

# *The Silver Lining*



*And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.*

*And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up,  
and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.*

*April 2011*

Sermon by Bro. Dan Koch, Tremont, IL

## Psalm 22 and St. John 19

We would like to greet each one of you and we certainly welcome everyone. We have our home congregation in good attendance and visitors. We welcome you all.

When we come to Good Friday services, there are so many places in God's Word where we can turn. So many places in the Scriptures where we read of Christ and His coming. In the Old Testament, beginning at Genesis and all the way through to Revelations, we read of Christ. Loved ones, I had a Scripture in mind to read, but I have opened up to the Book of Psalms and I am going to remain with that book. Let's turn to Psalm 22. It is a foretaste of what Christ was feeling. As we read this, let's think, we all know the Good Friday story fairly well. Let's think how closely this aligns. We think of the Psalmist of old. David is in the heading here in this Bible. It says, 'This is a Psalm of David'. Think how these words were revealed to him and how God spoke to him and of his Lord and his Savior's suffering.

The hymnal has fallen open to #171 in the Zion's Harp, 'The Cross'. Jesus had His cross and this cross in this hymn speaks somewhat of our cross, loved ones. As we sing it, let's have prayerful hearts and think of our Lord and Savior and what He did for us and what we perhaps can do for Him in a small way.

Chapter 19 in St. John is right after Peter's denial and Jesus' trial before Pilate. This is the end of His trial. We think about the souls that were involved in Jesus' death. We think of Pilate and we think of the Jews and the leaders of the Jews. We think of how they all conspired and worked together. They all did their part and they brought about the death of the Son of God, the very Son of God.

It is easy for us to look upon them and maybe look down upon them a little bit, loved ones. We think of Pi-

late. We might think he was a weak man and he gave in too easily. It was political. He was worried about what Caesar would think. He was worried about his own life, power and prestige, his own position. The Jewish people, we could look down upon them. But loved ones, it was you and I just as much as them that drove Him to that cross. He went there for our sins even though we were not yet born. But He looked down through time.

We could turn back one chapter or two to Christ's intercessory prayer in chapter 17. He says, "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;" v.20. That's us. That's you and I. He prayed for us, loved ones, each and every one of us. He did this because He loved us and because of our sins that He knew we were going to commit.

"Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged him." St. John 19:1. We've read and we've heard how that scourging was not just a light thing. That was a severe beating, where they would take the man's shirt off and take those leather thongs. Sometimes they would tie bits of sharp pieces of bone or whatever it might be and they would use those and whip a person until the blood flowed.

They put that crown upon His head, that crown of thorns. "And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and they put on him a purple robe," v.2 and made fun of Him. They smote Him with their hands (v.3). In the other gospels, we can read that they blindfolded Him and said, prophesy, Lord. Who is it that smote thee? And they spit upon Him. (St. Matthew 26:67,68) Many things that they did to Him and He endured all this.

These things were prophesied of old. We can read in Isaiah where it was prophesied that He would be

*Sermon continued on page 40*

### Cover Verses

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"For as he thinketh in his heart,  
so is he..." (Proverbs 23:7)

## Light From The Word



Writings based  
on God's Word

April 2011

### Guarding The Heart

"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life" (Prov. 4:23). Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matt. 6:21). The Apostle Paul exhorted Timothy: "...keep thyself pure" (1 Tim. 5:22). How well we guard our hearts will affect every aspect of our lives, including our faithfulness to God and our example to others.

Unfortunately we are afflicted with a universal heart condition which will lead to our eternal destruction unless the remedies in God's Word are applied. Long ago God lamented that "the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth" (Gen. 8:21). Jesus said, "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts..." and countless other sins (Mark 7:21). James asked this sobering question of believers: "From whence come wars and fightings among you? Come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?" (Jam. 4:1).

The purpose of this article is to address the serious challenge faced by every believer in guarding his heart from evil.

Jesus gave mankind a message of hope in His Sermon on the Mount when he said: "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God" (Matt. 5:8). The only way that man's heart can become pure in the sight of God is through rebirth, by faith in Jesus Christ and repentance. (John 3:3; Acts 20:21) This purity comes forth from a sanctified heart—one set apart for and belonging to God; cleansed from sin by ongoing faith in the shed blood of Christ, the Holy Spirit and God's Word. (Acts 26:18; Heb. 13:12; Rom. 15:16; John 17:17)

We can learn much from the many examples in the Bible of individuals who either did or did not guard their hearts from evil influences by utilizing the many resources offered by our Heavenly Father.

Eve looked past all of the beautiful provisions God had given to her and Adam in the Garden of Eden and gave in to the pride in her heart and the desires of her eyes, reaching out and taking the forbidden fruit (Gen. 3:1-6). When we drop our guard, we also may wander carelessly toward temptation, making "provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof" (Rom. 13:14). In contrast, Dan-

iel established a powerful safeguard when he "...purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself..." (Dan. 1:8). He made a firm choice with deep conviction in his heart, and then he was able to draw fully upon God's help as the temptations grew in severity. As believers, we are offered a wonderful promise with regard to the nature and severity of the temptations we may encounter throughout life. "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (1 Cor. 10:13). This verse should be memorized as a part of our armor against the Devil (Eph. 6:11). However, just like Eve, Daniel and others, it is our choice as to whether we take the "way to escape."

Perhaps one of our greatest dangers is to think that we are not vulnerable to yielding to certain temptations. The verse immediately preceding God's promise regarding temptation issues a sober warning: "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall" (1 Cor. 10:12). The Apostle Paul saw the need to take strong measures to keep his flesh under subjection, so that his witness and ministry would not be destroyed: as he put it, "...lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway" (1 Cor. 9:27).

Job stated that he had made a covenant with his eyes—which was really a vow to guard his heart and mind. (Job 31:1) Likewise, we should resolve to resist every form of evil influence which we might face. This includes sensual images and other inappropriate materials on the Internet and other media, the attraction to excess offered by the appeals of marketing, unhealthy relationships with work associates, friends or brethren, addiction to pleasure and fashion, as well as warping our minds and wasting our time with unwholesome and unedifying entertainments. The biblically-based exhortations and warnings of our church leaders as well as the guidance provided by many of our traditions provide powerful deterrents, which we, like Daniel, can by God's grace utilize to resist temptation in all its forms. We will face the consequences of whether or not we heed this

good counsel. Proverbs 1:30-31 declares the results of ignoring counsel and despising reproof: "...they shall eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices."

The consequences of sin are indeed bitter fruit. Sin brings the burden of guilt and takes away our peace and joy; it often causes others to suffer and it always grieves the heart of Jesus. Ongoing sin that is not dealt with biblically will lead to hardening of the heart, with great risk of a return to "living in sin" and the possibility of renouncing one's faith and subsequent loss of salvation (Heb. 10:26-29).

The Word of God is the best weapon for guarding our hearts. "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." (Ps. 119:11) We are fortified with the assurance that "the Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptation..." (2 Pet. 2:9). Jesus gave us wise instruction when He exhorted, "Pray that ye enter not into temptation" (Luke 22:40). This very thought brings a sense of caution with regard to which influences, associations and environments we willfully allow ourselves to encounter.

By God's grace, and in light of the sacrifice of our loving Saviour (1 Cor. 6:20), let us shield our hearts against harmful influences with the timeless truths of His Word. Let us humbly examine our hearts daily for any impurities. Let us be especially watchful in those areas of known weakness, where we, like Eve, can be easily attracted to forbidden fruit. Having a sound, mature fellow believer to whom we are fully accountable is also a powerful deterrent to yielding to temptation.

Finally, let us never forget that all sin begins with a thought (the imaginations of the heart). Thankfully, the powers of Heaven are at our disposal in this war: "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ" (2 Cor. 10:5). In guarding our precious hearts, may we all reaffirm this beautiful commitment of the Psalmist of old: "I have inclined mine heart to perform thy statutes always, even unto the end" (Ps. 119:12).

An editorial committee of elder brothers is preparing articles for this section of the Silver Lining to address some of the special needs of our times.

Suggestions for subjects are welcome and can be sent to:

Silver Lining Editorials, 1377 County Rd 1600 N, Roanoke, IL 61561 or by e-mail to [cleman@mtco.com](mailto: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

### Small Church Support Committee

Over half of our churches have less than 65 members and most of these churches consider themselves "small" and have a great desire to grow. Did you know that of the 96 current Apostolic Christian Churches 24 of them require assistance from the brotherhood to function on a weekly basis (primarily ministry support)?

Many brethren in small churches are fulfilling multiple roles in the church to keep weekly services going. They pray for others to come alongside them. In addition, brethren in small churches have a desire to provide their children, singles and families with more frequent fellowship opportunities. Given the above needs, we are seeking your prayers and active service with smaller churches.

### Opportunities to help

The purpose of this article is to help motivate brethren to support small churches by visiting, praying for, moving to, or providing assistance in a variety of other ways. The need for additional fellowship can perhaps best be met by brethren visiting those in small churches, or relocating if the Spirit leads.

Brethren can pray that the needs of brethren in small churches are met, the gospel message furthered and their role in assisting in these efforts would be clarified and activated.

As the brotherhood further engages in the many opportunities within small churches, congregations can become self-sufficient in reaching out to the lost in their area and the giving individuals will reap the blessing of serving. Each of us are

encouraged to examine ourselves and see what God's message is to us, individually, regarding this work. (II Cor 8:4, Acts 20:35)

### Recent efforts to assist small churches

In August 2004 the Mission Committee created the Small Church Study Committee to study the unique needs of small churches and recommend steps by which our brotherhood can nurture and be of assistance. A biblical study of churches supporting other churches and brotherhood responsibilities was completed. Elder, church, and individual surveys generated 450 responses for analysis in early 2005. The broad response provided insights into many opportunities within our small congregations.

A first year plan was developed and presented to a gathering at the Goodfield Conference in 2006. Two recommendations for small churches included engaging in formal outreach programs and encouraging increased local activities and fellowship opportunities. Recommendations for large churches to assist small churches included formalizing church adoption programs, the sending of Spirit-led brothers/sisters to smaller U.S. churches and raising awareness of the needs of small congregations. By invitation, the SCSC traveled to various congregations to help them with understanding and implementing efforts locally.

More recently, names of Apostolic Christian friends living near small congregations were gathered and distributed to small churches, a centralized minister rotation was developed to balance the load and facilitate the needs of both small

and large congregation's requests, and opportunity coordinators were established in each small church to facilitate the posting of available jobs on the Mission Committee website, [www.acmission.org/small-church-job-opportunities](http://www.acmission.org/small-church-job-opportunities).

### Current efforts of the Small Church Support Committee

As the purpose of the committee shifted from the studying of the small church needs, to supporting their needs, the group was renamed the Small Church Support Committee. Current forms of support include: church adoption pairings are being facilitated, additional communication to the brotherhood of the needs of small congregations, and development of a series of Bible studies regarding the Biblical model of establishing churches as well as the role of both individuals and congregations in the Word.

Currently ministry rotation support is the most active way small churches are supported by the brotherhood. The SCSC is exploring other ways the brotherhood can provide additional support of small churches both in fellowship and in service. *"And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works."* Hebrews 10:24-25

We are open to ideas encouraging the bond of love and Christian unity of our fellowship and assisting smaller congregations to promote the gospel in their communities. It is our desire that our small churches could enjoy the growth that our churches experienced a number of years ago. If you have suggestions please share them with the SCSC via email at [acscsc@comcast.net](mailto:acscsc@comcast.net).



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
**World Relief**

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men,  
especially unto them who are of the household of faith. Galatians 6:10

## Opportunities to Serve in the Caribbean

Over a period of nearly 60 years, World Relief, the humanitarian outreach arm of the Apostolic Christian Church, has felt led by the Holy Spirit to provide aid in the Caribbean. Starting with crates of material aid heading for Jamaica and a DC-9 airplane full of cows lifting off toward Haiti, the projects have and continue to expand in scope and breadth as we respond to the needs of the people and our ability to help. As the projects grow, so do the opportunities. Please join us in prayer that God will supply laborers in these fields.

