

The Silver Lining



*For the seed shall be prosperous; the vine shall give her fruit,
and the ground shall give her increase, and the heavens shall give their dew;
and I will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these things.*

*These are the things that ye shall do;
Speak ye every man the truth to his neighbour;
execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates:*

*And let none of you imagine evil in your hearts against his neighbour;
and love no false oath: for all these are things that I hate, saith the Lord.*

March 2011

Sermon by Bro. Jeff Bahler, Wolcott, IN

Genesis 41:1-49 & St. Matthew 8:1-27

It is always a joy when we can gather in God's house and look forward to what He would have for us on a Sunday morning. This morning I took some time to read and meditate a little on God's Word. I stayed at a place different from ours. We have livestock but not cattle. As the cattle were outside, I could hear they were bellowing. It encouraged me, as I thought about that. What were those animals after? Why were they bellowing? They wanted to be fed. They were making a plea to their owner to be fed.

It is the same for us today. We were encouraged as we saw your heads bowed in prayer. You made a silent petition that the Lord would speak to each heart and that we also could be fed from God's Word. We covet your prayers. We need those so that His will can be accomplished in each one of our lives and we can be more focused.

The story of Joseph in Genesis 41 is an interesting account. Probably none of us that have not read this at one time. Especially when we were in Sunday School. But as we read about Joseph and Pharaoh and the things that happened thousands of years ago, there are many lessons to be learned from this account. It is amazing how we can see God's hand at work. I am sure He is the same nowadays. Depending on if the world stands and if things were written down, the people would look back and see things that are happening now. Sometimes we wonder about things. I am sure that Joseph did too.

It has been a long time since I actually read through this. Well, I guess it hasn't been that long because I do read through the Bible in a year. I have one of those daily's that does that. But it is al-

ways amazing to me when I read about Joseph. If we think, sometimes, that life gets tough for us and our trials and temptations and struggles are more than we can handle, we can always look around and there is usually someone that is worse. Or if we go back into the Bible, which is the best thing for us to do, we think about the way that Joseph acted and reacted to the way he was treated, it surely is an example for us.

We dove into this kind of right in the middle. I really appreciate the book of Genesis because it is told in story form. I think if you read the whole account of Jacob's sons, Joseph was ill treated by his brothers. He was a favorite of his father (Genesis 37:3). His father loved him and showed special kindness, which we can learn from that too. If we have children, we should try to not show favor because it causes animosity with other siblings or even others that we would associate with.

But Joseph was a favorite of his father. He treated him kindly and it caused problems with his brothers and they wanted to kill him (Genesis 37:4,18). They threw him in a pit for nothing that he did (Genesis 37:23,24). He was taken away to Egypt. In Egypt, he was a slave in Potiphar's house and it didn't dampen his character (Genesis 39:1). He still believed in an almighty God. He did the best. He did the best with what he had to work with.

He was thrown in prison for something that he did not even do. He was accused by Potiphar's wife of things that didn't even happen. (Genesis 39:7-20) So there he was, twice where he was ill treated for things that didn't happen. He shouldn't have got blamed for. Those things can happen to us to-

Cover Verses

Front: Zechariah 8:12,16-17

Back: Zions Harp #68 vs.4

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

April

1. South Bend, IN
2. Detroit, MI
3. Indianapolis, IN
4. Morris, MN
5. Sabetha, KS
6. Bloomington/Normal, IL
7. Wolcott, IN

Suggested Donation: \$14/subscription

Next correspondence due:

For April Issue

(16 Feb. News - 15 March News)

Due: 20 March 2011

The Silver Lining (Vol. 66, #3)

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

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(e-mail is preferred)

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1389 County Road 1600 N
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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

Sermon continued on page 41

"If ye love me, keep
my commandments."

John 14:15

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

March 2011

Principles, Doctrine, Traditions And Rules

A lawyer tempting Jesus asked Him a question, saying, "Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind... And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thy self. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets" (Matt. 22:35-40). Jesus later elaborated on these principles with a "new commandment... That ye love one another; as I have loved you..." (John 13:34).

The Lord's Prayer contains less than 70 words. Lincoln's Gettysburg Address is 286 words. The Declaration of Independence is 1322 words. The Constitution was adopted for six very clear, short reasons which can be recited in a matter of a few seconds. Recent legislation (rules) was passed for health care reform that had over 2400 pages and for reform of the banking system that had over 2300 pages, and yet there is much lack of clarity in the meaning and application of these documents. Solomon said "And further by these my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh" (Ecc. 12:12). Jesus condemned "wordy" prayers when he said "...for they think they shall be heard for their much speaking" (Matt. 6:7).

We live in a society that seems to have lost sight of the fundamental principles that form the basis for what is right and what is wrong. There is a trend to replace principles with rules (laws). When rules do not accomplish their purpose, they are supplemented with more rules and with more detail. On the surface this seems to be the thing to do, because it is relatively easy, and it seems that it should enhance compliance. It is correct that simple rules are easy to understand. However, circumstances and patterns of thinking change so rapidly that we cannot possibly adjust the rules fast enough to keep up with all of the rapid advances in technology and many other new developments which impact our daily lives. Often we struggle to know what to do as new challenges and opportunities come our way.

The rapidly changing ideas and attitudes in society are often used to justify behavior that only a few years ago would have been unthinkable. Young people are facing decisions that most of us would never have imagined. Many people are confused. Isaiah and Jeremiah have well described these conditions. "Woe unto them that call good evil, and evil good" (Is. 5:20). "Were they ashamed when they committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush" (Jer. 6:15). Why is it seemingly so difficult today for many to make good decisions about what is right or wrong?

Some general examples of this loss of focus may give us insight into the problem. Many families have seemingly lost sight of the need for fathers to set a godly example and lead with the love of Christ. Many schools seem to have lost sight of the fundamental principle that the adults are to be in charge, and those in charge must set examples that help students learn to respect authority and high moral standards. Too many elected officials seemingly ignore the concepts of right and wrong, frequently making selfish, often unethical, decisions.

If our society really embraced the fundamental principles of the Bible, people would have more success in correctly discerning new situations, rather than simply making a new or longer list of rules.

Principles are defined as fundamental truths which are timeless and universal. They produce predictable results when we live by them; they are in effect whether we like them or not; they are in effect whether we understand them or not; they are external to us, and once understood, they become self evident and enable us to discern and function in many different situations. Principles are from God. The Word commands us as believers to learn and teach spiritual principles (the oracles of God) and not remain as babes who are poorly equipped to discern good from evil (Heb. 5:12-14).

Doctrine is essentially what is taught. The doctrines of the New Testament are the truths taught by Jesus and the Apostles. The principles of the doctrine of Christ are summarized in several Scriptures (Matt. 22:37-39; John 13:34-35; Heb. 6:1-2). There are also many false doctrines (Rev.2:14). We are instructed to speak

"the things which become sound doctrine" (Tit. 2:1). It is essential that our doctrine be "the doctrine of Christ" (2 John 9) and that we are not "tossed to and fro...by every wind of doctrine" (Eph.4:14) which comes across our path.

Traditions are those practices and customs that are handed down from one generation to another. They are the application of what we learn and know, and may be good or bad. The application of sound biblically-based principles in our lives through good traditions and practices is important in demonstrating our faith in God as lights in the world and as the salt of the earth (Matt. 5:13-16).

Rules are specific directions for how things are to be done. They are generally guidelines or directives designed to control specific behavior. Rules change as society changes; they are quite narrow in scope, and the results are often unpredictable. Many of them are needed in attempting to guide our behavior if we do not live by sound principles.

Rules in and of themselves are neither good nor bad. We need some rules to serve as examples that help give clarity and meaning to principles and doctrine. The younger we are, the more rules we need. As we mature, and begin to understand the principles behind what is right and wrong, we should be able to evaluate new challenges and make wise discernment, rather than to rely upon additional rules for each new situation. When we are converted, we are given grace and the guidance of the Holy Spirit to help us discern, based on a continual growth in understanding of the principles of the doctrine of Christ (John 8:31; 2 Pet. 3:18).

Focusing on principles rather than the specifics of rules will not lead to a broader way, if we follow closely the principles of the Bible, starting with the basic commandments that Jesus emphasized (Matt. 22:37-39; John 13:34-35). If we also remember that Jesus said if we love Him we will keep His commandments (John 14:15), we will find that there is no room for the world in our lives. As our love for the Lord and His Word grows, may we humbly and willingly apply biblically-based principles, doctrine, and traditions in all aspects of our lives.

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

Our purpose

The mission or purpose of the Apostolic Christian Mission Committee is to present to the lost the Gospel message of salvation based on faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ and a true repentance and conversion. This is to be done in harmony with the nurturing and instructing of the believers in the truths of God's Word and the preserving of sound doctrine by "earnestly contending for the faith," and serving others in humility and love.

The focus of this article is to provide an overview of ways the Mission Committee can help to share and support the Word.

Establishing and aiding new and existing churches

When born-again souls are set free from sin through faith in Jesus Christ, it is essential that they be nourished in faith and doctrine. God has provided the church as the mechanism to edify and nurture spiritual growth and sanctification. One of the primary goals of the Mission Committee is to establish and support viable Apostolic Christian congregations built on the love of Jesus Christ.

Love of Christ: Let the love of Christ be the prime motivation for all mission endeavors and the inspiration for loving and respectful relationships among all who serve. "This is my commandment, that ye love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12); "...in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves" (Phil. 2:3).

Church: Establish and support viable Apostolic Christian Churches as the nucleus of our mission work.

"...the church of the living God (is the) pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Tim. 3:15); "...ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit." (Eph. 2:19-22) This occurs in concert with the four pillars of the established mission of our church.

This can only be accomplished through obedience to the guiding of the Holy Spirit whereby faithful mature brethren allow themselves to be used in a nurturing role, sometimes on a short-term basis, but other times by being willing to be uprooted by the Lord and sent to a new location far from home. It requires faithful willing brethren to nurture and support these churches with sound teaching built on truth.

Biblical Truth: Teach and practice the whole counsel of God under the direction of the Holy Spirit. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable..." (2 Tim. 3:16-17); "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you..." (Matt. 28:20)

Repentance and Sanctification: Teach that salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ (Eph. 2: 8-10), calling mankind to a Holy Spirit led repentance, born again experience (Matt. 3:6; Acts 3:19) and walk of sanctification. (Tit. 2:11-14)

Sending brethren on specific assignments

As the Lord identifies needs, He prepares brethren with willing hearts to be sent by the church to provide nurturing and oversight to developing young congregations. Sometimes this may be in a long-term ministering role. Other assignments may be service in a short-term role, service on a construction or medical work

team, or just to provide fellowship and encouragement to the local believers.

Preparation: Prepare brethren who are called of the Lord and sent by the Church to share the Gospel message of salvation. "...be ready always to give an answer to every man..." (1 Pet. 3:15); "...sanctified and meet for the master's use and prepared unto every good work." (2 Tim. 2:21)

Providing spiritual oversight

Biblical Accountability: Provide mission environments that enable effective support and oversight, fulfilling our accountability to God for the welfare of those being sent and those being served. "...for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account..." (Heb. 13:17); "Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof..." (1 Pet. 5:1-2)

Doctrinal Integrity: Avoid ecumenical intermingling (2 Pet. 2:1-2) and other forms of spiritual deception (Rev. 2:14) in our efforts to preserve sound doctrine. "Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught..." (Tit. 1:9)

Your part

All believers are called to share the Gospel in some way. "For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak." (Ephesians 6:20).

That may be as a loving mother serving in the home, sharing the love of God with her children. It may be in the neighborhood, the workplace or it may be that God is preparing you for service in a country with a different language and culture. The Mission Committee appreciates your interest and support.



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

International Grants

The International Grants Committee, working with Christian relief organizations, coordinates projects in areas of the world not represented by the other World Relief committees. Over the last three years disaster aid has been provided to eight countries. We have also given funding assistance for humanitarian aid projects in ten countries.

Disaster Aid

Working with International Christian Relief organizations enables World Relief to respond within a very short time to disasters around the world.

Zimbabwe 2009 - An outbreak of Cholera affected thousands and World Relief provided funding to ship a cargo container of medical supplies. **Philippines 2009** - A tropical storm caused severe damage. Funding was provided to send two cargo containers of disaster supplies worth over \$800,000. **Honduras 2009** - An earthquake caused at least 7 fatalities, 40 injuries and more than 130 collapsed or damaged buildings across northern Honduras. Funding was provided to send disaster supplies to the survivors. **Indonesia 2010** - An earthquake caused many deaths and displaced thousands. Funding was sent to ship a cargo container of disaster supplies and to enable the medical team from the Medical Clinic in Telos, (Indonesia), to travel to the affected area. **Chile 2010** - An earthquake ripped apart buildings and bridges across Chile, and more than 300 people were killed. A container of beans, emergency mattresses, blankets,

and food boxes was sent. **Haiti 2010** - Initial disaster aid for the earthquake-devastated country was sent with the assistance of two of these relief organizations. **Pakistan 2010** - In October an earthquake hit Northeastern Pakistan causing much damage. A grant was provided to send disaster supplies to the survivors of the earthquake.

Humanitarian Aid

Africa

Ethiopia - We have been supporting the feeding of school children for many years. The first children in this program have now graduated and have returned to the community as responsible adults. In Ethiopia, World Relief has also funded the construction of two bridges and provided sewing equipment for a girls home. At one location, a cattle breeding program has been started with the goal of increasing the milk output of the local cows. A cow was purchased in support of this program. **Kenya** - World Relief assisted with two projects: Construction of a school and assistance to an orphanage. **Uganda** - Help was provided toward the purchase of a farm for a children's home.

Central and South America

Brazil - A program has been started in Brazil to train women in skills to enable them to better support their families. Funding was sent to assist with the purchase of sewing and cooking equipment. This location also has a day care center for the children and resources were sent to purchase tables and chairs. **Haiti** - Funding was provided to assist with the expenses of converting a warehouse into a school.

Nicaragua - Approximately 150 families are supported by scavenging in the city dump for material to recycle. Their primitive homes needed better roofing materials, and the workers needed protective clothing for working in the dump. World Relief sent funding to assist with the purchase of building materials and the protective clothing.

Asia

Cambodia - A grant was given to enable the drilling of two water wells. **Indonesia** - Funding is provided on a continuing basis to support the Mobile Medical Clinic in the Telos Islands. The staff of the hospital provides care for over 30,000 persons in villages scattered over many islands. In addition to medical care, they are also giving training on community health and disease prevention.

Europe

Romania - White canes have been provided for students at a school for the blind. Also in Romania, World Relief provided assistance with the construction of a home for teenage orphans and for the development of a summer camp for children. **Ukraine** - Here also, a grant was provided to assist with the construction and furnishing of a home for teenage orphans.

Our focus is on improving the lives of families in distress around the world. Many of our projects are directed toward children... the hope of their families and communities. It is our prayer that the Lord will continue to bless these projects and that these children will become adults with a desire to serve the Lord through Jesus Christ.

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

We are thankful for God's protective hand over all of our homes during the blizzard that we experienced in February. We want to thank all the dedicated employees that worked extra hours during this time to keep things running smoothly. May God bless each one.

"Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God; And everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love."

I John 4:7-8

Love abounds in all of our homes throughout the year, but on Valentine's Day special parties and activities are planned to be enjoyed by all. This year Oakwood residents dressed up in their finest and were treated with a wonderful meal. Linden residents were treated with take out food from a restaurant and Timber Ridge residents enjoyed a Valentine's party with a Bingo game and crafts.

Sometimes the winter months can get long but our activity directors do a good job planning events and keeping the residents busy. There is swimming at the YWCA, walking at the gym, game nights, out to eat and Hymn singings just to name a few. They also enjoy visitors!

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

I find that people often tend to glamorize or over-spiritualize my job. While I appreciate the admiration from others, comments that make me seem like a saint to work with children in the foster care system usually just make me feel inadequate for the

task at hand. It's been said to me that it takes a "special" person for working day in and day out with troubled children. Honestly, I don't feel special. I get lost in the grind; the paperwork, checking home visits off my list for the month, enduring the frustrating two-hour wait for a five minute court hearing or trying not to yell at the teenager who has once again stolen from the only family that has shown him love. More often than not, it just feels like a job. Sure, the emotional heaviness and cruel situations children come from can wear on me after awhile, but at the same time God seems to have gifted me with the ability to let things go and emotionally release work situations when I need to.

When I reflect on the above statement, two things come to mind. The first is that when we are weak, He can be strong for us, which Paul talks about in 2 Corinthians 12. In fact, throughout both letters to the Corinthians you will find the common thread of our weakness and Christ's strength. It's good for me to be reminded that, of myself, I am not adequate to be involved in such sensitive life situations, but only by grace and strength from the Spirit can I do my job and somehow serve God and other people. I've come to realize that in any aspect of life, admitting how weak I am is the best way to open it up for God to take His rightful place over my humanness.

The second thing that comes to mind is how God makes us all so uniquely different so that we can serve in ways others cannot. He equips us perfectly so work that looks daunting to some comes easily to others. It's hard to fathom how God can know us each so well that He is able place us in situations that, by His grace, we can handle. I'm so encouraged to know that, in areas where I am not capable of serving, God has

gifted someone else for that purpose. So whether you are saving lives in a hospital, caring for troubled children, or doing people's taxes, God gifted you specifically to glorify Him in that area. Coming from a relationship-driven social worker, I'm very thankful for people who can do my taxes and prescribe my antibiotics. And, of course, our gifted prayer warriors will always be the sustaining factor here at Gateway Woods, both in the Foster Care Department and campus-wide!

"For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:"

Romans 12:4

News:

- Gateway Woods welcomed one new resident to campus this past month. Please pray with us as this resident becomes accustomed to his 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.

- We rejoiced this month as Gateway Woods played a role in six adoptions! This included adoptions from Ethiopia, Columbia and the U.S. We praise God that He continues to work in the lives of children around the globe through the miracle of adoption.

- Our annual Representatives Meeting took place on Saturday, March 12, here on campus. This event provides a great opportunity for our Representatives to be more informed about Gateway Woods and to have a chance to hear some life-changing testimonies and stories from Staff, residents, and the families we serve. We are very grateful for our Representatives' active support in promoting God's work at Gateway Woods!

- We currently have three career positions open at Gateway Woods: Assistant Houseparent, Alternate 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](https://www.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.

- Please mark your calendar for our 2011 Annual Benefit Auction on Saturday, August 6.

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
PRESCHOOL
Athens, AL
Louise Hall**

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

The Theme for the month of February was the five senses. We are so thankful to God that He gave us the senses of touch, taste, smell, hearing and vision with which to explore this world that He made for us. May we use each of these senses to serve and

worship our Heavenly Father.

The children had a Valentine's Day Party. They love to give Valentine's Day cards to each other. May we remember to share with each other the love that God has shared with us!

**ALABAMA, ATHENS
Louise Hall
Pam Moore**

"The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea. I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with loving kindness have I drawn thee."

Jeremiah 31:3

We thank Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), and his wife, Sis. Sue, and family, who came to share the Word of God with us and wonderful fellowship. We had our monthly potluck lunch that Sunday, which we were also able to share with visitors from Bay City, MI, and Fairbury, IL. We have also had visitors from Belvidere, IL. We enjoy the visitors that come to Athens Church when they are helping with the work project in Nashville, TN.

Rena Kyle (Steven Kyle) has spent time in the hospital this month. She is a daughter-in-law to Bro. David and Sis. Barbara Coulter. Billy Hall has also spent time in the hospital. He is a brother to Bro. J.R. Hall and Sis. Katherine King. Roslyn Coulter has also had illness; she is a daughter of Bro. David and Sis. Barbara Coulter. We ask your prayers for those who have had illness or spent time in the hospital.

Please visit us in Athens if you are in the area — we always welcome and appreciate visitors to our small congregation.

**ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Heather Hinrichsen**

The Word of the Lord was proclaimed by Bro. Garry Bucher (Valparaiso), Bro. Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park), Bro. Kenny Dietz (Bradford), Bro. Ronald Allenbach (Kiowa), and Bro. Neil Ramseyer (Bay City).

Sis. LouAnn Klopfenstein (Bro. Dave) underwent surgery and is now home and experiencing a slow healing process. We pray for God's comfort and healing.

We were saddened at the sudden passing of Bro. Kim Huber, who has been staying at the Villas this winter with his mother, Sis. Sophie Huber and sister, Sis. Charla Huber. Relying upon the comfort of God to remind us daily of our hope in Christ is the only way we can face another day without our loved ones. We also extend our sympathies to Bro. Jim and Sis. Candy Meiss and Ron and Julie Meiss in the passing of their mother, Sis. Ann Meiss (Bro. Harold), in Illinois.

We thank the junior and senior Bible classes for hosting a fundraising pancake breakfast on January 29. They are raising money for their trip this summer to Magdalena, Mexico.

"Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Matthew 3:2

We have two souls who have heeded the Word of God and turned their lives over to Him. They are Megan Sutton (Bro. Tim and Sis. Verene) and Jenna Freed (Bro. Steve and Sis. Kelly). Those who have been announced as finding peace with God and man and awaiting baptism are Tyler Knochel and Kristin Knochel (both children of Bro. Herb and Sis. Laurie), TJ Sutton (Bro. Tim and Sis. Verene), and Derek Knochel (Bro. Nate and Sis. Kathy). Testimonies

and baptisms will be, Lord willing, on March 26-27.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

Max Knobloch

In the past month we have experienced a spell of colder than normal weather. We are so thankful that we could assemble in a nice warm church. We were especially thankful for Elder Bro. Jon and Sis. Nancy for traveling from Phoenix for a Wednesday night service so that we could surround ourselves around the "warmth" of God's Word.

Other ministers and their families were Bro. Chad and Sis. Jami Gerber (Bluffton, IN), Bro. Ken and Sis. Mardell Dietz (Bradford, IL), Bro. Ed and Sis. Bonnie Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Bro. Ken and Sis. Bernice Schneider (Remington, IN), and Bro. Randall and Sis. Debra Beer (Milford, IN). Thank you for your service to the Lord.

On several occasions this past month we as a church were also able to get together for a potluck and World Relief. Times like these are always a good opportunity to fellowship and a chance to grow closer with Christ and with each other.

We would also like to thank our many visitors. As a small congregation we appreciate having you come to worship with us, and we love every single one of you. Please come back and see us again sometime.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

We are enjoying an extended visit from Bro. Ron Allenbach (Kiowa) as he spends some time in Arizona for the winter. He has been gracious enough to assist our ministering brothers on the pulpit, for which we thank him sincerely. We hope he comes back every winter to enjoy some of our sunshine and warm tempera-

tures. Bro. Ron Joos (Bloomfield, IA) was also here for Sunday services and shared the Word with us from the pulpit. We also appreciate his efforts of service on our behalf.

We were privileged to host the Phoenix and Altadena Sunday School Bible Classes over President's weekend. The students and teachers enjoyed a day of fun on Saturday and managed to avoid the storm rolling into town. Sunday was a different story as the church "enjoyed" a meal together in the park in rainy weather. We may have been a little cold and wet, but it was a delicious end to a weekend of fun and fellowship. Hopefully the students took home with them some good memories and biblical truths to apply to their lives. Many thanks to Bro. Chris and Sis. Sara Hattan for their organizing efforts and to all in the church who helped make the weekend a success. It takes a lot of hands in a small church to host an event like this.

Our weather has been unusually warm lately with abundant sunshine, at least up until the ACYF last Sunday! We are having a few partly cloudy cooler days before the warm temperatures and sunshine return next week.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Greetings from Altadena! Several of our small congregation has been traveling the past couple of months, so that often leaves us feeling even smaller. When loved ones are gone, they are missed. We have also had visitors, including ministering Bro. Chuck Kellenberger and his wife, Sis. Debbie, from Elgin, IL. Also, thanksgiving to God abounds when loved ones that visit family in the area, worship and fellowship with us! We praise God for His faithfulness in safe travel...in the going out and the

coming in...He watches over all!

Bro. Virgil Graf has been hospitalized recently and we pray for his recovery. We miss Bro. Lazlo and Sis. Maria Cser when health issues keep them home, too.

Our Sunday School traveled to Tucson for the winter ACYF event February 18-20, and we thank Bro. Scott and Sis. Shayna Mangers, who took our kids. Also, thanks to the Buckheisters who kept them overnight on their way. Gathering up our Bible Class is a project, as we live very spread out...in three counties, actually. For a weekend like this, things usually begin after school on Friday, and include hours in stop and go traffic. We have come to know this as 'normal' life in Southern California, and the road trip becomes an important part of the event. Even in things that might seem like an inconvenience, God provides and blesses!

Let us "...shew forth thy lovingkindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night,"

Ps. 92:2

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Yasmin Koehl

"The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all who call upon him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of them who fear him; he will also will hear their cry, and will save them."

Ps. 145:18-19

Many prayers were uttered in Bro. Joe Kaplar's behalf as he was seriously ill. We are thankful he is now home from the hospital and once again is able to attend church.

We thank God for the blessings of many visitors. Amongst them were ministering Bros. Ed Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Mike Rieker (Peoria, IL), along with their wives.

We thank these brothers for their efforts of love on our behalf and each visitor who worshipped our Lord and Savior with us.

“And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, Lord, hast not forsaken them that seek thee.”

Psalm 9:10

**KITCHENER, ONTARIO
CANADA
Kim Leman**

“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. Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.”

Jeremiah 29:11-13

We thank our ministering Bros. Rich Gramm (Sis. Samantha, South Bend, IN) and Bill Waibel (Sis. Carol, Bay City, MI) for giving of themselves to preach God's Word to our congregation.

Our small church has again witnessed God's faithfulness in bringing two souls together in Him. Sis. Naomi Ursu (Bro. Mike and Sis. Barb) has felt God's peace to accept the marriage proposal of Bro. Doyle Stoller (Bro. Scott and Sis. Charlene, Smithville, OH). We trust God will guide this young couple as they begin their engagement and plan for their future together.

**REGINA, SK
CANADA
Myrna Shipley**

My grandson Austin and I were out eating one day. Like it was a normal thing to do, he started singing out

his favorite song right in the restaurant.

When we walk with the Lord
in the light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will,
He abides with us still,
and with all who will trust and obey.

Hymns of Zion #186

What a delight that would be if we could all sing out this song in public, without reserve.

Uli and Christoph Kaiser enjoyed their holidays in Silverton, Oregon, as well as California, South Dakota and Minnesota. We are thankful they had a safe return and were able to spend time with brethren.

We were very thankful to have a minister here this month, Bro. Pat Zaugg and his wife, Sis. Julie, from West Bend, IA. A group of young people came along with them from the churches in Bern, West Bend, Morris, and Elgin, Iowa.

Our spring and summer minister rotation schedule is April 24 -West Bend; May 22, Princeville; June 19, Rittman; July 17, Forrest; August 21, Chicago.

**COLORADO, DENVER
Lily Zarkovacki**

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

I John 4:7-8

Teaching us from the pulpit this month in addition to our home ministers and Elder were Bros. Jeff Bahr (Sis. Janice, Kiowa, KS) and Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL). May God bless you all for your willingness to share the Living Word!

**CONNECTICUT
ROCKVILLE
Laura Virkler
Bonnie Bahler**

“Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Eph. 5:20

It is always such a blessing to hear of another soul who has made that decision to turn to the Lord. We rejoice with our new convert, Ashley Luginbuhl (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Karen). May she feel God's nearness and the prayers of the congregation during her time of repentance.

Bro. Steve and Sis. Joan Hoffman welcomed their first grandchild into their hearts. Madilyn Rae was born on February 2 to Alan and Katie Hoffman.

Sis. Eunice Schneider passed from this life on February 6. She leaves her sister, Sis. Matilda Ott, sister-in-law, Sis. Martha Schneider, as well as many nieces and nephews. Sis. Eunice brought a very cheerful presence to our congregation, and we will miss her. Bro. Paul and Sis. Roberta Foote bid farewell to their sister-in-law. We extend our love and sympathy to these dear families and pray for the Lord's peace and comfort upon them.

On February 20, the engagement of Bro. Richard Hany (Bro. Dick and Sis. Betsy) and Sis. Andrea Banwart (Bro. Gene and Sis. Linda, Fort Scott, KS) was made known to our congregation. We wish them God's richest blessings and guidance as they prepare for their marriage.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

Our caretaker for the first part of February was Sis. Bonnie Dotterer

from Forrest, IL. 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 were sorry to hear that Roberta Belsley is in the nursing home. According to the last report, she should be headed back home soon. We definitely keep her and Ken in our prayers.

Our ministers this month were Bro. Craig Martin (Sis. Terri, Princeville, IL), Bro. Harvey Kuenzi (Sis. Jennifer, Silverton, OR), Bro. Dan Koch (Sis. Julie, Tremont, IL), Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA) and Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA). Other visitors were from Fairbury, IL and Philadelphia, PA.

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**

We are in our busiest time of year here in Ft. Lauderdale with many friends, family and brethren visiting for the winter season. It's a great blessing to have our church home filled with old and new faces. We welcome all who visit.

Our prayers for a swift and complete recovery go to Sis. Jody Baum

(Bro. Kenny) who suffered an aneurysm and subsequently had surgery. She is recovering and we are grateful for God's healing hand.

Our visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL), retired Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Sis. Shirley, Morton, IL) and Bro. Ron Jones (Portland, OR). We pray that our Lord will bless them richly for their service to Him.

We are also continuing in prayer for Sis. Shirley Braker who is always in our thoughts and prayers.

**FLORIDA
NORTH FORT MYERS
Victor Beer**

Our worship services have been truly great times of fellowship and worship, with our church building being filled each Sunday through these mid-winter months. With our temperatures 5 degrees above normal, everybody is able to forget the snow banks, and slippery roads they just came from. Our brethren even report that fishing is very good, and many are doing very well at that. We all are delighting in meeting those we haven't seen or heard from since last winter.

Our visiting ministers that have brought us such blessings from the Word are Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North, IN), and Bro. Bob Pflederer (Sis. Eleanor, Morton, IL). We greatly appreciated their service to us. Actually, we look for their visits each winter as they have faithfully visited us almost every year.

Our sincere sympathy goes out to Bro. George Keyser and Sis. Sharon in the death of George's mother. George has also been stricken with heart trouble and had a recent operation, but is now recovering. Several strokes followed, but he is now feeling better. Sis. Sharon was hospitalized in Fort Myers and has been in and out

of the hospital, but she is almost recovered, she reports. We missed them, as they have been so very faithful at church for many years.

We pray for togetherness in this thought:

Take time to be holy, be calm in thy soul,
Each tho't and each motive, beneath His control.
Thus led by His Spirit, to fountains of love,
Thou soon shalt be fitted, for service above.

**FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Kim Ott**

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

Luke 15:7

As the angels rejoice in heaven, so do we share in the joy of hearing the news that Jeff Streitmatter IV (Elder Bro. Jeff and Sis. Lynne) has decided to seek out the Lord in repentance for his salvation. We are so thankful to know that Jeff has turned his heart and life over to the Lord and is learning to walk in the steps that God has planned for him. We will continue to pray for this dear young man as he begins this most wonderful journey of walking hand in hand with our Saviour.

We have been showered with many blessings from our numerous visiting ministers as they shared God's Word with us. We are grateful to God for providing Elder Bros. Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) and Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL) and Bros. Tim Zimmerman (Sis. Barbara, Lamont-Gridley, KS), Nelson Beer (Sis. Minnie, Milford, IN), Bill Masters (Sis. Mary, Fort Myers, FL), Ken

Schneider (Sis. Bernice, Remington, IN), Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North, IN), Fred Domka (Sis. Connie, Mansfield, OH), Gary Endress (Sis. Evelyn, Bradford, IL), Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville, OH), Brent Kellenberger (Sis. Beth, Kansas City, MO), and Richard Gramm (Sis. Samantha, South Bend, IN).

Our prayers are with Sis. DiAnne Brown (Bro. Larry) while she is recovering from knee surgery and also with Bro. John Krstec (Sis. Biserka) as he has been recently hospitalized. We trust that God's healing strength would be granted to our loved ones according to His good and perfect will. Our church held it's 16th annual Sunday School Auction on February 26. While the auctioneers encouraged the bidding of the many donated items, a silent auction, bake sale, and a delicious lunch of chili and a variety of pies also proved to be profitable.

Much thankfulness and many wished blessings to all of those who helped contribute towards another successful year of raising money for our Sunday School.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

We were blessed to have Bro. Ron Heiniger (Bloomington) and Bro. Rich Gramm (South Bend) minister to us this month. We really appreciate their willing hearts as well as the support of their wives.

Bro. Rich Aberle led a Bible Study highlighting 1 Corinthians 15. It was a great encouragement to all.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

Shayla Steffen
Doreen Moser

The wise man built his house upon a rock, and the rains came tumbling down. The rains came down and the

floods came up, but the house on the rock stood firm.

The message of building our house on the Rock is not new. But it is truly a message that continually needs to be preached whether we preach it in our neighborhoods, during Sunday School or from the pulpit. We thank Elder Bro. Ron Schambach for once again visiting our Belvidere church and preaching about the Rock.

The foolish man built his house upon the sand, and the rains came tumbling down. The rains came down and the floods came up, And the house on the sand fell flat.

On the evening of February 12 we were able to hear the Memorandum at our Elgin, IL, church. We were provoked, convicted and reminded that we have built our house on the Rock and not on the sand. The house on the sand fell flat but our house, even when we feel the flood and rain from within, can stand firm if we heed the Word and the warnings of our Elder Brethren.

Sobuild your life on the Lord Jesus Christ, And the blessings will come down.

The blessings were felt in the life of Bro. Troy Steffen who was in an accident while on a work team in Nashville, TN. We pray that if it be God's will, Troy will feel His healing touch.

Although these may be the words to a children's hymn, may we take the words and message to heart.

ILLINOIS

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Shelley Steffen
Heidi Rinckenberger

"Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil."

Matthew 5:15-17

The ministers presented a Bible study on spiritual gifts. By having a deeper understanding and discernment of our spiritual gifts we can better serve our church family. Such creativity and wisdom we see in how the Lord created us each so different and unique for His purpose and glory. May we have the desire and power from Him to use them to this end.

There is always joy with the birth of a new little one. Hannah Mae Leman was born to Bro. Darin and Sis. Jessica Leman on January 17. She was welcomed by her three older brothers. Her grandparents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Gloria Jean Leman (Morton, IL) and Charlie and Mary Flickner of Frankfort, KY, and Fred and Cynthia Basham of Remington, IN.

We also continue to pray for wisdom, healing, and peace for Brad and Sis. LuAnn Gramm and their three children, Bro. Alec, Ashlyn and Reid, as Brad underwent medical treatment in these recent weeks.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Sandi Joos
Roseann Stahl

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

Psalms 127:3

Bro. Lucas and Sis. Bethany Young rejoice in the birth of their son, Jacob Daniel, born on February 15. He is also welcomed by his siblings, Noah, Ruth, and Joanna, along with grandparents, Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla Rassi (Chicago, IL) and Bro. Mo and Sis. Pat Young (Elgin, IL).

“Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which he hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that is thy portion in this life, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun.”

Ecclesiastes 9:9

Bro. John and Sis. Lucille Endress reached a milestone in their lives which not many reach. On February 16, 2011, they were married 70 years. We rejoice with them.

Bro. Don Duckworth was hospitalized for several days after a slight stroke. We are grateful he is back assembling with us and has no side effects.

God's Word was brought forth from the pulpit this month by Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Wolcott, IN). We were thankful to have him and his wife, Sis. Erica, with us.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN

Sarah Drake

Greetings from Champaign! This month, we are thankful that Bro. Ken Eisenmann (Sis. Sharon, Cissna Park) and Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City) were able to visit our congregation and minister God's Word.

On February 5, the young group hosted the annual Parent and Church appreciation supper. Since our young group mostly consists of college students whose parents live out of town, the evening brings in several visitors. It is always a delight to spend time with those families who are willing to travel here for the event. Thanks for your support! We appreciate having your students come to Champaign-Urbana to study and fellowship with us!

We are prayerful for our Sis. Laura Tucker who is spending the next sev-

eral months studying abroad in Paris, France. Champaign-Urbana will miss Sis. Laura, but we pray for God's nearness and that her travels and studies will be blessed!

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Rachel Meyer

Greetings from Chicago. We pray you are well in Christ's name.

Our dear friend, Leila Yah, daughter of our Sis. Rose Yah and Azume Yah, were married in November. I inadvertently left this out and I wish to apologize. Leila married Steven Birkinheier, son of Jerry and Marcia Birkenheier. We wish this couple God's blessings and protection.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Cindy Eisenmann, (Elder Bro. Brad), upon the loss of her father, Bro. Harry Herrmann from Princeville, IL. In the presence of sadness there is joy that a faithful soldier has gone home. May God be with you.

Our Sis. Carrie Blunier (Bro. Troy) lost her grandfather, Bro. Leland Kuntz from Forrest, IL. We extend our sympathy to her as well and thank God for the hope of eternal life.

On January 26 our annual Business Meeting once again reminded us of the many quiet deeds of love which keep our church functioning. We thank Bro. Chris Williams for agreeing to serve a four-year term as usher.

The blizzard Chicago experienced on February 2 reminded us of God's power to stop mankind's activity.

Our sincere welcome is extended to Sis. Kyann Rufener and Sis. Jami Calame. Both are from Rittman, OH, and are now part of our Chicago church family. May God bless them in their work, schooling, and fellowship.

Our prayers were with our Bro. Brad and the rest of the Elder body as

they met in Junction, OH, for the mid-year Elder's Conference. May God bless our fellowship and we thank the Brothers for their service.

Congratulations to our Bro. Rick Kaisner upon his marriage February 13 to Sis. Michelle Knapp from Goodfield, IL. May God bless this marriage as we rejoice to welcome Sis. Michelle to Chicago.

Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla Rassi have been blessed with another precious grandchild. Sis. Bethany and Bro. Lucas Young welcomed little Jacob Daniel Young into their home on February 15. Siblings Noah, Ruth, and Joanna are excited to play with their new little brother. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Mo and Sis. Pat Young from Elgin, IL. May God bless this family.

Recently I have been working with a 6-year old with autism who verbalizes one word. My job, and that of the speech team, is to help this sweet one begin to vocalize more words. Our six-week goal is for him to add five new words to his vocabulary. Within a thirty-minute session I will speak the word "go" in as many exciting ways possible and pause to give him opportunities to say "go".

What amazes me is the rush of joy I felt the day he said, "go"! The celebration that erupted from our room was worthy of a surprise birthday party! All of the work and time spent leading to that moment vanished with the joy of hearing his voice.

I wonder if this is a glimpse of how our Father God views us when we finally surrender to Him? He puts years, maybe decades, into calling us to Him and when we finally say, "yes", the Bible says even the angels rejoice. Is God calling me to surrender something in my life to Him? Perhaps something I have been holding back? This applies to those of us who have already repented for our sins and have Christ living in our hearts.

Maybe God has been asking you for days, months...even years to do something specific for Him, but you have been holding back. I encourage you to go. Go do as He wishes and feel the joy of surrendering to the One who knows all.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

**Marilyn Maul
Tina Walder**

We are happy to report the birth of two babies. Bro. Mark and Sis. Janie Waldbeser welcomed their second daughter, Lana Marie. Also welcoming her are siblings, Kaleb, Heidi, Jared, Micah and Levi. Grandparents, Bro. Fred and Sis. Joan Waldbeser, also welcome little Lana. Bro. Nathan and Sis. Denise Walder, Erica, Kristen, Caleb and Seth also welcome a little girl, Kara Sue, to their family. Grandparents, Bro. Dennis and Sis. Sharon Walder and Sis. Velma Rinkenberger, also welcome Kara.

Our sincere sympathies go to Bro. Justin and Sis. Jodi Sinn with the loss of their newborn Hannah Marie. Her siblings are Carson, Kenton, Jamie and Ruth. Grandparents, Bro. Gerald and Sis. Joan Rudin, also feel the loss of a precious little one.

Our sympathies also go to the family of Sis. LouElla Hari as she recently passed away. Her survivors are three daughters, Donna (Wendell) Verkler and Diann (Kevin) Boyce of Cissna Park and Dana (Ken) Kuntz of Hoopston, and one daughter-in-law, Annette Hari of Milford, IL.

We are very thankful for the fellowship we have across the country with our many churches. We always welcome Bro. Les Kaeb (Sis. Christine) to our pulpit when he comes to visit his parents. Also we thank Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Sis. Nancy) for joining us for our February Topical Bible Presentation.

We pray for healing for our Sis.

Rosie Martin as she had surgery this past month.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Rachel Currier

We were thankful to hear of the engagement of Bro. Chet Rinkenberger (Bro. Mike and Sis. Pat) to Sis. Rachel Currier (Art and Sis. Mary) on January 30. We wish them God's continued nearness as they take this step in faith towards marriage.

This past month we were blessed to hear the Word by visiting ministers, Bro. Ron Isch (Lamont-Gridley), Bro. Beirne Messner (Morris), and Bro. John Baumgartner (Bern). May the Lord continue to provide for them as they seek to preach the Truth.

Our annual business meeting was held this past month. New Sunday School teachers are Bro. Nate Wieland, Bro. Chuck Zimmerman, Sis. Carla Walder, and Sis. Carrie Tate. Bro. Bruce Martin was selected for Trustee, Bro. Phillip Stoller for usher, Bro. Ken Schrock for Treasurer, Bro. Jerry Banwart for Eureka Home Trustee, and Bro. Kim Craig for Meeting Secretary. We wish them all God's grace as they carry out their duties.

Little Micah James was born into the home of Bro. Jim and Sis. Sarah Schrock. He is welcomed home by sisters, Moriah and Abiah. Also glad for his safe arrival are grandparents, Bro. Steve and Sis. Gerri Schrock and Bro. Larry and Sis. Betty Bauman (Goodfield).

