayer and Rob and Kelly Westervelt). We wish them many blessings in their life together.

Jaelyn Butikofer (Aaron and Andrea) spent several days in the hospital over the Christmas holiday. Our prayers are with her that her health will continue to improve. Bro. Lon and Sis. Sandy Butikofer are her grandparents.

We held our annual business meeting at the beginning of the New Year. We thank Bro. Phil Waldbeser for his labors as trustee these past

three years. Bro. Dean Rocke was elected to fill his position.

We were blessed as we sang Christmas carols to Bro. Bert and Sis. Beulah Butikofer and their fellow residents at the Good Samaritan Home. Although the season had recently passed, many expressed their thankfulness for our coming, as the words of these hymns bring such a joy and peace to the hearts of men.

This month, Bro. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA), Bro. Jacob Kuntz (Sis. Brooke, Croghan-Naumburg, NY) and Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA) visited our congregation and brought forth God's Word of Truth. May God give each sufficient grace to continue in the labor.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE
Laura Funk

Visiting ministers this past month include Bro. Ron Joos (Bloomfield, IA), Bro. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Clint Beyer (Sabetha, KS). We are thankful for the message God delivers through these Brothers.

Our congregation was able to celebrate Jesus' birthday many times over the past holiday season. Was the true content of the programs and singing realized by the audience?

His name shall be the Counsellor,
The mighty Prince of Peace,
Of all earth's kingdoms Conqueror,
Whose reign shall never cease.

Tabernacle Hymns #245 vs. 4

You might be the only Bible some people read.

IOWA, IOWA CITY
Diana Butikofer

This past month Bro. Bruce and Sis. Bonita Frank (Cissna, IL) and Bro. Gary and Sis. Edie Anliker (Elgin, IL) have blessed us with their visits. We appreciate these brothers'

willingness to expound on the Word of God.

IOWA, LESTER
Polly Metzger
Gloria Moser

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 #13

Our congregation was blessed with the birth of five precious lambs. Bro. Benji and Sis. Leah Kellenberger welcomed Kameron Dean on December 21. Siblings, Larinda, Weston and Clayton, and grandparents, Bro. Dennis and Sis. Shirley Kellenberger and Bro. Sid and Sis. Cheryl Messner (Morris, MN), are happy for another child to love. Amyah Unique was born to Angela Knobloch on December 23. Brad and Sis. Linda Klostergaard are her grandparents. On December 29, Josie Marie was born to Bro. Ethan and Sis. Trixie Metzger. Erica and Ellie are the helpful big sisters. The thankful grandparents are Bro. Wes and Sis. Esther Moser and Bro. Harv and Sis. Mary Metzger. Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cari Knapp, Nathan, Tara, Angie and Erica welcomed Logan Charles into their family on January 6. Bro. Chuck and Sis. Vicki Leuthold and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gay Knapp (Congerville, IL) are the loving grandparents. Brecken Lee was born on January 14 to first-time parents, Bro. Chet and Sis. Cassie Mogler. Bro. Tom and Sis. Deb Metzger and Bro. Brian and Sis. Bev Mogler are delighted with a new little grandson. May God provide much wisdom and grace to raise these dear little ones in His ways.

We always appreciated visiting ministers who are willing to share the

gospel message with us. This past month our visiting ministers were Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), Bro. Larry Bahr (Ft. Scott, KS) and Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Oakville, IA).

Many of our church family have been facing afflictions of the physical body. Those recently hospitalized have been: Sis. Marge Mogler, Samantha Besonen (Brant), Taryn Besonen (Brant and Samantha), Bro. Ezra Knobloch (Sis. Marie), Sis. Lauretta Knobloch, Malinda Oleson (Kevin and Janet), Sis. Dawn Knobloch (Bro. Stan) and Sis. Carol Cordrey (Ray). Our prayer is that God will provide healing and relief according to His will.

What a treasure I have in this wonderful peace,
 Buried deep in the heart of my soul:
 So secure that no power can take it away,
 While the years of eternity roll.
Gospel Hymns #746

Abby Warner (Bro. Stan and Sis. Sue) has found that precious gift of peace. We look forward to hearing her testimony in the near future.

We want to welcome Bro. Larry and Sis. Emily Peterson who have moved back to our area from Iowa City.

Recently we heard the engagement of Chalsea Knobloch (Bro. Vern and Sis. Chalea) and Tristan Kuenzi (Bro. Todd and Sis. Melissa, Silverton, OR). May God bless them as they make plans for their wedding.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Art and Sis. Kris Metzger as they grieve the loss of their mother, Virginia Zeke, who passed into eternity on December 29 at the age of 81. May God comfort their hearts.

The annual summer church services at Clyde Park, Montana, will be held the weekend of June 25-26, 2011. Please contact Bro. Wes Moser with any questions, or to respond with in-

tent to attend. It is helpful to have a count of those planning to attend.

Our New Year's Eve service was cancelled due to inclement weather. The 2010 statistics were shared the following Sunday which included: 16 births, 5 deaths and 7 baptisms. In this past year there have been joys and blessings, sorrows and tears. The new year, 2011, stretches before us as a road not yet traveled, but we know we will have a safe journey if we put our faith in an All-knowing God and let Him do the leading.

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Sharla Wiegand

Bringing forth God's Word to us on Christmas Day and Sunday, December 26, were Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Dan Stoller (Rockville, CT).

We appreciated the ministry of Bro. Phil Schulz (Burlington, IA) on January 2.

Ministering Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Eureka, IL) visited us on January 9 and we thank him for being God's willing servant.

IOWA, WEST BEND
Janet Fehr
Leona Fehr

"The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivereth them out of them all."

Psalms 34:17,19

Through the holiday season, we had three hospital patients, all of which were also surgical patients. Kari Fehr (Bro. Scott and Sis. Leona) was hospitalized for pneumonia with complications; Bro. Bruce (Sis. Audrey) Messner had open heart surgery to have work done on two valves, one of which was replaced; and Sis. Ruth

(Bro. Kurt) Zaugg had surgery to repair a broken ankle. We are thankful that all of these loved ones have returned home and are making good progress in their recovery.

We felt blessed to have Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN) here to share God's Holy Word on December 26, as well as Bro. Beirne Messner (Sis. Joyce, Morris, MN) on December 31. We appreciate their service for the Lord.

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

II Timothy 4:2

Our prayers of comfort surrounded Bro. Josh and Sis. Lainey Banwart in the loss of her grandfather, Bro. Earl Zimmerman (Eureka, IL). May all the families experiencing sorrow feel the love of the brethren.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Jana Klaus

Greetings of love from Tokyo. The Lord has already brought us safely into the new year, but I did not report on our Christmas activities yet. The second Sunday in December, a group of around 20 of us, including children and adults, went to sing for the third time at a nursing home very near our church. As was the first two times, we all came away feeling there was a mutual blessing and we can only thank God. The next Sunday, December 19, was our special Christmas service in the morning, followed by the Sunday School program in the afternoon. In addition to all the Sunday School children singing a few songs and putting on a simple, but well done play of the Christmas story, several adults also participated in the program through song or story. As is typical, the church was more full than most Sundays, and we pray many hearts were

touched by the simple, yet extremely meaningful story of the Babe of Bethlehem, King of our lives. The program was followed by the usual big Christmas potluck supper. The Thursday previous, December 16, was the Christmas gathering for the local ladies who attend our monthly ladies meeting. It's usually held at church, but Sis. Carrie Ito (Bro. Akihiro, Shioda) opened their new home so the ladies could see it. Elder Bro. Akito Inoue came with his wife, Sis. Marie, to have a special Christmas message and answer any questions the ladies may have, which they did have many. Please pray for these dear ladies who come quite regularly to this once a month ladies meetings that their understanding would be increased and their spiritual eyes opened.

We are so thankful to announce that Caleb Klaus, son of Bro. Andrew and Sis. Jana, has started on his Christian walk, professing his desire to follow God and his need of a Saviour. The Lord was very gracious to him, giving him the grace to surrender at a very difficult time in his life. Last fall, he had been diagnosed with atrial fibrillation, an irregular and typically very fast heartbeat, which required heart surgery using several catheters through a vein up to his heart. This surgery was performed in early December, appearing at first to be successful, but a week or so afterwards, he took a turn for the worse and ended up in ICU for 5 days requiring a second emergency surgery. It was during that time that the Lord spoke to his heart and by His grace, he answered the call. We know the Lord was very gracious to him in more than one way, guiding the doctors' hands to treat a difficult area of his heart in a high risk surgery (via catheters again thankfully) to heal his heart physically, but then even more importantly, spiritually. We cannot express adequately our thanks and apprecia-

tion to the many, many who prayed in both Japan and America, and to our living God who chose to honor those prayers. May glory and honor be to His name.'

We heartily welcome Sis. Cassie Bertsch (Bluffton, IN) as a part of our congregation for 6 weeks as she stays with the Klaus family to be a Christian friend to their children and experience Japan. May God richly bless her for her servant heart!

We beseech the Lord for His hand of blessing and mercy upon our little church in the new year, 2011.

KANSAS, BERN

Sheri Edelman

Jill Meyer

We welcome Bro. Dan, Sis. Tamra and little Kaeb Caughlin to our congregation. May they feel at home and the peace of God as they make Bern their new home.

Scott and Valerie and their children, Cayden and Carson Edelman, welcome Tate Steven to their family! The happy and loving grandparents are Bro. Rod and Sis. Joleen Edelman. May God give them wisdom as they raise their boys!

A special thank you is extended to Bro. Jeff Bahler (Sis. Heidi, Wolcott, IN) as well as Bro. Dave Hartter (Sis. Beth, Sabetha, KS) for ministering God's Word to us this past month. Hopefully, we have been attentive and willing to let God work in our lives!

Sis. Lois Hartter (Bro. Steve) has been in our prayers. She underwent major surgery and is now at home recovering.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Martin Hohulin Sr.

We had our first snowfall here in Southeast Kansas on January 10. While a few schools closed and roads were somewhat slick, we did not expe-

rience the severe storms experienced by other church areas. We are grateful for God's protection during this season.

The Sunday school children presented their Christmas program to the congregation on the evening of December 19. As expected, they put on an excellent program, and we were blessed to again hear the story of our Lord and Saviour's birth. The Brothers and Sisters who teach these children are special individuals. It is apparent the children consider them to be not just their teachers, but also their friends.

Levi Arnold, husband of Alyssa (Banwart) and son-in-law of Bro. Don and Sis. Aleta Banwart, is traveling to Africa to treat the needy in that area. Levi is a medical student and will be joining other doctors on the mission trip.

Death takes no holiday. Since the last writing, Sis. Julie Bahr (Bro. Larry) lost her uncle, Bro. Art Leuthold, of Lester, IA. Sis. Betty Lemons (Bro. Bob) lost her brother, Jack Miller, from Florida. We offer our sympathy to these two Sisters.

As we enter the New Year, we pray for many converts to add to His following. We know peace and happiness await those who avail themselves. We ask for divine healing for the afflicted and peace and safety in our Lord. Finally, we pray for our newly elected officials at all levels of government that they will heed the Word of God as they make decisions which affect us all. Blessed be the name of the Lord.

KANSAS, KIOWA
Janice Bahr
Jenny Stewart

I Thank Thee, Lord

I see the sun is peeping through the trees along the way,
 I thank Thee, Lord, for eyes to see the

beauty of each day.
 I hear the birds at early morn, like music in my ears,
 I thank Thee once again, Dear Lord, that I can see and hear.
 The flowers bloom along the path, their fragrance in the air.
 Oh, thank Thee, Lord, - the breath of spring - I smell it everywhere.
 I feel the raindrops on my face or gentle breeze that blows,
 And nature speaks to me again as streams of water flow.
 I taste the fruit upon the trees, another gift of love;
 To see, to hear, to smell and taste are gifts from Thee above.
 I feel the love surrounding me from those You send my way.
 There are no words that say enough, but "Thank Thee, Lord" today.

The above poem by Gertrude B. McClain brought to mind so many things we have to be thankful for, that I just decided to share it. As we just started a brand new year, may we take the time to say "Thank Thee, Lord" for all the wonderful, beautiful and free blessings God shares with us every day if we will only take a moment to open our eyes, our ears, our senses to enjoy them!

Just a note to tell the travelers who have taken the time (we know we are out of the way) to swing through Kiowa to share a Sunday with us. Thank you! You made our day!

There has been a lot of illness in our area during this past month and though not hospitalized, many have been absent from our fellowship. May God send His healing touch to our loved ones. We love and miss each one!