### Opportunities in Jamaica

The World Relief Caribbean Committee (WRCC) is involved in two projects currently employing 6 full time brothers and sisters in Jamaica, in addition to sending several volunteer work teams per year. Project #1 is to support the Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf as they minister to the Jamaican deaf population. Project #2 involves shipping sea containers of needed humanitarian supplies and distribution within the country.

Part of the original plan is to develop independent programs in Jamaica under the direction of WRCC. These opportunities are becoming available and the brethren serving in Jamaica, alongside the brothers in the U.S., ask you to support them in prayer as they actively seek God's direction. We anticipate the work in Jamaica to grow as God continues to open doors and provide direction. To support the brethren serving Ja-

maica, WRCC is seeking brothers willing to contribute their time and talents for work team coordination and material aid support. Brethren with an interest to serve and would like more information should contact Bro. Ron Hodel at [r.hodel@comcast.net](mailto:r.hodel@comcast.net)/309-530-9241 or Bro. John Huber at [huber.john.d@gmail.com](mailto:huber.john.d@gmail.com)/765-414-8458.

### Opportunities in Haiti

The programs in Haiti are extensive, encompassing material aid, well drilling, oversight of five trade schools, construction/vehicle maintenance department, child care, and medical care programs. As the needs of the Haitian people are great, so are the needs for in-country missionaries to staff the many positions. We have two long term positions to fill:

#### Child Care Administrator and Clerical Support

The WRCC is looking for a brother with administrative experience and a sister with clerical experience to serve full time in Les Cayes Haiti to assist in the operations and accountability functions of the Child Sponsorship Committee.

#### Administrator qualifications:

- Administrative/supervision experience.
- Accounting background.
- Education background.
- Maturity to appreciate the cultural differences while taking the program to a higher level of performance.

#### Clerical qualifications:

- Computer skills with Word, Excel, Access, Quicken, Internet, Email, etc.

- Good communication skills.
- Good organization skills.
- Flexibility.

#### Operations Facilitator

The WRCC is looking for a couple to serve full time in Les Cayes Haiti as an operations facilitator for the material aid, well drilling, trade schools, construction, and medical care programs.

#### Qualifications include:

- Interpersonal skills along with the ability to inspire and lead.
- Good communication, organizational and problem solving skills.
- Moderate to advanced shop and mechanical skills.
- Ability to adapt schedules and plans to unexpected changes.
- Spiritually grounded, able to manage personal devotion, family, and work time.

Specifically, the operations facilitator is asked to provide: accounting and distribution of monetary and material aid, equipment maintenance and inventory accountability, regular reporting from the field to the appropriate committees, leadership and coordination of work teams activities and mentor short term volunteers.

All full time positions in Haiti require a willingness to immerse into the Haitian culture and a basic fluency in Creole or French, or the willingness to learn. Brethren with an interest to serve and would like more information should contact Bro. Tom Hitz at [tchitz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tchitz@sbcglobal.net) or 734-635-4112.

We are thankful for your continued prayer and financial support as we seek to discern the leading of the Holy Spirit.

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

“Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.”

*Acts 14:17*

As the weather warms and spring approaches here in the Midwest, everyone seems to be enjoying the change of seasons. Despite a record snow fall and many frigid days, our residents and staff had relatively few incidents or illnesses.

The spring season is such a renewing of spirits! In likeness to our lives when we become alive in Christ, all the dead and dormant of the winter come alive in the spring! Spring rains refresh the earth with vitality, watering the ground with the moisture to promote new growth. Then the sunshine warms the earth and sheds it's much needed light for the newly sprouted foliage. Spring bulbs push their little sprouts through the earth, trees shoot forth their buds, and the grass begins to green. As the verse implies, soon there will be fruits literally growing on the trees. What a blessed time of year for those of us who live where we can experience the change of the seasons!

The residents here at the Home also seem to have improved moods as they are able to enjoy a walk outside or a drive with the windows down. A smile produced by God's gift of nature is perhaps one of the simplest yet most fulfilling feelings anyone is able to enjoy. The residents have been blessed with outdoor activity opportunities this spring like growing vegetable and flower gardens, enjoying the company of a pet dog at Timber Ridge, eating a sack lunch at a local park, and having ice cream after a bike ride. Of course, none of this would have been possible without the love God has for every soul on earth. What a wonderful Creator we serve!

If anyone would be interested in sharing your God given gifts with our residents, please feel free to call our activity department to find out how your talents and energies might be utilized to fulfill the needs of the residents.

**GATEWAY WOODS  
APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
CHILDREN'S HOME  
Diane Wieland-Gerber**

As a case manager for the Home-Based Services department at Gateway Woods, our goal is to give hope and healing to children and their families who live in the community. Specifically with my job, I try to accomplish this in the client's home environments. We talk about our work with clients as “sowing seeds”. Sometimes we can see positive signs and improvements shortly after we start, and then again, sometimes we don't see much progress.

There is a lot of dialogue that goes on between God and myself. I find myself praying before getting to the home, while walking up to the door, once inside and sometimes for a long time afterwards. One never knows what is behind the door. I usually look for a hard chair—one with no padding, that way I can usually see what's on the surface and not be too afraid to sit down. You would be amazed at what a dark colored sofa holds in store.

If the smell is too bad the first time I go to a home, I will take each member of the family I am working with separately out to the nearest fast food restaurant for a Coke. In the summer we go to the park or sit outside on the steps. You have no idea what a blessing that can be. One lady said, “Well, you can come but you have to stay on the porch.” I could smell the cats from the outside and thanked the Lord I could sit on the porch!

A lot of times the clients, who may be under a court order, aren't too thrilled to have us come. But I find that once our allotted treatment period is up, we have developed a friendship and often they state they will miss our times together.

Usually, I see clients once or twice per week. Currently I meet with a client named Alicia and her mom and dad four times a week. Alicia is almost thirteen and can barely read a primary book. Sometimes we go to the library; sometimes we go to a church kitchen where we bake premade cookies. There I can teach her the fundamentals of hand washing, washing dishes and putting them away. She puts frosting on the cookies and decorates them.

Some days we go to the park or to the McDonald's gym. If too many smaller children are there, she will hide behind a pole. Her home is small—the floor is down to the bare floorboards and the walls are mudded wallboard. One day I realized they do not have a kitchen table and chairs. There are two beds in the living room, one full size and one twin along with a computer, flat screen TV and a 2-seater chair. Her Dad sleeps in the laundry room on a hospital bed.

I am sometimes overwhelmed by their situation and then God gives me insight—a glimpse of what might be going on or how I can somehow help this family. Some families change and some make very little progress that we can see. Little Seeds. Meanwhile, I feel so incredibly blessed that God has favored me with parents who cared—who loved me—who taught me a work ethic—who took me to church and loved me with Jesus' love. I have a wonderful supportive family and realize that “Counting My Blessings” is a very humbling experience.

*News:*

- Gateway Woods welcomed six new residents to campus this past month. Please pray with us as they become accustomed to their new homes. It can be a difficult adjustment for new residents as they discover a very different living situation than they have experienced before.

- 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 in-

formation or visit the Career Opportunities page on our website at: [www.gatewaywoods.org/supporters/career-opportunities](http://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](http://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](mailto:mail@gatewaywoods.org)

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

Correction: Last month's article was written by Sis. Emily Gutwein and was mistakenly reported as Sis. Emily Feller. Sorry!

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## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL Athens, Alabama Louise Hall

It is feeling and looking more like spring all the time. The children are so excited to get to go outside and play.

The Themes for March were Animals and Dr. Seuss. The color is yellow. One child was overheard to say to another child, "There's a monster under your bed." The other child replied, "No there's not, my Mom just bought new sheets!"

The Bible verse for March was "And he said unto them, Where is your faith?" (Luke 8:25)

It was a joy for us to have Sis. Sarah Hodel and Sis. Cassie Bertsch spend a day working with us again. The children love to have their former teachers come back to visit them! Thank you, Sarah and Cassie!

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## ALABAMA, ATHENS Louise Hall Pam Moore

We were thankful to have Bro. Mark and Sis. Karen Wettstein (Lacrosse, IN) spend the first weekend of March with us, sharing the Word of God on Sunday. On Sunday, March 13, we read from Revelations 21 and Jonah 1, and were reminded about the "choices" we make in this life — are they pleasing to our Heavenly Father? Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois Ehnle (Peoria, IL) came to fellowship and spend some time in Athens in March. We thank God for the precious time spent with them, and for Bro. Willis preaching the Word to us on Sunday. We also shared our monthly potluck lunch with them.

The last weekend of March was a full, but a blessed weekend for us in Athens. Elder Bro. Andy Stoller and his wife, Sis. Roberta (Smithville, OH) were here, with Bro. Andy reading the Memorandum to us on Thursday evening. On Saturday, the bi-annual Preschool Board Meeting was held, and we welcomed Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH), Bro. Duane Reutter and Sis. Kay (Rockville, CT), and Bro. Daron Price (Milford, IN) for the meeting. We always enjoy the fellowship of this weekend. On Sunday, Elder Bro. Andy Stoller and Elder Bro. Mark Masters shared Communion with us. We were reminded to examine ourselves, and to judge ourselves rather than others, however only Christ makes us worthy. Communion is such a precious time, when we can share the sacrificial love of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

We also enjoyed visitors from Fairbury, IL; Bay City, MI; Belvidere and Morton, IL, this month. Thank you for spending time with us in Athens. Someone has left a navy blue pin-striped suit in the Athens Church. If you would like to inquire about it, please call or email Bro. Mike Moore. We believe it was left in the Church on January 9, 2011.

We ask for your prayers for those who have had illness this month. Brie Hughes, who is a granddaughter of Sis. Ola Mae Barnes, was in an accident. Bro. J.R. Hall and Sis. Hazel Vibbert also had shoulder surgery and are recovering. Roslyn Coulter, daughter of Bro. David and Sis. Barbara Coulter, has also been ill. Please pray for their healing and recovery.

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## ARIZONA, PHOENIX Heather Hinrichsen

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

*Romans 10:15*

The gospel of peace was brought to us by Elder Bros. John Lehman (Bern), Ron Messner (Washington), and Tom Klotzle (Altadena). These Brothers participated in the ordination of our new co-Elder, Bro. Herb Knochel. Also delivering the gospel message this month were Elder Bros. Kevin Ryan (Rockville), Mark Bahr (Detroit), Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Indianapolis), Bro. Art Mueller (Belvidere), Bro. Fred Funk (Morton) and Bro. Brad Bauer (Tucson).

"A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;"

*I Tim. 3:2*

February 27 was the Elder ordination service for our Bro. Herb Knochel (Sis. Laurie). As they were asked to uphold the office of an Elder (bishop) as described in I Timothy, we as a congregation were asked to pray for and encourage him in his new role of service to our church.

Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville) assisted our Elder Bros. Jon Kokanovich and Herb Knochel in serving our congregation Holy Communion.

Dakota Thorpe (Bro. Chris and Sis.

Heather) underwent surgery and is now home and experiencing a slow healing process. Many others in our congregation have not been able to worship with us in quite a while due to age or illness and we remember them in prayer: Sis. Bertha Miller, Sis. Shirley Mohrman and Bro. Kenny and Sis. Mary Jo Schmidgall. We pray for God's comfort and healing for them all.

The winter months always bring us an abundance of visitors on and off the pulpit and for this we are grateful.

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### ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

#### Max Knobloch

The cold winter days are slowly being driven away by the beautiful warm days of spring. For many here in Prescott it is a welcome time of the year. It is also a good reminder that Easter is just around the corner. So much attention is given to many of the other holidays. Really the most attention should be given to this absolutely crucial holiday. Just as spring takes away the cold of winter, Christ's journey to the cross 2,000 years ago drove out the cold separation between God and us. Now we can be called the children of the one true GOD.

In February we held our annual business meeting. Bro. Tom Wackerle was re-elected to hold the position of the Chairmen of the Board of Trustees for another term. We discussed ways in which we can better serve the Lord even with our small congregation. We are thankful that the Lord has given us a church to look after.

Recently this past month the Prescott congregation and several from the Phoenix congregation were able to participate in an afternoon Communion service. Once again we were reminded of the broken body and shed blood of Jesus. We were thankful that Elder Bro. Jon and Sis. Nancy Kokanovich were here for that service. We were also thankful to have visiting Elder Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cheryl Ryan (Rockville, CT) with us as he assisted Bro. Jon with serving Communion.