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

**Amy Gasser
Miriam Gasser**

Bro. Eric and Sis. Erika Schambach's little son, Jabez Courage, passed away January 19. Jabez is referenced in I Chronicles 4: 9-10

and means sorrow. Though the family is very sorrowful, they expressed their desire to move on with courage. Baby Jabez will be forever in the hearts of his parents and siblings, Joe, Kathleen, Jack, Kaelin, Jesse, Kalli, James, Klair, and John.

Bro. Scott, Sis. Andrea, Savanna and Aidan Heiniger welcomed Tenley Nichole on January 20. Also thankful for a new little blessing are Tenley's grandparents, Bro. Tim and Sis. Marcia Kellenberger and Bro. Don and Sis. Peg Heiniger.

At the annual business meeting on January 26, the results of several elections were announced. Bro. Jerry Cargill will replace Bro. Les Schambach as church secretary, Bro. Don Heiniger will replace Bro. Dave Martin on the Resthaven Board, and Bros. Gary Steffen and Bryan Kellenberger will replace Bros. Tim Braun and Dave Kellenberger as Fellowship Center trustees. Reports of the various stewardship activities during the past year indicate how much work occurs behind the scenes, in order to keep our church facilities functioning smoothly.

Sis. Jenean Schambach and Bro. Byron Gerber were married on February 6. Their parents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Connie Schambach and Bro. Rick and Sis. Shirley Gerber (Roanoke, IL). We appreciated the ministering brothers who shared in the day's services: Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman and Bros. Tim Hohulin and Frank Sauder (all of Roanoke, IL), Bro. Scott Schambach (Columbus, OH), and retired Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN).

Bro. Ron expressed his thankfulness for all the prayers offered on behalf of the mid-winter Elder meeting February 9-11 in Junction, OH. After being interviewed, Bro. David Steffen (Sis. Linda) received full support to become the next Elder of the Elgin and Belvidere congregations.

We appreciated the assistance that Elder Bros. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL), Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL), and Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) had previously given to both churches in selecting a candidate for this weighty position.

We thank Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA) for assisting in the reading of the Memorandum on February 12 and for sharing God's Word on Sunday. Bros. Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL) and Todd Stoller (Latty, OH) also strengthened and inspired us through their services in the past month.

Bro. John Klein has moved to Resthaven, since his health continues to decline. We miss his cheerful presence and pray that he will be comforted. Our prayers are also with Sis. Evie Gudeman (Bro. Bill), who was injured during a fall.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

**Dee Baer
Jodi Blunier**

We were blessed by the visit of Bro. Mike Ursu (Kitchener, Canada).

First-time parents are Bro. Toby and Sis. Holly Fehr as they welcomed Amelie Carolyn. Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Sandy Fehr and Owen (Kim) Virkler and Sue Ellen (Tom) Machuga, of New York. Hannah Braker (Bro. Phil and Sis. Rebecca) experienced a short hospital stay.

Glen Bauman (Sis. Becky) said a final farewell to his mother, Sis. Mildred Bauman (Goodfield). Also relieved of life's infirmities was Sis. Clara Lou Blunier. Left to sorrow are her children: Sis. Debra Blunier, Bro. Daryl (Sis. Lucy, Goodfield), David (Traci), Dan (Dawn) and Diane Gregoire (Rob, Goodfield). "At home 'tis well" (ZH 170).

Note of Thanks:

The family of Bro. Earl Zimmer-

man wishes to extend their sincere thanks for prayers, cards, meals, memorials and shared thoughts of sympathy. May God richly bless you for all of your kindness and love.

Sis. Elsie Zimmerman & family

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

**Angela Herr
Kay Steffen**

We are thankful for God's leading as the engagement of our Sis. Karla Steidinger (Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish) to Bro. Jesse Zimmerman (Bro. Kent and Sis. Paulette) of Forrest, IL, was announced on January 30. May they continue to seek God's direction as they plan for their new life together.

We thank Bro. Dan Moser (Elgin, IL) for bringing God's Holy Word to us this month. May God continue to grant grace to our ministering Brothers to speak the true doctrine.

We are prayerful for those who have had surgery. Sis. Ione Broquard (Bro. Donald), Troy Hale (Sis. Annette), Bro. Vernon Hartman (Sis. Pat), and Sis. Rosemary Hartman (Bro. John) are all home again recovering. Also spending time in the hospital are Bro. Duane Kilgus (Sis. Arlene) and Bro. Tom Steidinger (Sis. Dianne). We trust the Lord will heal as He provides for each one.

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

Zion's Harp # 146, vs. 1

After 90 years of life, we laid to rest our Bro. Melvin Zimmerman on February 4. Even though we will miss him, we are thankful he could answer God's call, and give his testimony and be baptized just one year ago. He

leaves behind one son, Randall (Mary), and three granddaughters. Our sympathy is also with his sister, Sis. Arlene Walter, of our congregation.

We also bid farewell to our Bro. Donald Steidinger who passed away suddenly on February 17. May God comfort and be near his family, Sis. Alice (Bloomington, IL), John (Pam, Murfreesboro, TN), LuAnn Hartzler (Larry, Creston, OH), Bro. Ted (Sis. Sara), Amy Bahler (Bloomington, IL), Sis. Mary Lynn Stoller (Bro. Steve, Rittman, OH), Jay (Amy, Forrest, IL), Darwin (Laurie, Bloomington, IL), Bro. Ryan (Sis. Lori, Gridley, IL), and Bro. Chris (Sis. Carol, Princeville, IL). Also our sympathy goes out to his siblings, Maurice (Ruth), Charles (Joann), Bro. Tom (Sis. Dianne), Bro. Eldon (Sis. Darlene), Bro. Dennis (Sis. Jane, Gridley, IL), Barbara McDonald, Dave (Deann), Sis. Mary Lou Kaeb (Bro. Elmer, Cissna Park, IL), Sis. Marjorie Edelman (Sabetha, KS), Sis. Velda Glueck (Bro. Karl, Tremont, IL), and Judy Bachtold (Terry).

We also extend our sympathy to our Sis. Nancy Bachtold (Bro. Lloyd) in the loss of her brother-in-law, Bro. Maurice Getz (Francesville, IN). May God grant each one comfort in their time of loss.

The evening of February 16, we were privileged to gather in Forrest with our brethren there, for the reading of the Memorandum. Elder Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) assisted Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer and Elder Bro. Rick in this work. We thank these Elder Brothers for their kind exhortation and labors of love for our precious faith.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Lynn Dotterer
Lisa Aberle**

We appreciate the labors of love

from visiting ministers. Elder Bros. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL) and Ted Witzig (Morton, IL) brought us the Memorandum. Other visiting ministers throughout the month were Bros. Tom Bolliger (Tremont, IL), Darren Fehr (West Bend, IA), and Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL).

On February 13, our Bro. Clint Steidinger and Sis. LeAnne Edelman were united in Holy Matrimony. Their parents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Shelly Steidinger and Bro. Kenny and Sis. Carol Edelman.

Our prayers and thoughts are with those who spent time in the hospital. Bro. Elmer Ifft, Bro. Harvey Ifft (Sis. Velma Jean), Dale Knapp (Barb), Bro. Mel Steffen (Sis. Leona) and Sis. Kathryn Steidinger (Bro. Ivan) have all spent time in hospitals this month. While most of these dear ones are home, we pray for health where God is willing to grant it.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to thank everyone for the many acts of love and kindness during the loss of Leland. May God bless each of you.

The family of Bro. Leland Kuntz

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

**Kayla Wiegand
Donna Wyss**

"Thus united and in concord let us walk the path of life..."

Zion's Harp #237

On January 30, Sis. Marla Wiegand and Bro. Craig Wiegand were united in marriage. Sis. Marla's parents are Bro. Art and Sis. Pam and Bro. Craig's are Bro. Ron and Sis. Kary (and the late Sis. Barb). Sis. Michelle Knapp (Sis. Judy) and Bro. Rick Kaisner (Chicago; Bro. Leon and Sis. Eunice, Peoria) became one on February 13. "May the Spirit, we've acquired, Grant us blessing,

peace and mirth." (Zion's Harp #237)

Little Emma Wiegand (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Janel) and Mark Friedrich both spent some time in the hospital. We have the assurance that God will provide for them.

"Eternity is drawing near; O, seek your soul's salvation!"

Zion's Harp #106

Bro. Tony and Sis. Deonne Monfre and Bro. Mike and Sis. Gerri Hinrichsen are all thankful parents as their daughters, Kaitlyn Monfre and Tiffany Hinrichsen, have answered God's call to repentance. "O, why not turn, and heed the call, and come in true submission!" (Zion's Harp #106)

Our sympathy and prayers are with Bro. Delton and Sis. Nancy Whitaker as his mom, Margaret, passed away on February 11.

Yea for the comfort of thy Word our hearts bring thanks to Thee, O Lord.

Zion's Harp #75

Bros. Brian Huber (Sis. Jackie, Francesville), Stephen Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley) and John Bradle (Sis. Jill, Roanoke) and Elder Bros. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago) and Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary Ann, Fairbury) all shared God's Holy Word with us.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank my church family for all of your prayers, cards, gifts, food, visits, and deeds of kindness while I was in the hospital and since I've been home.

God bless each one of you.

Sis. Sarah Melton

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry A. Klopfenstein

I had the privilege of reading a short autobiography of an elderly brother from one of our nearby congregations. In it, he made reference to some of the qualities of his father. One was patience, and the other was the willingness to forgive. He said he never saw his father get rattled over anything. And his father told him that when he forgives, he forgives totally. In reading this, I thought it is a credit to his father that he could retain such wonderful memories. And surely, it is a credit to God when patience and forgiveness are evident in anyone.

We extend our sympathies to Bro. Tim Vercler over the passing of his mother, Josephine Vercler, Chenoa; and to Bro. Ryan Steidinger over the accidental death of his father, Bro. Donald Steidinger, Fairbury. Our sympathies also are extended to Sis. Carla Stoller. Her father, Bro. Leland Kuntz, Forrest, passed away.

Our prayers are for Bro. Brad Gramm of the Bloomington congregation, who is suffering from a very serious illness. He is a native of Gridley, having grown up here. May God be with him and his dear wife and children.

Sis. Linda Wettstein is recovering from knee surgery. Also, Bros. James Funk and Ron Schmidtgall are suffering from health issues and likely will face surgery.

Our Zion's Harp hymnal surely reminds us of true Christian living. Often, meaningful phrases of exhortation seem to stand out, such as found on Page 33, "The Fellowship of the Saints". A phrase in verse three reads, "May we all so love each other, May our motive be so pure. That each member for his brother, death and torture can endure." Pilgrim believers of old surely faced persecution, yet God stood by them if they were

faithful.

ILLINOIS, MORTON
Annette Tanner
Julie Bahr

Our Morton brothers and sisters covet your prayers as they go through the study of the New Testament Book of James. Growing in the Word takes more than simply being present; it involves study and truly seeking God. It is like a person going to a health facility; he/she has to be actively engaged in the use of the resources to get "fit".

Our church was richly blessed by the message brought to us by visiting ministering Bro. Tim Roecker (Sis. Diane, Peoria). Travels were very limited here in this part of Illinois when we experienced a blizzard snow storm the first part of February! We are so thankful for the traveling mercies God provided.

Congratulations to Bro. Brad and Sis. Tonya Kaufmann as they welcomed a new little son, Liam David, into their home on February 9. Siblings, Domniq, Sophia and Beau, along with grandparents, Bro. Fred and Sis. Chelly Kaiser and Bro. Dale and Sis. Jane Kaufmann (Tremont), welcome him.

Our Morton church family wishes to extend a warm welcome to Bro. Andy and Sis. Victoria Schick, as they are making Morton their new church home.

Our sympathy is shared with Sis. Mavis Hermann (Bro. Don) in the loss of her sister, Sis. Ursela Barth (Oakville).

ILLINOIS, PEORIA
Pam Fritzenmeier

The Blizzard of 2011 is now history, but we have great piles of snow remaining to remind us of the three days off school and numerous cancelled events, including our February 2 Wednesday night church.

Several ministering brothers spent time with our congregation this month, including Bro. Kevin Knapp (Sis. Dixie, Bloomington), Bro. Arlen Lemman (Sis. Denise, Forrest), Elder Bro. Tom Klotzle (Sis. Jody, Altadena), and Bro. Tom Bolliger (Sis. Jane, Tremont).

David Hofstetter, son of Bro. Ralph and Sis. Karen, and Emma Ginzle, daughter of Bro. Jon and Sis. Amy, have come in repentance, starting their walk with Jesus as Lord of their life. We rejoice with the angels in heaven!

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Sis. Lila Stahl, who passed into eternity on January 22.

The Bible Class would like to thank everyone who supported their annual pancake and sausage supper January 22. This event funds the Christmas program for Timber Ridge, a future mission trip, and many other activities throughout the year.

Bro. Rick Kaisner (Chicago) and Sis. Michelle Knapp (Goodfield) were united in holy marriage on Sunday, February 13. Their parents are Sis. Judy Knapp and the late Stan Knapp (Goodfield) and Bro. Leon and Sis. Eunice Kaisner from our Peoria congregation. We wish them God's richest blessings!

Several dear ones are in need of prayers for healing after surgery or illness. These include Sis. Kathy (Bro. Dave) Obergfel, Bro. Harry (Sis. Loretta) Eisenmann, Sis. Barb Schafer, Sis. Elsie Eilers, Bro. David (Sis. Rita) Sauder, and Sis. Eunice Unsicker. Also, please keep Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard and family, Haiti, and Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Bere Aupperle, Magdalena, in your prayers as they serve the Lord in the foreign mission field.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Gloria White
Linda Joos

Our hearts were saddened at the passing of Bro. Harry Herrmann (Sis. Bertha Jean) on January 28. We will miss him but are thankful he could go so peaceful with his family nearby. Our prayers are with his dear wife, Sis. Bertha Jean, and children, Bro. Dennis (Sis. Renee) Herrmann, Sis. Cheryl Herrmann, Sis. Crystal (Bro. David) Streitmatter, and Sis. Cindy (Elder Bro. Brad) Eisenmann (Chicago, IL). Also, we remember his brothers, Bro. Noah (Sis. Evalyn) Herrmann and Bro. Walter (Sis. Betty Lou) Herrmann, and sister-in-law, Sis. Betty (late Bro. Eugene) Herrmann.

Hospital patients have been Sis. Julie (Bro. Jared) Hanson, Sis. Geraldine Streitmatter, and Bro. Ray (Sis. Betty) Wagenbach. May God be near each one.

"A Christian, now baptized, to me much grace is given" (Zion's Harp #43). Olivia and Paige Steffen (Bro. Matt and Sis. Deanna) and JayLyn Knobloch (Bro. Jay and Sis. Deanne) gave their testimonies and were baptized the weekend of February 5-6. With us were Elder Bro. Ted Steffen (Alto, MI) and Bro. Nathan Steffen (Alto, MI). We thank them for sharing this special time with us.

Bro. Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL) was with us on February 13. We are always thankful for his visits and willingness to speak the inspired Word of God to us.

Bro. Troy and Sis. June Wagenbach welcome Lyssa Ann, born January 23, into their home, along with siblings, Kendra, Nolan, Shayna, Bryson, and Mara. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Elaine Wagenbach and Bro. Joe and Sis. Marcella Steiner (Tremont, IL).

Indigo Joy, daughter of Bro. Trent

and Sis. Mandy Regier (Leo, IN) has brought special joy to her grandparents, Bro. Dana and Sis. Martha Kay Regier. She was born January 24. Big brother, Tate, is glad for a sister.

Bro. Fred and Sis. Tina Christ have been blessed with a new grandchild, Eden Ann, daughter of Dane and Anna, born February 16.

Bro. Ray and Sis. Betty Wagenbach were married 60 years ago, on February 18, 1951. We wish them God's blessings each day ahead.

We welcome two exchange students who are attending church with us. Camilla (Cami) Frick, from Chile, is living with Bro. Bruce and Sis. Mary Stoller. Magdalena Jackowska, whose homeland is Poland, is living with Bro. Keith and Sis. Lisa Knobloch. We hope they enjoy their stay here.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to Bro. Chris (Sis. Carol) Steidinger in the passing of his father, Bro. Don Steidinger (Fairbury, IL). Sis. Caroline Banwart bid farewell to her brother, Bro. Archie Banwart (West Bend, IA), and Sis. Kay (Bro. Eugene) Siebenthal's dear mother, Sis. Mildred Bauman (Goodfield, IL), passed away. May God comfort our dear ones during this time of sorrow.

Note of Thanks:

Thanks for remembering me on my 90th birthday.

Bro. Dave Ehnle

ILLNOIS, ROANOKE

**Jamie Hodel
Judy Sauder**

We rejoice with Bro. Tim and Sis. Peg Stoller who became grandparents again on January 18 when Sophia Elise was born to Tim and Esther Stoller of Charlotte, NC. Other thankful grandparents are LeRoy and Maria Weaver of Sarasota, FL. Also, Ben and Sis. Kathy Fehr welcomed a new grandson, Sebastian

Benjamin on February 9. His parents are Isaac and Emmie Fehr. Big sister Taylor and grandmother, Connie Brooks, are also thrilled with Sebastian's arrival. May God bless these dear families as they raise their children in the ways of the Lord.

I Corinthians 13:13: "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." On January 30, Sis. Bethany Leman (Bro. Clark and Sis. Lisa) was married to Bro. Calvin Teubel (Champaign.) His parents are Bro. John and Sis. Lavonne (Forrest). Our visiting ministers for the day were Bro. David Eisenmann (Champaign), Bro. Darren Plattner (Champaign), and Bro. Trent Meiss (Eureka).

On February 6, Bro. Mark Zimmerman (Eureka) was our guest minister. We thank these brothers for their gracious service to us.

Also on February 6, Bro. Byron Gerber (Bro. Rick and Sis. Shirley) and Sis. Jenean Schambach (Bro. Tom and Sis. Connie) were united in marriage in Elgin, IL.

In addition, the marriage engagement of Bro. Daniel Stoller (Bro. Brent and Sis. Kay, Congerville) to Sis. Larissa Fehr (Bro. James and Sis. Linda) of Tremont was announced on February 6. We rejoice with these dear couples and ask for God's blessings upon them as they build their marriages on the Lord.

I Corinthians 15:54: "...Death is swallowed up in victory." Sis. Mae Rocke went to be with the Lord on January 25. Her survivors include two daughters, Sis. Carol (Bro. Rol) Rumbold, Sis. Cheryl (Bro. Brad) Baurer, one son, Bro. Dennis (Sis. Eva) Rocke, a sister, Sis. Lena Wiegand, all of Roanoke, eight grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren. We extend our love and deepest sympathy to this dear family and pray that God would comfort them in

their loss.

Psalm 147:5: "Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite." On January 26, Bro. Paul Zimmerman (Forrest) exhorted us on "The Greatness of God" at our topical Bible Study. We thank Bro. Paul for his efforts and pray God will continue to bless him in his ministry.

Our Sis. Margaret Beer celebrated her 100th birthday on February 6! We are thankful for her "youthful" spirit; she's an inspiration to all of us. We pray for God's continued blessings upon Sis. Margaret.

Our annual Church Potluck & Family Sing was held February 13. Our 3 year old through second grade Sunday School students sang for us. It was a blessed evening of fellowship and song.

We continue to lift up Bro. Rich (Sis. Janet) Knepp in prayer. He has undergone a stem cell transplant. Also Sis. Jean Kupferschmid's son, Neil, of New York is undergoing treatments for cancer. Sis. Jean is providing transportation and assistance for him. We pray for God's healing work, His protection and blessing on these loved ones.

Note of Thanks:

I wish to thank all of you for the overwhelming kind wishes and gifts of love sent to me on my 100th Birthday.

It was deeply appreciated and I enjoyed hearing from all of you.

May God Bless all of you!

My Love,

Sis. Margaret Beer

Notice:

Someone took my coat by mistake from the Goodfield Fellowship Hall at the reception for Evan Schmidgall and Emily Sinn on December 5, 2010. It is a black ¾ length ladies winter coat. I have the one that was left there, but would appreciate getting

mine back. Please call 309-923-7052.

— a Roanoke Sister

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

**Teresa Rowell
Janice Sauder**

As I sit here ready to write this month, the sun is shining and the snow is almost gone. We are thankful for our visiting ministering brothers, Bro. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville), Bro. Fred Funk (Sis. Diane, Morton), and Bro. Craig Martin (Sis. Terri, Princeville), who were willing to preach the Word to us this month.

There are two couples who are experiencing changes in their lives. Zach Garman (Steve and Sis. Sara) and Carmen Emerich (Brian and Virginia Emerich and Jim Smith) were united in marriage this past month, and Sis. Larissa Fehr (Bro. James and Sis. Brenda) became engaged to Bro. Daniel Stoller from Roanoke (Bro. Brent and Sis. Kay, Congerville). In this very important step, we wish both these couples God's richest blessings.