We are looking forward to starting the tapes from the Conference in the near future.

KANSAS
LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Sarah Somerhalder
 Our annual business meeting was

held Sunday afternoon, January 9. May we prayerfully support those who have been elected to serve new terms.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Cory Metzger (Sis. Jodi, Wichita, KS), Bro. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend, IA) and Bro. Jeff Bahr (Sis. Janice, Kiowa, KS). We appreciate their willingness in ministering God's Word.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Bro. Lloyd Luthi as he spent some time in the hospital.

KANSAS, SABETHA
Carrie Grimm
Sally Strahm

We are thankful for our convert Jed Hartter who has found peace with God and man and is awaiting baptism. His parents are Bro. David and Sis. Beth Hartter.

Ministering Bro. John Baumgartner (Sis. Lori, Bern, KS) and Bro. Jeff Bahler (Sis. Heidi, Wolcott, IN) were with us this past month. God bless you for your labors of love.

Our hospital patients this month were Bro. Calvin Weiss (Sis. Dena), Sis. Marla Beyer (Bro. Korbin) and twins Ezekial and Elijah Beyer (Bro. Korbin and Sis. Marla). May God grant healing to each one.

Our congregation gathered together for Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve services. As we begin a new year, may we look to our Saviour in all things.

Sheep in His Pasture
 We are the sheep of Thy pasture
 And oh, how we need Thee to guide,
 Lord God of heaven, our Shepherd,
 Gather us close to Thy side.
 The pasture we're in is a desert,
 Show us Thy "springs by the way,"
 How precious Thy life-giving water
 Thou givest us day unto day.

The darkness, the conflicts of earth-life

Confuse us, the sheep of Thy hand,
Oh, let the light of Thy truth, Lord
Shine through this wilderness land.
Thy will is not darkness or conflict,
Thy way is the pathway of peace;
When we walk in the light of Thy
presence,
The powers of evil must cease.

A world of danger surrounds us,
Dark chasms on every side,
Sin's briars reach out to ensnare us,
Lord Jesus, we need Thee to guide!
Thy spirit to keep us from straying,
Thy hand to reach down from above,
And bring us - the sheep of Thy pas-
ture
To rest in the fold of Thy love.
—Unknown

KANSAS, WICHITA **Emma Miller**

We have much need for prayer for the many who are afflicted here in our Wichita church. Each time Bro. Philip Bowers is wheeled into the assembly room it seems to be another miracle that he smiles through his afflictions. I think of the song that contains these words: "Whisper a prayer in the morning, whisper a prayer at noon..." Those words are meant for us so we will not neglect our duty to remember Phil in prayer.

Then we recently learned of the misfortune that fell on Steve and Jeanie Langhofer as they were traveling to join other family members for a special function. They were following a truck which suddenly jack-knifed. The jaws of life were needed to remove Steve from the wreckage. Not only did they need prayers then, but they will continue to need our prayers throughout the healing process.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON **Barb Huber**

"Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in Him."

Psalm 34:8

We thank the Lord for His presence in our midst. We've been given many inspired teachings from God's Holy Word. Our visiting ministers this past month were: Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH), Bro. Wayne Wiegand (Sis. Rosemary, Goodfield, IL), and Bro. Ken Eisenmann (Sis. Sharon, Cissna Park, IL). The reading of the Memorandum was shared by Elder Bro. Andy on Sunday afternoon, January 23. May the Lord bless these dear Brothers, their wives, and all who traveled with them for their sacrificial efforts put forth to labor and faithfully serve us.

Bro. Andy encouraged us to stay with the "ship of faith". As the Apostle Paul was on his way to Rome in a storm, he was encouraged by the angel of God that God was going to deliver him. (Acts 27:22-25,44) We're on a "ship of faith" in life and God will bring us safely to land (our Heavenly home) if we put our faith, hope, and trust in Him.

We extend a warm welcome to come and worship with us at Lexington. You may contact Bro. Lester Huber, (859) 745-2541. Church services are held at 3938 Becknerville Rd., Winchester, KY. Directions to the church are in the 2010 minister's book.

MEXICO, IXTLAN **Matt Gerber**

Meet Sis. Laura—the following is a brief testimony of her conversion experience:

"I went to the United States in 2001 illegally to work. I attended the church I had always gone to in Mexico. At my work I met Brent Sinn and later we began dating. When our relationship became more serious, he told me that we needed to go to the same church. I invited him to my church,

but he didn't like it. Later I went to his church (which is now my church as well). At first there were many new things that I didn't understand. But they offered a class for friends where they explained to me from the Bible the reasons for these practices. The class helped me a lot.

In 2008 we became engaged. Brent's parents counseled us to do things the right way, so I moved back to Mexico, even though I was unhappy with that decision. Time passed and I felt the need to repent, but I still didn't want to leave the things of the world. Finally, feeling so burdened by the weight of my sins I decided to repent. After confessing my sins the burden lifted. But I felt that I could not forgive myself for the sins I had committed, and I was still struggling with resentment towards certain people. I returned to Veracruz to live with my grandmother. While there, I had more time to devote to my spiritual life, and was able to read the Bible more and pray to God. He was able to work in my heart and take away the resentment. As I counseled with Bro. Marshall, he told me that if God was so big and mighty to forgive me, how could I not forgive myself? That helped me change my mind. Eventually I felt peace in my heart, but I needed to know whether that peace was real. One day after I prayed, I opened the Bible to Romans 5:1, which reads, "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." I knew that God had answered my prayer in a special way. Now I give thanks to God and Jesus Christ for shedding His blood for us, and for giving us the hope of being with Him in His kingdom, if we continue to follow Him in obedience."

Note: During this time Bro. Brent also repented and was converted and baptized in Silverton, OR. Sis. Laura was baptized in Ixtlán. By faith, their

marriage engagement was announced, and after a long period of prayerful waiting, Sis. Laura was finally able to return to the United States legally under the constraints of a marriage visa. Sis. Laura and Bro. Brent were united in the Lord on January 21, 2011, in Silverton.

MEXICO, MAGDALENA
Jarrin Rabe

Gálatas 3:28 “Ya no hay judío ni griego; no hay esclavo ni libre; no hay varón ni mujer; porque todos vosotros sois uno en Cristo Jesús.”

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.”

Galatians 3:28

Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Day, New Year's Eve and Day... everyone has been extremely busy these last two months! We are very thankful that the Lord has brought us into another new year to bring Him praise and glory!

In November we were blessed to have 2 work teams visit us in Magdalena! Milford, IN, brought a small number of people, but a large testimony along with their group. A Mexican couple was on the team and was able to share their testimonies with the church about how God saved them, and their marriage. It was a powerful time for the Holy Spirit to work in our small church, and we are thankful that He provided a way for this couple to come and be with us for the week. It speaks volumes when someone from your own culture and country can testify how big and wonderful our God is. The next work team we had was everything but small! They came from all over the country: Denver, CO (including Bro. Mike and Sis. Deb Leman), Altadena,

CA (including Bro. Tom and Sis. Jodi Klotzle), and Morris North, MN. We were very blessed to be able to share Thanksgiving Day with them and feed around 400 people from the community! What a blessing it was to be God's hands and feet to the hungry!

On November 21, the church, families, and friends gathered around to watch the baptisms of Bro. Benjamin Schick (Bro. Bill and Sis. Joan) and Sis. Jaqui Martinez (who is being cared for by Bro. Keith and Sis. Emily). Many of the people who attend church, including the kids, have never seen a full immersion baptism so it was a memorable day for many. We praise God for what He has done in the lives of these two young hearts, and have faith that He will do amazing things in their lives! We also had several brothers and sisters visit from the Sister Church in Tecate and were blessed with their fellowship over the weekend.

December brought lots of traveling for some of the staff – making quick runs home to visit families in the states. Some of us were blessed to spend Christmas at home, and we were very thankful for that opportunity, and some of us were blessed to spend another Christmas with all of the children here at CVE. The kids had a wonderful Christmas here filled with memories that will last a lot longer than the toys or clothes they received!

January has brought a round of work teams to us again and we are realizing just how blessed we are! In November we began the remodeling of the boys dorm in order to make it more like a home. A kitchen will be added, as well as an addition on the back half for a couple to have living quarters. The work teams who have come in January really dug in, and we are SUPER thankful for all their work! Fairbury, Forrest, and Cissna Park, IL, were all tremendous work-

ers and we praise God for His hand working in their hearts while here.

Please continue to pray for the church of Magdalena and for our children at Casa Vida y Esperanza. Pray that God would not let their souls rest until they finally yield to Him – their Creator.

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Listyn Oesch
Melissa Blough

“Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up. Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone? And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.”

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Our congregation was blessed this month with an announcement of the engagement of Sis. Becky Baumann to Bro. Brett Messner from Winthrop, MN. We also had the privilege of witnessing the marriage of Holly Plattner to Kent Levy; we wish them God's blessings as they start their new life as husband and wife.

We would like to thank Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington) and Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis) for their time visiting and sharing in their labors of love.

We had our annual business meeting and the following are those voted into office: Treasurer - Terry Steffen; World Relief - Sis. Lilly Baumann and Sis. Tasha Steffen; Usher - Bro. Jim McCormick; Kitchen Committee - Sis. Sue Daniels and Sis. Sharon Schlatter; Trustee - Bro. Tom Oesch. Thank you to all those who served their previous terms.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Sarah Knochel
Janelle Ramseyer

Greetings of love in our Saviour's name!

We rejoice with Bro. Jim and Sis. Kay Knochel as they welcomed a new granddaughter, Delaney Kay Hodel, into their family circle on December 29. Delaney's parents are Bro. Nate and Sis. Jamie Hodel (Roanoke, IL) and she is also welcomed by big sister, Haley.

We want to remember those who have spent time in the hospital recently. They included Sis. Carol Meylan (Bro. Gene), Sis. Marlene Mosher, and Sis. Connie Pashak (Bro. Dean). We trust that the Lord will provide healing according to His will.

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

II Timothy 4:7-8

Our hearts were saddened in the loss of our Bro. Norman Knochel on January 7. We as a family and as a church are thankful for the wonderful memories and the godly example that he left behind. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Leanore, and his children, Sis. Eileen, Wayne, Bro. Jim (Sis. Kay), Jerry (Michelle), Patsy (Mike Brock), and Nettie. He is also survived by his 10 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren, and his siblings, Bro. Floyd (Sis. Marian), Sis. Alvina Wackerle, Sis. Laura Knapp (Fairbury, IL) and Fred (Helen).

Just a few days later, we again gathered to mourn the loss of Bro. David Waibel. We are thankful he could be relieved of his suffering, yet our prayers for God's comforting hand

are for his siblings, Sis. Kathy, Lee (Karen), Don, and Terry (Charlotte). May God be with each one in the coming days.

We were blessed to have visiting ministers in our congregation over the last several weeks. Bro. Jesse Bedolla (Sis. Bonnie, Detroit, MI) was here for Christmas and Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH) was here for Bro. Norman's funeral.

At our annual business meeting, Sis. Sue Steffen (Bro. Derrell) was elected to the Kitchen committee and Bro. Clinton Ruegsegger (Sherry) was elected as Trustee. They replace Sis. Evelyn Wieland (Bro. Rod) and Bro. Mike Ruegsegger (Sis. Nancy). Sis. Rhonda Knochel (Bro. Bob) was selected for the World Relief Sewing Committee and Bro. Rod Wieland (Sis. Evelyn) was selected for the Distribution Center Board.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT
Kay Rauhe
Manuela Denes

It is always such a blessing to welcome a new life into the world! We rejoice with Bro. Tom and Sis. Cindy Hitz on the birth of their first grandson, Zachary Eugene. His thankful parents are Bro. Quinton and Sis. Heather Snyder from our Taylor, MO, congregation. Also welcoming him home are big sisters, Emma and Allana, and grandparents, Bro. Greg and Sis. Kara Snyder. May God bless and keep them all in His care.

"...and he received them, and spake unto them of the kingdom of God, and healed them that had need of healing."

Luke 9:11

We are so thankful when the gift of healing is bestowed upon us. It was such a blessing to have Sis. Florence Wieland and Sis. Krista Wieland (Bro. Andy) back in church after hav-

ing undergone surgery and then recuperation. May God continually keep them in His care as they continue to heal.

It is so important for us to keep those who have not been with us physically, in our prayers. Sis. Arlene Belsley, the Sabados family, Sis. Martha Szilagyi, and Sis. Linda and John Reardon are missed but not forgotten. Whether it is distance or health that keeps up apart physically, may God keep us close in spirit.