We are always grateful for the visiting ministers, their wives, and families for the efforts put forth on our behalf. Recently they were Bro. Keith and Sis. Tammy Hinrichsen (Phoenix), Bro. Ron and Sis. Lynell Palitto (Akron, OH), and Bro. Merlin and Sis. Marilyn Meyer (Lester, IA).

We once again were able to get together on several occasions for fellowship and potlucks. We also assembled on a Wednesday night to continue our study of the book of Titus. We were encouraged to "adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things." (Titus 2:10). We were reminded as well about the grace of God and what it is teaching in our lives. What a blessing to be cleansed by the Lord as His special people.

"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."

*Titus 2:13-14*

We would also like to extend a big thank you to the Phoenix Young Group. Some of them came up on a chilly Saturday to help us with the Hallelujah Horse Ranch open house, and we appreciate their effort.

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### ARIZONA, TUCSON

#### Lisa Knapp

We were blessed with an abundance of visiting ministers this past month. Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia) and Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Bloomfield) were with us on March 6 to serve Holy Communion. We appreciate their willingness to travel and serve our little church. May God add a rich blessing.

We were also visited by Bro. Ken Hoerr (Peoria) and Bro. Fred Funk (Morton) and wish to thank them both for their service to us. We said goodbye to Bro. Ron Allenbach and his wife, Sis. Lois, who were with us for an extended period this winter as they were last

year. We so enjoy their visits and do hope they continue to come and spend time with us as they visit family in our area.

We are starting to say goodbye to some of our winter visitors as spring is here (or at least weather-wise it is!). We are anticipating work teams the next two weeks as our transition into spring comes full circle.

Our daytime highs are unusually warm this third week of March with temperatures in the high 80's. Over the weekend we are expecting some cooler weather with highs in the 60's and maybe even some rain.

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### CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

#### Yasmin Koehl

What blessed fellowship we've experienced over the past several weeks as we've enjoyed an abundance of visiting brethren from across the miles from Morris, MN, to Hungary! We're thankful for the encouragement and the love we've felt from many who've made San Diego one of their destinations this winter. When we can commune and share in this blessed hope of our Lord and Savior, it gives us a glimpse of how beautiful heaven must be. How we look forward to entering into it's portals. Let us continue to encourage each other to be obedient to the Word of God, so by His grace we can spend eternity together in a land where our tears shall dry away and where we can be in the glorious presence of our Lord and the saints.

Amongst our visitors was the European board. We were thankful for Elder Bro. Dave Graf (Sis. Barb, Akron, OH) and ministering Bro. Gene Lehman (Sis. Verna, Wolcott, IN) as they lovingly instructed us from the Word of God. We pray the Lord's blessings be upon them for their willingness to serve us as they allowed the Spirit to direct them. How thankful we are for ministering brothers who freely give of themselves and are not ashamed to preach the truth in its entirety. Let us together continue to pray that the



truth will never be quenched and that all who seek God in sincerity may find a haven from the world that will always point upward to our Lord and Savior in our congregations.

“Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.”

*Eph. 6:24*

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**KITCHENER, ONTARIO  
CANADA  
Kim Leman**

“Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.”

*Mark 11:22-23*

We appreciated Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI) spending a Wednesday evening with us. It is always encouraging to have them with us.

Bro. Wayne Saddler (Sis. Alison) had a brief hospital stay after suffering a fall at work. He is slowly healing but thankful as it could have been much worse. We are always grateful for the Lord's protection in our daily lives.

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**REGINA, SK  
CANADA  
Myrna Shipley**

A group from Morris church came to Regina this month. Ministering Bro. Paul Schmidgall and his wife, Sis. Shawn, as well as Bro. Carl and Sis. Marilyn Koehl and Bro. Dennis Joos were able to be here. God bless you for traveling here and we hope you can feel the Holy Spirit among us. Thanks for coming.

Hermann and Hilda Kaiser were able to travel to Sabetha, KS, to visit their friends. It was a long drive but

they said they had a blessed time and really enjoyed the fellowship there.

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

“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen.”

*II Peter 3:18*

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**COLORADO, DENVER  
Lily Zarkovacki**

Savior, like a Shepherd lead us,  
Much we need Thy tender care;  
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us,  
For our use Thy folds prepare;  
Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus,  
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.

*Hymns of Zion #118*

We continue to pray for those in our congregation who are experiencing physical afflictions.

We are thankful that Sis. Ruth Pfeiffer has had positive progress in her health. We look forward to her being able to worship with us at church.

We extend our warm welcome to Kaylynn Kuenzi to our congregation.

We are so thankful and appreciate all the brothers and sisters who have served in various positions in church. Our new Sunday school teachers are Bro. Jared Stoller, Sis. Tess Leman and Bro. George Zarkovacki. Our prayers are with Bro. Rod Schmidt, Bro. Eric Huber, and Bro. Matt Fehr as they will also take on responsibilities in the church.

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**CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE  
Laura Virkler  
Bonnie Bahler**

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

*Hymns of Zion #207*

It's refreshing to see that spring-time is coming, after a snowy and cold winter. Seeing the first crocuses blooming never seems to grow old year after year! We have seen birth and death this month, and the promise of rebirth looking toward Easter.

Bro. Jason and Sis. Diana Reutter were blessed their first child, Alexis Rose. She is welcomed by grandparents, Frank and Sara Vidakovics of Ohio, and Bro. Dean and Sis. Miriam Reutter. May God bless and guide their efforts in caring for and raising their precious daughter.

Believing that God has directed their lives together, the engagement of Bro. Kevin Luginbuhl and Sis. Jayme Lanz was announced this month. Parents are Bro. Rick and Sis. Sue Luginbuhl and Bro. Barry and Karen Lanz. We rejoice with them and wish them well as they plan a life together in the Lord.

Our heartfelt sympathy and prayers will remain with family circles that have lost loved ones recently. Sis. Ida Welti passed out of this life and into eternity after spending a hundred years on this earth. She leaves her children and their spouses, Donald and Marilyn Welti, Richard Welti, Sis. Harriet (Bro. Dale) Zahner, Chris Welti and Micki Dean. She also leaves her sister-in-law, Sis. Betty Gottier.

Bro. Kenneth Schultz passed away, leaving the cares and pain of this life to meet his Lord. He leaves his dear wife, Sis. Lois, and his children, David, Sis. Jane and Bro. Alan. He also leaves a sister, Doris Harris of Beaverfalls, NY; a brother and his wife, Ralph and Beth Schulz of Lowville, NY; a sister and her husband, Sis. Jenny and Bro. Lee Gerber of Decatur, IN; a brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Bro. Roy and Sis. Joyce Schneider of Ellington and several nieces and nephews.

Our sympathy is with Bro. Matt Couzens (Sis. Cathryn) whose grandmother, Mary Couzens, passed away this month. We also share our condo-

lences with Sis. Mary Hoffman (Bro. Nathan) for the passing of her grandmother, Sis. Eldora Steiner of Rittman, OH.

For all of these family circles, may the Lord provide comfort and peace with the knowledge that He doeth all things well.

For those who have been ill or hospitalized, we wish a speedy recovery. Included in our thoughts and prayers are Sis. Dorothy Virkler (Bro. Dan), Sis. Amber Hoffman, and Sis. Harriet Farney. May the Lord heal and restore each one and soothe the hurts that we cannot see in those around us as well as the ones that we can.

Whatever the struggle or test we may face in the coming months, we can be reminded that the God that makes the sun shine and rain cares for us and can provide for all of our needs.

He gave us eyes to see them and lips that we might tell,  
how great is God Almighty who has made all things well.

*Hymns of Zion #207*

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

Our caretaker for the last part of February was Bro. Dave and Sis. Ethel Wiegand from Champaign, 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 [dksteffen@gmail.com](mailto:dksteffen@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 held our annual business meeting on February 27. Bro. Barry Steffen was re-elected Treasurer. Bro. Phil Steffen was elected Trustee and Sis. Michelle Bachtold was elected Secretary. Our prayers are with them as they

have oversight of the physical functions of our church.

Late last week there were just hints of green on the trees and bushes. Now there are buds and little leaves. One of the sheltered, early blooming trees on my way to work is already blooming. Walking to work the next couple of months will be enjoyable as I watch all the changing flowers and bushes.

Our ministers this month were Bro. Les Kaeb (Sis. Christine, Francesville, IN), Bro. Jerry Isch (Sis. Linda, Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Diane, Rockville, CT), and Bro. Kenny Dietz (Sis. Mardell, Bradford, IL). Other visitors were from Rockville, CT.

It has come to our attention that the contact information in the Ministers' Book is wrong. Bro. Barry Steffen's phone number should be 443-504-3757. The person having the number listed in the book is getting upset with all the calls he has been receiving.

If you are planning to visit Washington, D.C. area for vacation or business, please contact Bro. Joe and Sis. Holly Bohart at [jbohart@gmail.com](mailto:jbohart@gmail.com) or Sis. Henrietta Meyer at (703) 904-8301 for assistance and to let us know how many to expect for Sunday services.

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

We were thankful to have several visiting ministers this past month. Visiting were Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO), Bro. Joe Braker (Sis. Shirley, Morton, IL), Bro. Ron Jones (Portland, OR), Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie, Elgin, IL) and Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL). We pray for a blessing on all those who give willingly of their time for His service.

Sis. Jody Baum (Bro. Kenny) has also been in our prayers. We were happy to see her return to church and pray that God will continue to keep His healing hands upon her.

Lastly, we have enjoyed having our children home for Spring break. May the Lord watch over them and protect

them always.

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### **FLORIDA NORTH FORT MYERS Victor Beer**

South Florida has been the perfect vacation place during the last two months, with temperatures five degrees above average most of the time. We have a lot to offer to those that leave several feet of snow up north. However, when so many get together for worship, the fellowship surpasses all that.

This last month we were blessed with a few northern brethren for their services from several churches. For our annual Communion, Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Sis. Jeni) and Elder Bro. Ted Witzig (Sis. Cindy) served us for that blessed event. Additional blessings were Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane), Bro. Bob Pflederer (Sis. Ellie, Morton), Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary Ann, Fairbury, IL), Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Mary Ann, Winthrop, MN), and Bro. Dave Zehr (Gridley, IL). Also, two brothers who happened to be nearby on business were Bro. Daron Price (Milford, IN) and Bro. Joe Sprunger (Indianapolis, IN) who shared the Word with us. We want to thank all of these brothers for their service to our congregation and, of course, welcome them back anytime.

Bro. Dan Goric (Sis. Mary Ann, Rockville, CT) also faithfully served us.

Bro. John Zimmerman (Roanoke, IL) shared with us his experience about Heaven in two segments also. We thank him for his service and thoughts and insights about Heaven.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Wayne and Sis. Opal Rocke (Morton, IL) on the death of Bro. Wayne's sister.

It's been good to see Bro. George and Sis. Sharon Keysor back in our worship service. They have had physical setbacks for several weeks, and we missed them. May God bless them and keep them well now.

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**FLORIDA, SARASOTA****Kim Ott**

"For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have showed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister."

*Hebrews 6:10*

We were so thankful to have visiting ministers, Bro. Chris Huber (Sis. Sharon, Francesville, IN), Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL), and Bro. Gary Sinn (Sis. Paulette, Latty, OH), assemble with our congregation this month. We were grateful for their labors of love and willingness to minister the truth as inspired by the Holy Spirit.

What a blessing it is to gather together to hear God's Living Word and be encouraged to face the challenges of another week. We know that God is with us and that we also have other fellow believers in Christ who are standing by our side. Praise to our Lord and Saviour for the goodness He has bestowed to us.

**GEORGIA, ATLANTA**

Recently, we held our annual meeting and voted on some new positions. Bro. Philip Steidinger will replace Bro. Chuck Kieser as a Trustee. Sis. Peggy Camp will be replaced by Sis. Stephanie West and Sis. Lana Steidinger as Sunday School Teachers.

Over the last month, a great portion of our congregation has served on work teams. One group went to Nashville to assist World Relief with the flood damage. Another group went to Jamaica and served at the Jamaican Deaf Village. Though miles apart, on both trips lives were changed and encouraged by the spirit of love and unity!