Bro. Doug and Sis. Amber Nohl (Morris, MN) have a new addition to their family. Lacey Winter was welcomed home by them and siblings, Crystal, Archie, Lewis, and Allison. Grandparents are Bro. Todd and Sis. Beth Stuber. Bro. Joe and Sis. Marcella Steiner have become grandparents again. Bro. Troy and Sis. June Wagenbach (Princeville), Kendra, Nolan, Shayna, Bryson, and Mara have a new baby girl to love and hold, Lyssa Ann. We pray that as these families raise their children, God can be glorified.

Bro. Fred Beutel (Sis. Jeannette) spent some time in the hospital following surgery. He is now home and assembling with us again. We thank the Great Physician for the healing and the comforting for all those who are in pain or affliction of the flesh.

Bro. Rustin and Sis. Sharon, Grace and Eden Schmidgall have felt the Lord's leading them to move to Tremont. We extend a hearty welcome to them and know that they will be missed in Morris North.

Our high school juniors and seniors, along with their parents, are planning a trip to Mexico in a few weeks. They worked very hard and presented a benefit supper and auction to the church in preparation for their trip. We pray that God's protecting hand will be upon them throughout their trip to Mexico.

LOST:

On January 16, someone mistakenly wore the wrong coat home from church, leaving her own coat behind. The coat is a women's knee length, red with a black collar. The coat that was left behind is a size 12 coat by Monica Clark. If you find the wrong coat in your closet, please call Sis. Sara Garman at 309-840-3286 or email at sgarm@frontier.com.

Thank you,
Sara Garman

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

**Nancy Leman
Linda Folkerts**

"But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 19:14

Children surely are an heritage of the Lord! When we look in the eyes of babies and small children we are filled with awe, wonderment, joy and hope. The pure sweetness of new life is a miracle we are privileged to witness! We have been grateful for the arrival of two sweet healthy little boys.

Bro. Kevin and Sis. Jolynn Hodel welcomed a precious little baby boy

on February 14, Landry Jay. Landry is welcomed home by big brother Drew and grandparents, Kent and Janet Hodel and Bro. Randy and Sis. Marg Schmidgall (Bloomington, IL).

Jackson Joseph Prather was welcomed by Bro. Dave and Sis. Tara Prather on February 16. Little Jackson is welcomed home by his brother Derek and sister Lena as well as grandparents, Bro. Bob and Sis. Marlene Prather and Joe and Sis. Karen Baker.

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

Revelation 21:4

Bro. Kim Huber was suddenly called to his heavenly home while wintering in Arizona on February 19. We will feel his absence as a part of our body. We extend our sympathies to his family, especially his mother, Sis. Sophie, and sisters, Sis. Cheryl (Bro. Jon) Ricketts and Sis. Charla Huber, that worship with us.

Sis. Ann Meiss passed away peacefully into the arms of Jesus on February 20. We rejoice in her victory but we will miss her sweet presence in our church. We extend our deepest sympathies to her husband, Bro. Harold, siblings, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, especially Sis. Carole (Bro. Ron) Kellenberger who worship with us.

We lift up our brother and sisters in prayer experiencing health concerns: Sis. Kathy (Richard) Stoller, Bro. Dean Kellenberger and Sis. Judy (Bro. Merlyn) Metzger.

Also we were honored to wish Sis. Lucille Herman a Happy 90th Birthday. We pray that she be blessed with a year filled with grace and health.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank everyone for remembering us with cards on our 60th anniversary, for Freida's 94th birthday and all the prayers and cards at the time of our granddaughter Elysia's death. God bless you.

Bro. Andy and Sis. Freida Mogler

INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Suzie Fiechter
Kim Meyer

"Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee."

Deuteronomy 31:6

What a comfort it is to know that the Lord goes with us whether we are rejoicing or mourning the death of a loved one. We have had several families celebrate the gift of life this past month. Bro. Britton and Sis. Sarah Claghorn are first-time parents and welcome little Kayden into their home. Bro. Gary and Sis. Barb Schwartz are excited first-time grandparents too! Bro. Nathan and Sis. Leslie Isch had another little boy, Isaac on January 13. His grandparents would be Bro. Barry and Sis. Imogene Isch and Bro. Gary and Sis. Nancy Stoller. We had two families welcome little boys into this world on January 21. Bro. Byron and Sis. Brittany Gerber gave birth to Heath just shortly before Bro. Ron and Sis. LaNae Macklin gave birth to little Owen. Heath will join his big brother, Rhett, and the grandchildren of Bro. Leon and Sis. Pat Gerber and Bro. Kelly and Sis. Lisa Aschliman. Owen's thankful grandparents would be Carl and Betty Macklin and Sis. Wanda (and the late Bro. Mark) Moser. Sis. Wanda also had another grandson born February 1 to Bro. Brady and Sis. Jacki Ripple. They had

a healthy little boy, Cruz Andrew. Bro. Dan and Sis. Bethany Dubach added another little girl, Alyse, to their clan. She is doing quite well and has many little hands taking good care of her. Alyse's grandparents would be Bro. Ken Dubach and Jodi Holloway and Sis. Rowena (and the late Bro. Jim) Furrer. Bro. Derrick and Sis. Stefanie Kipfer are blessed with little Sofia along with the grandparents, Bro. Doug and Sis. Susan Dailey and Bro. Rich and Sis. Rosie Kipfer. Laura was born to Bro. Austin and Sis. Rachel Smith and she will join her big sister Lydia. Her grandparents would be Dave and Loretta Smith and Bro. Larry and Sis. Deb Reinhard. Whether it's the first or last child born, we pray the Lord will direct each of these families as they bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Our hearts are stretched in the other direction as we offered our condolences and prayers to several families as they said goodbye to loved ones. At one of the funerals it was mentioned that God picks a rose for His bouquet when a loved one goes home to heaven. What a beautiful word picture to think on when our hearts are grieved because we can only imagine the flower bouquet that will never die in God's house! Bro. Charles Fiechter (Sis. Maxine) passed away after a simple procedure at the hospital. Sis. Justine Baumgartner (the late Bro. Paul) is finally home in heaven with no aches and pains. Bro. Walter Bertsch said goodbye for the last time to his dear wife, Sis. Lillian. No matter how prepared we think we might be for death, it's still never easy. We pray these families feel God's nearness and grace as they face the days and years ahead without their loved ones.

We rejoice with three young couples that announced their engagements. Bro. Mark Maller (Bro. Bob

and Sis. Kim) was announced to Sis. Stacy Troxel (Bro. Brad and Sis. Dahlys). Elder Bro. Lynn and Sis. Leonda Stieglitz (Leo) are pleased to announce the engagement of their son, Bro. Jeremy, to Sis. Mariah Tucker. Bro. Joel Fiechter (Bro. Mark and Sis. Shelly) and Sis. Danielle Geisel (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marcia) announced their engagement as well.

We are also thankful to have a convert, James Isch (Bro. James and Sis. Rachel). We pray the Lord will guide and direct James as he begins his walk with the Lord.

Our prayers go up on behalf of many individuals who endured surgeries/hospitalizations and are doing well. Bro. Zach and Sis. Jenny Bertsch rejoice in that his corrective surgery went better than expected and came home sooner than expected as well. Taylen Kipfer (Bro. Troy and Sis. Brenda) has been having some complications. However, the doctors were able to pinpoint the problem and administer the correct surgery. Bro. Les Gerber (Sis. Rosemary) had bypass surgery but seems to be recovering well. Sis. Alice Schwartz fell and fractured her pelvis but is doing well at the hospital where she will be the next several weeks for rehabilitation. We rejoice with the Ben and Jackie Dailey family (Bro. Doug and Sis. Susan Dailey) who was able to bring both children home from Indianapolis. Their daughter Lydia will still have weeks of rehabilitation but at least they can be in their own home and back in Bluffton.

We praise the Lord once again for His faithfulness and guidance as the Elders had their mid-winter Conference in Junction, OH. We are truly thankful for all the brothers that commit their time to the Word, prayer, and each other over this Conference as they try and be the shepherds to their individual churches as

well as a unified body of brothers.

The brothers in our church were blessed by another motivating morning together at Finding Freedom. We are thankful for the speakers and all that took part in making it a blessed day.

As the Bluffton congregation is in the midst of doing the Titus Bible study, we are enjoying the ties that are being made across the generations. What an opportunity it is to share God's Word with each other and learn from and about one another along the way.

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Jessie Longenberger
Amy Moser**

“Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.”

Psalm 51:7

On the weekend of January 8-9 we heard the testimonies of four dear babes in Christ and witnessed their baptisms. Converts Amy Isch (Bro. Ernie and Sis. Lucille), Korinn Kershner (Bro. Dan and Sis. Jacki), Natalie Kaehr (Bro. Doug and Sis. Tami), and Anthony Pfister (Bro. Dan and Sis. Sherry) are our newest sisters and brother in Christ. We pray they walk the straight and narrow way. We thank Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo) for coming to help Elder Bro. Steve Ringger. We thank him for preaching the Word of God to us on Sunday as well.

Ministering Bros. Jeff Waibel (Sis. Margo, Leo) and Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL) were also with us this past month. May God reward them for their willingness to share His Word with us.

Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy Rauch and Bro. Jay and Sis. Ronda Grube (Bluffton) welcomed their grand-

daughter, Josie Ann, into the world on December 2, 2010. Her parents are Bro. Micah and Sis. Rozanna Rauch. At home her older siblings, Cohen and Alayna, greeted her.

Bro. Robert, Jr. and Sis. Ann Meyer are the grandparents of Roman Robert who was born on December 26, 2010. This is the first child for Brandon and April Meyer.

Bro. Barry and Sis. Imogene Isch (Bluffton) and Bro. Gary and Sis. Nancy Stoller are joyful grandparents of Isaac William, born on January 13 to Bro. Nathan and Sis. Leslie Isch of Bluffton. Cora, Abigail, Jacob, and Levi Isch are excited to finally meet their new baby brother.

Bro. Byron and Sis. Brittany Gerber welcomed a new baby, Heath Byron, into their family on January 20. His older brother Rhett welcomes him home. Happy grandparents are Bro. Leon and Sis. Pat Gerber (Bluffton) and Bro. Kelly and Sis. Lisa Aschliman.

On January 23, we held a retirement supper for retired Elder Bro. Phil and Sis. Maureen Stettner for the time of service they brought to the Bluffton-North congregation over past several years. We humbly thank God for all of their years of service in the ministry. May God continue to bless them throughout their lives.

**INDIANA
FRANCESVILLE
Jacki Huber
Mildred Clauss**

Recently I was reading the words to hymns, and came upon a beautiful hymn in the Gospel Hymns on page 336. Some of the words within this song are found in another common hymn, but I had never heard the rest of these words. I found them to be a blessing and an encouragement:

*Souls of Men why will ye Scatter
Souls of Men why will ye scatter like a*

crowd of frightened sheep?
Foolish hearts, why will ye wander
from a love so true and deep?
Was there ever a kinder Shepherd,
half so gentle, half so sweet,
As the Saviour who would have us,
come and gather 'round His feet?

It is God! His love looks mighty, but is
mightier than it seems:
'Tis our Father, and His fondness goes
far out beyond our dreams.
There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in His justice,
which is more than liberty.

There is no place where earth's sor-
rows are more felt than up in
heaven;
There is no place where earth's fail-
ings have such kindly judgment
given.
There is welcome for the sinner, and
more graces for the good;
There is mercy with the Saviour;
there is healing in His blood.

But we make His love too narrow by
false limits of our own;
And we magnify his strictness with a
zeal He will not own.
There is plentiful redemption in the
blood that Has been shed;
There is joy for all the members in the
sorrows of the Head.

If our love were but more simple we
should take Him at His word;
And our lives would all be sunshine in
the sweetness of our Lord.
For the love of God is broader than
the measure of man's mind;
And the heart of the Eternal is most
wonderfully kind.

We rejoice with Sis. Danielle Wuethrich (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Kathy) as her engagement was announced to Bro. Luke Furrer (Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorene) of West Lafayette, IN. This is one of the many ways we can “see” the kindness of God. When He puts love in the hearts of two individuals for each other, their marriage represents Christ's great

love for the church, and the church's love and adoration for Christ.

Several visiting ministers have ministered to us this past month and we appreciate each of them and their families visiting us. Thanks to Elder Bro. Akito Inoue (Sis. Marie) from Tokyo, Japan, who assisted our Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein on a recent Wednesday evening with reading the Memorandum. We appreciate the wisdom and encouragement shared! Also visiting were Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN) and Bros. Nick Gutwein (Sis. Suzanne) and Rustin Meister (Sis. Amanda), both from West Lafayette, IN. God's Word is powerful, and the Holy Spirit is faithful to speak the words that we need to hear, if we are prayerful and receptive!

Sis. Edith Streitmatter has been a hospital patient recently, and our prayers are with her. She resides at Parkview Haven.

Also residing at Parkview Haven was our dear Bro. Maurice Getz (Sis. Eileen) who passed away recently. We will miss Maurice's kind smile, and extend our sympathy to his dear family, Sis. Eileen; sons, Ed and Doug; and daughter, Sis. Sue (Elder Bro. Tom) Waldbeser from Atlanta, GA, and their children (Maurice's grandchildren).

**INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS
Penny Schroder
Sandy Lichtle**

On Wednesday evening, January 26, Elder Bros. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL), Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra, Bluffton North, IN), and John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia, Latty, OH) were with us for a service of encouragement to Bro. Joe and Sis. Tara Sprunger as they begin their role in the ministry. Our love and prayers are with the Sprunger family as they serve the Lord. Also, we want

to thank the three Elder Bros. for their labors of love and sharing the Word with us that evening.

Additionally, we were blessed to have Bro. Bob Beebe (Sis. Sue, South Bend, IN) with us this month. Thank you for your service in the Lord.

We rejoice with Orlyn Fehr (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Norma, Fairbury, IL) as he has been announced for peace. We are thankful for what the Lord has done in his life and Lord willing, look forward to his testimony and baptism.

On February 6, we enjoyed a church potluck and singing. It was a blessed time of fellowship and singing praises to our precious Lord and Savior.

On February 8, Molly Klopfenstein, five-year-old daughter of Bro. Scott and Sis. Abby, had surgery to repair a hole in her heart. We are thankful to report Molly is doing well, and we praise God for His healing hand upon her.

Special Note:

The remodeling and addition of our church is complete. We want to thank God and you for the wonderful support that made this possible.

The dedication service is scheduled for Sunday, May 8. Everyone is invited to the church services with the morning singing beginning at 9:45 am and pulpit time at 10:00 am and the afternoon singing beginning at 12:00 pm and the dedication service beginning at 12:15 pm. Because we are expecting a large number of guests, please call one of the ministers to let them know you are coming.

**INDIANA, LACROSSE
Bethany Johnson
Julie Rocke**

Snow has blanketed the ground for weeks now and as it thaws, we see the earth peeking through in places. We are once again reminded of the

hope that springs anew each year, for God has promised springtime and harvest. And although more cold weather may come, the earth is gradually warming to allow for fertile soils to be readied for the planting.

Dean Nelson has allowed the seed of truth to be planted in his heart and to take root in the form of repentance. We are thankful that God is working in hearts to turn them to Him.

We enjoyed the service of Elder Bro. Ted Witzig (Sis. Cindy, Morton, IL) when he was with us one Sunday this month.

The Annual Business Meeting was held on January 21. A heartfelt thanks both to those who have completed their term of service and to those who will be taking those positions for a time. May God bless each for their labors in His name.

Sis. Connie Knobloch fell and broke her arm. It's good to see her recovering from that and the subsequent surgery. Sis. Ruth Heinold spent some time in the hospital this month as well.

Our congregation was blessed with a large group of young group company February 12-13. What a joy to have many benches full of visitors and to listen to the beautiful singing. The fellowship with these young people was truly a blessing for all.

May each of you be blessed as you look to the coming of Spring and remember the resurrection of our Lord and Savior.

**INDIANA, LEO
Kirby Reutter**

"After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands"

Revelations 7:9

This month we were incredibly blessed to witness the testimony and baptism of our dear Sister in Christ, Tashi Bent. Sis. Tashi is from Jamaica but spent four years in the greater Fort Wayne area to pursue her college education. During this time period, Sis. Tashi worshipped with the Leo flock as a friend and convert. Since Sis. Tashi is profoundly deaf in both ears, the entire testimony and baptismal service were conducted through signs and interpretation. It was hard to keep a dry eye as Tashi passionately signed her conversation and commitment to Christ. We were all inspired by the depth and sincerity of Tashi's faith in a living Savior.

During her testimony, it was particularly touching to hear Tashi explain that as the Bride of Christ, the Church is called to carry out the five functions of WIFE: Worship, Instruct, Fellowship, and Edify. Tashi further explained how she found these five functions within the Leo church community. Although Tashi has since returned to Jamaica, she still regards the Leo congregation as her home church. In addition, Tashi continues to worship and fellowship with the Apostolic presence which exists on the island of Jamaica.

Tashi's mother from Jamaica, who is also deaf, likewise joined us for the weekend, in addition to many of Tashi's friends who are either deaf or fluent in sign language. Although we will deeply miss Tashi as she resumes residence in her home country, we know that the Lord has an important commission for her to carry out. "Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee" (Mark 5:19)

We were also incredibly blessed

throughout the weekend to have a number of Sisters who were willing to assist in the New Testament directive to interpret "unknown tongues" for the edification of the believer. "Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue" (I Corinthians 14:19). Thank you so much, Sisters, for using your talents for the Kingdom!

Many visiting ministers have joined us over the past several months. In no particular order, at least some of these dear Brothers include the following: Elder Bro. Tom Klotzle (Altadena, CA), Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Bro. Jeff Wiegand (Goodfield, IL), Bro. Justin Koch (Washington, IL), Bro. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN), and Bro. Neal Widmer (West LaFayette, IN). As Bro. Gary Anliker read in his morning service on February 20, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (I Corinthians 15:58).

In addition to all of these dear Bothers, we were especially blessed this past month to host Elder Bro. Mark Bahr from our beloved congregation in Detroit, MI. Bro. Mark was willing to utilize his pastoral gifts by reading and expounding upon the annual counsel of the Elder body. "And as they went through the cities, they delivered them the decrees for to keep, that were ordained of the apostles and elders which were at Jerusalem. And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily" (Acts 16:4-5). We can be so thankful that we still live in New Testament times!

Finally, there never seems to be a shortage of birth announcements at

Leo! We rejoice with Bro. Trent and Sis. Mandy Regier at the arrival of their latest addition, Indigo Joy, who joins her older brother Tait. Every new child is yet another reminder of the solemn responsibilities of Christian parenthood. "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4).

INDIANA, MILFORD**Janie Price****Paula Haab**

Bro. Dick and Sis. Gwen Steffen are rejoicing over a grandson, Carter, born to Clint and Emily Steffen. Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb Beer, too, are rejoicing for a grandson, Jonathon, born to Jason and Jenny Furrer. Bro. Stan and Sis. Linda Wuthrich welcome two grandsons into their family, David and Ben, adopted by Bro. Ed and Sis. Tricia Lester.

I am going to a city where the streets
of gold are laid.
Where the tree of life is blooming and
the roses never fade.
Gospel Hymns #764

Sis. Ruth Beer has gone home to be with her Lord on February 6. Our prayers extend to her family, Carol and Dane Rumfelt, Joyce and Dan Nichelson, Jim and Deb Beer, Jack and Donna Beer, Don and Nancy Beer. Bro. Don and Sis. Ruth were such a good example as leaders of God's love to pass the responsibility on to the next generation.

We have been taught through God's teachings this month to carry the banner high and unite our hearts to share the love Jesus so freely gives us.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Jenni Honegger
Marcella Tyler**

Bro. Ed Fritz (Sis. Sally, Washington, IL) visited us one Sunday this month and Bro. Calvin Schneider (Sis. Jeannie, LaCrosse, IN) came one Wednesday evening for a Topical Bible Presentation. We are thankful to both brothers for their time and service to bring us the Word.

Our prayers are with Bro. Elmer Bahler (Sis. Marilyn), Sis. Esther Bahler (Bro. Walt), and Sis. Helen Waibel (Bro. Ralph) as they all spent time in the hospital recently. We pray that the Lord will comfort and heal them according to His will.

We are sorry that we failed to report last month on the passing of Sis. Charlene (Bro. Eldon) Getz's mother, Sis. Emilie Anliker of Francesville. Grandchildren include Matt and Heidi Getz and family, Bro. Jason and Sis. Sara Getz and family, and Bro. Andy and Sis. Gina Getz and family.

Sis. Janice (Bro. Chad) Kaeb is grieving over the loss of her grandmother, Sis. Evelyn Manz (Bro. Eli) of Junction, OH.