"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood."

Acts 20:28

This February, our Elder brothers will be meeting in Junction for the annual winter meeting. Let us all pray that God can and will work in their hearts to lead and feed the church with pure hearts and Biblical wisdom.

As a reminder for our Detroit brethren, we'd like to mention a few upcoming events. Let's be prayerful for Caleb Ramseyer (Bro. Mark and Sis. Kelly) as he readies himself for sharing his testimony, and Lord willing, baptism on March 12 and 13. The following weekend, March 19, we look to the blessing of having the Conference letter shared with us. Finally, our Sunday School Easter program is scheduled for March 27. Mark your calendars and please be prayerful for all these occasions!

MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS
Tim McMillan

We began the month in Numbers 7:84. The Lord separated the Levites that they shall be His. Jesus has separated us from the world to be His. Let

us remember that we are separated from the world and Who it is that we belong to.

We mourn this month with Sis. Brenda Messner (Bro. Rick) in the loss of her dad, Derald Briese. Sis. Diane Stewart (Bro. Dave) had a sibling brother, Doug Olson, who passed away. We mourn with our brethren in these times of sorrow, but through the Lord we know that all things are for His glory and take comfort in this knowledge.

Bro. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda) visited us and preached the Word on January 16. We were also blessed to have many visitors during the weekend from Denver, CO, Winthrop, MN, and both Morris, MN, churches. As a small church we always enjoy the blessings shared with visiting brethren. We are thankful for the time shared and that the Lord has given us the ability to gather and travel to visit.

Sound, sound the truth abroad,
Bear ye the Word of God
Through the wide world –
Tell what the Lord has done,
Tell how the day is won,
And from his lofty throne
Satan is hurled.

Gospel Hymns #716, vs. 1

Please make note that the location of the services in Rochester, MN, have changed to 819 15th St., Rochester, MN. They continue to be held the 3rd Wednesday of each month – all are welcome. Contacts are Bro. Jim and Sis. Deb Tilbury – (507)281-2875.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Kim Feuchtenberger
Susie Wulf

Visiting us on the pulpit this month was Bro. Jim Koehl (Sis. Hilda, San Diego, CA), Bro. Kent Mogler (Sis. Mary, Minneapolis, MN) and Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA). We truly appre-

ciate our ministering brothers allowing God to use them to further His Word.

The wedding of Bro. Darren Schaefer (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Denise) and Sis. Heidi Stoller (Bro. Bob and Sis. Janice, Lamar, MO) took place in Lamar, MO, on January 2. We welcome Sis. Heidi to our congregation and pray God's blessings on them.

We were thankful for a blessed weekend of provings and baptisms. Bro. Drew Schmidgall (Bro. Rob and Sis. Kathryn) and Bro. Todd (Sis. Bonnie) and Sis. Jamie (Joel and Rosie Dahlen) Nohl were the three converts that renounced sin and pleasure and were buried in the death of our Lord and Saviour and arose to a life of peace, joy and self sacrifice in the Lord.

We rejoice with Jane Durkee as she has given her life to the Lord. We pray God will lead, guide and direct her as she begins her repentance. "Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth" (Luke 15:10).

Mark Schaefer (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Denise) was announced as having peace with God and man. May he continue to draw nigh to God, ever seeking to live and do as God wills.

Our sympathy goes to Bro. Verle, Sis. Christa and family as they have lost a father and grandpa. Bro. Jesse Huber died on January 9. May God grant them comfort and strength in that "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." (Psalm 116:15)

There have been many hospital visits this month. Bro. Paul Fehr Jr. (Cork), Bro. Paul Schmidgall, Sis. Gwen Feuchtenberger, Sis. Violet Wulf and Jane Durkee have all spent time in the hospital. We pray God's healing hand will strengthen and heal where He sees fit.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Sis. Eileen Nohl would like to thank everyone who gave of their time, brought food, and gave flowers or gifts. Thank you for your love and support through thoughts and prayers. Again we were reminded of how precious our faith and fellowship is in times of sorrow and need. We deeply appreciate all you have done for us and pray God will richly bless you here on this earth and much more on the eternal shore.

Bro. David Nohl, Bro. Doug and Sis. Dawn Moser, Bro. Paul and Sis. Shawn Schmidgall, Bro. Chris and Sis. Michelle Koehl, and Bro. Trevor and Sis. Jodi Schmidgall

MINNESOTA
MORRIS NORTH
Wanda Gramm
Lois Schmidgall

Greetings from Morris North. We are certainly having a very cold and snowy winter. The weather seems to be the popular topic of conversation wherever we go. The thought came to me, I wonder what this world would be like if we talked about Jesus as much as we talk about the weather.

We appreciate the ability to be able to listen in online to services from our churches across the land. We have used this means different times when we were not able to have a minister to join us for Sunday. We thank those brothers and their families for giving of themselves in the labor of the Lord. This month we enjoyed having our Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan, Winthrop), Bro. Clint Schmidt (Sis. Magdalena, Winthrop) and Bro. Wes Moser (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA). We hope that you will visit us again soon.

The experience of those who were able to go to Magdalena, Mexico, on the work team are so interesting. We are thankful that God provided safety for them.

Those hospitalized this past month were Sis. Edna Zeltwanger and Sis. Josie Esterling. We are thankful that they can join us again and pray that God will heal and strengthen them.

Christian Greetings were shared with us from several churches. Those who visited us were from Sabetha, Winthrop, Oakville, Eureka, and Lester. We enjoy the Christian fellowship and would invite anyone who may be in the area to please come and worship with us.

Our church has started the Crown Financial Bible Study. So amazing that the Bible talks about finances 2,350 times. It has been a blessing for each of us and we are enjoying the love, fellowship and strength that we are experiencing through the Word.

“If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?”

Luke 16:10

Very powerful verses — aren't we so thankful that we have been promised that God will help us if we can just commit our life to Him. Let's keep journeying on!

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

**Lindsay Schmidt
Heather Steiner**

The past month has been busy and enjoyable. We closed the year by joyfully giving thanks to God while remembering Jesus Christ's humble birth. Entering a new year, we have the opportunity to rejoice in God's faithfulness throughout the past year, and look forward to His continuing presence in the coming year.

The Sunday School children sang to us about the Life of Jesus in their annual Christmas Program. They read scriptures and recited pieces which told the story of His life—from

birth to death—and reminded us about the gift of salvation He gave us. Thank you to the children, teachers, and parents for your efforts!

A number of loved ones spent time in the hospital this month. We are very thankful to God for answering many prayers as Sis. Marilyn Messner (Bro. Bill), Gerry Messner (Millie), and Sis. Ginny Stoll (Bro. Ed) are all home recovering from surgeries. Eric Messner (Bro. David and Sis. Bethany) also received God's healing powers through his illness. We are very thankful for God's mercifulness throughout this month!

Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL) joined our faithful home ministering brothers to bring forth the Truth this month. We extend a sincere thank you to him!

The joyful news of Bro. Brett Messner's (Bro. Dean and Sis. Wanda) engagement to Sis. Becky Baumann (Alto, MI - Bro. Mike and Sis. Lilly) was made known to our congregation recently. We are looking forward to Sis. Becky joining our congregation this spring!

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank everyone that visited me in the hospital and nursing home, while I was recovering from my fight with pneumonia. Thank you for the many cards, flowers, and kind encouraging words I received and for the prayers that were sent up to heaven on my behalf. I continue to recuperate at home. May God bless you all!

Bro. Roy Howk and family

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Brittany Fehr

Bro. Brad Strahm (Sis. Michelle, Bern, KS) was our visiting minister for New Year's Eve services. May God bless him for his labors.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the loved ones of Sis. Anna Lou

Aberle, who recently passed away. Sis. Anna Lou was a charter member of our congregation having assembled with us since services started in 1975, and her wisdom and love for all will be missed. She had resided in Ft. Scott for nearly two years since the death of her only child, Bro. Mark Mattix. Survivors include her brothers, Bro. Roy Bahr (Morton, IL) and Bro. Jim Bahr (Fort Scott, KS), as well as a number of nieces and nephews.

We are happy to welcome Bro. Brady Strahm from Bern who has been assembling with us while pursuing a nursing degree locally, and Sis. Kaitlyn Meiss from Phoenix who plans to assemble with us for the next six months while completing an internship.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

**Venetta Banwart
Rebecca Dotterer**

We were thankful to witness the marriage vows of our Sis. Heidi Stoller (Bob and Sis. Janice) to Bro. Darren Schaefer (Bro. Rod and Sis. Denise) from Morris, MN. May God's richest blessing be with them as they become one.

Many visitors have been with us this past month including ministering Bros. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA), Beirne Messner (Morris, MN), and Myron Knobloch (Lester, IA). May God's Holy Word always come forth in truth.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Kary Mangers

Our new year started off with a little redecorating project. We were blessed by some of the Princeville and Washington single groups coming and helping us remove wall paper on January 22. With their help, the removal was completed in one day. We deeply appreciate the service and fel-

lowship they provided. The whole project was completed in one week so everyone is welcome to come and worship with us!

MISSOURI, TAYLOR
Melissa Reiman

Happy Valentine's Day, a day to remember those that we love and those that love us. We are all so blessed to have the love of the most precious and Loving Father! He gave us a gift that is more precious and better than a box of chocolates and roses — He gave us grace, mercy, and His One and Only Son! What love He shows us!

With one more year behind us, we find that we must once again thank those that have served our church well and welcome new members into their new positions. Three terms ended this year, Bro. Steve Sutter (Head Song Leader), Bro. Keith Pflum (Trustee), and Sis. Peg Hoerr (Food Committee). Thank you so much for all your years of wonderful service and dedication to the Lord's work! We welcomed in Bro. Joe Yackley (Head Song Leader), Bro. Jim Gottman (Trustee), and Sis. Charlotte Hoerr (Food Committee)! We pray that God will give you the strength and abilities to fulfill your new positions and that a helping hand is offered to you whenever necessary!

We would like to thank Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) and Bro. Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, St. Louis, MO). Thank you for your willingness to come to Taylor and minister Christ's Word! Bro. Chris told a story about how a believing man had an atheist for a neighbor and the believing man built an amazing model of the world, which he used to tell about Creation. One day the atheist came over and was amazed by the model and he asked the believing man how he had made it. The believing man said that he was mowing his yard

when he heard a big bang come from his garage, and there the model was. The atheist replied, "Yeah, right! That's impossible!" The believer responded, "Exactly! Nothing was created by a big bang! It was created by God!" The atheist walked away in stunned silence. What an Amazing God we have that He could create such a beautiful world like this!

Dear Sis. Kathy Haab (Bro. Paul) was in the hospital and we pray that she starts to feel better.

Death is such a difficult thing — you mourn for the loss of your loved one but yet rejoice that they are with the Heavenly Father, at peace, and no longer having to suffer the pains of this life. We weep and rejoice with the family of Charlotte "Gen" Adrian (December 31), mother of Bro. Rusty (Sis. Amy) Adrian. Our hearts also go out to Bro. Robert (Sis. Emma) Haerr and Bro. Louis (Sis. Ruthie) Haerr at the passing of their sister-in-law, Ilsa Massner, on December 20 at Prescott, AZ. She was the wife of Bro. Ray Massner. May the Lord grant all of you peace and the strength to get through this trying time.

On a brighter note, Sis. Loida Hodel sent a thank you that reads: "Thank you all for sharing my Birthday Open House with me. Each card and note is very special to me and the memories will become treasures as time goes on. Being "90" is O.K.! I love you all!" Happy Birthday Sis. Loida! May God bless you with many more birthdays for years to come!

NEW YORK
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG
Hope Graves

We ended 2010 with a potluck and singing together on New Year's eve. What a wonderful way to thank God for His provision over the past year and to ask Him for guidance in 2011.

2011 started off with a new grandson for Bruce and Gayle Hirschey.

Emmet Anthony Wyzykiewicz was born to Rob and Rachel on January 4. What a blessing his arrival is and we pray for this family who makes their home in Colorado. We are so thankful for the modern blessings of technology that allow us to stay in contact with family that live away.

Our congregation has been very blessed with the announcement that Bro. Ben Rudin has felt led to move here from Forrest, IL. We are so thankful that the Lord is still moving in hearts of brethren to support our smaller congregations. We know that this will be a huge change for Bro. Ben and his family but pray that the Lord may continue to direct his path and let them feel the love of the brethren here.