Our families enjoyed gathering at the West's home for March Potluck. Once again, it was a precious time of fellowship and food!

We have had the blessing of many ministering brothers this month. They

included Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville), Bro. Troy Leyse (Sis. Kelly, Bluffton), Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis) and Bro. Gary Endress (Sis. Evelyn, Bradford).

As Easter approaches, the sweet story of salvation is empowered within us. We shared a time of Communion and reflected on the Father's great love for us. Elder Bro. Duane Rocke assisted Elder Bro. Tom Waldbeser in the Communion service. "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God." (I John 3:1)

**ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE****Doreen Moser  
Shayla Steffen**

Standing on the promises of Christ my King,  
Thro' eternal ages let His praises ring  
Glory in the highest I will shout and sing...

We enjoyed singing praises to our Lord during our invite a friend weekend both Saturday eve and Sunday afternoon at the nursing home. Praising the Lord in song brings joy and peace to both the singer and the listener. We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Ron Schambach and Sis. Nancy as guests for invite a friend. As Bro. Ron is retiring, we thanked him for his service and presented him with a small gift of appreciation. We hope to see much more of them in our Belvidere congregation.

Standing on the promises that cannot fail  
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,  
By the living Word of God I shall prevail

Elder Bro. Ron Schambach and Bro. Dave Steffen spent part of a Sunday afternoon with us for Communion exhortation.

The Living Word of God gives us many instructions to follow and prom-

ises to stand on. When doubts and fears try to get in the way of living for the Lord, may we hold fast to the promises that will not fail and remain united in the brotherhood. He has done so much for us, what have we done for Him?

Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord  
Bound to him eternally by love's strong cord  
Overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword

Love's strong cord will soon unite Bro. Trent Steffen and Sis. Kristina Rufener in marriage (Bro. Dean and Sis. Carol Steffen and Bro. Dave and Leann Rufener). A singing shower was held and many voices blended together to bless the couple. We look forward to having Sis. Kristina in Belvidere.

The love and wonder of a new baby has overflowed the hearts of Bro. Trent and Sis. Jennifer Johnson. With grateful hearts, Kellen Wesley Johnson was welcomed home by big brothers, Kole and Klyne. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Harry and Sis. Til Johnson and Darren and Peggy Kerrins from Fairbury, IL.

Standing on the promises I cannot fail  
Listening every moment to the Spirit's call  
Resting in my Savior as my all in all  
Standing on the promises of God.

May it be our goal daily to stand on the promises of God, listen to His Word, and rest in Him knowing that we cannot fail with God.

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

It's always a blessing to have a new baby in the congregation. February 17 was the birth date for Ean Robert Kieser. He is welcomed home by his parents, Bro. Joe and Sis. Carrie, and siblings, Emma, Eli, and Ethan. Grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis.

Laura Kieser and Hank and Becky Brandt.

The weekend of February 27 we hosted several visiting young groups. What a beautiful sight to see young people filling the front rows of church. Many new friendships were made and old ones strengthened.

We said goodbye this month to Roger Zimmerman, husband of Sis. Norma Jean. Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Norma Jean and her family as she grieves the loss of her spouse. Sis. Shirley Stimeling was also laid to rest. She had a sweet, gentle spirit and will be sorely missed by her family and our church family as well. We continue to lift up in prayer, her husband, Bro. George, and children, Bro. Scott, Doug, and Jill.

On March 19, many from our congregation had the privilege of participating in a mentoring class. We all have people in our lives whom we can affect in a positive way. It was a day of good instruction and Christian Fellowship.

The ISU Young Group is currently on their Spring Break and several have traveled to Magdalena, Mexico for their annual mission trip. We miss their presence in church and pray for their safety as they travel. May they be blessed for giving of their time and talents.

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### ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

**Sandi Joos**  
**Roseann Stahl**

“To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.”

*Acts 26:18*

On March 6 we witnessed the baptism of Sis. Kayla Shernak (Jeff Shernak, Theresa VandeBerg) and Sis. Stacy Wagenbach (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Sara). We are thankful that their eyes were opened, their sins forgiven, and an

inheritance is prepared for them. Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary, Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Scott Schambach (Sis. Hope, Columbus, OH) were with us for this joyous occasion.

“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”

*1 John 1:7*

We had blessed fellowship the weekend of March 19 and 20 for our invite-a-guest weekend. We appreciated having many visiting ministers with us that weekend. They were Bro. Paul Schmidgall (Sis. Shawn, Morris, MN), Bro. Fred Domka (Sis. Connie, Mansfield, OH), Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville, OH), Bro. Rex Frieden (Sis. Vera, Lamar, MO), Bro. Kevin Fehr (Sis. Lonnie, West Bend, IA). Also serving us in the Word this month was Bro. Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonita, Cissna Park, IL).

There is joy in the household of Bro. Weston and Sis. Jill Stahl as they welcomed a new son, Creighton Chris, on March 8. He is also welcomed by siblings, Candace, Chase, McKenzie, and Payton. Grandparents are Dean Stahl, Sis. Charlotte Stahl, and Bro. Howard and Sis. Mary Ann Herrmann (Princeville, IL).

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Dennis Pyles (Sis. Becky) in the loss of his sister, Vista Beasley. Our prayers and support also go out to Sis. Sharon Bruell (Bro. Clarence) who recently lost her sister, Carol Hilger, and sister-in-law, Ann Tyson.

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### ILLINOIS CHAMPAIGN

**Sarah Drake**

Greetings from Champaign! Many thanks to visiting ministering Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington) for sharing God's message with our congregation.

We rejoice with Bro. David and Sis.

Ethel Wiegand over the birth of twin great-grandsons, Reuben James Steffen and Eli Robert Steffen. Reuben and Eli were born on March 22 to Bro. Jamin and Sis. Lauren Steffen of Tucson.

On March 24, Ivy Reese Bahler was welcomed into the world by parents, Eric and Marissa Bahler, and big brother Elliot. The Bahler family recently moved to this area, and we have enjoyed getting to know them these past several months.

We are thankful that our Young Group was granted another safe and blessed mission trip to Reynosa, MX. We pray that fruit from the week will continue to manifest in the lives of the deaf children of Reynosa, the staff of Isaiah 55 Ministries, and our own work team members!

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### ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

**Rachel Meyer**

Greetings from Chicago. We thank the following ministering brothers for sharing the Word with us: Elder Bro. John Jackson (Bay City, MI), Bro. Matt Steffen (Princeville, IL), and Bro. Howard Plattner (Alto, MI).

We extend our loving sympathy to Sis. Laura Lindberg (Bro. Mark) and Bro. Brian Vercler (Sis. Amber) upon the passing of their grandmother, Josephine Vercler, from Chenoa, IL.

We praise God that two more souls have turned to Him. We rejoice with Nelson Eisenmann (Elder Bro. Brad and Sis. Cindy) and Sierra Steffen (Bro. Kim and Sis. Diane). May God help them to grow in Him.

We thank our Bro. Brad along with Elder Bro. John Jackson for sharing the reading of the Conference report on February 19.

It is a joy to have Amit Parkhe from India as part of Chicago church family for the next six months. May God bless him in his medical studies.

We rejoice with Bryce Westfall and his family as he has confessed peace with God and man. We look forward to sharing in his testimony and baptism.

We enjoyed an evening with our Sunday School students as they hosted a benefit dinner evening. It was a joy to share together and pray God will bless these children.

Thursday, March 10, was the birthdate of Jesse Reid Vercler. Parents, Bro. Brian and Sis. Amber, along with brother Braden, welcome this little one home. Grandparents are Bro. Tim and Sis. Sonia Vercler (Gridley, IL) and Sis. Sue Rocke (Roanoke, IL). May God be with this dear family.

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### ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

**Marilyn Maul  
Tina Walder**

Our Bible Class hosted Princeville Bible Class in February. We appreciated having Bro. Chris Wuethrich (St. Louis) and Bro. Clark Stoller (Gridley) in our midst for this occasion.

Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. Gary Brown (Forrest) and Bro. Brad Metz (Bloomington). We always appreciate their efforts on our behalf.

Sis. Loretta Baumgartner spent some time in the hospital this month. She is in our prayers as she adjusts to living at the Heartland Nursing Home.

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### ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

**Rachel Rinkenberger**

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

*Luke 15:10*

We rejoice with the family of Bro. Larry and Sis. Marilyn Wettstein as their daughter, Lana, has begun her repentance. May she feel God’s nearness and grace as she seeks to walk in His ways.

Bro. Chet Rinkenberger (Bro. Mike and Sis. Pat) was united in Holy Matrimony to Sis. Rachel Currier (Art and Sis. Mary) on Sunday, March 13. Also Eric Zimmerman (Bro. Ben and Sis. Kathy) and Jodi Wettstein (Bro. Jon

and Sis. Rita, Bloomfield) were married this month on March 19. We are thankful for God’s providence in their lives, and wish them continued grace in their marriage.

This past month we appreciated the labors of several ministering Brothers. They include Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis), Bro. Jim Vierling (Sis. Linda, Eureka), Bro. Wayne Wiegand (Sis. Rosemary, Goodfield), Bro. Mark Rufener (Sis. Julie, Mansfield), Bro. Tim Zimmerman (Sis. Barb, Lamont-Gridley), and Bro. Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Austin).

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### ILLINOIS, ELGIN

**Amy Gasser  
Miriam Gasser**

February 20 was the wedding of Sis. Heather Steffen and Bro. Greg Schambach, children of Bro. Gary and Sis. Lois Steffen and Bro. Les and Sis. Alison Schambach. Many visitors came to witness the sacred union, including ministering Bros. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA), Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN), Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN), Alan Schambach (Remington, IN), and Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL). We thank the brothers who took part in the services that weekend.

An ACCFS Parenting Seminar was presented by Bros. Craig Stickling and Brian Sutter on March 5. Bro. Craig (Peoria, IL) labored again on Sunday, as he was called upon to preach. Another weekend, Bro. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH) taught us through his ministry.

Our Bible Class hosted the Magdalena Work Team Benefit Dinner at the Fellowship Center on February 26. The students and teachers are very grateful to those who supported the upcoming mission trip through their attendance and generous donations.

Several hospital patients were in our thoughts and prayers in recent weeks, including Sis. Joan Scheitlin (Bro. Al), Bro. John Moser, Bro. Bill Wewetzer, and Bro. Bob Cox (Sis. DeAnne). The three brothers are re-

gaining strength, but Sis. Joan is still very weak from her injury.

Two dear pillars of the Elgin church were taken from us in the past month. Sis. Hilde Schumacher, who was born February 5, 1924, in Germany, passed away February 21. Her loving, cheerful spirit and godly wisdom will be missed by nieces, nephews, and her church family.

Bro. John Klein, born May 1, 1924, in Romania, was called to his heavenly home on March 14. We extend our sympathy to his sons, Otto and Walter Klein, grandchildren, and other family members. In the few years that Bro. John was a part of our fellowship, his love begat love in all who knew him—including children.

Sis. Clara Lou Blunier, who grew up in Elgin, passed away February 24 at the Apostolic Christian Home in Eureka. She was the aunt of Sis. Vicki Kellenberger (Bro. Ken). May Sis. Clara Lou’s faith and special memories of her be a comfort to the family.

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### ILLINOIS, EUREKA

**Dee Baer  
Jodi Blunier**

Blessings have come through visiting ministers, Bro. Bob Dotterer (Sardis, OH), Bro. Joe Dotterer (Bloomfield, IA), Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH) and Bro. Gary Brown (Forrest).

May God bless the two couples married this month: Sis. Angela Martin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Marilyn) to Bro. Craig Dotterer (Bro. Joe and Sis. Rose, Bloomfield, IA); and Bro. Doug Bradle (Bro. Roger and Sis. Ila) to Sis. Eva Toth (Zoltan and Sis. Maria, Kitchener, ON).

Bro. Kyle Feuchtenberger (Bro. Ken and Sis. Sally, Morris, MN) and Sis. Rachel Martin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Marilyn) have announced their engagement.

Sis. Kary Schmidgall (Bro. Mike), Sis. Thelma Saathoff (Bro. George), Sis. Helen Wiegand and Nate Schmidgall (Bro. Mikel and Sis.

Dianne) have all benefited from medical care this month.