Bro. Maurice Getz (Sis. Eileen) passed from this world and went to be with the Lord this month. Bro. Maurice had been living at Parkview Haven for several years before his death. He left two sons, Bro. Ed of Morton, IL, and Doug of Chalmers, IN, as well as a daughter, Sis. Susan (Bro. Tom) Waldbeser and family of Atlanta, GA. He is also survived by sisters, Sis. Lucille Steffen of Francesville, IN, Kathryn Beer of Milford, IN, and Sis. Marilyn (Bro. Elmer) Bahler of Remington, as well as brothers, Ron (Sis. Jean) Getz and Bro. Eldon (Sis. Charlene) Getz, both of Remington.

We ask for your prayers for all the bereaved, and may each one be comforted by the hope of salvation offered

by Jesus Christ and the promise of resurrection with Him one day.

**INDIANA, SOUTH BEND
Natalie Virkler**

"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."

James 1:27

Praise the Lord, two more children have a home in a Christian family! Bro. Ed and Sis. Tricia Lester brought their new sons home from Colombia this month! Bernabe (Ben, age 8) and Juan David (David, age 3) seem to be adjusting well to their new home.

We are excited to have Sis. Abby Klopfenstein back in the area! Sis. Abby is working in the area.

We are very thankful to our visiting ministers this month. Bro. Herbie Knochel (Phoenix) served us on a Wednesday night, and Elder Bros. Curt Frank and Ted Witzig came to share the reading of the Memorandum with us.

**INDIANA, VALPARAISO
Marguerite Hoerr**

During this time of recession, with so many people out of work looking for a job, we have such feeling for each one. We've spoken with several and each person has a story to tell. We realize, as we hear them, that they are not lazy people, they have always been faithful to their jobs, so right now they are tested. People on fixed incomes are finding that those incomes don't keep up with rising prices. All of us need to remind ourselves that God is so faithful and He moves in mysterious ways His wonders to perform.

Another example of how God

moves was related to us this past Sunday, by ministering Bro. David Oberffel. We worshipped with the Peoria church Sunday afternoon on Internet by "streaming". We awoke to fog early in the morning and rain and icy roads were predicted for the day. We don't like to make others responsible for our bad judgment so we opted to stay in. Bro. Dave told from the pulpit another way God moved in a wondrous way for them. He announced the song, "Anywhere with Jesus I can safely go" and said this was proven to them the past week. They were in Chicago for a routine, after surgery appointment for Sis. Kathy. As they told the doctor how things were going with Sis. Kathy following her previous surgery, he didn't like what he heard, so he said immediately, "We have to do surgery tomorrow." Their lives are full of responsibilities and they felt they simply could not stay over; however Sis. Kathy had the revelation that they should stay and not go home. It was then David told of the wondrous way God moved mountains for them, through their insurance, their church people, and his co-workers; that they knew they should stay for this surgery. He provided for every need they had, and Kathy's surgery was performed in a timely manner and she was able to return home to heal. It was a beautiful parable he told of God's love for His children and how we can safely go with Jesus anywhere. Our dear friend, Joyce Ames (Bro. Tim), has been seriously ill and was hospitalized for an extended stay. She is now returned to her home and we pray that her family can provide for her needs, giving her the care that is necessary. Our dear friend, Mindy, has stayed close and has stood by her father, Bro. Tim, all of this while. We will continue to remember them in our prayers.

Sherry Meiss (Dale) has been in

our prayers also. She has had several surgeries removing skin cancers and is also facing back surgery in the near future, so prayers will continue. It's always a pleasure to see them in church. They take such good care of Sis. Jo Meiss since Rollie's death. They are both an example to us.

Sympathy goes to Bro. Lyle Zeltwanger, who recently lost a sister, Sis. Ann Meiss (Bro. Harold), of Eureka, IL. Ann was Lyle's oldest sister and the oldest member of his family of twelve children. It's never easy to lose a sibling and Ann was a gracious lady whom we met and admired. Our love goes out to all of her family members.

We congratulate Logan Weiss (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Marsha) upon achieving all the steps that led him to become an Eagle Scout. Logan is faithful in his attendance to our church and Sunday school and he shows respect to everyone he meets. We like to mention good things that happen to our people also. Achieving this Award is a long journey and takes a lot of dedication for a young man.

We are few in number worshipping together this winter, but we never fail to feel the warmth of love from everyone we meet. We don't thank our ministers enough for their faithful and true messages, and for their interest and inquiry into problems that we have in our lives. Their love and care for all of us should be mentioned because whether the congregation is large or small, we need leaders who have our welfare at heart. Bro. Garry and Sis. Lois and Bro. Mike and Sis. Claudia certainly show that they do.

Don't forget that we're just 2 ¾ miles south of U.S. 30 on State Rd. 49. Spring isn't far behind so when you feel like visiting someone, consider the Valpo congregation.

INDIANA WEST LAFAYETTE

**Katie Widmer
Beth Tonner**

We are thankful that our friend Karl Kirsch has begun his repentance. The church has also heard that our friends Jaimie Oppermann and Brian Allinder (Glenda) have professed peace with God and man.

Congratulations to Sis. Maria Tucker and Bro. Jeremy Stieglitz (Leo), on their engagement. We will miss Maria's smile and bubbly personality and wish them the Lord's blessing as they begin this journey of faith.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Amanda Meister (Bro. Rustin) on the death of her grandmother, Alma Long, and Ron Getz (Jean) on the death of his brother, Bro. Maurice Getz (Remington).

We thank our visiting brothers for their labors of love and preaching the Word: Elder Bros. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington), Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse), and Bro. Jeff Bahler (Sis. Heidi, Wolcott).

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

**Sasha Kyburz
Donita Edelman**

On January 30-31 we gathered together to hear the testimony and witness the baptisms of four dear souls, Bros. Shane Bahler (Chris and Sis. Teresa), Brett Gerber (Bro. Bob and Sis. Luann) and Sisters Katie and Mindy Furrer (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Pam). What a wonderful weekend of fellowship and worship we had together. May the Lord guide and direct these precious souls through their journey in life.

Sis. Marge Hofstetter has spent some time in the hospital and has now moved to a nursing home. Lou Blanchette has also spent some time in the hospital and Brenda Kyburz (Roger) had thyroid surgery. Our

thoughts and prayers are with these three dear souls. May the Lord heal and comfort Sis. Marge, Lou and Brenda during this time of need.

We had several visiting ministers this month. For the baptisms, Elder Bros. Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra, Bluffton North, IN) and Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN) were here. Also visiting this month was Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL). We enjoyed a Topical Bible presentation on a Wednesday evening given by Bro. Calvin Schneider (Sis. Jeannie, Lacrosse, IN). The topic was "Put your Affections on things above." We need to remember this world is not our home, we are only passing through. Let's store our treasures in heaven where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt and where thieves do not break through nor steal. (Matthew 6:20). We would like to thank all of these dedicated ministers for taking the time to share the wonderful Word of truth with us.

On February 12, Tyler Bryant (Mike and Sis. Nancy Scott, Wolcott) and Megan Johnson were joined in marriage. We would like to wish them God's blessings as they make their home in Missouri.

We were blessed to be able to work with the Remington congregation doing World Relief projects through the months of January and February. We are saddened that this time has come to an end, but are thankful that the time will once again come next year for us to work together for the good of others. We would like to thank the committee for organizing these events. We are looking forward to our time together next year!

Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord;
Abide in Him always, and feed on His Word;
Make friends of God's children; Help those who are weak;
Forgetting in nothing, His blessing to

seek.

Gospel Hymns #448

IOWA, AMES

Brett Wulf

We are thankful for the ministering brothers who have been willing to be used in the past month. They were Bro. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA), Bro. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend, IA), and Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Sally, Oakville, IA). May God richly bless them for their labors.

IOWA, BLOOMFIELD

Christy Wiegand

“For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

John 3:17-18

We are thankful for two of our converts that have found peace, Loren Schock and Curt Dotterer. Our prayers continue with them that they can cling to the peace they have found. We look forward to the baptisms of all of our converts as peace is given and the old man is quickened to the new creature, fashioned with a new nature.

Thank you to visiting ministering Bro. Kim Sutter (Sis. Vonette, Taylor). We are grateful for Bro. Kim's willingness to serve us by ministering the Word of God.

We miss the smiling face of Georgia Well. She has not been able to gather with us recently due to her health and then all the bad weather. We look forward to when she can worship with us again.

We have enjoyed all of our visitors

during these winter months, and are thankful that some of our young and old can work together on World Relief projects here at home, as we packaged soup one evening, as well as in Nashville where brethren from across the land labor and enjoy each other.

We rejoice that Meredith Klotzle has turned her life to the Lord in repentance. She is from Akron, OH, and living and going to school in our area. We appreciate getting to know her and wish her God's grace in her pursuit of life eternal.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Marilyn Anderson

Karla Gerst

“Now the God of peace be with you all.”

Romans 15:33

Our dear Sis. Maye Heiniger passed from this life on January 27 at the age of 96. We extend our sympathy to her family. May they feel God's comfort.

We extend heartfelt thanks to our visiting ministers this past month. They were Bros. Dale Frank, Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA), and Glen Braker (Princeville, IL). May God richly bless them for their willingness to bring the spoken Word to us.

IOWA, ELGIN

Maria Rocke

Brianna Strahm

Those whose hearts delight and pleasure

In God's law and teaching find
And whose souls find joy and pasture
In His ways and mercies kind;
All such lives a true light show,
And no faltering weakness know.

Zion's Harp #82

Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA) and Elder Bro.

Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Oakville, IA) were with us to read the Memorandum letter to our congregation. We thank these brothers for being spent on our behalf. May we humbly pray for grace to live out the principles of God's Word, which will lead us to the glories of Heaven.

Bro. Charles Schneider (Sis. Sue) and Sharlene Halverson (Roger) and their families are in our thoughts and prayers as they mourn the loss of their sister, Sharon Schneider. May they feel God's nearness in their time of sorrow.

Bro. Bert Butikofer was hospitalized for a short while this month. We are thankful he is beginning to regain good health and strength.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE

Laura Funk

Visiting ministers this past month include Bro. Klint Beyer (Sabetha, KS), Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Denver, CO) and Bro. Ron Isch (Lamont-Gridley, KS). We appreciate all that fellowship with us.

Enjoying a new grandson is Sis. Willa Clark. Steven, Carma, Gavin and Degan welcome Baize Bruce into their family circle.

We recently held our annual business meeting. In a small church we all share the duties and responsibilities of a “safe haven” in which to worship.

When planning your summer vacation, include Garden Grove, IA. We are in the middle of the United States and on the way to “every where”.

IOWA, LESTER

Gloria Moser

Polly Metzger

A precious pink bundle arrived on February 15 to Bro. Steve and Sis. Elizabeth Warner. Julia Esther is welcomed home by her siblings, Nathan, Ryan, Ethan, Leah and Evan. Her grandparents are Bro. Pat and

Sis. Julie Zaugg (West Bend) and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Esther Warner. May God truly direct these parents as they raise their family.

Thou sayest, "Child, give me your heart!"

O what a sweet request!

It shows the way that we must take
To life and peace and rest.

Zion's Harp #163

On January 22-23, we welcomed Sis. Kayla Metzger (Bro. Jerome and Sis. Jana) and Sis. Abby Warner (Bro. Stan and Sis. Sue) into the fold. Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Minneapolis) was here to assist Elder Bro. Rod. We thank him for his efforts. We enjoyed a blessed weekend, and pray that God will continue to lead these two dear sisters.

Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. James Knapp (Congerville), Bro. Clint Schmidt (Winthrop) and Bro. Kevin Fehr (West Bend). May God continue to bless these dear brothers as they bring forth His Holy Word.

On January 30, the peace of our converts, Jesse TeSlaa (Silverton, Ronda and Jim Thielen) and Grant DeSmet (Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley), was announced to us. May these two dear souls continue to look to God for His direction and guidance in their walk of life.

We want to remember in prayer all those who are suffering and taking treatments of one kind or another. Our hospital patients this month were Sis. Estelle Leuthold and Sis. Emma Knobloch. May God's abiding love be with each one.

We welcome Tyler Goodchild to our congregation. He has moved here from Dallas, TX, and we hope he will feel "at home" here in Lester.

On January 27, Maggie Metzger (Bro. Mark and Sis. Audrey) and Carley Landegent announced their engagement. On February 13, we

heard the betrothal of Sis. Tasha Metzger (Bro. Tom and Sis. Deb) and Bro. Matthew Warner (Bro. Stan and Sis. Sue). We wish these dear couples God's blessings as they plan for their weddings.

We need to always remember those serving our country in the armed forces. May God keep them close as they spend so much time away from their families and loved ones. May they feel the prayers we send their way.

IOWA, OAKVILLE Sharla Wiegand

On February 14, Sis. Ursel Barth peacefully left this earth for a better Home. Our sympathy is extended to her children, Duane (Judith) of Elk River, MN; Ronald (Leann) of Wichita, KS; David (Elaine) of Bluffton, IN; Dennis (Robin) of Mediapolis, IA; Becky (Don) Carpenter of Colorado Springs, CO; and son-in-law, Bob Ditmars of Muscatine, IA.

IOWA, WEST BEND Janet Fehr Leona Fehr

We appreciated having Elder Bro. Steve Martin (Sis. Vicki, Eureka, IL) with us for Memorandum this year, and thankful to have Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Sally, Oakville, IA) spend two weekends here also in the last month. May God richly bless them for sharing the Word.

Our hearts were saddened to hear the sudden passing of Sis. Leona (Bro. Scott) Fehr's youngest brother, Sidney (Sid) Schmidt, from Gibbon, MN, on January 23. Let us prayerfully remember each one that is hurtling from the loss of a loved one.

Those of our brethren who were hospitalized this month are Sis. Joyce Banwart, Sis. Helen Zaugg, and Bro. Archie Banwart. May the Lord con-

tinue to add His healing touch in their lives as He sees fit.

With the anticipation of winter ending and a longing for the beautiful days of spring, it seems so fitting to give glory to our Lord and Creator for the miracles about us.

It Took A Miracle

My Father is omnipotent, and that
you can't deny,
A God of might and miracles, 'tis written
in the sky.
Though here His glory has been
shown; we still can't fully see
The wonders of His might, His throne;
'Twill take eternity.
The Bible tells us of His pow'r and
wisdom all way through;
And ev'ry little bird and flow'r are tes-
timonies, too.
It took a miracle to put the stars in
place,
It took a miracle to hang the world in
space,
But when He saved my soul, cleansed
and made me whole,
It took a miracle of love and grace.
Gospel Hymns #765

JAPAN, SHIODA Carrie Ito

We were blessed by the visit of Sisters Melissa Mangers (Morton), Margie Heintz (Champaign), and Stephany Moser (China) this past month.

Since we don't have a lot of news, I hope it is okay to relate a heartwarming scene that we often see on Sundays in Shioda. Our son, Tomoki (one year old), and Koshin Furuya (9 years old) have become good buddies. They can be seen walking outside hand in hand, giggling as they play hide and seek, and overall just enjoying each other's company. What a blessing to have Christian friends! Oh, that the Lord would bless them and guide them (and many more!) to serve the Lord faithfully!

JAPAN, TOKYO

Jana Klaus

Our congregation was blessed by a visit from Sis. Margie Heintz (Champaign, IL) and Sis. Stephany Moser (living in China, originally from Rockville, CT). Sis. Margie was a teacher at our Shioda church kindergarten over 25 years ago and had not been back for around 23 years. It was wonderful to see her enjoying Japan, and especially the beloved church people here, again. She had been visiting Sis. Stephany in China and brought her to Japan with her. It was Sis. Stephany's first time to Japan and we were delighted to meet her and hear about China. Both sisters willingly shared testimonies of how the Lord had worked in their lives, at a church okonomiyaki supper (called Japanese pancakes, with vegetables and meat fried in them,) and also at the monthly Fujinkai (ladies meeting). At the previous Fujinkai, Sis. Yoko Suzurikawa had shared her testimony of how the Lord called her to believe in Him, the one and only true God, and in His Son Jesus Christ as her Saviour. Please continue to pray for the 4-6 neighborhood ladies who regularly attend the ladies meeting and hear the Truth over and over. After the Fujinikai, Sis. Haruyo Onoda took Stephany and Margie to visit Sis. Shizuko Urushino who has been hospitalized for a year due to Parkinson's and unable to attend church. I believe she was very touched by their visit, especially since she has so little Christian contact. Please continue to remember her in your prayers, as well as her husband who recently came down with pneumonia. And we also keep Sis. Yoshiko Sakuta in our prayers as she stays in her home most of the time also due to Parkinson's.

We also heard from Sis. Cassie Bertsch (who came from Bluffton, IN to stay with the Klaus family) at the church okonomiyaki supper as she,

too, willingly shared her love of Jesus and how she wished to share that with everyone here as well as take their love of Jesus back home with her in her heart. We thank you again, dear Sis. Cassie, for sharing His love with us here for 6 weeks, and we welcome you back anytime!

Our prayers are with our Elder Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie Inoue as they were able to attend the winter Brotherhood Conference in Ohio and stay a bit longer to visit relatives in Indiana.

KANSAS, BERN

Sheri Edelman Jill Meyer

"But if from thence thou shalt seek the Lord thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul."

Deuteronomy 4:29

We rejoice to hear of God's leading two souls to become one. The engagement of Sis. Lindsay Edelman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda) to Bro. Eric Steiner (Bro. Rich and Sis. Pat; Rittman) was made known on January 30. May they continue to look to the Lord as they make plans for a June wedding.

Appreciation is extended to our visiting ministers, Bro. Jerry Meeks (Sis. Christy, Sabetha) and retired Elder Bro. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kansas City). God bless them for their willingness to serve on our behalf.

It was so nice to see Sis. Lois Hartter (Bro. Steve) back in church after extensive surgery to remove a lung tumor. May they continue to feel our prayers and God's healing hand upon her. Also in our prayers is Bro. Matt Strahm (Dorothy), who is a hospital patient at this time.

We gathered with the Sabetha

church on January 29 to hear the reading of the Memorandum. Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Sis. Nancy; Elgin, IL) assisted our own Elder and Deacon brothers. We thank all of them for their labors in the service of the Lord.

Our annual business meeting was held in January. We are prayerful for those given new responsibilities and express our thanks to those whose terms of service have expired.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT

Martin Hohulin Sr.

Here in Kansas we escaped the snow and cold which gripped many of the northern states. It was a balmy 68 degrees here the last two days of January. That all changed on February 1 when we received eighteen inches of snow. We were housebound for nearly a week. Fortunately, we have good neighbors and they cleared our driveway twice. Our son works at the State Capitol in Jefferson City, MO, and he said nearly 40 legislators and staff were forced to spend the night in the Capitol because they could not get to their apartments and hotel rooms. Now, as I write this, it is again nearly 70 degrees outside.

Sis. Lucille Schurter celebrated her 93rd birthday in January. She was baptized in 1933 in Forrest, Illinois. She now resides in a rest home here in Fort Scott and is brought to church by Bro. Lonnie and Sis. Debbie Banwart.

We were blessed this month when Bro. Brent Kellenberger (Sis. Beth, Kansas City) visited our congregation. Our Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie) gave us a brief report on the Elder meeting held at Junction, OH. We appreciate what our ministers and Elders do for us. May God richly bless them.

KANSAS, KIOWA

**Janice Bahr
Jenny Stewart**

Greetings to all! Many in our congregation have been ill this past month. May God grant each of us His healing power. Our continued prayers are with each of you.

We have been listening to the Conference tapes on Wednesday evenings. We are thankful for all the time, prayer, and patience our ministers give for us all.

We were very blessed to have Bro. Jerry Meeks (Sis. Christy, Sabetha) with us and to share God's Word. Thank you for bringing your family and your willingness to share God's Word with us.

**KANSAS
LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Sarah Somerhalder**

Our small congregation has been blessed with many visitors this month and we appreciate each one. We were thankful to have visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Sis. Becky, Lamar, MO), Bro. Tom Lanz (Sis. Mary, Oakville, IA), and Bro. David Hartter (Sis. Beth, Sabetha, KS) assemble with us. May the Lord bless them for their willingness in preaching the Word of Life.

**KANSAS, SABETHA
Sally Strahm
Carrie Grimm**

Children of the Heav'nly Father
Safely in His bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor stars in heaven
Such a refuge e'er was given.

Neither life nor death shall ever
From the Lord His children sever;
Unto them His grace He showeth,
And their sorrows all He knoweth.

Gospel Hymns #57, vs. 1,3

We rejoice with Bro. Troy and Sis. Dawn Strahm as they welcome a new

little son, Ian Wayne, into their home and hearts on February 10. Brendan, Gavin, and Alli welcome their little brother. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Rose Grimm (West Bend, IA) and the late Bro. Carl and Sis. Sharon Strahm.

Nicole Krogmann (Frank and Sis. Julie) and Jeffery Mann of St. Marys, KS, announce their engagement to be married. They plan a September 3, 2011, wedding. Nicole's grandparents are Bro. Harvey and Sis. Arleta Wenger. We pray this couple seeks the Lord's guidance as they plan their life together as one.