We are thankful for the opportunity our Elder Bro. Duane Farney had to travel to Haiti on a work team in the beginning of January. While he was away we were blessed to have ministering Bro. Don Gudeman (La-Crosse, IN) with us on Sunday, January 9. The Lord provided a safe trip for Bro. Duane, despite a later arrival home due to snowy weather on the east coast. It also brought us back to a year ago when the group was delayed due to the earthquake. May we remember the Haitian people in our prayers as they are still a recovering nation.

Our prayers went out for the family of Beverly Virkler who died on January 12. She was an aunt to Sis. Eleanor (Bro. Ron) Herzig and Sis. Alice Virkler from our congregation.

May the Lord be with each one in this coming year.

OHIO, AKRON
Erika Gal

"Seek the Lord, and his strength: seek his face evermore. Remember his marvelous works that he hath done; his wonders, and the judgments

of his mouth.”

Psalms 105:4-5

We are so thankful to have souls seeking their salvation. Our new converts include Sarah Indermuhle (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Carol), Richie Weisman (Richard and Jeannie Weisman), and Meredith Klotzle (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Jane). Meredith is currently going to school and attending church in Bloomfield, IA. Each soul turning to the Lord is an answer to many prayers, and we surely rejoice with the angels in Heaven.

Bro. Gregory and Sis. Darla Henico, along with Ariana and Dexter, joyfully welcome little Gibson Denny into their family. Gibson's grandparents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Sarah Henico and Bro. Denny and Sis. Kay Nieman (Smithville). We rejoice with the Henicos and pray that God will bless them as they raise their children in the ways of the Lord.

Sis. Michelle Steidl (Bro. Don and Sis. Nan) has felt led to move back home, and we gladly welcome her back. We are also happy to welcome Bro. Nathan and Sis. Cheryl Wiegand and their four children, Reuben, Trina, Franz and Miriam, from Eureka. We trust that each one will feel needed in our congregation and that together we may help each other to be faithful through this earthly life.

Visiting ministers this month include Bro. Mark Rufener (Mansfield), Bro. Tim Ramsier (Rittman), Bro. Ted Luginbuhl and Bro. Mike Walder (both from Smithville). We pray that God will bless each one for their labors of love among us.

We are rejoicing with our converts, Brad and Amanda Gasser, as they have found that precious peace of God. We look forward to their provings and baptisms on March 5-6. We were sorry to hear that their precious daughter, McKenzie, fell and

broke her collarbone. We pray that God will be near them all through this time.

Our annual business meeting was held on January 20. Our new Sunday School teachers include Sis. Rebecca Pamer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Arliss), Sis. Tina (Bro. George) Gal, Bro. Justin (Sis. Lisa) Gherian, Bro. Gaius (Sis. Ilona) Laubli. Sis. Rosanne (Bro. Dan) Graf will be on the kitchen committee. Bro. Christopher Indermuhle (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Carol) will be an usher. Our new trustee is Bro. George (Sis. Tina) Gal. We certainly thank each one for their willingness to serve.

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Esther Saurer

After a very busy month in December, things have begun to slow down a little now in January. On Christmas morning, Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Jeannine Masters (Mansfield, OH) spent the morning with us. It is always a blessing to reflect the birth of Jesus and its' meaning in our life. We are looking forward to hearing the Memorandum towards the end of the month.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Vicki Boroff

Our prayers go out to our hospital patients: Bro. Andy Manz, Sis. Evelyn Manz, and Eleanor Gerber.

On January 28, Chase Daniel joined his siblings, Carter, Clayton, and Camden. Thankful parents are Bro. Chad and Sis. Loral Manz. Grandparents are Bro. Les and Sis. Karen Manz, and Bro. Ray and Sis. Corrine Schlatter.

We were pleased to hear that Brad and Amanda Gasser (Akron) have peace with God and man. Brad's parents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue.

We had several positions to fill during our annual business meeting.

Bro. Jim McCullough replaces Bro. Paul Manz as Trustee; Bro. Clint Manz replaces Bro. Scott Manz as Usher; Sis. Kathy Manz replaces Sis. Karen Manz for the Kitchen Committee; Sis. Gwen Manz replaces Sis. Dorothy Dietrich for World Relief Sewing Group; Bro. Sam Manz remains the Leo Children's Home Representative; and Bro. Dave Manz replaces our ministering Bro. Ben Manz as Assistant Treasurer. We are thankful for all those that have served or are currently serving.

We were also thankful to have Bro. Ted Luginbuhl (Sis. Stephanie, Smithville) join us for a Sunday. Please come again soon!

OHIO, LATTY

Carmen Eisenmann Mindy Stoller

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all! Our congregation appreciated a very beautiful Christmas program put on by the Sunday School children and teachers. We wish to thank all the students and those who assisted for a blessed evening as we remembered Christ's birth!

We have many reasons to be thankful! Andrea Greutman (Bro. Greg and Sis. Kristy) and Andy Gordon (Dennis and Connie) have turned to the Lord in repentance. We will continue to lift them and their families up in prayer as they start a new walk in Christ.

We were pleased to witness two baptisms this month. The weekend of January 8-9, Sis. Hannah Stoller (Bro. Todd and Sis. Pam) and Bro. Aaron Nuest (Bro. Lee and Sis. Paula) gave their testimonies to the church and were baptized. We enjoyed a blessed weekend. Elder Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL) assisted Bro. John Laukhuf. We want to sincerely thank him.

Also assisting on the pulpit this month were Bro. Greg Stieglitz (Sis.

Lisa, Indianapolis, IN), Bro. Steve Stieglitz (Sis. Jane, Leo, IN), Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI), and Bro. Calvin Schneider (Sis. Jeannie, LaCrosse, IN). We are grateful for their labors and pray God will bless them.

Sis. Andrea Nuest (Bro. Lee and Sis. Paula) recently got engaged to Bro. Lucas Gerber (Bro. Steve and Sis. Gayla, Bluffton North, IN). We rejoice with them and pray for God's blessings.

At our recent business meeting, we voted to put in Bro. Tim Sinn (Sis. Marlene), Sis. Joy Sinn (Bro. Steve), and Sis. Stephanie Young (Bro. Nate) as new Sunday School teachers. For Kitchen Committee, Sis. Eileen Stoller (Bro. Kirk) and Sis. Patty Gerber (Bro. Dave) were put in. Bro. Blane Stoller (Sis. Mindy) is now a church trustee and Bro. Caleb Stoller (Sis. Mindy) is now a Fellowship Hall trustee. We want to thank the outgoing members for their service, as well as each one newly elected. May God bless them and their efforts!

We wish to remember Bro. Ralph Stoller (Sis. Esther) and Sis. Irma Stoller in prayer as they have been hospital patients in the past month. May God grant them healing and strength!

Our dear Bro. Justus (Judd) Stoller (Sis. Ruby) passed away January 8. His children include Bro. Don (Gail) Stoller. May they feel God's comfort and our love and prayers.

"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber."

Psalm 121:1-3

OHIO, MANSFIELD Tami Griffey

Loved ones who have been in the

hospital include Sis. Sarah Rice, Sis. Luci Baumann, and Sis. Becky Vent. Our prayers and love are with them during their recovery. May God grant comfort and health according to His will.

"Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His Holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's."

Psalm 103:1-5

What a mighty and awesome God we serve!

OHIO, RITTMAN Heidi Rufener Marge Stoller

On December 19 we were privileged to hear our Sunday School students from pre-kindergarten on up to our young member group share the Christmas story with us through verse and song. May God bless the students and teachers and all others who put so much time and effort in this special evening. It is always much anticipated and such a blessed event.

Again this month we were abundantly blessed with new babies. December 16 was the birthday of little Crady Daniel born to Bro. Milan and Sis. Amy Baltic. Blessed grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Bonnie Ingold and Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty Baltic. Siblings Molly, Megan, Adam, Madalyn, Eli and Cooper are happy for a new brother. On December 29, Bro. Steven and Sis. Jessica Gasser received a special gift. The gift was a baby boy which they named Damon Ray. He was born December 12. Older

brother Dominic is anxious for a playmate. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Virgil and Sis. Lois Gasser and maternal grandparents are Clair and Sis. Bev Keever (Mansfield, OH). On January 5, Bro. Joe and Sis. Kendra Ramsier welcomed a new son, Josiah Brian. Excited siblings are Elizabeth, Kenneth, Brenda, Esther, Jehu and Lydia. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Terri Ramsier and Bro. Ken and Sis. Janice Steffen (Forrest, IL). Then on January 9, Bro. Aaron and Sis. Rebecca Bauman welcomed Sierra Nicole into their family. Older sister, Lauren, is happy for a sister. Grateful grandparents are Bro. Vic and Sis. Brenda Bauman (Smithville) and Sis. Diane (Doug, dec.) Rafsnider. May God bless these dear families as they raise their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

We were pleased to hear the engagement of Bro. Jeff Miller (David and Rosie) and Sis. Naomi Rupp (Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon) on January 2. We offer our prayers and love to this couple as they make preparation for their wedding in the near future.

On January 9, Bro. Nathan Gasser (Bro. Virgil and Sis. Lois) and Sis. Morgan Pertee (Ron Pertee and Shelly Colvin) of Smithville made their vows of faithfulness to each other. May God bless this union as they establish a new home together. We welcome Sis. Morgan to our Rittman congregation.

We are unable to report even special anniversaries because of the size of our Rittman congregation. However, we have a very special anniversary to report. On December 17, Bro. Mitch and Sis. Vi Baltic celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary! It is so encouraging to see how the Lord has blessed them and stood by them. We know He will be with them in whatever lies ahead.

Spending time in the hospital this

past month was Bro. Glen (Sis. Lois) Maibach and Barbara (Boyd) Acker. We pray God will heal and strengthen as only He can.

We thank our visiting ministers, Bro. Fred Domka (Sis. Connie, Mansfield, OH), Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI), Bro. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam, Latty, OH), Bro. Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynell, Akron, OH) and Bro. Bill Brake (Sis. Miriam, Sardis, OH). We appreciate their efforts and sharing the Word with us.

This Scripture opened recently to our dear Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler:

“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”

Philippians 4:8

Let us keep these words on our heart and in our mind as we begin a new year.

OHIO, SARDIS Faith Beard

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

Proclaiming the Gospel to us this month was Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridgett, Chicago, IL). We thank him always for his willingness to serve our spiritual needs.

We gathered together on New Year's Eve to spend the last evening of the year together with a soup supper and a singing. We acknowledge that end and beginning of a new year,

but we also realize that nothing really is going to change just because of a change of the calendar - the change must come from within, by the grace of God.

We praise God that little Colby Maibach (Bro. Garth and Sis. Hannah) has completed his hospitalization and all are now back home and assembling with us again. Staci Indermuhle (Bro. Allen and Sis. Janet) has been doing well with continued outpatient treatment and is hoping to be back home in Sardis by the end of February. Both families have expressed an amazing gratitude and humbleness they have felt from all the prayers from so many loved ones that have lifted them up.

Though the waves of life's great ocean
Harass us from far and near,
Would humanity's commotion
Plunge us into sore despair;
Though the Saviour holds His peace,
Seems to sleep and rest at ease,
Naught shall move your faith in Jesus;
Soon the storm and flood decreases.

Zion's Harp #38, vs. 2

OHIO, SMITHVILLE Lydia Dotterer Gina Brake

We are thankful for the safe arrival of two new babies this past month. Bryn Catherine was born to Matt and Carla Beaumont on December 23. Her siblings are Lauren and Brady, and her grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Dottie Ramsier. Bro. Aaron and Sis. Becky and Lauren Bauman welcomed Sierra Nicole on January 9. Bro. Vic and Sis. Brenda Bauman are her grandparents.

January 9 was the wedding date of Sis. Morgan Pertee and Bro. Nathan Gasser. Sis. Morgan's parents are Ron Pertee and Bro. Dave and Shelly Colvin, and Bro. Nathan's parents are Bro. Virgil and Sis. Lois Gasser (Rittman). Visiting ministers that day were Bro. Dana Indermuhle (Sis.

Joy, Sardis), Bro. Steve Pamer (Sis. Arliss, Akron), and Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis).

Other visiting ministers this month included Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sis. Alice, Sardis) and Bro. Tim Ramsier (Sis. Joni, Rittman). May God bless each of these brothers and their families for their willingness to serve others.

Yikealo Maibach (Bro. David and Sis. Larisa) spent time in the hospital this month. We are thankful for God's healing power, and pray that Yikealo will soon be feeling better.