Bro. Jason, Sis. Ellie and Jack Rassi welcomed Boone Elliot. Grandparents are Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy Rassi (Tremont) and Bro. Kevin and Sis. Annette Fisher (Roanoke).

*Note of Thanks:*

The family of Sis. Clara Lou Blunier sincerely thanks everyone for all the love, support and prayers during and since the loss of our mother.

*Sis. Debra Blunier*

*Bro. Daryl and Sis. Lucy Blunier*

*Dave and Traci Blunier*

*Dan and Dawn Blunier*

*Rob and Diane Gregoire*

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## ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

**Angela Herr**

**Kay Steffen**

Haste and seek your soul's salvation;  
Heed the Word of God today!  
Haste to flee His condemnation;  
Seek the straight and narrow way.  
Evil are the worldly pleasures,  
leading to eternal fire;  
Seek the everlasting treasure,  
ere the day of grace expire.

*Zion's Harp #52, vs. 1*

We are thankful that Brianna Rinckenberger (Bro. Doug and Sis. Beth) has answered God's call to repent and is seeking her soul's salvation. May she feel God's love, mercy, and grace as she begins her walk with the Lord.

Bro. Matthew and Sis. Jodi Kaisner welcomed Lexi Lynn into their family circle on March 2. Lydia, Luke, and Levi are happy to have a little sister. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Donna Kaisner and Bro. Ernie and Sis. Carol Leman (Forrest, IL).

We bid farewell to our Sis. Anna Lou Van Antwerp who passed away on March 5. May God comfort and be near her daughter, Judy Harris (Nathan, Florence, MO), who cared for Sis. Anna Lou during the past several months. We also extend our sympathy to her sisters, Sis. Thelma Slagel and Sis. Flor-

ence Koch (Tremont, IL), and her brother, Donald Zimmerman of Fairbury.

"Love, of all gifts, is the greatest which the Spirit does bestow..." (Zion's Harp #37, vs. 1). We rejoice with Bro. Neil Kaisner (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Donna) and Sis. Kay Leman (Bro. Phil and Charlotte) of Forrest as their engagement was made known on March 6. May God be with them and guide them as they plan for a life together.

We were thankful to have Bro. Dennis Rassi (Austin, TX) in our midst this past month and appreciate his willingness to minister to us whenever he comes. May God bless him for his labors in the Lord's service.

Helen Fehr (William) and Eric Bahler (Bro. Neil and Sis. Tami) have recently spent time in the hospital. Sis. Kristin Zehr (Bro. Blake) and William Fehr (Helen) were also recent surgery patients. May God's healing hand be upon each one according to His will.

Our Sunday School addition and dining room remodeling project is now complete. We are thankful to be assembling back in our church building after several weeks of worshipping at our fellowship hall while the church building was under construction. All are welcome to visit us anytime!

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## ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Lisa Aberle**

**Lynn Dotterer**

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

*Romans 10:15*

We thank visiting Bros. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL), Daren Metz (Gridley, IL), Cory Metzger (Wichita, KS), David Eisenmann (Champaign, IL), Paul Kilgus (Fairbury, IL), and Jacob Kuntz (Croghan-Naumburg, NY) for ministering to us this past month. We are thankful for teachers willing to be used in God's service!

Bro. David, Sis. Holly, Kaley, Brianna, and Abigail Mueller welcomed Kamryn Rose into their family circle. Kamryn's grandparents are Bro. Lynn and Sis. Kathy Slagel, Charles Mueller, and Sis. Connie Mueller (Bloomington, IL). Katelyn Sue was welcomed home by Bro. Ben and Sis. Valerie Stoller. Her grandparents are Bro. Kevin and Sis. Martha Schaffer and Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill Stoller. Bro. Matthew, Sis. Kayla, and Marissa Schaffer are excited to welcome another little girl, Myla Lou, into their family. Her thankful grandparents are Bro. Curt and Sis. Martha Kellenberger (Lamar, MO) and Bro. Kevin and Sis. Martha Schaffer.

Sis. Kay Leman (Bro. Phil and Charlotte) and Bro. Neil Kaisner (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Donna, Fairbury, IL) are engaged. We wish them God's richest blessings as they prepare for their wedding and their new life together!

We extend our love and prayers to retired Elder Bro. Perry Zimmerman (Sis. Dorothy) as he spent time in the hospital.

Bro. Harvey Ifft passed away. His wife, Sis. Velma Jean; and children, Bro. Gary (Sis. Peggy, Ziway, Ethiopia), Sis. Nancy Dotterer (Elder Bro. Marvin), Sis. Sherri Schlatter, and Keith (Peoria, IL), and grandchildren mourn his passing, but rejoice in his hope of eternal life.

*Note of Thanks:*

We would like to express our sincere thanks for each prayer, kind deed, and every expression of sympathy shown to our family during the illness and passing of our loved one, Bro. Harvey Ifft. We could certainly feel God's goodness and love through you. May He bless you and keep you close to His heart.

*Sis. Velma Jean Ifft and family*

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## ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

**Melissa Rokey**

**Kayla Wiegand**

"Therefore say thou unto them,

Thus saith the Lord of hosts; Turn ye unto me, saith the Lord of hosts, and I will turn unto you, saith the Lord of hosts."

*Zechariah 1:3*

We are so thankful that two more souls have turned to the Lord in repentance. They include: Fritz Hinrichsen (Bro. Mike and Sis. Gerri) and Kim Zimmerman (Jason). We trust that God will be by their side and grant them the understanding of His Word and will for their life.

Our hearts rejoice with seven of our converts who have felt the presence and power of the Holy Spirit and have come by faith with a broken repentant heart. Herman and Sara Glueck, Joni Zacha (Jeremy), Amy Sinn (Mark), Will Rokey (Bro. Ben and Sis. Shelley), and Joe and Abbie Tabor feel at peace with God and man and are awaiting testimonies and baptisms.

Trey Keith Schieler blessed the home of Bro. Bob and Sis. Ashley on March 10. Big brother Braden welcomed him home. Trey's grandparents are Bro. Brian and Sis. Teresa Schieler and Bro. Keith and Sis. Nadine Edelman (Eureka).

Our annual business meeting was held on March 2. We want to thank all those who served our congregation in different positions. Bro. Dave Zobrist (Sis. Ann) was put in as a new trustee and Bro. Kurt Plattner (Sis. Joan) will be our new treasurer. The following brothers and sisters were put in as Sunday School teachers: Teri Hinrichsen, Heather Hohulin, Mike Grimm, Sam Moser, Royce Schieler, Nate Zeltwanger. We trust that God will bless each of them for their willingness to serve our youth and our congregation.

"The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth."

*Psalm 145:18*

There have been several in our congregation this past month who have

suffered bodily afflictions and have had to be hospitalized. They are: Barbara Jean Hinrichsen, Cecil Nohl, Sis. Sara Melton, and Sis. Teddi Taufer. Our thoughts and prayers go out to them that they can feel God's nearness and His healing hand.

"Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me."

*Psalm 23:4*

Our dear Sis. Mildred Bauman got to go home to her final reward. Sis. Mildred was the mother of Bro. Les (Sis. Helen) Bauman, Kay (Eugene) Siebenthal, Gary (dec.), Glen (Sis. Becky) Bauman, David (Shirl) Bauman, Jacob (Chris) Bauman, Karen (Rich, dec.) Harminson, Sis. Elna (Bro. Gary) Wettstein.

Sis. Clara Lou Blunier from Eureka passed away. She was the mother of Bro. Daryl (Sis. Lucy) Blunier, Diane (Rob) Gregoire and Sis. Deb Blunier. We want to extend our deepest sympathy, and continued prayers to each of these families; may they know the comfort that He alone can give.

We welcome Bro. Loren and Sis. Darcy Schock to our Goodfield congregation. We trust that they can feel welcome and our love for them as they settle here.

We want to thank our visiting minister, Bro. Tom Bolliger (Sis. Jane, Tremont, IL) for his service to our congregation.

### ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

#### **Perry A. Klopfenstein**

Bro. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN) was a visiting minister on March 6. And on Wednesday evening, March 16, Elder Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) was here to help with the reading of the annual Memorandum. Bro. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN) was a guest minister here on March 20.

It is encouraging to know that the "tradition" of the reading of an annual letter to the churches (from the Elder meetings) finds root in the Scriptures

(Acts 15). In this, the leaders of the early church sent out letters from the spiritual authorities to give advice, warning, and general exhortation to the believers. This was done to help individual believers find direction that helped and nurtured them spiritually.

In Marching to Zion, reference is made to brother meetings held in Switzerland. From page 549 it is recorded, "Special convocations of brethren were held occasionally in Switzerland during the time of Samuel Froehlich. Problems of the church were discussed in these councils."

The first brother meeting in the United States was held at Leo, Indiana, in 1866. The first written Memorandum in the United States was issued after the Elder meeting in Rittman during January 14-15 in 1942.

We are saddened to report that Bro. Orlan Miller has been diagnosed with cancer. As of this writing, he was awaiting word from his doctors on the type of treatment to receive. May God be with him and his dear family as he progresses through this health ordeal, and may it be God's will that he can recover. Bro. Larry Kiefer was hospitalized in a health setback, and we pray for his complete healing. Bro. Roy Hodel had surgery and is recovering.

Springtime is almost here and our farmer brethren, and others, will soon be busy preparing their fields for planting. This brings to mind an interesting saying, "Judge each day not by the harvest, but by the seeds that you plant." (author unknown)

### ILLINOIS, MORTON

#### **Annette Tanner**

#### **Julie Bahr**

Bro. Jon Zeller (Sis. Christie) gave our family worship topic "Giants - No Big Deal to God". We take comfort in knowing that there is nothing in our lives too big for our Father God.

Our Morton church family was extremely blessed with four new miracle births. Our congratulations to Bro. Daniel and Megan Martin as they,

along with big brother Abram, welcomed baby daughter, Emery Amalia, on February 20. Grandparents are Bro. Doug and Sis. Karen Martin and Mike and Donna Reese.

On February 28, Bro. Ken and Sis. Jackie Babin welcomed a new baby granddaughter, Carly Noelle. Carly entered the family of Jason, Amanda and Caleb Babin.

On March 10, Bro. Scott and Sis. Kay Sinn welcomed their first grandchild. Baby girl, Mia Hope, was born to their daughter, Michelle Sinn.

We rejoice with Bro. Daniel and Sis. Kelly Knobloch at the arrival of their baby daughter, Rosemund "Rosie" Hazel on March 21. Thankful first time grandparents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Christine Kaiser and Sis. Jennifer (late Bro. Donald) Knobloch.

Sis. Shirley Braker (Bro. Joe) passed away peacefully into the arms of her sweet Saviour. We rejoice in her victory, but will miss her presence in our church. Our sympathy is with her dear husband, Bro. Joe, and also to her children, Bro. Brad (Sis. Debra), Bro. Todd (Sis. Wendy), Bro. Brent (Sis. Becky), Bro. Tim (Sis. Rachel) and Sis. Beth (Bro. Tim) Leman. Our sympathy is also with her mother, Sis. Helen Schmidgall (Bro. Clarence), and her two brothers, Bro. Jack (Sis. Elaine) Schmidgall and Bro. Ken (Sandra) Schmidgall.

We share our sympathy also with Bro. Wayne Roche (Sis. Opal) in the loss of his sister, Sis. Shirley Stimeling, Bloomington.

Our prayers are with the family of our Madeline McCartney, who passed away. Her sister is Sis. Sarah Frank.

Our sympathy is shared with Sis. Jill (Bro. Mike) Kaufman in the loss of her dear mother, Sis. Ella Hermann.

We praise God for His faithfulness! On March 27, the engagement of Bro. John Zimmerman (late Sis. Jan) to Sis. Inge Zimmerman (late Bro. Dean), Goodfield, was made known. A June 26 wedding is planned.

## ILLINOIS, PEORIA

### Pam Fritzenmeier

We were privileged to host the World Relief International Meeting March 12. One could clearly see the love of God in the dear ones who presented their stories in the various outreaches. Let us who are so blessed remember the less fortunate in deeds and prayers.

Bro. Dave Zehr (Sis. Vicki, Gridley) spent a recent Wednesday evening with us and we thank him for his ministry.