We are thankful for our visiting ministering brothers. Elder Bro. Ronald Schambach (Sis. Nancy, Elgin, IL), Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS), Bro. Galen Rokey (Sis. Nancy, Bern, KS), Bro. Greg Braker (Sis. Wendy, Lamar, MO), Bro. Philip Schulz (Sis. Kelli, Burlington, IA), and Bro. John Baumgartner (Sis. Lori, Bern, KS) all shared God's Word with us this month.

Our prayers are with Bro. Brad Kellenberger (Sis. Teresa) as he is recovering from surgery. We pray for all those in affliction, and by God's grace, they will feel His nearness and strength.

Our 2011 Church Business Meeting was held January 18. We pray the Lord's will is done in all things.

Elder Bro. Ronald Schambach (Sis. Nancy, Elgin, IL) was here for the reading of the Conference Memorandum, which was held on January 29 in Sabetha with the Bern congregation.

Our prayers continue to be with each of our dear Elders across the lands as they seek the Lord's guidance and direct their flocks. We pray our Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell, as well as all the Elders, felt our prayerful support during the Elder Conference which was held in Junction, OH. May

each of us strive to do the Lord's will in everything we do.

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

Ephesians 6:10-11

**KANSAS, WICHITA
Emma Miller**

February has brought challenging weather conditions to Kansas and frozen fuel and water pipes were just a few of the many problems we had to contend with. The morning paper showed a picture of a new born calf whose ear had frozen off in the first thirty minutes of it's life. We have a saying in Kansas that goes something like this: "If you do not like the weather here, just wait. It will change."

I have been reading in I Timothy, chapter 6, about his exhortation on the love of money. We should not despise wealthy masters. It can lead to name calling and worse. Love of money is a step toward sin and many sorrows. Instead let the Lord teach us the way to go. He has promised to do that in Psalm 32:8.

Bro. Ed Fritz and his wife, Sis. Sally (Washington, IL), spent Valentine weekend in Wichita. Those who were able gathered for a potluck at the church for more fellowship Sunday evening. We thank the Washington congregation for sharing the Word for our benefit.

**MEXICO, IXTLAN
Matt Gerber**

"Having many things to write unto you, I would not write with paper and ink: but I trust to come unto you, and speak face to face, that our

joy may be full.”

II John 12

Writing is a useful medium of communication, but there's nothing like speaking face to face. We have been blessed this month by a number of visitors who came to visit their missionary family members and make our joy full. Thank you to all who make the effort to visit us way down here in Mexico.

Bro. Mario Cabrera and his wife Sis. Elsa made the long bus trek from Ixtlan to Barra Vieja to encourage the believers there. Our brethren in Barra Vieja appreciate the monthly visits they receive, although it's not the same as having an established church. We continue to pray and look forward to the day when God raises up someone permanent for the ministry there. There are also opportunities in Morelia and Queretaro for those God moves to support the small groups of believers there. Both of these cities have excellent schools and language programs for anyone who is interested in learning Spanish or studying abroad.

Here in Ixtlan, the grade school continues to grow as we plan for third grade this coming year. We have a need for someone to help teach English classes. This would call for at least a two-year commitment. Having a teaching background in English and ESL would be very helpful, but is not a requirement. (Anyone interested in knowing more about this opportunity should contact Bro. Matt Gerber at magerbe@gmail.com).

**MEXICO
MAGDALENA
Jarrin Rabe**

I Juan 3:11 “Porque este es el mensaje que habéis oído desde el principio: Que nos amemos unos a

otros.”

I John 3:11 “For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.”

While the Midwest was having a record breaking snow storm, Mexico was having record breaking low temperatures! It was cold – in fact, it was so cold that we even had a few frozen pipes. A few days later we were back to our normal weather with grateful hearts for the warmer climate.

We had 4 brothers and sisters from Hungary who were eager to help out wherever needed. We are thankful for their visit and their love that they shared with all of us even through the language barrier.

February has brought us a group from Gridley, IL, that were able to share their love and testimony of the Lord's work in their lives. The team has been working on several different projects, including the continuation of the boys' dorm remodel, other home improvements in one of the houses, and starting construction on a third group home! Needless to say, they have been busy!

We also wanted to make known that we have had a change in our mailing address. Please use the following address:

Casa Vida y Esperanza
1200 N Mariposa Rd.
PMB #46
Nogales, AZ 85621

Please continue to pray for the church in Magdalena – that God's Word would be proclaimed clearly, and that people would open their hearts and ears to hear His message.

**MICHIGAN, ALTO
Listyn Oesch
Melissa Blough**

“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. 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 12:1-2

Our congregation was blessed with a topical presentation on being a vessel for Christ from Bro. Nathan Steffen as well as another presentation from Bro. Nathan Steffen and Bro. Jim and Sis. Maria McCormick about their mission trips to Mexico.

We would like to thank Bro. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN) and his family for their labors of love while visiting us here in Alto.

Our prayers extend to retired Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen as he was hospitalized and is now at home recovering.

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

We've had a relatively quiet month in Bay City, yet we know there are several in our congregation who are suffering from infirmities of the flesh and spent time in the hospital during the past weeks. Our prayers are with Sis. Kayleen Grew (Bro. Bob), Sis. Rhonda Knochel (Bro. Bob), Sis. Marlene Mosher and Sis. Connie Pashak (Bro. Dean) and we trust that God will continue to provide healing.

During the winter months, our congregation gathers to make quilts and other handmade items for World Relief. It is so rewarding when we can

gather together, work with our hands and have blessed fellowship knowing that in some small way we can reach out and help others. We are also thankful for those from our congregation who are able to travel and work on World Relief projects, whether it be nationally or overseas.

“In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”

I Thessalonians 5:18

MICHIGAN, DETROIT
Manuela Denes
Kay Rauhe

“Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable.”

Psalms 145:3

Have you ever experienced a bright light and then thunder during a cold, snowy blizzard-filled night? Thunder? How could that be? Some people would say Mother Nature, but we know who is responsible for everything—our God! When we think of what God really does for us it’s mind boggling—He protects those who love Him no matter how scary the circumstances, He always forgives us even when we disobey, He always finds us when we are lost, and He protects those who have faith in Him. How comforting and absolutely amazing that is!

Our Elder Body gathered for the mid-winter Conference in Junction, OH, on February 8, and our Elder Bro. Mark Bahr sincerely thanked us when he returned home as he was profoundly aware of our fervent prayer support while he was there.

We would like to say a warm and heart-felt thank you to some of the ladies at our church who take time out of their busy schedules to meet and make sandwiches for those in need

and use their talents to sew blankets and comforters. The Lord will surely bless them for their kind deeds.

“Pray without ceasing...”

I Thessalonians 5:17

We need to be prayer warriors for two courageous ladies, Sis. Barb Johnson and Amy Ryder, Sis. Bonnie Popp’s niece, who are both battling cancer.

We were so blessed and privileged to have Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie Inoue with us as they have been traveling from their home church in Tokyo, Japan. We were encouraged and uplifted by Bro. Akito’s awesome and interesting sermon. Our sincere and heart-felt thanks for his willingness to serve the Lord. “We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;” (*I Thessalonians 1:2,3*)

It is with a joyful heart that we announce that Autumn Gasser (Bro. Randy and Sis. Sue) has found peace with her Lord and is ready and willing to undertake the next step—her testimony and baptism. Lord willing, on March 12 and 13, along with Caleb Ramseyer (Bro. Mark and Sis. Kelly), we will be privileged to enjoy a weekend filled with the love of our Lord and how He changes us and creates a new person. How wonderful it will be to add and welcome another brother and sister in Christ to our church family! “One Lord, one faith, one baptism.” (*Ephesians 4:5*)

We were saddened to hear about the death of our dear Sis. Ranka Mojic’s (Laza) brother, Milorad Ledjenac, from Kula, Serbia. He was the oldest in a family of 12 children, and the first one to die. He is survived by his wife, Dragica. We would like to

offer our love and sympathy during this difficult time, and may they find strength in His presence and comfort in His love. “Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.” (*Psalms 3:4*)

BJ Blume (Bro. Brian and Sis. Cherise) suffered a broken arm recently and is healing nicely. Let’s remember to pray for him as it is difficult to have limitations of movement and freedom.

Here are some up-coming things planned for our congregation: Choir Benefit Dinner on July 16 and VBS the week of July 17 though 21. Please pray for everyone involved that they keep their eyes on the prize—glorifying our Lord Jesus Christ!

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

I John 4:12

MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS
Tim McMillan

We began the month in Minneapolis with John 12:24. “Verily, verily I say unto you, except a corn of wheat fall unto the ground and die, it abideth alone, but if it die it bringeth forth much fruit.” This followed a reading of Judges 15:18-19, wherein Samson was thirsty and the Lord put a little water in the jawbone of an ass and drinking the water Samson was revived. A jawbone could not hold much water, but these scriptures remind us of how just a small amount of what the Lord gives us can sustain and uplift our spirit beyond what we can imagine. With just a tiny amount of faith, much can be accomplished!

The sad news is delivered first. Bro. Doug Bergstrom (Sis. Connie) had a sibling brother, Eugene, pass on this last month. Our hearts and prayers go out to the family in hope they are not distraught.

We had our business meeting this month. We rejoice that our members are willing to share their talents freely to help the congregation remain strong. May the Lord's blessing be upon those who have been called to work and His rewards be upon those who have given. After the meeting, the children spent the afternoon tubing and playing in the snow. Seeing joy and smiles on children's faces when enjoying the snow, it is a good reminder to us not to complain about how our work day or other activities have been disrupted. God's work always provides an opportunity for us to shine a bright light on those who are around us! We were blessed this same weekend to have Philadelphia Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle) visit and share God's Word with us. We are always thankful for those who visit us in the loving heart of fellowship!

Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose) blessed us with his preaching of the Word and assisting in the baptism of Sandy Bentz (Craig), and Rae Lynn Leenderts (Aric). Bro. Wayne reminded us all that we are "dead to the world and are to be separate". As with everything the Lord gives unto us the food we need. The same weekend we were also visited by Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Sis. Bonnie, Bloomington-Normal). The reading was from Judges 17. Verse 6 reads "...there was no king ... but every man did that which was right in his own eyes." We have a King, those of us who are baptized unto the Lord. Jesus is the King of Kings, and we strive to do that which is right in the eyes of the Lord and not our own. Let us remember this daily.

Praise the Savior ye who know Him;
who can tell how much we owe Him?
Gladly let us render to Him
all we are and have.

Gospel Hymns #291 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

Susie Wulf

Kim Feuchtenberger

Lacie Winter joined Bro. Doug and Sis. Amber Nohl on January 25. She is welcomed by her siblings, Crystal, Lewis, Archie and Allison. Her grandparents are Sis. Bonnie Nohl and Bro. Todd and Sis. Beth Stuber (Tremont, IL). "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward." (Psalm 127:3)

Bro. Arnie Koehl and Kendall Waldbeser (Bro. Matt and Sis. Jerilyn) were both hospitalized. May God continue to reach down His healing hand if it is His will.

To suffer as God wills
Our life's design fulfills;
It leads to God's domain,
Christ's likeness to attain.

Zion's Harp #156, vs. 2

MINNESOTA MORRIS NORTH

Wanda Gramm
Lois Schmidgall

"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me."

John 14:6

When we think of salvation we are reminded that there is one way ... and that way is Jesus, Jesus alone.

We are thankful for the dedication and faithfulness of our ministering brethren this past month. Those sharing God's Word were Bro. Duane and Sis. Ruth Metzger (West Bend,

IA), Bro. Kent and Sis. Mary Mogler (Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Jeff and Sis. Sue Neihouser (Morton, IL), Bro. Clint and Sis. Magdalena Schmidt (Winthrop, MN), and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Bonnie Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL). God again provided His counsel and His spirit to edify and encourage His people.

Our congregation gathered together for a farewell potluck/singing for Bro. Rustin and Sis. Sharon Schmidgall as they have felt the Lord's calling to relocate to Tremont, IL. Our congregation will feel an emptiness with their absence but rejoice with the Tremont congregation as they will enjoy their presence. We wish them God's abundant blessings and look forward to their visits back to Minnesota.

Assembling blankets for the local area Crisis Pregnancy Center and hospital was a blessed event for our World Relief Project. We pray each blanket recipient will feel the comfort of God's grace and goodness. Skyview Plaza was again a place of singing praises to God for the elderly. Oh, what a joy it is to see the comfort that is given to them through voices of song.

Worship begins in the spirit and ends in the flesh. After a congregational potluck, Bro. Dennis Kaufmann delivered a topical Bible presentation on "Worship". Gratitude, admiration, wonder, and adoration are all keys that lead us to worship and that every good and perfect gift comes from God above. Thanks, Bro. Dennis, for the inspirational evening.

Special note: It has been one short year of Morris North existence. Our Elder Bro. Paul Messner has been faithful, along with 46 different ministering and Elder brethren who have willingly given in the past year. Thank Thee again, Dear Jesus, for a Faith such as ours. Amen!

Note of Thanks:

To Family, Relatives and Friends,

I want to "Thank You" for remembering me with Christmas and 90th Birthday cards, gifts, flowers, etc. All your encouraging words, visits, and prayers during December were very special to me. It was so wonderful reading and looking at so many cards and pictures. What precious memories. I am sorry I can't answer them all personally. I am at the Westwind Village Nursing Home in Morris, MN, and it's a nice place with good care. God has blessed me with fairly good health physically but memory is not as good as I would like it to be. Morris has a lot of snow and cold weather this winter so I miss the winters in Arizona. I've enjoyed all your cards and letters throughout the 2010 year. I still enjoy reading so feel free to write me anytime and I also love pictures. Wishing you God's Blessings in the year 2011.

My love to All,

Linda Yackley, your Sister, Stepmother, Grandma, Relative, and Friend

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Lindsay Schmidt
Heather Steiner

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

Revelation 21:4

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Bro. Verl Schmidt (Sis. Jamie) and his family as they feel sorrow in the sudden loss of his brother, Sidney Schmidt. We also keep Sid's wife, Dulci, and two sons, Mason and McKray, in our prayers. May God wrap His arms around them and

grant comfort and peace as only He can.

"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."

Hebrews 13:17

We thought of and prayed for our Elder brothers as they met for the Mid-Winter Conference. We are thankful to have these brothers that are willing to serve and care for our churches. May each one individually be mindful to serve our Lord and Savior first and foremost.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

John 3:16-17

Once again our country is celebrating Valentine's Day. As we see the hearts and hear about love, may we be reminded of the greatest love story. The story is precious: God loved each one of us so much that He sent His Son to die on a cross to save us from our sins, and His Son loved us enough to leave heaven, live as an earthly man, and suffer on a cruel cross for sins that He did not commit. Let us be thankful for this incomprehensible love which we don't deserve and try to share that same love to those we meet every day.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY
Brittany Fehr

We appreciate the labors of the ministering brothers who recently

assembled with us. Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Oakville, IA) assisted our Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen) in reading the Memorandum to us; Bro. John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Burlington, IA) and Bro. Galen Rokey (Sis. Nancy, Bern, KS) were our other visiting ministers. May God richly bless these brothers — we are thankful He continues to direct the clear and plain preaching of the Word.

Our congregation continues to pray for Melinda Trayford who had recent surgery as she continues to recover from a very serious automobile accident in August of last year. We're thankful retired Elder Bro. Gene Marti was able to assemble with us despite recently being hospitalized for two days after a fall on the ice.

MISSOURI, LAMAR
Venetta Banwart
Rebecca Dotterer

We have been blessed by having visiting ministers this month: Bros. Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL) and Brandon Emch (Kansas City, MO). May they feel God's rich blessings for their service in the Lord.

We would like to wish Bro. Mitchel and Sis. Renee Schulz and family God's blessings as they move back to Oakville, IA. They will be missed.

We would like to extend our sympathy to Bro. Larry and Sis. Marcy Schmidgall and family in the passing of Sis. Marcy's brother, Sidney Schmidt. May you feel God's nearness in your time of loss.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS
Kary Mangers

We are thankful that the winter weather did not deter many from coming to worship with us. Special thanks to Bro. Tom Lanz (Sis. Mary, Oakville) and Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago) for serving us from

the pulpit. We enjoyed the fellowship with all who came.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR
Melissa Reiman

Slumber now, my worldly business,
For today I am engaged;
All my strength and all my efforts
I have to the Master pledged.
Praising God, to watch and pray,
Is my duty for today.

Sunday Morning, Zion's Harp #254

What a beautiful hymn to start off a Sunday morning with! It gets you into the right spirit that today is the Lord's Day and we are going to Church to serve Him, and to have sweet fellowship with our brothers, sisters, and friends in Christ!

We would like to thank Bro. Fred Funk (Sis. Diane, Morton, IL) for his willingness to come to Taylor and teach this body Christ's Word! Bro. Fred preached on Sunday morning about submission. If we are doing something that we want to do, that is not submission. Submission is doing something that you do not want to do. It is being obedient and when we are told to do something (or not to do something), then we should obey and do as we are told. Are we being submissive to God?

We would also like to thank the Mortonaires for coming to Taylor and sharing the precious Word of Christ through song. The Mortonaires singing was very beautiful and you could feel the Holy Spirit moving in the Church as they sang. Many songs were sung that day but the one that touched me the most was "This Little Light of Mine", sung with different lyrics and it went like this:

(Chorus) This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine [x3] Let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine.

The light that shines is the light of love, lights the darkness from above, it shines on me and it shines on you, and shows what the power of love can do.

I'm gonna shine my light both far and near, I'm gonna shine my light bright and clear. Where there's a dark corner in this land, I'm gonna let my little light shine.

Chorus

On a Monday, give me the gift of Love, On a Tuesday, gift came from above. On a Wednesday, told me to watch and pray. On a Thursday, told me just what to say. On a Friday, get me out of this place! On a Saturday, give me a little more grace. On a Sunday, give me the power divine, just to let my Little Light shine.

Chorus

What a precious song to remind us what the Lord has done for us on every given day of the week. Thank you Mortonaires for reminding us what God has done for us.

NEW YORK
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG
Hope Graves

We have had a blessed past month. On January 29 we had a potluck and singing together to welcome Bro. Ben Rudin to our congregation from Forrest, IL. His parents, Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy, came to help Bro. Ben make the move to New York. We know this will be an adjustment to their family but am so glad that the Lord has led him here to worship with our small congregation. God does not forget the faithful! May we always pray for His leading in our lives.

Our winter World Relief projects have started with quilt tying this year. Many willing hands gathered together on February 16 and 18 to piece together quilts that are then distributed through the year to fire

victims and the World Relief center. We always enjoy this time together and get such a blessing out of doing for others.

We enjoyed a singing together with Sis. Louise Purvines in the extended care on February 18. It was nice to have three brethren visiting from the Midwest with us also. May we never take for granted our ability to gather together in church on Sunday for worship. Sis. Louise always says she misses this more than anything else.

OHIO, AKRON
Erika Gal

"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."

Romans 12:1

We are thankful for two new converts. David Henico (Bro. Greg and Sis. Sarah) and Sarah Laubli (Bro. Guy and Sis. Ilona) have found the grace to begin repenting. We will surely keep both of them in our thoughts and prayers.

A precious baby boy has been born to first-time parents, Bro. Jacob and Sis. Beth Rufener. His name is Malachi Michael. We rejoice with his parents and grandparents, Bro. John and Sis. Janice Rufener (Smithville) and Bro. Roger and Sis. Dorena Miller (Mansfield).

We always appreciate ministers who take the time to visit us and share the Word of God. We especially want to thank Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville) for laboring among us this month.

OHIO, COLUMBUS
Esther Saurer

This month ended up being a busy

one for us here in Columbus. We appreciated the Memorandum that was shared with us by Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH) and Elder Bro. Dave Graf (Sis. Barb, Akron, OH).

During that same weekend we also had our annual business meeting along with our new election of church officers. The new offices are as follows: Trustee and World Relief Representative - Kyle Germann; Kitchen Committee and Substitute Sunday School Teacher - Christine Germann; Sound System/Usher - Scott Germann.

Bro. Chad and Sis. Kim Leman (Kitchener, ON) shared a weekend with us as well. We were blessed by their willingness to serve our congregation.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Vicki Boroff

Our prayers go out to our hospital patients: Eleanor Gerber, Peg Bauman, and Bro. John Rose.

We were blessed to be able to host the mid-winter Elder Conference. Our congregation enjoyed hosting our many visitors.

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;"

Eccles. 3:1-4

Sis. Evelyn Manz passed away on February 7. The loss of a loved one is difficult and even more so after spending 62 years together in marriage. Our prayers go her husband, Bro. Eli, who will feel this loss daily; her children, Bro. Dave (Sis. Kathy),

Bro. Don (Sis. Connie), Bro. Ken (Sis. Gwen), Bro. Les (Sis. Karen), Bro. Russ (Sis. Vera), Bro. Roger (Lisa), John (Diane), Sis. Emily Rufener (Bro. John, Rittman), Sis. Sue Gasser (Bro. Roger), Peg Bauman, Sis. Becky Zollinger (Bro. Ken, Rittman), Sis. Alice Widmer (Bro. Darrell, Rittman), Barb Brink (Rob), and Sis. Millie Stoller (Bro. Jeff, Smithville); and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren who will miss her dearly.