OHIO, TOLEDO Teresa Rywalski Deanna Manz

Sis. Calla Steiner and Sis. Jenny Manz completed their nursing education at the University of Toledo in December. We pray that they will look to God to lead them in their next step of life.

Many from our congregation traveled to Rittman on the weekend of January 15-16 to witness the wedding of Sis. Calla Steiner (Bro. Dave and Sis. Lynn) and Bro. Matthew Dotterer (Bro. Rick and Sis. Dawn). We will miss Sis. Calla assembling with us but wish them God's richest blessings.

Our prayers are with Sis. Dorothy Stevens (Bro. Bob) as she recovers from a hip replacement. May she feel the love and prayers during this time of healing.

We were sad to hear of the passing of Sis. Teresa Rywalski's father, Bro. Jud Stoller (Sis. Ruby, Latty). We will continue to pray for Sis. Teresa and her daughter Ella during this time of grieving, but rejoice in knowing that he has reached his Heavenly home.

Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction) spent a Saturday evening, with the help of Bro. Walt Rager, in the reading of the Memorandum. We are thankful for the

guidance and counsel of our Elder Brothers and continue to lift them and their families up in prayer. Bro. Bill also was with us on Sunday and fed us from the Word.

The annual business meeting was held and we wish to thank those whose terms have come to an end, and we offer our support to all those elected to fulfill these duties.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Renee Angstrom

Our visiting ministers this month from Silverton were Elder Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane), Bro. Christopher Kuenzi (Sis. Mary), and Bro. Harvey Kuenzi (Sis. Jennifer). We were blessed and encouraged by the beautiful messages that were spoken. We appreciate their support.

Our annual business meeting was held in January. We support our Brothers and Sisters who were elected into new positions: Treasurer is Bro. Eldon Metz (Sis. Alice) for a five year term. Trustees are Bro. Ilijah Gavrilovic (Sis. Nada) for a one year term, Bro. Lee Jones for a two year term and Bro. Mark Gallup (Sis. Louisa) for a three year term. Usher is Bro. Andy Angstrom (Sis. Renee) for a three year term. Sunday School Teacher is Sis. Alice Metz (Bro. Eldon) for a four year term. Dinner committee members are Sis. Liz Jones (Bro. Ron) for a one year term, Sis. Louisa Gallup (Bro. Mark) for a two year term, and Sis. Elizabeth Folia (Bro. Peter) for a three year term. We thank those that served these positions in the past.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Kris Luthi Deb Roth

We rejoice with Jordan Sinn (Bro. Dean and Sis. Heidi) and Jesse TeSlaa (Gary and Barb TeSlaa, Jim and Ronda Thielen) as they were an-

nounced as having peace with God. We are thankful that they both have found the precious pearl of salvation and pray that many more will answer the Lord's call.

Bros. Kurt Walter (Mansfield, OH) and Merlin Meyer (Lester, IA) were our visiting ministers over the Christmas weekend. It was good to once again hear the story of Jesus coming to the earth in preparation for our salvation. We thank them for their service.

We had several from our congregation who had surgery this month: Sis. Megan Walter (Bro. Chad), Bro. Kurt Metzger (Sis. Koreen) and Bro. Sam Bence (Sis. Lily). May they all experience a quick recovery.

Several new positions were filled at our annual business meeting this month. Bro. Tom Sinn (Sis. Edith) was elected for trustee, Bro. Mark Dietrich for usher, Bro. Duane Sinn (Sis. Adriana) for the sound system and Sis. Becky Kuenzi (Bro. Aden) for the Dinner Committee. We thank our outgoing brethren for their service and offer our prayers and support for those filling these positions.

PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA Emily Wiegand

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

John 1:1

As we welcome in the beginnings of the New Year, we are reminded of the importance of steadfastly seeking after God's Word. We were thankful to hear the Word brought forth as we gathered for a New Year's Eve service on December 31. We realize that God speaks to us in so many different ways including through His Word, the Holy Spirit, the Church and His wonderful creation. May we always be

swift to hear His loving instructions, exhortations and admonitions, each day that He blesses us with. We look forward to a year full of God's wondrous gifts to each one of us.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

Mike and Monica Fritz

We are thankful that Sis. Marie Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS) is gathering with us for a few months as she is in the Nashville area temporarily for employment.

The World Relief work project in the Nashville area is already making an impact in our community. We are thankful for these efforts to help with the rebuilding of homes and lives for families who suffered loss during the major flooding here last spring. We appreciate the love of Christ shown through this effort to the hurting in our community.

We rejoice in the precious times of worship we have been able to share together, with God's Living Word being shared with us by our visiting ministering brothers: Bros. Dan Beer (Sis. Deb; Milford, IN) and Randy Gudeman (Sis. Becky; Francesville, IN). We have also been greatly blessed by the fellowship of brethren and friends (visitors and World Relief workers) from Rockville, CT; Belvidere, Bradford, Congerville, Elgin, Fairbury, Forrest, Goodfield, and Tremont, IL; Bluffton, Francesville, and Milford, IN; Lester, IA; Alto and Bay City, MI; Smithville, OH; Philadelphia, PA; and Austin, TX.

If you are traveling to or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. The following churches are scheduled for services in the near future: Rockville, CT (2/20); Tremont, IL (2/27); Morton, IL (3/6); Roanoke, IL (3/13); Bay City, MI (3/20), and Cissna Park IL (3/27). 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. During the World Relief work project (Jan-Mar) our Wednesday evening services are at Bethany Hills Camp in Kingston Springs, TN, where the work teams are staying, at 7:30 p.m. Contacts are Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz, (615) 866-5543 (fritzbmb.family@gmail.com); and Sis. Gwen Leuthold, (615) 356-5755.

TEXAS, AUSTIN

Serenity and Jasmine Ringger

We were saddened to hear that Sonny Pipkin passed away. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Joy Pipkin, and his children, Steve Pipkin (Cleveland, TX), Keith Pipkin, (Smithville, TX), and Eric Pipkin (New Braunfels, TX).

Also, we forgot to mention that Bro. Lynn (Sis. Valerie) Kipfer's father, Bro. Art Kipfer (Bluffton North), passed away last August. We wish their family comfort from the Lord as they reflect on precious memories.

Bro. Leland Plattner (Zapata) came to deliver the Communion exhortation. It is good to examine ourselves in preparation for the feast of the Lord. "But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup." (I Cor. 11:28) We also had our annual business meeting; we appreciate those who served, and will pray for those who were selected to serve.

Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian, San Diego), Retired Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Sis. Sandra, Morris), and Bro. Leland served us Communion, and delivered the Memorandum letter. "O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles." (Ps. 43:3)

Other ministers also served us which were Bros. Darren Fehr (Sis.

Nora, West Bend) and Randy Beer (Milford). We also had other visitors from Mansfield, Princeville, Burlington, Sabetha, and Latty.

The following is the minister schedule for March: (6) Rockville, (13) Princeville, (20) Champaign.

We extend a warm welcome to anyone who may be in the area to worship with us, on Sundays or mid-week. Please call ahead to help us plan for serving lunch. Also, because visitors add much to our local fellowship times, it helps if we know about your visit well in advance, so that we can accommodate you more readily in our weekend gatherings.

In the church, there are two furnished bedrooms for the ministers and others to use when coming for services, or to visit in our area.

TEXAS DALLAS/FORT WORTH

Services are being held generally the 2nd Sunday of each month at the Holiday Inn Express, 4450 W. John Carpenter Freeway, Irving TX. There are many that have Apostolic Christian ties in the area. Please inform your relatives and acquaintances that may have interest.

"Now the city was large and great, but the people were few therein, and the houses were not builded."

Neh. 7:4

We humbly request your prayers that God may grant the increase. Please call ahead to verify. Leland & Mary Plattner 956-265-0351 or Dennis & Diane Rassi 512-321-2345.

TEXAS, McALLEN Gloria Walder

What a comfort and blessing it is for God's children to walk with Him each day of this new year. May we ap-

preciate this privilege more and more.

We're thankful for our visiting ministers taking the time and effort to serve us. May the Lord bless them and the Word brought forth by Bro. Glen Steiner (Sis. Rachel, Winthrop, MN), and Bro. Randy Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford, IN). Visitors from Bradford, Princeville, and Elgin, IL, added to the blessings of our gatherings.

Services are scheduled for March 6, Congerville; March 13, Eureka; March 20, Latty. We also meet on Wednesday evenings at the home of Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Joyce Nohl. Please call them if you can join us.

Sunday services are held at 10:30 and 12:30 at the Holiday Inn Express, 1921 South 10th St. Take the 10th Street exit off Expressway 83 and go 1½ blocks south. Please see the ministers' directory for local contact information. We are small in number and welcome anyone spending time in south Texas to worship with us. We appreciate advance notice when possible to help us plan for meals and fellowship.

TEXAS, ZAPATA Mary Plattner

We were blessed to have Bro. Glen Steiner (Sis. Rachel, Winthrop, MN) spend some time with us in Zapata as well as Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, Portland, OR). We appreciate their willingness to minister to us.

Some of our winter residents have spent time in the hospital: Bro. Arnie Koehl (Morris) and Sis. Kathy Fehr (Portland). We will continue to pray for their recovery.

Anyone coming to Zapata is most welcome to worship with us. We have midweek services on Wednesday at 7 p.m.

2011 Athens/Tennessee Memorial Day Weekend *planned for May 28-29*

Planning is currently underway for the 2011 Athens/Tennessee Memorial Day Weekend scheduled on May 28-29. This year's theme will be the History of the Apostolic Christian Church with speakers invited accordingly to speak on this topic. Everyone is invited, and we hope you will save the date and plan to join us for a wonderful weekend of fellowship, singing and worship. Additionally, an auction is planned for Saturday afternoon beginning at 2:00 p.m. Please see additional details below on the weekend schedule:

Saturday, May 28 — All activities at the Tennessee Fellowship Area located in Pulaski, Tenn.

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

Sunday, May 29

- 10:00 a.m. — Church services at Athens Apostolic Christian Church in Athens, Ala.
- 3:30 p.m. — Fellowship begins at Tennessee Fellowship Area
- 4:00 p.m. — Singing
- 5:00 p.m. — Minister speaks
- 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 Andy or Jayne Sauder at (309)263-9965 or e-mail them at jayne.sauder@gmail.com.

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. If you have additional questions, please contact:

- 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*

Caretaker Needed at Tennessee Fellowship Center

A caretaker is needed at the Tennessee Fellowship Center located in Pulaski, Tenn. which is approximately 1 hour south of Nashville and 1/2 hour north of Athens, Ala. Living accommodations are available for a couple or a family.

The site, which consists of 12 acres, is used for singings, picnics and other church events including Memorial Day Weekend where ministers give topical presentations, an auction is held and singing and fellowshiping are enjoyed by all. Two acres of the 12 was made into a lake, called Lake Richard, where fishing can also be enjoyed.

Please prayerfully consider answering this call and joining the loving congregation at Athens, Ala.

If you are interested or have additional questions, please contact Bro. Mike Moore at ALM38@aol.com or (256)729-0260 or (256)777-3390.

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

Sermon continued from page 40

had no control over it whatsoever.

God has a plan for each one of us. We are all important. As it says, we all are part of this body. Many members but yet serving one God. As it says, "So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another." v.5. As we started out this morning, we need to work together. We can't be alone. We can't go out on our own, thinking we know best. Because the Word tells us we need to rely not on our own understanding. That is when we get in trouble. If we think that we know better than anyone else and we are going to go out and do our own thing because this is how I believe, that is not right. That is an independent spirit.

But as we are many members in one body, that we are all members one of another, that we would be willing to work together. We think of a body. We all know our body. There are many different parts. Many different functions. But all for the same purpose: for life. To help us live. Not one is more important than the other. We all need to be willing to do our part, that this body can function normally. If something is not functioning normally, what do we do? There are other parts of the body that go to it to try and help it function normally again. To heal it. That is what we need to do with each other, dear ones, until our Lord and Savior would return. Or until we have taken our last breath. We need to work together. We need to be able to function together. We need to present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service (v.1). That our bodies are a living sacrifice.

We think of that. Acceptable unto God. Many times, in the society and the world we live in, what do we find? Everybody is trying to please man. What they are worried about is what somebody else might think. Oftentimes I think in my mind, what would the world be like if everybody thought in their mind, what does God think? It doesn't matter what man thinks.

When we stand before God someday, what is He going to say? This person had an influence on you or this person told you to do this and it is okay. No. We need to be worried about what God thinks. If He is satisfied with how our life is. If we are acceptable unto God.