Our Sunday School students from grades 6, 7, and 8 and a group of sisters from Bloomington sang for us at our monthly family hymn sing March 6. What a blessing to be able to sing praises to God together.

Many thanks to the Latty congregation for hosting our choir February 26-27. It was a very blessed weekend.

Sis Juliette Kurth passed from this life into eternity March 2. Our prayers are with her family.

There are always those suffering health issues who would desire our prayers on their behalf. These include Bro. David (Sis. Rita) Sauder, Bro. Mel (Sis. Margaret) Getz, Sis. Barb Schafer, Sis. Eunice Unsicker, Sis. Kathy (Bro. Dave) Obergfel, and Bro. Harry (Sis. Loretta) Eisenmann.

Bro. Zach Knobloch (Bro. Paul and Sis. Lynne) just moved to Magdalena to serve full time at CVE. Please remember him in your prayers along with Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Bere Aupperle, and Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard and family who are serving in Haiti. Please do pray for the people of Japan, too, and those ministering to them, following the devastating earthquake.

#### *Note of Thanks:*

My family and I have been showered with much love and kindness during my time of surgeries and recovery! God is showing us His love and care through everyone's thoughtfulness! A heartfelt thank you and God's rich blessings to all!

In Christ's love and mine,  
Sis. Kathy Obergfel

## ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

### Linda Joos Gloria White

The opportunity to have visiting ministers in our midst is always an encouragement and blessing. We thank Bro. Jedd Rocke (Goodfield, IL), Bro. Dale Banwart (Congerville, IL), Bro. Matt Oesch (Alto, MI), Bro. Ron Isch (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), Bro. Darren Plattner (Champaign, IL), Bro. Ed Sauder (Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL) for their labors of love on our behalf.

Retired Elder Bro. Joe and Sis. Emily Stoller celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on March 4 and Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Elaine Wagenbach celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on March 26. We pray God's blessings and nearness as they continue their earthly journey here.

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

*Proverbs 22:6*

Bro. Brian and Sis. Renee Wieland are the thankful parents of a baby girl, Brooklyn Faith, born March 17. She is welcomed home by Ethan, Mikaela, Grace, Eli, Claire and Leah. The grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Liz Wieland and Pat Stahl. Bro. Howard and Sis. Mary Ann Herrmann are the happy grandparents of Creighton Chris, born to Bro. Weston and Sis. Jill Stahl of our Bradford congregation.

Noah Herrmann (Bro. Dean and Sis. Dawn) was in the hospital this month. We are so thankful he is home now and seems to be doing well. We pray he will continue to heal and gain strength day by day.

We were sorry to hear of the sudden loss of Bro. Dick Graham's (Sis. Jeanette) sister, Anny Tyson of Branson, MO. Bro. Dana Regier's (Sis. Martha Kay) mother, Pat Regier of Independence, MO, also passed from this life. May God's nearness and comfort



be felt now and in the days to come.

*Note of Thanks:*

We wish to thank you for the many prayers, cards, gifts and expressions of love in behalf of our 60th anniversary and Emily's 80th birthday. Our church family is a priceless gift from God. We appreciate your thoughtfulness and sincerely thank you.

Humbly,

Bro. Joe and Sis. Emily Stoller

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**ILLINOIS, ROANOKE**

**Jamie Hodel**

**Judy Sauder**

I Samuel 17:47 "And all this assembly shall know that the Lord saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the Lord's..." On February 23, Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Morton) presented to our congregation a topical Bible Study on "Overcoming Life's Giants" highlighting the story of David and Goliath. What an encouragement to remember that just as God saved David out of the hand of the lion, the bear, and the Philistine giant, He also will deliver us if we call on His name.

When a Christian dies precious is the prize!

Lasting joys for days of sorrow,  
Rest from conflict on the morrow  
Follows when he dies.

*Hymns of Zion #248*

On February 18, Sis. Mildred Bauman (Goodfield) passed away. She is the mother of Sis. Elna (Bro. Gary) Wettstein. On February 24, Sis. Clara Lou Blunier (Eureka) passed away. She is a sister-in-law to Sis. Pearl Leman and Sis. Virginia Blunier.

Our annual church cleaning was held on March 7. Then, on March 14 our annual Fellowship Hall cleaning was held.

Psalm 92:4: "...For I will triumph in the works of thy hands." We rejoice with many families who have been blessed with the birth of a new child.

Bro. Jim and Lorna Ott were blessed with a new granddaughter, Remielle Constance, born on February 18 to Adam and Tara Ott of Eureka. Maternal grandparents are Dave and Lisa Zobrist of Goodfield. Jesse Reed Vercler was born March 10 to Bro. Brian and Sis. Amber Vercler (Chicago). Jesse's older brother is Braden. He is also welcomed by grandparents, Sis. Sue Rocke and Bro. Tim and Sis. Sonia Vercler (Gridley).

We are thankful for Craig Janssen (Bro. Fred and Sis. Cheri) of Peoria in his engagement to Laura Young (Kurt and Janine) of Bartonville. We pray they will feel God's nearness as they plan their lives together.

Hebrews 6:10: "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which ye have showed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister." We have been blessed this month with visiting ministers. Bro. Bill Schick (Magdalena) was with us on March 9. Then on March 13, we were thankful to have Elder Bro. Kent Heimer and Bro. Tim Lehman (Taylor) minister to our congregation.

Our Bible Class spaghetti supper was held on March 12. Then, March 13 was our monthly Family Hymn Sing. On March 16 we were thankful to hear our children bring forth scripture in song for our Scripture Memory program. We pray God will bless the parents who work to teach God's Word to these children.

We lift up those in our congregation who have been hospitalized this month. Our prayers are with Sis. Helen Fehr and Sis. Lena Wiegand. We are also prayerful for Jesse Sauder (Bro. Frank and Sis. Kathy) who is recovering from a car accident. We pray each one will feel the nearness of God.

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**ILLINOIS, TREMONT**

**Teresa Rowell**

**Janice Sauder**

We in Tremont were blessed by the visits of many ministers this past

month: Elder Bros. Bruce Endress (Bradford, IL), Tim Funk (Peoria, IL), Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL) and Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL) and Bros. Paul Kilgus (Fairbury, IL), Scott Wegman (Taylor, MO), Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL), Justin Koch (Washington, IL), and DeWayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN). Thank you to each one for his labor of love.

One of the things we were reminded of during the reading of the Memorandum, was that the doctrines in the Word are based on Godly principles. We would do well to remember that, as we strive to live a holy life.

Our congregation spent an evening becoming more informed about World Relief. We want to again thank the speakers: Amit Parkhe (from India, studying in Chicago, IL), Bro. Rich Bertschi (Roanoke, IL), and Bro. Mike Stichling (Tremont). We all have an opportunity to participate in some way to help those in need: by praying, giving a monetary gift, or going to help on a work team, as the Spirit moves in our hearts. At the time of this writing our hearts go out to the people of Japan, especially our brethren there.

We welcomed Bro. Tim Schaefer (Bro. Maurice and Sis. Marge) as a brother in Christ, after his baptism on March 6. May God continue to give him grace in his walk with the Lord.

We pray that Bro. Alvin Beutel has a good recovery following his surgery. We also wish God's healing power in the lives of Cindy (Bro. Dick) Miller, as she is gravely ill at this time.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Velda (Bro. Karl) Glueck at the death of her brother, Bro. Donald Steidinger (Fairbury, IL). Sis. Florence (the late Bro. Paul) Koch has also recently lost a brother-in-law, Roland Campbell, and a sister, Sis. Annalou Van Antwert (Fairbury, IL). We also want to remember Sis. Marilyn (Bro. Bill) Huette at the passing of her sister, Sis. Shirley Stimeling (Bloomington, IL).

We also extend our sympathy to the family of Sis. Matilda (the late Bro. Ralph) Koch at her passing. They are

four sons: Wesley (Nancy) Koch of Morton, Don (Carrie) Koch of Germantown Hills, Galen Koch and Stanley (Jennifer) Koch of Tremont; and one surviving sibling, Sis. Eunice Rowell. Finally, when we heard of the passing of Helen (the late Ben) Schmidgall, it caused us to remember the many years they assembled with our congregation. May God comfort each grieving heart in the days ahead.

Congratulations to Bro. Bill and Sis. Marilyn Huette on the birth of a little granddaughter, Chloe Maxine. She is the first child of Greg and Sallie Huette (Chicago, IL). God bless them all!

“Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving; Withal praying also for us, that God would open us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds: That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.”

*Colossians 4:2-4*

Sunday evening, March 13, our congregation was charged to “continue in prayer” for Bro. James and Sis. Brenda Fehr, as he takes his new place in the ministry. May God continue to “open a door of utterance” for each brother that stands to preach the Word. We want to again thank Bro. Tom and Bro. Rick for their help to Bro. Steve throughout this selection process.

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## ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

**Linda Folkerts**

**Nancy Leman**

We are thankful for our visiting ministers this past month. On February 23, Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest) assisted Bro. Ron in the reading of the Memorandum. Others who have shared the Word with us are Bro. Klint Beyer (Sis. Kara, Sabetha) on March 13, Bro. Jon Zeller (Sis. Christine, Morton) for Bible Study on March 16, Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jacki, Francesville) and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha) on March 20. May God bless these broth-

ers for their labors of love.

Our congregation recently felt direction to prayerfully seek a new minister. We are thankful to report that our prayers have been answered and that we had an installation service on March 13 for our new minister, Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy). May God bless and be near this dear couple and their daughters as they begin their service in the ministry.

Bro. Jeff and Sis. Chelby Sauder have arrived home safely from China with their new little son, Abram. We pray little Abram feels encircled by love as he bonds with his new family.

Lindsay Schick and Will Waibel have announced their engagement. Lindsay is the daughter of Bro. Tom and Sis. Carol Schick, and Will is the son of Dan and Karen Waibel of Peoria. We wish Lindsay and Will the Lord's blessings as they plan for their wedding and future.

We are prayerful for Bro. Andy Mogler as he underwent knee surgery. May he feel God's healing touch as he recuperates.

We appreciated the loving generosity of our congregation and many others at the benefit dinner on March 12 for the Bible Class in support of their upcoming mission trip. We also appreciated the loving help of our congregation when we had our annual church housecleaning. It brought to mind how simple and insignificant this cleaning seems when compared to the magnitude of the clean-up needed in the country of Japan since they experienced the devastating earthquake and tsunami. We are prayerful for our brethren there and the many others whose lives have been so drastically affected by this disaster.

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## INDIANA, BLUFFTON

**Kim Meyer**

**Suzie Fiechter**

When pure and upright hearts, by  
flames of love ignited,  
Are by the bond of faith, more firmly

yet united,  
The light of hope beams forth in radi-  
ance far and nigh,  
Invites us to partake the blessings  
from on high.

*Zion's Harp #79*

Bro. Rex Gerber (Bro. Harry and Sis. Ada) and Sis. Cheryl Gerber (Bro. Don and Sis. Mary) were united in marriage on March 13. We thank our ministering Bros. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville), Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction) and Mike Wagenbach (Sis. Erica, Wolcott) and their families for traveling to be with us on that day. We also enjoyed the sweet fellowship of brethren from at least 18 different congregations! What a blessing!

God has led Bro. Paul Aschliman (Bro. Skip and Sis. Connie) and Sis. Beth Drayer (Bro. Herm and Sis. Julie) to begin a life together in Him.

Our church family rejoices in the miracle of new life as God has blessed several families with new babies. Mick and Sis. Brooke Gerber, along with Ali and Guy, welcomed Reece John on February 25. Grandparents are Scott and Amy Gerber (Sis. Melinda, dec.) and Bro. Tom and Sis. Sue Neuenchwander. Danessa May arrived on March 5 to Bro. Kent and Sis. Jodi, Desiah, Deena, Diedra, Darin, Daylin and Devin Reinhard. Her grandparents are Sis. Ann (Bro. Ken, dec.) Reinhard and Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene Frauhiger of Bluffton North. On March 12, little Amelia Sue was born to Bro. Brandon, Sis. Amber and Jonah Geisel. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marcia Geisel and Sis. Susan Byerly. We pray that God will bless and guide each of these dear parents and give them a passion for training their children in His ways. Earthly treasures quickly vanish, yet our children's souls live forever!