In addition to the many Elders during the Conference week, we were also thankful for the many visiting ministers this month: Bros. Paul Eisenmann (Sis. Elaine, Burlington), John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville), John Grimm (Sis. Julie, Columbus), Don Steidl (Sis. Nan, Akron), Bill Brake (Sis. Miriam, Sardis), Ted Luginbuhl (Sis. Stephanie, Smithville), Mark Rufener (Sis. Julie, Mansfield), and Marvin Zollinger (Sis. Pam, Smithville).

Note of Thanks:

We want to thank everyone for your cards, food, gifts, visits and prayers during the illness and death of our wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Evelyn Manz.

The Eli Manz Family

OHIO, LATTY Mindy Stoller Carmen Eisenmann

"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful."

Col. 3:15

The Lord has moved in our congregation as He has provided us with two new ministers. Our prayers and support are with Bro. Todd Sinn (Sis.

Janet) and Bro. Chris Laukhuf (Sis. Rachel) as they begin their new role in the church. We are so thankful for God's provision. Retired Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN), along with our own retired Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Sis. Ann) assisted with the service adding these brothers into the ministry.

We were so thankful to hear that Blake Sinn (Tiffany) has turned his heart to the Lord in repentance. We pray that Blake would feel the prayers of those around him and that God would meet his every need.

Brooke Ellen was born on January 25 to Bro. Blane and Sis. Mindy Stoller. Happy siblings are Natalie and Zach. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth Stoller and Bro. Bob and Sis. Joan Graf. May God continue to bless this dear family with love and joy.

We pray that God will continue to provide for Bro. Rod Stoller (Sis. LeAnn), Bro. Wayne Stoller (Sis. Dorothy), Bro. Donn Steffen (Sis. Karen), and Sis. Irma Stoller as they have experienced health concerns in the past month. We can be thankful that God is control of all things.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Tami Griffey

We have had several loved ones hospitalized recently including Bro. Larry Bocka, Sis. Elizabeth Boliantz (Bro. Eric), Bro. Charles and Sis. Marcella Sauder, Sis. Millie Gerber (Bro. Wilbur), Sis. Esther Baumann, and Sis. Lore Stuenzi (Bro. Art). We will continue to pray for God's nearness and healing in each of their lives according to His will.

Sis. Ann Gromen has passed on to her eternal reward. Our sympathy and prayers are extended to her daughter and son-in-law, Sis. Joyce and Bro. Don Boliantz, and their family, and daughter and son-in-law,

Kathryn and Michael Vish.

Sis. Evelyn Manz (Bro. Eli) of Junction, OH, has gone home to be forever with the Lord. Our sympathy and prayers are with her family, including her brothers, Bro. Kenny Sauder (Sis. Sue), Bro. Don Sauder (Sis. Faye), and Bud Sauder, a sister-in-law, Sis. Caroline Sauder, as well as many other relatives in our congregation.

We rejoice with first-time parents, Bro. Eric and Sis. Elizabeth Boliantz, as their son, Eagan Boaz, was born on January 18. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Joyce Boliantz, and Bro. John Sr. and Sis. Dawn Ramsey.

OHIO, RITTMAN

**Jenny Rupp
Marge Stoller**

We were privileged to experience two weddings this month. January 16 was the wedding of Bro. Matthew Dotterer (Bro. Rick and Sis. Dawn) and Sis. Calla Steiner (Bro. Dave and Sis. Lynn). Marriage vows were exchanged again on February 13 at the wedding of Bro. Jeff Miller (Dave and Rosie) and Sis. Naomi Rupp (Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon). We wish each couple God's great blessings in their marriage.

Bro. Eric Steiner (Bro. Rich and Sis. Pat) and Sis. Lindsay Edelman (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda, Bern, KS) have their own wedding to look forward to as their engagement was announced on January 30.

To continue the exciting news, we are so glad for our two new converts, Jill Dotterer (Bro. Rick and Sis. Dawn) and Jon Rufener (Bro. Dan and Sis. Karen). They have the love and prayers of many and we hope they can feel blessed by the support. It's always a great joy to hear of new converts.

On January 27, we experienced the passing of two loved ones who rep-

resented each end of the age spectrum. Joe Zollinger is survived by his sisters, Sis. Marian Hartzler, Sis. Dorothy Zollinger, Sis. Linda Zollinger; brothers, Bro. John (Sis. Marge, Smithville, OH), Bro. Ed (Sis. Shirley, Silverton, OR); and brother-in-law, Bro. Henry Dotterer. Flint Ridge Gardner, son of Bro. Sam and Sis. Joy Gardner and brother of Kora Lily, went with Jesus at his birth. Grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Bonnie Ingold, and Bonnie Gardner. Both left an impact on those who surrounded them and our prayers are with those who loved them.

We were very thankful to have Elder Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandra, Alto, MI), with us for Memorandum this month. Also visiting us this month were Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) and ministering Bros. Doug Harmon (Sis. Lana, Toledo, OH), Steve Pamer (Sis. Arliss, Akron, OH), Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL), and Todd Zollinger (Sis. Michele, Silverton, OR).

Prayers are with the several people who recently spent time in the hospital, including Bro. Harlen Ramsier, Sis. Joann (Bro. Bob) Widmer, Larry (Janet) Hanzie, Bro. Jack (Sis. Delores) Maibach, and Gretchen Hartzler (Bro. Tim and Sis. Sharon).

OHIO, SARDIS Faith Beard

O God of wisdom, life and love, Thine
is the blessed plan
In holy bonds of love to join the twain,
created man.

These souls betrothed before Thee
stand; Thy blessing we implore;
Unite Thou them in heart and hand,
and guide them evermore.

As they go forth upon life's way, sus-
tain them by Thy grace;
May they Thy holy laws obey and live
in joy and peace.

Hymns of Zion #286, vs. 1-3

The engagement of our Bro. Anthony Amos to Sis. Jill Maibach of Toledo, OH (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lois, Smithville, OH) was recently announced to us. As they prepare for their wedding on May 22, Lord willing, and most importantly, their marriage, we pray for them that they may together seek His grace to align themselves with verse 4: "May they with holy lives adorn Thy doctrines, Lord, and be amid life's sunshine and its storm true witnesses for Thee."

February 1 was the date that Quincy James came to join the family of Bro. Eric and Sis. Jami Hartzler. He is little brother to Leah, Gracie and Conrad and grandson to Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry Zollinger. Our hearts warm as we look upon the precious innocence of a newborn, and we pray for wisdom for all parents who mold and inspire a child's heart as he matures.

It is wonderful to have Staci Indermuhle (Bro. Allen and Sis. Janet) back with us again after an extended hospitalization. Also, Bro. John Figel (Sis. Paula) has been through some medical procedures. When we are all united through faith and location as part of the family of God, we truly feel the separation when one is missing from us. We give praise to our Heavenly Father for granting His healing powers upon us.

We thank Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago, IL) for visiting us with a prepared heart and soul to speak God's inspired Word to us. May God be his and his family's rich Rewarder.

And when Thou, Lord, shalt come
again, to gather home Thine own,
May they, with duty nobly done, be

blessed before Thy throne.
Hymns of Zion #286, vs. 5

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Gina Brake
Lydia Dotterer**

Our congregation had two visiting ministers this past month, Bro. Lucas Frank (Bay City, MI) and Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton, IL). May God be with them each time they stand to speak His Word.

How thankful we are to still hear of those answering the call to salvation. Marci Stoller (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Millie) has recently begun her repentance and we pray she can continue to listen to the call drawing her and each of us to a closer walk.

We wish to extend our sympathy to Bro. John and Sis. Marge Zollinger, as their brother, Joe Zollinger, passed away.

Bro. Larry Miller (Sis. Edie) recently had knee surgery. Thankfully, all appears to be going well and healing is taking place as expected.

OHIO, TOLEDO

**Teresa Rywalski
Deanna Manz**

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

Genesis 2:18

We rejoice with Sis. Jill Maibach (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lois, Smithville) and Bro. Anthony Amos (Randy and Tawnya, Sardis) as their engagement was announced to our congregation January 30. May they feel our love and support as they plan for their spring wedding.

We extend our prayers and sympathy to Bro. Matt Manz (Sis. Deanna), Kurt Manz, and Bro. Chet Manz (Sis. Jenny) as they grieve the loss of their grandmother, Sis. Evelyn Manz (Bro.

Eli, Junction). May our Heavenly Father comfort their hearts and give them peace in the days to come.

February 19 was the wedding day for Jake (Sharon Harris) and Daniell Harris (Ron and Marlena Rafey). We pray the Lord will bless their life together.

Our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction) spent a Thursday evening with our congregation, giving us an overview of the recent Mid-Winter Conference. How thankful we are for the many labors of our Elder Brothers on behalf of the church. We continue to lift them up in prayer, that God's work can be accomplished.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Renee Angstrom

Our visiting minister this month from Silverton was Bro. Todd Zollinger (Sis. Michele). We were blessed and encouraged by the beautiful message that was spoken. We appreciate the support from our Silverton brethren.

Our prayers go out to Bro. Ray and Sis. Ginni Cooper as they have been unable to worship with us due to health issues. We miss them and pray for their continued healing.

OREGON, SILVERTON

**Deb Roth
Kris Luthi**

Bro. Brent Sinn (Bro. Don and Sis. Linda) was united in Holy Matrimony with Sis. Laura Jimenez (Maximino Jimenez and Angeles Lozada) on January 23. We rejoice with them and ask God to bless them now in their marriage as He has been faithful to do in the past. We are thankful that ministering Bro. Les Kaeb (Francesville, IN) was able to be here for the occasion.

The weekend of January 29-30 was joyful as Brooke Luthi (Bro. Bill

and Sis. Kris) gave her testimony of faith, made her covenant with God to be true and faithful and then was baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. Sis. Brooke is in our prayers as she learns to trust God more and strives to live a sanctified life. Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Sis. Becky, Lamar, MO) was here to assist our own Elder Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane) and Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty, Portland) in this work. We thank them for their efforts, along with Bro. Rex Frieden (Sis. Vera, Lamar, MO) who also preached the Word while here.

We appreciate Bro. Ron Jones (Sis. Liz, Portland) for preaching the Truth on a recent mid-week service. May God bless each Brother and Sister who humbly and willingly serves us in any way.

We are thankful to report that our converts, Cameron Sinn (Bro. Mark and Sis. Elsie) and Scott and Bethany Zollinger, profess peace and are looking forward to baptism. Each of them welcome encouragement and exhortation that might lead them in a closer walk with Christ. May they always trust and obey.

When we walk with the Lord
In the light of His Word
What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will,
He abides with us still,
And with all ... who will trust and obey.

Hymns of Zion #186

Bro. Craig and Sis. Juanita Schurter were blessed with a baby boy on February 10. His name is Trenton Craig and is lovingly welcomed home by sister Adrielle, and grandparents, Bro. Don and Sis. Linda Sinn and Leonard and Sheryl Schurter.

**PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA
Emily Wiegand**

“For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ”

I Corinthians 12:12

We are thankful for each one's service as part of our local Church – each one's role is important so that the body can function to it's fullest. We were reminded at our Annual Business meeting of the many efforts that are needed, some which are known to the Church, and some which are done behind the scenes, anonymously and are just as important. We thank each of the Brothers and Sisters who have held positions over the last year and willingly served on our behalf, and we are prayerful and support those who have willingly submitted to be servants for the Church in the upcoming year. May the Lord bless each one of you for your labors.

**TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE
Mike and Monica Fritz**

Our sympathy and prayers go out to the family of Sis. Evelyn Manz (Bro. Eli; Junction, OH) who passed away recently. Her family includes her brother, Bro. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder (Nashville, TN), and her grandson (our son-in-law), Bro. Larry and Sis. Cheree Manz (Junction, OH).

We continue to see much progress on the World Relief work project in the Nashville area. We are thankful for those who have made themselves available 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 have been greatly blessed by God's Living Word shared with us by our recent visiting ministering brothers: Bros. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Kerwin Edelman (Sis. Sara; Athens, AL), Dana Indermuhle (Sis. Joy; Sardis, OH), Steve Frauhiger (Sis. Irene; Bluffton North, IN), Dave Hartter (Sis. Beth; Sabetha, KS), Klint Beyer (Sabetha, KS), Marvin Zollinger (Smithville, OH), John Grimm (Columbus, OH), Brad Strahm (Bern, KS), Chuck Kellenberger (Elgin, IL), Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy; Gridley, IL), Wes Moser (Sis. Esther; Lester, IA), Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL), Tom Lanz (Oakville, IA), John Steiner (Sis. Carol; Oakville, IA), Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN), and Tom Bahler (Sis. LaNae; Rockville, CT). We have also been encouraged by the fellowship of brethren and friends (visitors and World Relief workers), from Rockville, CT; Belvidere, Bloomington-Normal, Bradford, Champaign, Congerville, Elgin, Eureka, Fairbury, Forrest, Goodfield, Gridley, Morton, Peoria, Princeville, and Tremont, IL; Bluffton, Bluffton North, and LaCrosse, IN; Bloomfield, Burlington, Lester, and Oakville IA; Bern and Sabetha, KS; Alto, Bay City, and Detroit, MI; Minneapolis, MN; Taylor, MO; and Columbus, Latty, Sardis, and Smithville OH.

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: Fairbury, IL (3/20), Latty, OH (3/27); Cissna Park, IL (4/3); Wolcott, IN (4/10); Chicago, IL (4/17); and Elgin, IL (4/24). 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. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder, (615) 373-8928; Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz, (615) 866-5543 (fritzmb.family@gmail.com); and Sis. Gwen Leuthold, (615) 356-5755.

**TEXAS, AUSTIN
Serenity and Jasmine Ringger**

Lead me, Lord, as Thou best knowest
How before Thee I should live;
If but Thou my footstep guidest,
Joy and blessings I receive.
If in grace with Thee I'm standing,
Dangers fade at Thy commanding;
Guided by Thy hand alone,
Thine and not my will be done.
Zion's Harp #93, vs. 3

Sis. Betsy Mogler (West Bend, IA) has followed the Lord's leading to move to our church. We welcome her and hope she will feel God's grace and blessing.

We extend our sympathy and prayers to Bro. Bill Zeltwanger who lost his sister, Sis. Ann Meiss (Eureka IL), and to Bro. Lynn Kipfer whose uncle, Don Kipfer (Bluffton, IN), passed away.

Bro. Mark Wuthrich (Morton, IL) is working in our area for several weeks. We look forward to worshipping with him.

Ministers that served us were Bros. Joe Klotzle (Sis. Sue, Altadena, CA), John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Burlington, IA), Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL), and Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata). We also had other visitors from Morris, Eureka, West Bend, Peoria, Rockville, Oakville, Alto, Forrest, and Sardis.

The following is the minister schedule for April: (3) Bluffton, IN; (10) Elgin, IL; (24) Bluffton North, IN.

We welcome visitors. “Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name;

worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness." (Psalm 29:2)

Please refer to the minister's directory for directions and contacts.

TEXAS, McALLEN Gloria Walder

We were recently reminded that we all do find time to do the things we enjoy. May we "take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord; abide in Him always, and feed on His Word."

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. Mark Steiner (Sis. Sue, Smithville, OH), Bro. John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Burlington, IA), Bro. Matt Oesch (Sis. Shelli, Alto, MI), Bro. Tom Schrenk (Sis. Joan, Zapata, TX), Bro. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL), Bro. Pat Zaugg (Sis. Julie, West Bend, IA). Other visitors from Lamar, Morris, Alto, West Bend, and Austin added to the blessings of our gatherings.

Services are scheduled for March 27, Eureka; April 3, Taylor; April 17, Forrest. 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 have appreciated our winter visitors this season. Many congregations have been represented in Zapata this winter. Ministering brothers have been Bro. John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Burlington), Bro. Bernie Messner (Sis. Joyce, Morris), Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian, San Diego), Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl, Rockville), Elder Bro. Andrew Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville), and Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest).

Bro. Marvin Dotterer is now serving as Elder of the Zapata congregation. We thank Bro. Peter and Sis. Marian Petrovic for all the love they gave the Zapata congregation in the years he served as our Elder.

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

VERMONT, CLARENDON Nathan and Miriam Reutter

Sorry for missing last month's Silver Lining article. Following is the news from the months of January and February.

Visiting ministers for these two months were Bro. Duane and Sis. Kay Reutter (2 January), Bro. Warren and Sis. Bonnie Zahner (9 January), Bro. Tom and Sis. LaNae Bahler (16 January), Bro. Duane and Sis. Kay

Reutter (13 February), and Bro. Dan and Sis. Mary-Lou Goric (20 February). All of the ministers were from the Rockville, CT, congregation. We wish to take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation for the faithful support of the Rockville ministry in sowing the Word of God in northern New England.

"For we are labourers together with God..."

I Cor. 3:9

At the recent Elder Conference held in Junction, OH, the Elder Body gave support to holding regularly scheduled services in one location in Vermont and from now on referring to our church in Vermont as the Clarendon, Vermont congregation. We are thankful for God's direction and welcome all who wish to visit us.

If you are interested in fellowshiping with us here in Vermont and would like information about service times and dates, please contact Bro. Chad and Sis. Jenny Virkler (802) 293-2724. We treasure the fellowship of brethren and would relish any visitors. Please notify us if you are planning on traveling in our area and would like to worship with us.

Service times are as follows:

Midweek services

- please contact local brethren

Sunday morning services

- 10:00 A.M. - Sunday school held concurrently

Sunday afternoon services

- 12:15 P. M.



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

The 2011 Athens/Tennessee Memorial Day Weekend is being planned on May 28-29. This year's topic will be the History of the Apostolic Christian Church led by Bro. Ron Kipfer. Everyone is invited, and we hope you will 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 and Speaker

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 & Speaker
- 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*

Interested in Houseparenting?



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

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

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

"We have always considered our position a ministry for our entire family not just a job for us. Relationships built during this time can last for a lifetime." - Bro. Jason & Sis. Joy Kilgus, Houseparents

Pre-School Teacher Needed

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

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

Sermon continued from page 40

day. At least for me, sometimes if that happens, my first reaction would be to lash out and tell my side of the story. Maybe Joseph did and he just wasn't listened to.

Even when he was in prison he became head over the other prisoners. My thought, as we have gone into prisons before, we look in America, our jails and prisons sometimes are almost better than what some of the people have that live law abiding lives. But in those times, I can't imagine that it could have been very pleasant to be in prison.

But while he was in prison, God spoke to his heart again. There was the baker and the butler that had dreams. God gave him the wisdom to interpret those dreams. (Genesis 40:8-19) One of the things he said, speaking expressly to the butler, was, when he got out, that he would remember him (Genesis 40:14). If I am not mistaken, it went two years. That is a long time to still be in prison. To not even be remembered for a good deed that he did.

As we think about that, God's hand was in all of this. He is nowadays, too. Working behind the scenes and making things go the way that He wants them to. As I was reading this and thinking about it, these actions and the things that took place here, it took several years for this to take place. As we read there, when he finally did become the ruler, the second in power, he was thirty years old (Genesis 41:46). It doesn't seem very old to me now. At one time I would have thought it was. But if I am not mistaken, he spent roughly ten to twelve years in imprisonment or being ill treated. In today's technically advanced society - that is what we like to call it I guess, I don't know exactly what heaven is going to be like but I am sure that it is well beyond any-

thing that we can imagine here - but we want things now, don't we? We might have to, but we wouldn't want to have to wait like Joseph did to receive the blessings that he did.

Then if we would go on and read the rest of the account, Joseph would have had good reason to take it out on his brothers, wouldn't he? It was because of them that he went through these many years of struggles and trials. He got through all that. Then came the time when they fell down on their knees before him (Genesis 42:6) and he forgave them (Genesis 45:1-8). Makes me think, you and I and especially me, we are not any better than those brothers. We deserved the worse. Our Savior forgave us! If we come to Him with a humble and repentant heart and ask for forgiveness, even though we don't deserve it, He is willing to give it. He gave His life so that we could have this hope.

Another point here that I found interesting, when the time came that the butler finally did remember him and he got Joseph out of the prison, it says that he hastily brought him out. When Pharaoh told him, you have the ability to do this, who did he give the credit to? He said, it is not me. It is God that will give you this peace, that will tell you what you need to know. (Genesis 41:16) We need to realize that too. In our struggles, in our temptations, whatever they are, if we will earnestly in prayer come before the throne of God, ask Him to guide us and direct us, maybe it won't take ten or twelve years as it did for Joseph. But He will answer our prayer and He will guide us and direct us. But we do need to humbly come before Him with a contrite heart and spirit.