It says, "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove

what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." v.2. We could have just as well read two verses this morning and talked about it all morning. That we are not conformed to this world. That we don't take on the things of this world. Because if we take on the things of the world, what does it do? It separates us from God. As we were encouraged last night, if that Holy Spirit isn't speaking very loudly to us, what do we find? We are pushing it away. We are not listening very clearly. But if we are transformed, by the renewing of our minds, truly dear ones, isn't that what we are doing this morning? Being renewed in our mind?

That as we read God's Word, as He brings it forth unto us, we are being renewed. We are being refreshed. To continue on in the battle. That we wouldn't let Satan get the upper hand on us. That we wouldn't take on the things of this world but that we would be sharp. We would be able to recognize when those things are present and evident in our life and we don't allow them to be there.

It says that ye may prove what is good and acceptable, the perfect will of God. Dear ones, how do we know what is good and what is acceptable? And perfect. We think of that word, perfect. The perfect will of God. We know the only one that was perfect that walked upon the earth was our Lord and Savior Jesus. We know what the perfect will of God is: full submission. To follow His Word wherever it would take us. Wherever He would tell us to go. Whatever He would ask us to do, that we would be willing to do it.

Yet we think, what is acceptable? In the world we live in today, what is acceptable? Pretty much anything. Everything. People don't think too much of anything. Whatever they do, they think it is okay. What a shame it is, dear ones, if we conform to this world, what do we find? We find our decision making process isn't very good. We find that we take on the things of this world and we find that things just seem to be okay. It doesn't have an effect on us. It might not be good and it might not be bad. But what benefit does it have for us? It is a time waster. What it does is it takes time away from God.

Many times I say this, but I think that is the greatest tool of Satan; robbing us of time. Filling our lives in the busyness of this world that we live in today. I really think we don't take enough time to spend with our Lord in reading

His Word. It seems like we don't have time. We run here and there, the busyness of life which Satan makes to seem important. We need to provide for our families, but where is the balance? Where do we draw the line? We could work all the time.

In Winthrop we don't have any farmers in church anymore. But in this area there are several farmers. But when the time comes for planting in the spring and the field work in the fall and harvest and weather is a factor and there are things, do we sometimes get consumed working so many hours? We wake up in the morning, sometimes we only sleep for a few hours and go out and work. But what do we find? Unfortunately, for myself - I own a business, spend several hours there - and in our busy time, there are days I am ashamed. I look back and reflect on the day and I think, where did I spend my time? Did I pray enough and read enough today? Sometimes not.

But even as we are reminded here this morning, dear ones, that we would be transformed by the renewing of our minds. That we prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. That we be in communion with Him. That we spend time. We take time daily in the Word. That we can be renewed in our mind so that we can recognize and we know what is the acceptable and perfect will of God. Because if we are not spending the time that we need to, in our own minds, we think we are doing okay. Then all of a sudden, one day we look back and we wonder, how did I get here? I would have never done that before. Yet it is little things. Satan uses little things to deter us, to stray us away, that we might not see it clearly. But if we are not renewing our mind, we are not allowing God to speak to us, we are not knowing what the perfect will of God is.

"For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith." v.3. Dear ones, I think that really applies to each one of us, that we not think too highly of ourselves. The Word tells us we should not compare ourselves among ourselves for it is not wise (II Corinthians 10:12). Why do you think that is? Dear ones, when we start looking around at other people and what somebody else might be doing according to what we are doing,

we try and justify our actions. We try and justify that it is okay for me to do this because this person is doing that. That is not the way God wants it to be. We want to know, what does God think? We need to not think too highly of ourselves, that we are better than somebody else. Because we are not. None of us are better than anybody else. God has created each one of us.

It goes on to tell us, "For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:" Romans 12:4.

There are different things. We all have different talents. God has created each one of us and put us here on this earth for different purposes. That if we look at one another and we think we are better than someone else or more important because we have been placed in a certain position, we are wrong.

As we were reminded last evening, God is no respecter of persons and neither should we be (Acts 10:34). We should not think more highly of ourselves than we ought to because, who are we? Who are we to think that we are better than somebody else? God has created all of us the same. But that we would think soberly, clearly. It goes back to the second verse, that we would renew our minds so that we can see clearly. That we would think soberly, we would think clearly, according as God has dealt to every man a measure of faith. That we would continue to trust in God more. The more that we serve God, the more we trust Him. The more we rely upon Him, the more we realize our nothingness. How little we really are in the sight of God. But yet we are all important.

"So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another." Romans 12:5. I just love that, dear ones. We are all members of the same body. We need to work together. How oftentimes do we see, even today, in our church today, what is Satan doing? He wants to tear down, he wants to separate, he wants to make sure that things aren't going very well. We can't allow that to happen. We need to think clearly. We need to think soberly. We need to renew our minds so that they are sharp. So that we can recognize when Satan is there, trying to cause a schism or division between us over something that means nothing. Something so little. Yet, that we can work together.

"Having then gifts differing accord-

ing to the grace that is given to us..." v.6. We are not all the same. We have different gifts. We can be thankful for that, dear ones. Because we need each other. As we could go on to Romans 15, it says, "We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves." v.1. That means all of us! There are times we are weak, there are times we are strong. There are areas in our life that we do really good at. There are other areas that we need a lot of work.

How do we know? How do we learn? We need each other. We need the encouragement of one another, that we can work together and we can work on those things that we are not good at. We can help others in areas that we are strong in. We can be thankful that is the way that it is. Because none of us are strong in all areas. We all need the help of one another. We need God's help.

"...whether prophecy, let us prophecy according to the proportion of faith; Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering; or he that teacheth, on teaching..." Romans 12:6,7. So many times, it doesn't matter what office or if we even have an office. We all have responsibilities in church. The Word tells us we are all ministers. We are all children of God. That should be enough. We all are asked to pray for one another. That is probably the most important thing any one of us could do, to pray for one another. That we would help one another.

"Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good." v.8,9. Again, dear ones, it all falls into line so beautifully here this morning. There are many things. Abhor that which is evil and cleave to that which is good. We can go back to the very first question we asked. How do we know what is the good and the acceptable will of God? By renewing our minds, thinking soberly. Not thinking more highly of ourselves than we ought to. That is how we can see. That is how we can recognize. That is how we know what is good. That we abhor what is evil. That we recognize what evil is.

"Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;" v.10. We think of that, dear ones. Let love be without dissimulation and be kindly affectionate

one to another with brotherly love. Oftentimes, dear ones, we read in God's Word. What do we read? We were again reminded last evening about not losing our first love. God loved us so much that He gave His Son for us. We have been given so much and yet, many times we find that we are not loving our own brothers and sisters in the church. But here, as it says, let love be without dissimulation. Be kindly affectioned one to another in brotherly love, in honor preferring one another.

If you go on to Romans 15, it says, "Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification." v.2. That we wouldn't think more highly of ourselves than anyone else. But that we would prefer one another. We can go into II Corinthians 2, when the Apostle Paul went back to the Corinthian people and he said, I don't want to hear it. I don't want to hear that you loved this man that caused a problem, that had fallen into sin. What did he say? It is not words, it is deeds. I want to come and I want to see the fruits. That you are faithful in all things that I ask you to do. For each one of us, dear ones, it is no different. It is not what we say. It is our actions. Brotherly love - if we are going to love one another, we don't have to say it. We should know it. We should feel it. It is by what we do for each other that gives us the feeling that we know we are loved. That is brotherly love. It is the most important thing that any one of us could ever do, because if we lose that dear ones - if we love one another it is the greatest thing - if we lose that, if we don't love one another, it is the worst thing. If we can't work together and esteem our brother higher than our self and not think too highly of ourselves...

"Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;" Romans 12:11. Doing the things we are supposed to do. Not trying to hide things in business or hide things from people. It says, fervent in Spirit, serving the Lord.

"Rejoicing in hope..." v.12. Dear ones, I often think we don't do that enough. That we don't rejoice. And that we are thankful for the hope that we have been given. That our Lord and Savior Jesus gave us this hope, the hope that we don't deserve but we have been given. The hope that lies within us, that we hope we can be in heaven with our Lord and Savior someday and meet Him face to face.

Sermon continued on page 42

Sermon continued from page 41

"...patient in tribulation..." v.12. That is pretty tough sometimes. Actually, most of the time that is a pretty tough one. Patient in tribulation. We go through things and are we patient? Are we quick to ask God why? Why do I have to go through this? Or do we just rely upon the Lord and allow His Spirit to direct us? That through it all, when we get down the road and we look back on it, we recognize, yes it was the hand of God that was leading me. It wasn't me going ahead and me murmuring and complaining.

Going back to the first verse, because why? Because it is our reasonable service. As we said, God doesn't ask us to do too much. But when He does ask us to do something, dear ones, we need to be willing. It is our reasonable service. There is nothing anyone of us could do to repay our Lord and Savior for what He has done. But being faithful. Being willing to be used. To be part of this body, that we keep our place. That we can function normally. That we would know what is good and acceptable and the perfect will of God.

How thankful we can be this morning that we were reminded, even in our first reading. We read in Isaiah. What did it say? The promise of God that the remnant would be restored. The children of Israel, as the Red Sea parted, they had a path to go (Exodus 14:21,22). They knew exactly where they needed to go and they got through it. God provided. Here again, it says, as the remnant would come, that the rivers would come together and they would dry up and there would be a place, a dryshod for them to go (Isaiah 11:15).

Don't we find it to be that way, dear

ones? If we rely upon God and we trust in Him, we find it to be just that way. The road is paved. It is there. We just need to follow. Unfortunately, dear ones, many times our judgment gets cloudy, we don't think soberly, according as God has dealt us. We think in our own minds, that we know best. But unfortunately, dear ones, we don't know much. We don't know what tomorrow is going to bring. We have no idea what next week, next year, next month. It doesn't matter. It may never come. Oh, we know today. We trust in God that as His Word goes forth to us, we have been given many reminders. That we would rejoice in hope.

Even as we go down in the last five, six verses, it says, "Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not. Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep." Romans 12:14,15. Those that persecute you. We think of that, dear ones. How hard is it to love someone that doesn't love us? God's Word encourages us to do that. It is not easy. It takes effort on our part. But when we do it, what do we find? We find there is a blessing in it. We can rejoice with those that rejoice and weep with those that weep.

We think of our Lord and Savior Jesus as He went with Mary and Martha. He wept! (St. John 11:32-35) It is no different for us, those that we know, when something happens, we weep with those that weep. We are all in it together, dear ones. We all want to be in heaven some day.

"Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits." Romans 12:16. Dear ones, I think this morning, as we

read this, we need to be of the same mind. That is not what Satan would want. Unfortunately, not all of our minds think alike. We don't all process things the same way. But how thankful we can be to God. If we trust in God, we get the same result. But Satan doesn't want that result. Satan wants us to think independently. That we would think of ourselves as, we are smart. We know better. This is the way, the only way. But that is not how it is. God wants us to be of the same mind one toward another. Not minding the high things but condescending to men of low estate. It says, be not wise in your own conceits.

"Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men." v.17. It doesn't say some. It says all. That we would do that.

How many times do we think, when somebody does something to us, that we want to get back at them? Isn't that our human tendency? We want to try. It says recompense to no man evil for evil. But if someone does something to us, that we would not want to get revenge, but that we would love them and prove things honest in the sight of all men.

"If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men." v.18. We know, dear ones, even for myself, being in business, there are just some people that you do work for, that no matter what you do, it is never good enough. Even so, does that give us an excuse not to live peaceably with all men? It doesn't.

We have no excuses, dear ones. God calls us by His mercy and by His grace. As we live our life, that we present ourselves a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which, dear ones, we know God doesn't ask too much. That is our reasonable service.

Assistant Houseparent Needed

Gateway Woods currently has an opening for a single sister to work in a full-time ministry with troubled children. The Assistant Houseparent position offers competitive wages and generous benefits and a close relationship with brothers and sisters whose hearts and lives are dedicated to a mission with an eternal reward. If you feel the call to explore the possibilities, please call one of the brothers listed below:

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

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



Child Placement Manager Opening

As Gateway Woods expands our Christian Adoption Services into Illinois, we are in need of an IL Child Placement Manager. Applicants for this job must:



1. Be a member in good standing of the Apostolic Christian Church with approval of his/her local elder.
2. Have at least a Master's Degree in Social Work from an accredited school and three years work experience in social work administration OR a Master's Degree in a human services field from an accredited school and five years of work experience in human services administration.
3. Have a dedicated interest, love and sensitivity for youth and families.
4. Possess good motivational, organizational, teaching and communications skills.
5. Have ability to establish positive working and interpersonal relationships and use a team approach.
6. Have treatment philosophy compatible with the mission of Gateway Woods - Apostolic Christian Children's Home.
7. Have commitment to ongoing personal and professional growth.