God continues to call souls to repentance. Luke Kaehr (Bro. Jon and Sis. Julie), Elise Vanhorn (Bro. Dean and Sis. Marlene), and Hunter Bertsch (Bro. Jay and Sis. Rhonda) have heeded their loving Saviour's voice.

Rejoicing in God's work of conversion, we welcomed five souls into the family of God. Sis. Alicia Gerber (Scott and Sis. Melinda, dec.), Sis. Tara Schwabach (Jim and Dawn), Bro. Seth Fiechter (Bro. Jim and Sis. Jenny), Bro. Matt Kaehr (Bro. Sam and Sis. Connie) and Bro. Darin Fiechter (Elder Bro. Lynn and Sis. Ronda) were baptized on February 27.

Our love and prayers are extended to the families of Bro. Loren Bertsch, Bro. Norman Gerber and Bro. Melvin Maller as they have gone Home to their heavenly reward. Bro. Melvin's daughters are Sis. Jan Reinhard and Sis. Carol Maller.

Hospital patients have been Bro. Godfrey (Sis. Anita) Bertsch, Taylen (Bro. Troy and Sis. Brenda) Kipfer, Bro. Les (Sis. Rose) Gerber, Bro. Zach (Sis. Jenny) Bertsch and Bro. Don (Sis. Mary) Gerber. Life brings many interruptions and changes in our plans. Yet, God has His perfect plan for each of us and is faithful as we lean on Him.

"When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee; when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee."

*Isaiah 43:2*

Our high school students enjoyed ACYF at Purdue University. Thanks to all the parents and teachers who give so much of themselves to make it possible.

We are so thankful for a church that embraces sound doctrine, that teaches holy living, dying to self, Biblical truth, perseverance and losing all for Christ. We are so thankful for a church that resists pride, selfishness, fleshly lusts, worldliness and mediocrity. We are so thankful for the Spirit's working within us and among us to His praise and glory. May He continue to cleanse us, humble us, revive us and convert us to His image! May we continue to crucify self and humbly seek Him!

**INDIANA  
BLUFFTON NORTH  
Jessie Longenberger  
Amy Moser**

"Lord, I will follow Thee whithers  
oever Thou goest."

*Luke 9:57*

Sis. Carolyn (Bro. Bill) Gerber passed away on February 2. Our love and prayers are with the family as they journey through this loss.

Bro. Lucas Gerber was married to Sis. Andrea Nuest in Latty, OH, on February 20. Parents of the happy couple are Bro. Steve and Sis. Gayla Gerber and Bro. Les and Sis. Paula Nuest. We wish them God's richest blessings as they begin their new lives together.

Bro. Ryan and Sis. Jessica Bertsch are the parents of a son, Tate Zachary. He was born on February 24 and joined sister Elly at home.

Sis. Connie Bertsch is thankful for the arrival of a grandson, Grayson Douglas, born on February 27 to Troy and Cody Bertsch of Zionsville, IN. He is welcomed home by big sister Sophia.

**INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE  
Mildred Clauss  
Jacki Huber**

"The things that count most cannot  
be counted."

Who among us could count the manifold blessings we receive from our Lord? In a day; in a year; in a lifetime! When the last chapter of our life is finished, only what's done for Christ will last.

A work team has recently returned from Jamaica where projects were accomplished to assist in the mission work where Bro. Chad and Sis. Pam Huber and their family are serving. We always ask for God's blessings on our labors and pray that His name will be glorified. We presently have a work team in Haiti assisting with the mission duties of Bro. Jan and Sis. Val Gutwein

and their family and we trust in the Lord to prosper the work.

Each year the newly chosen Sunday School teachers gather with the teachers who are presently serving to enjoy a Chili Supper together; followed by teachings from the Word by one of our ministers. This year Bro. Steve Gutwein gave a message touching on the importance of spiritual integrity in each individual life as we seek to impress upon our young people the truths of God's Word.

Bro. Morris Eshelman passed away at Parkview Haven where he had been a resident for a number of years. His wife, Sis. Helen (Geyer) Eshelman preceded him in death and their three children survive: Sharyn (Greg) Verdon, Mike (Karla) Eshelman and Gary (Rhonda) Eshelman. We pray the Lord will comfort their hearts and be very near to each of them.

Sis. Carol (Bro. Phil) Gutwein and our friend, Louise Topp, recently had surgery and we pray God will bless each of them with a good recovery.

**INDIANA  
INDIANAPOLIS  
Sandy Lichtle  
Penny Schroder**

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

*Ecclesiastes 3:1*

This past month brought both joy and sadness within our congregation. We shared tears with a family as they said good-bye to a dear one and rejoiced at the arrival of new babies.

Our love and sympathy is shared with Bro. Greg and Sis. Lisa Stieglitz and their family in the passing of Lisa's father, Leroy Hege. Leroy died on February 22 and had been living in Fort Wayne, IN.

Bro. Bert and Sis. Karen Aeschliman rejoiced with the arrival of their grandchild, Andrew August Aeschliman. Andrew was born on Feb-

ruary 24 to Jason and Lauren Aeschliman. They are currently living in New Jersey.

Bro. Clint and Sis. Alesa Bahler welcomed the birth of Greyson William and Ellie Lee into their family on February 24, also.

Bro. Luke and Sis. Andria Shafer's son, Willem Ellis, was born on March 14. He was welcomed home by big brothers, Noah, Adrian, Jude and Christian.

We pray a blessing on each family and that they will have God's wisdom as they nurture these children in the coming years.

Several couples in our congregation were blessed to attend a Marriage Seminar at our church on March 4-5.

Bro. Joe Gerber (Champaign, IL) shared an evening with us this past month providing an overview of Loving Shepherd Ministries. It was a beautiful example of how God is working through willing servants to touch the lives of orphans. It also allowed us to see how we can help provide support and prayers for their ministry.

We appreciate the efforts of the following brothers who shared God's Word with us this past month: Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL), Elder Bro. Akito Inoue (Sis. Marie, Tokyo, Japan), Bro. Howard Plattner (Sis. Kristen, Alto, MI), Bro. Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN) and Bro. Wayne Leman (Sis. Julie, Roanoke, IL).

Our church dedication service is scheduled for Sunday, May 8. Everyone is invited to the church services with 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

### Meagan Frank Julie Rocke

"Rejoice in the Lord, ye righteous; and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness."

*Psalm 97:12*

We have certainly been blessed this month with many reasons to give joyful thanksgiving. Jackson Troxel (Bro. Tom and Sis. LuAnn) has begun his walk with the Lord in true repentance. We rejoice with him and his family and pray that he may always keep his first love.

As a church body, we were blessed with an evening of fellowship and supper before gathering to hear Elder Bro. Ron Messner assist our Elder Bro. Curt in reading the Memorandum. We thank Bro. Ron and his wife, Sis. Pam (Washington, IL), for spending the weekend with us and allowing the Spirit to use them. Our deepest thanks go also to Bro. Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynell, Akron, OH) for joining us for our Wednesday evening service, and to Bro. Lucas Frank (Sis. Crystal, Detroit, MI) for lending of themselves as well.

Several from our congregation enjoyed being part of the work teams that went down to Nashville, TN, with World Relief. We are thankful they are back safely and can attest to the blessings in serving others. May we all remember to look for ways to give of the time and talents the Lord has blessed us with, whether at home or abroad.

Our hearts go out to the people of Japan as they have suffered many material and physical losses through the recent earthquake and tsunamis. As we begin to enjoy the warmer weather and longer days of awakening spring, it is hard to imagine the devastation they face. But we pray that this would bring about a spiritual awakening, and the turning of many hearts toward the One whose "...mercy endureth for ever." (Psalm 106:1)

## INDIANA, LEO

### Kirby Reutter

"While the earth remaineth, seed-time and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease"

*Genesis 8:22*

Here in the midwest, we are so thankful to witness the first glimmering signs of Spring! We are also thankful for this ancient reminder of God's continuity and faithfulness towards His creation.

Here in Indiana, springtime means that the Sunday School students from various congregations will join together for a weekend of Apostolic Christian Youth Fellowship. Here in Leo, springtime means that the Sunday School children will start to diligently prepare for the annual Easter Program.

Here at Gateway Woods, springtime means that our beloved representatives from all over the country will convene on campus to learn more about the mission and ministry of this "work of faith and labor of love" (I Thessalonians 1:3). We are so thankful for the efforts of our dear representatives, and we are equally thankful to be an outreach of the Apostolic Christian Church. At Gateway we fully realize that our greatest efforts would not be sustained for a single day without the divine providence of God, which is so often displayed through the workings of His body. Whether or not you are a representative, we invite you to visit campus anytime to interact with the residents and staff.

For all of us believers around the globe, springtime especially means that we will soon commemorate the death and resurrection of our Savior. What greater reminder of God's faithfulness to His creation?

"For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord

endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you”

*I Peter 1:24-25*

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## INDIANA, MILFORD

**Janie Price  
Paula Haab**

What a blessed weekend on February 19-20 many of us had when we traveled to Bloomfield, IA, to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of Loren and Darcy Schock. We warmly welcome them as Bro. and Sis. in faith and rejoice with their parents, Elder Bro. Doug and Sis. Clara Schock, and Bro. Phil and Sis. Janie Price (Milford). We want to thank the Bloomfield congregation for their hospitality and love shown to us.

There have been an unusual number of our neighbors and friends that have suffered the loss of a mate or other family member recently. Among them was our Bro. John (Sis.) Carol Hurd's brother, Bob. Only God can fill these voids, and may they all feel the Holy Spirit comforting them.

Saturday evening was such a solemn and strengthening time when we broke bread and drank wine together in remembrance of Jesus' broken body and the shedding of His blood for each one of us. Such wondrous love we cannot fathom. Elder Bro. Steve Ringger (Bluffton North) was kind enough to come help our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter with this Communion service. May God bless them and may they feel our love and appreciation. Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily also spent Sunday here. They are always welcome.

With the arrival of warmer weather and longer days, Kathy Pfister is able to worship with us again on Wednesday evening. She has had to take her adult, somewhat disabled son, Ronnie, back into her home. Such dedication she has and many sacrifices she has made for him. She knows it is with God's strength she can do this, but we need to pray for her.

The sun is shining brightly this

morning. Yesterday, I saw my tulips coming up and a blue jay flew by my window. Spring is here, a reminder of God's creation in the changing of the seasons. As we celebrate Easter, let's think of Jesus' cruel death and resurrection to new life for all of us if we do His will.

Tonight we will gather together for our annual benefit auction and meal. It is such a good opportunity to share our abundance and enjoy the fellowship. May God bless our endeavors.

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## INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Jenni Honegger  
Marcella Tyler**

We were blessed to enjoy the fellowship of several of the Fairbury brethren one Sunday for worship and a potluck later that evening. Their church was in the middle of a remodeling project and we were glad to welcome them into our assembly for the day. Bro. Dale (Sis. Sandra) Stoller allowed himself to be used on the pulpit that day and we are thankful for his efforts on our behalf.

Heather Schini recently had outpatient surgery. We pray for the Lord's hand to be upon her during her recovery and look forward to worshipping with her again soon.

We rejoice with two newly engaged couples this month. Bro. Jesse Stoller (Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb) is engaged to Sis. Maura Knobloch (Bro. Stan and Sis. Dawn) from Lester, IA; and Sis. Melanie Bahler (Bro. Mark and Sis. Benita) plans to marry Bro. Ryan Schock (Bro. Dale and Sis. Teresa) of Bloomfield, IA. We are thankful that the Lord still reveals Himself to us through His Spirit and we pray that these dear young couples can grow in their love for each other during this very special time of life.

Joe (Betty) Vaughan's brother, Larry Vaughan from Fowler, IN, passed away suddenly, and we pray that the family can find comfort in the Lord for their sorrow. Sis. Lois Bahler (Bro. Edwin) recently lost her sister, Carolyn Bahler (Ray) from Fort

Wayne, IN. Carolyn's husband Ray is also a brother to Bro. Edwin and Bro. Walt (Sis. Esther) Bahler. Our thoughts and prayers go out to each of the families during this difficult time.

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## INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**Natalie Virkler**

“Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?”

Behold the fowls of the air: for they do sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit to his stature?