The Gospels are a great source of comfort, as we read through them, and we read about the life of our Savior and the example that He set. In St. Matthew here, it says

that when He was come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed Him (v.1). My first thought was, why was it most of the time Jesus went up in the mountain? It was to pray. To seek guidance and direction. Even sometimes I wonder about that. Jesus was here. He was part of the Trinity, the Son. But yet while He was here, He had a physical body like you and I. He had physical cares. He again set the example for us, even as we talked about in the Old Testament, that when He needed direction, He went to the Father and sought direction.

"And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean..." v.2,3. In two of the accounts that we read here, the people that were needing to be cleansed had the faith, didn't they? They had the faith to believe that Jesus could do it. Because he said, Lord if thou wilt, thou can make me clean. He believed! 'You can do it if you want to. I believe that you can do it.' Jesus took advantage of that and made him clean. The second part of that He says, "...See thou tell no man; but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them." v.4. As we think about that, there are several other instances when Jesus told them not to tell any man. Some of that is because the crowds would throng Him and He would barely even have enough room to move about and go about spreading the Gospel message. But, as I read that, I thought, how hard it would have been for that cleansed man not to go about spreading the good news that he had been cleansed. How happy he would have been. I am not exactly sure what He meant other than that Jesus wanted him to do what he needed to do before

he did that. It says, shew thyself to the priest and offer the gift that Moses commanded. So, go do that first. Go do what the law has said you are supposed to do if you are a cleansed leper, for a testimony. That was the testimony that he was supposed to give. Then they could see that he was clean.

As I think about that even, what kind of a testimony are we giving day in and day out? We think of a testimony in our faith, when we bring our testimony to the church, we share what God has done for us. Everyone that is listening is really encouraged to hear that because we want to know. We want to know what God has done in the life of that believer. It's always amazing to us. Each of us would have a different testimony. Each of us peculiar in its own way. It is always amazing how God has worked in different people's lives and He does it in different ways. But this is what this man was supposed to do. Go to the priest and offer the gift and that would be his testimony. I am sure that after he did that, he also spread the word that Jesus Christ had healed him. That would have been something that would have been very hard to hold back.

"And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him, And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented. And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him." v.5-7. It says he was a centurion so he was not an Israelite. He was with the Roman government that was in control. We know that Jesus came to the lost house of Israel. But He also had compassion on anyone that believed on Him. I find it interesting that this centurion believed. Obviously he had, in some way, shape or form heard about Jesus and knew what was going on. But Jesus said, I will come and heal him.

But, "The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it." v.8,9. He knew how to organize. He was a leader. He had people under him and he was used to giving orders. He was going to, at this time, take orders from the Master. He knew the Lord could do it. He didn't know how He would do it but he knew the Lord could do it.

It says, "When Jesus heard it, he marveled..." v.10. There weren't very many times that Jesus marveled with what the humans did. Jesus said unto them that followed him, "...Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel." v.10.

Then He goes on to tell them a little what heaven is going to be like. "And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven." v.11. How many times have we heard that, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob? Patriarchs of old. Basically who all the descendants of Israel came from. As we read that, we are confident in our minds that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are going to be in the kingdom of heaven. Doesn't that make you and I want to be there too? It says there will be those from the east and the west to sit down with Abraham. So it is not just going to be the Israelites. Here He was talking about this Roman centurion that was not part of the Israelite country or the lineage. But he had faith and that is what it took. That is what we need, each one of us. We need that faith. That believing without seeing. One day we won't need faith, will we? Be-

cause we will be able to see it.

"But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." v.12. You and I both know that there is going to be two destinations. There is no in-between. In this world we are living in, sometimes the white and black get mixed together and become a gray. Sometimes we don't know exactly what decisions we should be making. But this we are for sure of. There is a heaven and a hell.

In another place it tells us about the glories of heaven. Eye hath not seen neither ear heard or even been comprehended in man's mind what heaven is going to be like for the glories thereof (I Corinthians 2:9). Yet Jesus was willing to leave that and come here for thirty three years, walk the dusty paths of Galilee. We read about the things that Joseph put up with for ten or twelve years, however many it was. Jesus did it intensely for three years. But you and I don't have an idea how intense that was and the power that He had. We are limited in the powers and capacities we have. But Jesus had the power, anytime anybody would have been critical of Him or things didn't go His way, the way He would have liked it to, He could have destroyed them. Called down legions of angels.

There was a time when one of the cities Jesus was in didn't receive the message. The disciples said, shall we call down fire from heaven? He said, no, I did not come to destroy. I came to save. (St. Luke 9:54-56) That's what He came for. When He comes the second time, then it is to destroy and save those that are going to be counted worthy.

But it tells us here just a little bit about what hell is going to be like. It says, the children of the

Sermon continued from page 41

kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness. I don't know if you have ever been in a place where it has been total darkness. It is pretty eerie. It has been several years ago now, but we were visiting a cave. It had artificial lighting. Once you get down inside the earth where there is no light from above and they turned out the lights, it gets to the point where you can hold your hand right in front of your face and you can't see it. That is what I think of when I think of outer darkness, where there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

We think, in this life, sometimes we become sorrowful. Loved ones are taken sometimes at a time that we feel like is out of character or wish that they could still be around. Or because we think back of the memories we had and it makes us sorrowful. But the weeping I am thinking about here will be a sorrow for the opportunity that was lost by not surrendering. Especially if we have known for years and years and did not do it. But then the gnashing of teeth. For a long time I thought that was someone biting on you. I thought, that doesn't make sense. Then I actually looked it up. It is the gnashing of the teeth. The torment! There are times when we, for a

short period of time, can have some agony. But can you imagine having that for eternity? Time without end? To be in outer darkness, weeping in total agony for eternity when the opportunity is there to live in a place that our minds can't imagine. Eye hath not seen nor ear heard the glories of heaven! It is kind of a no-brainer, isn't it? Why wouldn't we make that choice now while we still have the opportunity?

"And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour." St. Matthew 8:13. Most of the accounts we read this morning were of Jesus healing. It said He healed Peter's mother-in-law (v.15). What I found interesting about that was here she was sick in bed. Couldn't even get up. Then when He healed her, she ministered unto them. That was quite a healing, wasn't it!

"Now when Jesus saw great multitudes about him, he gave commandment to depart unto the other side. And a certain scribe came, and said unto him, Master, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head." v.18-20. This is the Son

of God who came from heaven. While He lived here on earth, while He was traveling around - I am sure as a child He lived with Mary and Joseph - but when he was about traveling, He didn't have a house. As far as material possessions, sometimes we can get caught up in our material possessions and put too much value on them. They are all going to stay here. What is it we are going to take with us? What is it we are going to take with us? That is what we need to be preparing. We need to be preparing for the home to come, not for the one that is here. "And another of his disciples said unto him, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead." v.21,22. That isn't hardly possible, is it? But we understand the thought process. Let the things of this life lay. Because this is where they are going to stay. They are going to burn! Everything here is going to burn with a fervent heat! Why would we want to be a part of that? Wouldn't we want to be a part of that everlasting kingdom that is going to be forever and ever, to be with our Savior who suffered and died and gives us the hope we have today of eternal life?

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Residential Program Director
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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



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



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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

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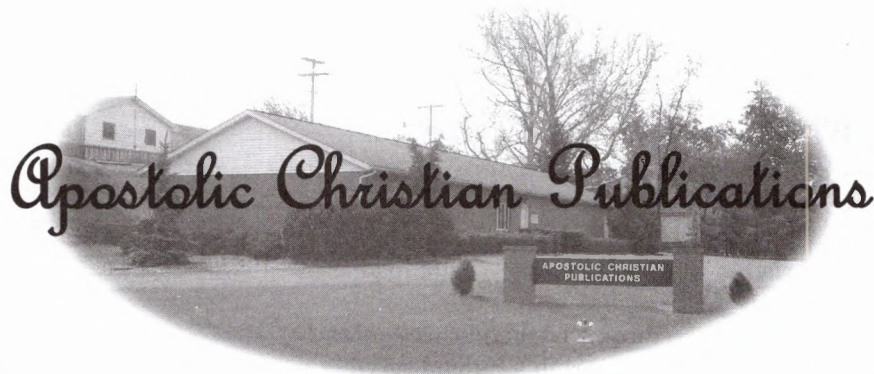
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Teamwork

We cannot begin to completely cover the concept of teamwork in one short article. However, we do want to explore the biblical precepts around teamwork principles. In short, teamwork is the joint action of a group in which each person subordinates his or her individual interests and opinions to the unity and efficiency of the group or team. In other words, the cause of the group is deemed more important than the cause of each individual participant or group member. As long as each person within the group is yielding their personal agenda to the main cause, the team will function well. When that ceases to be true and self-interest begins to dominate, the team will experience dysfunction.

There are literally countless instances where teamwork is necessary to accomplish specific goals. Those instances run the gamut from children on a playground to astronauts in space and everything else in between. Teamwork is also necessary in the body of believers for it to function properly and be a glory to God. The serving and promoting of self are not welcome elements of successful teams and this is certainly no different within the church body.

The Bible is full of examples and exhortations for us to be fully engaged in working together for the betterment of the whole and to the glory of God. We are reminded of some of the functions of a team and why teamwork is more successful in accomplishing certain goals than individual efforts. If one team member falters, another can lift him or her up. If one member of the team is threatened, others can come to the rescue. We are even reminded that more heat is generated by two than one alone.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 "Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. ¹⁰For 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. ¹¹Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone? ¹²And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not

quickly broken."

Members of a team can keep each other accountable and help one another to stay focused and on task.

Proverbs 27:17 "Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend."

Team members are to help each other toward a common goal and be supportive of the work of others rather than striving to fulfill their own personal objectives.

3 John 1:5-8 "Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers; ⁶Which have borne witness of thy charity before the church: whom if thou bring forward on their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well: ⁷Because that for his name's sake they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles. ⁸We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellowhelpers to the truth."

The Bible is very clear that each member of the team, namely the church, is endowed with talents and gifts specific to the individual and that the church can function effectively only when each one is encouraged to use those talents to their fullest potential.

Romans 12:4-8 "For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: ⁵So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. ⁶Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; ⁷Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; ⁸Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that showeth mercy, with cheerfulness."

The effectiveness of a team is hampered by strife and division within the ranks. Progress towards a common goal is compromised when individual agendas are promoted and team members start taking sides.

Romans 15:5-6 "Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: ⁶That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."

1 Corinthians 1:10 "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."

Sharing duties and commendation are both necessary in effective teams. No individual should have to carry more than his or her share of the load and, likewise, no one person should receive special credit or accolades.

Hebrews 13:16 "But to do good and to communicate [share, distribute] forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."

1 Corinthians 12:36 "And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it."

Perhaps one of the most striking examples of team unity and effectiveness is within the Godhead Itself. The Bible clearly shows us that our God is a triune God with three distinct persons within one Deity; God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, each with distinct functions and attributes but with a common goal and purpose. God is unified in every way, bound together in perfect love where there is no room for disharmony.

John 16:7 "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you."

John 17:20-23 "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; ²¹That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. ²²And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: ²³I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me."

2 Corinthians 13:14 "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all."

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APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
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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



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

Project	Year 2011	Coordinator	Capacity
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	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 March 14th, 2011 -www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/

Project	Year 2011	Coordinator	Capacity
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
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MEXICO

*If anyone is interested in leading a team to Mexico, contact Bro. Mike Fiechter at 260-597-7330 or mfiechter@onlyinternet.net
Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of March 14th, 2011 -www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-mexico/*

<u>Location</u>	<u>Year 2011</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>			
Reynosa Medical	Apr 14-21	Cheryl Herrmann cherrmann@frontier.com	Reynosa Construction	Jun 18-25	Joe Sprunger Indianapolis Bible Class 317-491-4424 joesprunger@gmail.com
Magdalena Construction	Apr 16-23	Mike Zobrist Congerville/Eureka 309-660-7004 zobfam@gmail.com	Magdalena Construction	Jul 9-16	Jason Kaeb Bern Bible Class 785-284-3202 jason.maggs@gmail.com
Magdalena Construction	May 28 - Jun 4	Todd Baum Phoenix Bible Class 480-563-8286 toddbaum@svmasonry.com	Reynosa Medical	Oct 5-12	Cheryl Herrmann cherrmann@frontier.com
Magdalena Construction	Jun 11-18	Jason Schambach Elgin Bible Class 847-468-1194 jkschambach@att.net	Magdalena Construction	Nov 19-26	Rod Schmidt 303-774-7913 rschmidt@acosta.com
Magdalena Construction	Jun 18-25	Stan Virkler 219-863-5913 svirkler@fbibuildings.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

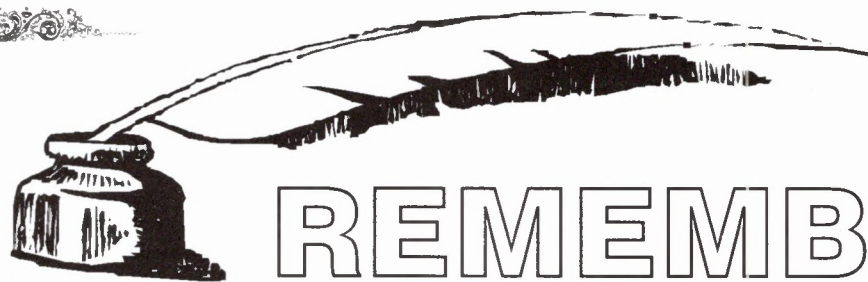
CCCD=Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf
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Palm Grove = Mission of Haiti

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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 begins a series of history comments by Elder Noah Schrock of Oakville, Iowa. Excerpts are taken from a talk given at Phoenix, Arizona, several decades ago. Very likely it was unprepared and given at the instigation of Elder Roy Farney of the Phoenix congregation. This might have been given after a singing, or after a worship service. At any rate, at the time it was given and soon typed up, it was one of the few, if any, accounts of our faith other than the book by Herman Reugger of Switzerland, who wrote Apostolic Christian Church History, Volume I.

Europe

We'll have to go back to the fruitful years of Bro. Samuel Froehlich, who baptized my grandfather. He told me of Bro. Froehlich and what kind of looking man he was, which I cherish, of those memories that my grandparents have conveyed to me. He was a very small man, very frail. He had command of the French language, and of the German language.

He started out in his work, as you know, attending seminary, and was awakened during that time, and found a need of a rebirth which he could not find in the existing (state) church in Switzerland. However, it was never his intention to begin a new movement. He felt he could bring his new-found experience into the current Swiss State Church. But he soon found out that they would not hear him. He then had to labor outside the tabernacle or church.

He went to England and spent some time with the Continental Society of England and evidently could acquire some proficiency in the English language. He asked them for permission to preach his new-found faith along the Rhine River to the people who lived in Switzerland and Germany. So then he was on his own. He was totally cut off from the State Church and their support.

America

Over in the United States in northern New York there was a group of French people — Mennonites — and they were having difficulty and they were disappointed in

the quality of their church and it had become worldly (a social thing). One of the men who was of Froehlich's church was excommunicated in Europe and he came to northern New York because he spoke the French language. He was working as a hired man for some of the Virklers up there, and during some evenings he would hear these old Mennonite people complaining and lamenting of the unfruitfulness of their church.

He told them this: "I know a people in Switzerland and I believe if they would send somebody over here, that that would help you again come into a true faith." So they looked to Froehlich (wrote to him), and he sent Bro. Benedict Weyeneth to this country. He is the grandfather of Mike Weyeneth in Peoria. He came to northern New York and preached to those people and spent some time there, perhaps a year or so, I'm not positive. He established a church at Croghan and ordained Joseph Virkler as Elder. Joseph Virkler was filled with great zeal to convey this new-found faith — this new birth — to the professing believers in the Mennonite church.

So he (Elder Bro. Joseph Virkler) came to Fairbury, Illinois, and there he met up with an old gentleman. We called him Uncle John Zimmerman. I knew this old man in my boyhood days. He didn't preach at that time. He visited people in their homes and made his observations and drew his conclusions as to where there might be an interest (in our faith). So this John Zimmerman was somewhat taken in with this man, Virkler. He said, "Say, I have a brother, Mike, and he lives down along the Mackinaw River which is my old home. Let's go visit Mike."

On arriving, Mike Zimmerman said, "I suppose you picked up some tramp and brought him down here." That is the reception this man of God (Bro. Virkler) got in my area. Nevertheless, he lingered around in that area (near Congerville, Illinois).

My grandfather and grandmother were just married. Bro. Virkler went on to visit these old Mennonite cronies — relatives.

He wasn't too active. I don't think he preached, but he did make some contacts in the homes, evidently.

My grandmother told me this herself, so I am speaking with some authority. They were having a wedding supper in their honor, south of what is now Deer Creek, Illinois. Virkler was there, among others. They had a wedding supper and he didn't say much, a quiet man. After the mealtime, they cleared the table and brought out the dominos, a parlor game we are all familiar with.

But, no doubt, in Virkler's mind, this was a sort of rising up from the meal and beginning to play, like Israel did, which God did not approve of. Grandfather and Grandmother were in the domino game, at least Grandfather was. One of the players said, "Virkler, come on and join us." He said, "That's not for me." And it was that statement that he made and his reluctance to join this domino game, that kindled the flame in my Grandmother's mind.

I often say, that the first sermon any one of our brethren ever preached was only five words at a domino game, "That's not for me." I don't believe that this Bro. Virkler ever knew that his reluctance to join in that domino game produced what it did. I don't think he ever knew it. Only eternity will some day reveal what he did (know of it).

Anyway, when they went home that night, my Grandmother said to my Grandfather, "I'd like to know what caused him to be reluctant to join in the domino game. He must have something more important. He must have something that has replaced this thing (domino game)." I don't think she ever spoke to him, but she pondered this thing in her heart. She became uneasy, whether she had everything there was to have (spiritually), ...what God wants to give to people. She came to the conclusion there must be something else that she doesn't have. (Note: she repented, and became a member in our church).

Next Issue:

Continuation of the Noah Schrock remarks.

The Light Of Hope

“Love Everybody”

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

I have said that I love everybody. Do you think it is a good idea to love everybody? Jesus said, “By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.” John 13:35

It appears to me that the Lord Jesus is telling us that love is to be the trademark by which God’s children are to be known. Then surely we should follow the golden rule in dealing with each other. It reads, “Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.” Matthew 7:12.

In I Corinthians chapter 13, much is written about charity which is also translated, “love.” Verse 2 reads, “And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.” Paul appears to be ranking love or charity above understanding and faith. In a sense, to have faith in Christ and what He has done for us and not to love Him and want to obey Him, is incomprehensible. Maybe we should emphasize love more.

Christ was stern with the Scribes and Pharisees but He loved them enough to die for them. Romans 5:6 tells us, “In due time Christ died for the ungodly.” Apart from Christ we are all considered to be ungodly. It is only by Christ’s atonement that we are made to be saints.

It is comparatively easy to love those who agree with us. Should we love those who do not agree with us about doctrine and life-style? Yes, I

believe we must put forth effort to love those even more than those who agree with us so that by our love we may persuade them to think more like we think. To love in that way is against human nature but isn’t everything about living in accordance with God’s Word against human nature? Human nature says, “Me first,” God’s Word says, “Me last.”

What about the drug addict, the alcoholic, etc.? Are we to love them, too? Surely they are in need of love. It is my understanding that some people are not capable of receiving love. Isn’t that a sorry state to be in? Those are the very people who need love so badly. May our great God just somehow fill our hearts with love for everybody, and especially with love for the unlovable. Perhaps we have been lax in having love and sharing love by the way we treat each other.

There is a danger of being deceived, and of being taken advantage of, if we are very loving and associate with evil people. We should not permit them to influence us or to cheat us out of money, but we should endeavor to influence them because we love them.

The argument can be made that we should not love evil people but at least we should feel sorry for them. That is a form of love. Criticism alone doesn’t do much good.

I have the feeling that many children and adults have never been told that they are loved. To all them I say, “I love you.” If we don’t love them, how will they understand or believe that God loves them?

In Deuteronomy 10:19 we read,

“Love ye therefore the stranger: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt.” We are exhorted to love the stranger, someone that we do not know. Stranger is also translated foreigner. In Japan we were required to carry a foreigner’s registration card.

In Hebrews 13:2 we read, “Be not forgetful to entertain strangers; for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.” This refers to Abraham entertaining two men who turned out to be angels. Maybe a stranger to us is an angel. Let’s love everybody and show our love by the way we speak to them. If they are wrong they are more apt to correct their ways if they feel they are loved. Jesus drove the money changers out of the temple and upset their tables but that must have been a situation where a gentle and loving approach would have been to no avail. Maybe some times our love must be very firm against evil but even stern action should be accompanied with love, which I believe it was in the case of what Christ did in cleansing the temple which was to be the house of prayer.

Surely it is good to have a lot of emphasis on love. God’s Word does. As a young church leader in Japan I was instructed that love alone is not enough, you have to keep discipline and good order. This is true but love is an important part of keeping discipline and good order. In the church it is love, accompanied by exhortations and admonishments, that is so very important. Our prayer is for more love, more self-discipline, and better order. Let’s love everybody.

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