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

Bro. Jeff Schumacher
 Administrator
 PO Box 151
 Leo, IN 46765
 1-888-443-4283 (GATE)
 jeff.schumacher@gatewaywoods.org

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

Apostolic Christian Counseling and Family Services

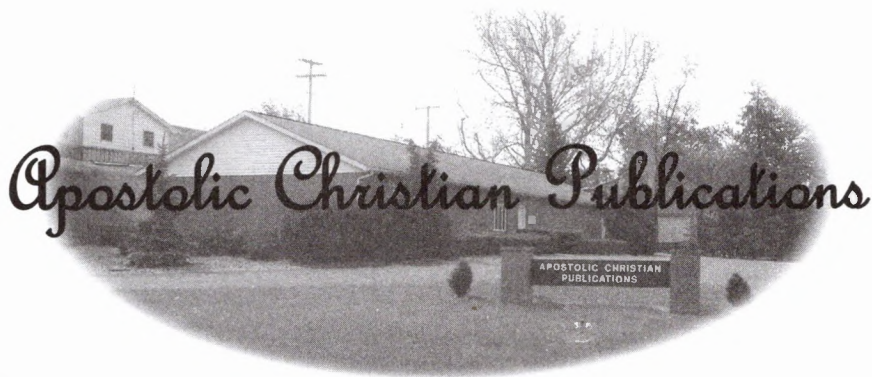
515 East Highland St,
 Morton, IL 61550
 309-263-5536 (local#) 309-263-6841 (fax)

877-370-9988 (toll free)

www.accounseling.org --- info@accounseling.org

*Christ-centered counseling for
 depression, anxiety, relationship problems, etc...*

- In-office and remote (telephone, videoconference) counseling with a counselor
- Telephone consultations with a counselor
- Information about mental health issues and relationship problems
- Referrals to qualified counseling and family services in your area
- Referrals to specialized services
- Apostolic Christian Way of Purity and Way of Temperance
- Bible Studies on mental health, family and relationship topics
- Mentor Training Program
- Information, downloads, and presentations on mental health, family and relationship topics available at www.accounseling.org
- Mentoring for students in mental health-related fields
- All calls are confidential



805 W. Conger Street, Box 52
Eureka, IL 61530
Ph. 309-467-3611
Hours: Mon.—Fri. 8:30 to
11:30 CST/CDT

New Free Downloadable Items Added to the Publications Bookstore Website!

- ⇒ The entire catalog of Bro. Samuel Froehlich's writings are now available in searchable PDF format. The Froehlich Recordings are also available in CD and MP3 format.
- ⇒ Marriage, Family Life, and Mental Health Recordings. Multiple subjects are covered which have both spiritual and educational value. Available in cassette, CD, or MP3 format.
- ⇒ Silver Lining Magazine Issues — Now available in free downloadable PDF format. Archived copies beginning from June, 2010.
- ⇒ Church Practice Booklets describing various aspects of church life. Available in downloadable PDF format.



www.acpublications.org

How to Order:

During Business Hours: call 309-467-3611

After Hours: Call 309-467-3611 leave a message, or fax to the same number.

~*****~

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



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN

Counseling and Family Services

515 Highland Street, Morton, IL 61550 ❖ Tel: (309) 263-5536 Fax: (309) 263-6841 ❖ www.accounseling.org

Fear of Failure

In December, we discussed the feelings of doubt and fear, what they mean, and how to overcome them. One common and, sometimes, paralyzing fear is the fear of failing. Nearly everyone experiences this fear at some time in their lives due to the uncertainty how trying some new task or venture such as a new job or occupation, schooling, or business opportunities. The list can also include fear of taking on new roles such as in marriage, motherhood/fatherhood, new relationships, repentance, and being a Christian. Thankfully, God understands our makeup and encourages us to come to Him with our fears about all of these issues.

Psalm 34:4 "I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears."

A very simple definition of failure is: not measuring up to an intended objective; the opposite of success. The fear of failure is often linked to a fear of criticism or rejection. Those who fear failure may also consider all critical feedback as validation for their fear and may establish their sense of self-worth on that feedback. They may consider any criticism as a very personal attack on who they are as a person rather than as a simple description of how their behavior could be modified to reach a specific goal. This can further lead to an increase in their fear of rejection because they feel that their failings may make them unfit to be included in their desired group.

Focusing on the fear of criticism often takes our eyes off of our true focus: God and His plan for us. Therefore, when our emotions are wracked by uncertainty and fear of failure, we must refocus our sights on Christ and ask Him to give us strength. As a loving and faithful Father, He is willing to give us

the wisdom and strength that we need. Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

Let's look at the example of Mary: If we consider how utterly impossible it was by human standards for Mary to bear a Son without knowing a man, and realizing how ostracized she would be for being pregnant and unmarried, we can understand a little how afraid of failing she could have been. However, her commitment to trust in God was unwavering and, although she did not fully understand, she accepted His will for her life. Luke 1:37:38 "For with God nothing shall be impossible. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her." Likewise, God will help us work through the difficulties and challenges we face as long as our endeavors are in accord with His will.

For someone struggling with a fear of failure, coping can be very difficult and anything new can bring about feelings of despair. Breaking down new or difficult tasks into smaller, more manageable parts can be helpful in coping with a fear of failure. Additional pieces of the activity can be added once a level of comfort is attained with each part. For instance: Starting a new job is stressful for most people, but having a great fear of failing in that job can be debilitating. Setting reasonable expectations for how quickly you should be able to feel comfortable in the job is key. If, as a new employee, you negatively compare yourself to a worker who has been in the job for 15 years, then you will feel like a failure. However, if your expectations are that over time, new duties and parts of the job can be added and that you will grow in your role gradually, then fear of failure is reduced to a much more manageable level.

James 4:10 "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up."

It can be difficult for us to admit our fear of failing because we don't want to appear incompetent to others. This bit of pride may limit our success because others may have no idea of our struggle. What's more, we may not learn that our perceptions of their expectations for us are incorrect, or we may choose not to undertake anything new that might help us overcome our fear. The Apostle Paul told the Corinthian believers in chapter 3 verses 4 and 5, "And such trust have we through Christ to God-ward: Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God." He reminded them that of themselves they didn't have sufficiency but only in God. That is true for everyone whether we fear failure or not. Remember, your self-worth and identity comes from Christ. He set your worth.

Satan would like to convince us that we cannot succeed in our Christian walk and therefore it is unwise to even begin. John 8:44 "...He (Satan) was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it." The Bible tells us that Satan was brazen enough to try to tempt Jesus in the wilderness. Therefore, we should not be surprised if he tries to do the same with us. Satan loves to use the fear of failure in people's lives because it is a way for him to limit their effectiveness for Christ. If he can keep someone from reaching out to a neighbor because the person fears not getting the words to come out just right, then he can potentially keep God's love from impacting others.

2 Timothy 1:7 "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

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
 printedsermons@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

Light From The Word

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

After entering the web site, click on the item located in the left hand frame entitled, "Light from the Word Reprints". The entire set of editorials are available in a complete download (*June 1987 through February 2011*).

BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

Sharing The Word In Love

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

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

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

To order, contact,

Apostolic Christian Church
Bible Distribution

PO Box 30

1254 S. Main Street

Bluffton, IN 46714

Phone and Fax 260/824-5587

E-mail: bibledist@adamswells.com

Rochester, MN Services

Times:

7:30 - 3rd Wednesday of the month

Location:

819 15th St.,

Rochester MN, 55902

*(within a few blocks
 of the Mayo campus)*

Contacts:

Bro. Jim and Sis Deb Tilbury

(507)281-2875.

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

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

Ministers Needed for Haiti Medical Teams

The World Relief Caribbean Committee is assembling medical work teams to provide Hospital Lumiere located at Bonne Fin, Haiti, with much needed assistance. As these teams are formed, it is important and beneficial to have a minister with each ACC team.

It is understandable for those of us who are not in the medical field to feel unqualified, however; please be assured that your presence is needed, not only for Spiritual support but also to assist with the many other non medical support functions, freeing up the medical persons to focus on their tasks.

This is an opportunity to not only serve but to experience some of the needs and work in Haiti, to look into the eyes of a people God so loves and are in such desperate need.

Current travel dates are Feb 18-26, Feb 25-Mar 5, Mar 18-26, April 15-23, May 13-21.

For further information contact:

Sis Alice Widmer

alice.widmer@jmsmucker.com

330-939-0083



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
World Relief

www.acworldrelief.org

CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 2011

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 February 14th, 2011 -www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/

Project	Year 2011	Coordinator	Capacity
Puits Sales Palm Grove Construction	Mar 8-15	John Aberle 785-459-2423 jraberle@hotmail.com	12
Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Mar 15-25	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 rick@wuethrichfarms.com	4
Les Cayes MEBSH School Roof	Mar 18-25	Rich Bertschi 309-467-2351 lemangm@mtco.com	12
Les Cayes MEBSH Haiti Support	Mar 25-28	Rich Bertschi 309-467-2351 lemangm@mtco.com	Invitation
Les Cayes SEED Agriculture Aid	Mar 25-Apr 1	Dale Frank 319-766-3661 dtfrank@louisacomm.net	12
Les Cayes MEBSH Maintenance	Apr 1-8	Jon Zeller 309-266-9009 jzeller@mtco.com	12
Les Cayes AWA Water Aid	Apr 29-May 6	Maurice Schaefer 309-925-3740 schaefs2@gmail.com	4
Les Cayes MEBSH Haiti Evaluation	May 13-20	Rich Bertschi 309-467-2351 lemangm@mtco.com	Invitation
Les Cayes MEBSH Medical	May 20-27	Keith Knepp 309-467-3468 kknepp@mchsi.com	8
Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Jun 8-18	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 rick@wuethrichfarms.com	4

HAITI MEDICAL WORK TEAMS

Hospital Lumiere at Bonne Fin, Haiti Haiti Medical Team	Mar 18-26	Alice Widmer 330-939-0083 alice.widmer@jmsmucker.com	8-10
Hospital Lumiere at Bonne Fin, Haiti Haiti Medical Team	Apr 15-23	Alice Widmer 330-939-0083 alice.widmer@jmsmucker.com	8-10
Hospital Lumiere at Bonne Fin, Haiti Haiti Medical Team	May 13-21	Alice Widmer 330-939-0083 alice.widmer@jmsmucker.com	8-10

There is an urgent need for ministers to travel with the ACC medical teams not only for spiritual support, but also to assist with the many non-medical functions.

JAMAICA

Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of February 14th, 2011 -www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/

Project	Year 2011	Coordinator	Capacity
Jamaica Deaf Villg CCCD	Mar 5 - 12	Tom Waldbeser 770-463-4788 tswald@bellsouth.net	40
Jamaica Deaf Villg CCCD	Jun 10 - 18	Ted Hirstein 309-266-8769 hirstein@mtco.com	40

Jamaica Deaf Village CCCD	Jun 25 - Jul 2	Harvey Landis 330-925-8632 landziv@aol.com	Akron/ Rittman BC Trip
------------------------------	----------------	---	------------------------------

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 February 14th, 2011 -www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-mexico/*

Location	Year 2011	Coordinator			
Agua Prieta Construction	Mar 5-12	Kevin Gerber 260-565-3313 kevgerber@yahoo.com	Magdalena Construction	Apr 16-23	Mike Zobrist Congerville/Eureka 309-660-7004 zobfam@gmail.com
Magdalena Construction	Mar 5-12	Jason Edelman Illinois State University 309-848-7987 isyounggroup@gmail.com	Magdalena Construction	May 28 - Jun 4	Todd Baum Phoenix Bible Class 480-563-8286 toddbaum@svmasonry.com
Agua Prieta Construction	Mar 19-26	Sam Kaehr 260-565-3200 sckaehr@adamswells.com	Magdalena Construction	Jun 11-18	Jason Schambach Elgin Bible Class 847-468-1194 jkschambach@att.net
Magdalena Construction	Mar 19-26	Jeff Leman Bluffton Senior Class 260-565-3815 jvleman@adamswells.com	Magdalena Construction	Jun 18-25	Stan Virkler 219-863-5913 svirkler@fbbuildings.com
Reynosa Construction	Mar 19-26	Tristan Herrmann University of Illinois 309-712-6902 tristanherrmann@gmail.com	Reynosa Construction	Jun 18-25	Joe Sprunger Indianapolis Bible Class 317-491-4424 joesprunger@gmail.com
Agua Prieta Construction	Mar 26-Apr 2	Aaron Beery 330-927-6926 beeryaaron@embarqmail.com	Magdalena Construction	Jul 9-16	Jason Kaeb Bern Bible Class 785-284-3202 jason.maggs@gmail.com
Magdalena Construction	Mar 26 - Apr 2	Doug Frank Tremont Bible Class 309-925-5000 frankfamilyfarms@yahoo.com	Reynosa Medical	Oct 5-12	Cheryl Herrmann cherrmann@frontier.com
Reynosa Medical	Apr 14-21	Cheryl Herrmann cherrmann@frontier.com	Magdalena Construction	Nov 19-26	Rod Schmidt 303-774-7913 rschmidt@acosta.com

There is an urgent need for ministers to travel with the ACC medical teams not only for spiritual support, but also to assist with the many non-medical functions.

Haiti and Jamaica Work Team Code Definitions

CCCD=Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf

MEBSH= Missions of Evangelical Baptists of South Haiti

Palm Grove = Mission of Haiti

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

TBA = To Be Announced

Palm Grove = Mission of Haiti

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

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

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

(*) = Changes or additions since last issue

()** = Spring Break Timeframe

USA World Relief Committee

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

* Bro. Kent Heimer	<i>Counseling Elder</i>	Taylor, MO	Cell# 573-248-5701
* Bro. Chuck Kellenberger	<i>Chairman</i>	Elgin, IL	Cell# 224-629-6531
* Bro. Bill Leman	<i>Treasurer</i>	Roanoke, IL	Cell# 309-241-0257
* Bro. Les Schambach	<i>Administrator/Sec.</i>	Elgin, IL	Cell# 630-247-5271
* Bro. Tom Neuenschwander		Bluffton, IN	Cell# 260-307-6026
* Bro. Ray Slagel		Fairbury, IL	Cell# 815-848-3714
* Bro. Paul Kaeb		Bern, KS	Cell# 785-547-5269



REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

This concludes the series on the early days at Elgin, Iowa. Special information on the early settlers was garnered by a Mr. Gary Butikofer of Wisconsin, who is a relative of the Butikofer family at Elgin. We surely thank him for the travel patterns on specific families as they came to the Elgin, Iowa, congregation many years ago.

Arriving at Elgin, Iowa

1876 The family of Magdalena Wittmer and her daughter Mary, who came from Switzerland. In 1877, she married Peter Gerber, and they had a daughter, Rose, born to them. Magdalena Gerber is buried in the church cemetery.

1877 Jacob Gehring came by himself initially to Sardis, Ohio, from Switzerland in 1873, and then to Elgin in 1877. In 1882, he married Mary Clark. He became a minister at Elgin sometime between 1887-1893. He and his wife are buried at Elgin.

1880 John Grimm, Sr., and his wife, Anna Eberhardt, and their son Edward came to Elgin in 1880 from Monroe County, Wisconsin. They had moved to Wisconsin from Sardis, Ohio, in 1879. John is buried in the church cemetery near the Elgin church, and Anna is buried in the church plot near the Taylor, Missouri, church. Both joined the church at Elgin soon after arriving there.

Benedict Eberhardt and his wife, Elizabeth Zangger, came from Monroe County, Wisconsin, in 1880, af-

ter living in New Martinsville, West Virginia. Their son Fred and adopted daughter, Emma, also came with them. They had come from Switzerland in 1866. Benedict was not a member of the church, but his wife was. She is buried in the Elgin church cemetery, but there is no marker.

Carl and Elizabeth Bigler Hanni came to Elgin about 1880. He was not a member, but his wife was. Later, they moved to Fairbury, Illinois, around 1896.

Additional Families

Over the years additional families came to Elgin, Iowa. Their family names are: Meyer, Schlupp, Sova, Schupbach, Pulfer, Gruber, Dennler, Frieden, Friederlich, Yost, Berger, and Imhoff.

This is a record of the families up until around 1896.

Elgin, Iowa - A Summary History

By 2010, the Elgin, Iowa, congregation had 44 members with 24 in Sunday School and general attendance of around 109 persons (*Ministers Book, 2010*). A pattern during the past few years has found several couples with young children moving to this area, and growth seemed to have potential. Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm, West Bend, is the Elder, and ministers are Bros. Kent Getz, Dale Moore, and Floyd Frieden.

Elder Benedict Weyeneth came to the Elgin area in late 1851 or during 1852. Worship services were held in

homes, and he was very instrumental in establishing this church. In 1853, he left for Peoria, Illinois, and helped establish many congregations in central Illinois.

Back in 1956, Bro. Uriel Gehring (who served as a minister for several years) wrote of the olden days, "Many early church-goers walked as far as ten miles and drove horse and buggy fifteen miles to attend church. As a result of the great distance to church, the members brought their lunch and ate dinner in a section of the church used for a dining room. Services were held in the forenoon and afternoon. This custom still prevails." (*Marching To Zion, Second Edition, page 117*).

Persons of Swiss origin were among the early dwellers here, and henceforth. The area must have reminded them of their homeland. As one nears the small village of Elgin, nestled securely in the hills of northeastern Iowa, he will notice a sign which heralds the area as, "The Switzerland of Iowa."

Note: *The materials compiled by Mr. Gary Butikofer are available free of charge. To obtain Xeroxed copies of these pages, write to Remembering, P. O. Box 404, Pontiac, Illinois 61764.*

By Perry Klopfenstein

Next Issue:
Misc. historical data

The Light Of Hope

“Give Up Anything”

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

Recently, “Give Up Anything” has come to my mind as something I should be willing to do for Christ. Do you believe that we should be willing to give up anything for Christ? On the surface it appears that we certainly should be, considering what Christ, the Son of God has done for us.

Then I thought about giving up my automobile. That’s fine but how am I going to get to church? And how am I going to buy our groceries? If I were employed, how would I get to work?

It appears that we should be willing to give up anything for Christ but we must decide whether or not it is His will for us to give it up. I believe the willingness is very important. Christ told the rich young ruler, Mark 18:22, “Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me.” He was not willing to do that and he was very sorrowful. Had he been willing to do as Christ told him, he may well have been given more than he had before.

What does the Bible say about giving up anything? Christ said, Luke 9:23, “If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.” There is the insinuation that you should be willing to give up at least some things. I believe that in the original Greek it means that we should be willing to give up everything. At least, the Japanese translators wrote, “Throw yourself

away.”

Romans 12:1 reads, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.” This insinuates that we should be willing to give up our bodies, or die, for Christ.

In the sermon on the mount, Christ said, Matthew 5:40, “And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloke also.” Christ appears to be teaching that we should let others take advantage of us. However, it probably is meant to teach us that we should be willing to give up anything for Christ.

When I repented and was baptized, my elder, Bro. Emil Schupert, told me that God would reward me for anything I give up for Christ. I’ve found it so. We need to be willing to give up things that may not seem wrong to us but we should give them up in order to have better unity in the Brotherhood. If I only give up those things which appear to be wrong to me, I am probably missing out on my calling. We are called to be peace makers, Matthew 5:9, “Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.”

In I Corinthians 1:10 Paul wrote, “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same

judgment.” That Scripture cries out for unity. In order to have unity some of us are going to have to give up some of our own ideas and speak well, and with love, of each other. We are all only human beings you know.

There is a tendency for us not to give up our own interpretation of Scriptures or our own understanding of doctrine. I have been told that these doctrinal things are important, much more so than outward things. It is true that we should all believe that Christ is indeed the Son of the living God, that He died for us and arose again, and that He is coming again. We should also believe in the doctrine of doing our best, by the grace of God, to live holy lives.

Paul wrote by the power of the Holy Spirit in I Corinthians 13:2, “And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge, and have not charity, I am nothing.” Paul is telling me that even though I understand perfectly everything written in Revelation and Daniel, and even though I know everything about everything, like God, if I have not charity or love, I am nothing. I will have missed my calling in the sight of God. These Scriptures make me think.

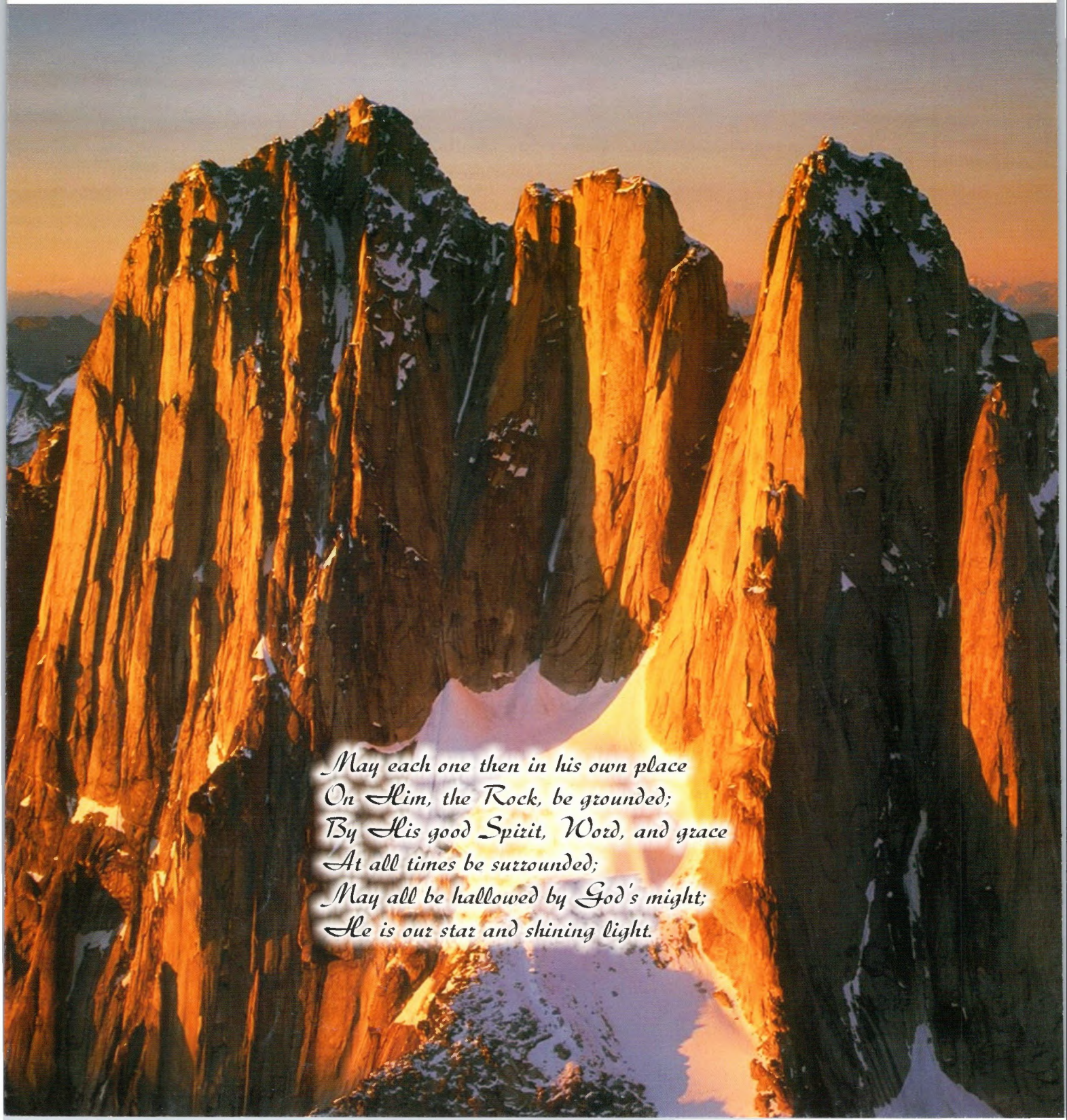
I conclude that unless I am mistaken, it is important that I be willing to give up anything for Christ, if by giving it up I come closer to following the Holy Scriptures and bring about better unity in the Brotherhood.

希望の光

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



*****CAR-RT LOT**C-002
LF SL:2786 C39 PK136
ARTHUR BAHLER
207 S 10TH ST
FAIRBURY IL 61739-1317



*May each one then in his own place
On Him, the Rock, be grounded;
By His good Spirit, Word, and grace
At all times be surrounded;
May all be hallowed by God's might;
He is our star and shining light.*