And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:

And yet I say unto you, that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

Wherefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.”

*Matthew 6:25-34*

On March 9, Diana Schlatter (Bro. Otto and Sis. DeAnn) had corrective

surgery on her knees. The surgery went well and Diana was able to come home from the hospital a few days after the surgery. She has a lower body cast on for the next 6 weeks or so. We are praying for grace and patience for their family, as they face the challenges ahead!

Bro. Marty Langhofer recently returned from a three week trip to Taiwan. We're thankful for safe travels and a blessed trip.

Bro. Scott and Sis. Gigi Schafer have the blessing of a new grandson! Willem Ellis was born Bro. Luke and Sis. Andria Schafer (Indianapolis, IN) on March 14.

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## INDIANA, VALPARAISO

### Marguerite Hoerr

It's human nature to like kind words and compliments. Often we don't feel deserving of them, but we like to hear them nevertheless. Recently in our daily devotions we read how Corrie ten Boom handled compliments. Corrie was a Dutch Holocaust survivor, who harbored many refugees from the Nazi S.S. She wrote a book, "The Hiding Place" about her experiences. We read in these Guideposts devotions that she received many compliments in her life concerning her good deeds, after it became known to the world all the kind things that she did. She said when she received these complimentary words, she poured them at the feet of Jesus as a sweet incense, when she entreated Him in prayer. What a beautiful thought and what a wonderful way to give her Lord all the credit for her deeds. Proverbs 16:24 tells us that "pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the bones."

Bro. Gene Lehman (Sis. Verna), retired recently from the Wolcott ministry, assisted Bro. Mike Thomas on the pulpit one Sunday in this past month. It's a true blessing when a retired ministering brother is willing to assist and share his years of experiences with us. Bro. Gene has been very active with the European churches and their needs. He told of ways they have been helped by

our churches in America, both agriculturally and with necessities. We know his knowledge will continue to be used in the World Relief effort. We thank them and we thank Sis. Gwen Bucher, who invited them to come.

Our ministering Bro. Garry Bucher had arthroscopic knee surgery and we're glad to say that he's recuperating successfully. Bro. Garry is always a caretaker of our congregation and we easily offer prayers on his behalf.

Our friend Joyce Ames is improving at her home, which is good news to us. She's lovingly cared for by her husband, Bro. Tim. Mindy, their daughter, visited us today and reported that her Mom is able to be up and about part of the time again. She had been helping her father during the time Joyce was hospitalized and abed at home. Joyce and her family have been in our prayers.

I called Sherry Meiss (Dale) this morning and she told me she's scheduled for surgery on April 14 to correct an injury she received in an auto accident. Sherry has had a series of health problems recently, including a fall on the ice; and is trying valiantly, with God's help, to recover from the various skin surgeries and from this fall, so she will be in sound health for the upcoming surgery. We hope she can feel prayers that are being offered for her.

Daffodils and crocus are peeking through the soil as we anticipate spring in the Midwest. These are signs that tell us our brothers and sisters who vacationed in the South and Southwest will soon be returning to their Indiana homes. We'll be happy to see them.

For those of you who might be traveling to this area, remember we are just 1 ¾ miles South of U. S. 30 on State Rd. 49. You will find a welcome here.

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## INDIANA WEST LAFAYETTE

### Beth Tonner Katie Widmer

Congratulations to Bro. Rustin and Sis. Amanda Meister on the birth of

their daughter, Moriah Cruz, on February 24. She will be a special blessing to her brothers, Micah, Clay, and Joshua.

Testimonies and baptisms are planned for the weekend of April 30 for Kurt Bahler (Bro. Ed and Sis. Annette) and Jaimi Oppermann.

We welcome Bro. Grant Heinold who has moved from Morton to our West Lafayette congregation.

Best wishes to Bro. Luke Furrer (Bro. Brian and Sis. Lorene) on his engagement to Sis. Danielle Wuethrich (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Kathy, Francesville).

Thank you to the visiting brothers who have served on the pulpit over the past month.

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## INDIANA, WOLCOTT

### Donita Edelman Sasha Kyburz

This month we have been blessed with the teachings of our visiting ministering Bro. David Hartter (Sis. Beth, Sabetha, KS). May God richly bless Bro. David for being willing to be used in His service to us.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to Bro. Richard and Sis. Viola Stoller and their family in the passing of Sis. Viola's sister-in-law, Carolyn Bahler, and then one week later her brother, Bro. Edwin Bahler, from Remington. We don't always understand the timing of when God calls our loved ones home, but we know it is all in His good will. May you feel the comfort and prayers of our church family.

There are three families in Wolcott celebrating the birth of grandchildren! Bro. Dave and Sis. Merri Schieler are excited about the birth of Kara Michelle Schieler. Kara's parents are Alex and Lisa. Chris and Sis. Teresa Bahler and Bro. Mark and Sis. Shari Schwab are the excited grandparents of Ivy Reese Bahler. Ivy is the daughter of Eric and Marissa Bahler from Champaign, IL. Our wish for these two little girls is that they will be raised in the fear and admonition of the Lord. May

God bless these families.

Easter is upon us and we want to each one remember the pain and suffering our Lord Jesus endured for our sake. He paid the ultimate price for us to have the hope of eternal salvation. Let us each one evaluate our lives and make sure we are living a life pleasing to our Lord and Savior so we may enter heaven's gates when our life on earth is over.

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**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. Kent Getz (Sis. Betty, Elgin, IA) and Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove, IA). May God richly bless them for their labors.

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

Take my love, my God, I pour;  
At Thy feet its treasure store;  
Take myself and I will be  
Ever only all for Thee,  
Ever only, all for Thee.

*Tabernacle Hymns #21*

With much joy and thankfulness we listened to the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of our new Bro. Loren and Sis. Darcy Schock. Rejoicing parents are Elder Bro. Doug and Sis. Clara Schock and Bro. Phil and Sis. Jane Price (Milford, IN). Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction) was here to help Bro. Doug. We had many visiting ministers here with us for the weekend: Bro. Dan Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford), Bro. Daron Price (Sis. Monica, Milford), Bro. Jeff Bahler (Sis. Heidi, Wolcott), and Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove).

On Sunday, March 6, many from our congregation traveled to Eureka, IL, to witness the marriage of Bro. Craig Dotterer (Bro. Joe and Sis. Rose) to Sis. Angela Martin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Marilyn, Eureka). We welcome Sis.

Angela to Bloomfield and hope she feels welcome and at home in our Bloomfield congregation.

The engagement of Bro. Ryan Schock (Bro. Dale and Sis. Teresa) to Sis. Melanie Bahler from Remington (Bro. Mark and Sis. Bonita) was announced. We rejoice with Bro. Ryan and Sis. Melanie. May they feel the Lord's direction as they make plans for their future together.

Bro. Loren and Sis. Darcy Schock have moved to Goodfield, IL. We wish them the Lord's blessings and look forward to their frequent visits to Bloomfield. Sis. Emily Bahler has completed her time out here attending college. She moved back to Wolcott to finish her clinical. We are thankful for our time getting to know her and wish her the Lord's blessings in her future endeavors.

We rejoice with Nathan and Caleb Wettstein (Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Carol) and Steven Schock (Elder Bro. Doug and Sis. Clara) as they have found peace with God and man. Our prayers continue with them.

Ring the Bells of Heaven there is Joy  
today  
for a soul returning from the wild;  
See the Father meets him out upon  
the way,  
Welcoming His weary wandering  
child.  
*Tabernacle Hymns #202*

Rachel Dotterer (Bro. Joe and Sis. Rose) has turned her life to the Lord in repentance. We rejoice with her and pray for her.

Our annual business meeting was in February. Many offices were filled with willing humble Brothers and Sisters. We are thankful for all the ones that completed their terms and our prayers will be with the ones beginning.

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

We were thankful to have minister-

ing Bro. Dale Frank (Oakville) and his family among our visitors this past month. We appreciate his willingness to share the Word with us. May the Lord bless him for his service.

With trustful heart from earth to  
heaven  
I look, oh, Lord, with longing trend,  
Where bonds and fetters shall be  
riven,  
Where Thou before us didst ascend;  
A place above for us preparing  
Where with the spotless angel band  
Eternal bliss and rapture sharing  
We shall possess fore'er that heav'nly  
land!

*Hymns of Zion #240, vs. 2*

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**IOWA, ELGIN**  
**Maria Rocke**  
**Brianna Strahm**

We thank the many visitors who came to be with us this month. What a blessed heritage we've been given to be able to travel across the miles and worship together.

True love doth fellowship desire,  
It seeks a faithful brother-heart;  
True solace here we can acquire,  
Where hand in hand and heart in  
heart  
In mutual harmony are bound.  
And Christ's love has a dwelling  
found.

*Zion's Harp #76*

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**IOWA, GARDEN GROVE**  
**Laura Funk**

Greetings of love!

Serving our congregation from the pulpit this past month were Bro. Edwin Strahm (Bern, KS), Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO) and Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA). Our congregation received many timely teachings and warnings as Bro. Randy and Bro. Doug read the Memorandum and expounded on its content. We are thankful these Brothers are willing to give of their time and talents.

We spent a Saturday house cleaning God's physical house. Are our spiritual

houses as clean as our church house?

We are looking forward to remembering Jesus' death on the cross and rising from the grave to sit by the Heavenly Father's side to intercede for us.

Have you read the story of the Cross,  
Where Jesus bled and died;  
Where your debt was paid by His precious blood  
That flowed from His wounded side?  
Have you read how they placed the crown of thorns  
Upon His brow for you,  
When He prayed, "Forgive them, oh,  
Forgive;  
They know not what they do?"  
Have you read how He saved the dying thief,  
When hanging on the tree,  
When he looked with pleading eyes  
and said,  
"Dear Lord, remember Me?"  
Have you read that He looked to Heav'n and said,  
"'Tis finished", 'Twas for thee!  
Have you ever said, "I thank Thee,  
Lord,  
For giving Thy life for me"?  
He died of a broken heart for thee,  
He died of a broken heart;  
Oh, wondrous love! it was for thee  
He died of a broken heart.

*Gospel Hymns #816*

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### IOWA, IOWA CITY Diana Butikofer

We were blessed to hear the Memorandum Letter read to us recently by Elder Bro. Steve Martin (Sis. Vicki, Eureka, IL) and Bro. Joe Gerst. We thank these brothers for their thoughts and appreciate Bro. Steve's preaching on Sunday as well. May the Lord bless their efforts and our responses to His guidance!

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### IOWA, LESTER Polly Metzger Gloria Moser

A precious baby son, Micah Dean, was born on March 3 to Bro. Thadd and Sis. Wendy Knoblock. Adam, Ad-

rienne, Matthias and Mitchell are excited for a little brother and Bro. Howard and Sis. Lolly Mogler and Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet Knoblock are the loving grandparents. May God be near this family as they raise their dear children.

On March 26 and 27 our congregation was privileged to hear the reading of the Memorandum. May we heed the kind warnings and admonitions that have been sounded by our watchmen. We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) here to assist our Elder Bro. Rod Bajema in this work. Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL) was here to share the gospel on March 6. May God bless these dear brothers for their labors on our behalf.

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you."

*St. John 14:27*

Josie Knobloch (Bro. Dan and Sis. Jeanie) and Alyssa Messner (Bro. Doug and Sis. Suzette, Minneapolis, MN) have found that precious peace that comes only from our God, our Heavenly Father. May God continue to grant them the strength and grace to live an overcoming life.

It seems that our congregation has had several of our church family facing serious physical afflictions. How thankful we are that we can commit them to the Great Physician who can heal all our diseases and provide relief. Loved ones that have required hospitalization include: Bro. Ezra Knobloch (Sis. Marie), Sis. Becky Wulf (Bro. Dale), Sis. Emma Knobloch and Perry Mogler (Jessica).

The engagement of Sis. Maura Knobloch (Bro. Stan and Sis. Dawn) to Bro. Jesse Stoller (Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb) of Remington, IN, was announced on February 27. May God be near them as they make plans for their June wedding.

On March 12, Kelli Bajema (Elder Bro. Rod and Sis. Twyla) was united in marriage to Bryce Kolander. We wish

them many joys and blessings.

God calling yet! Shall I not hear?  
Earth pleasures shall I still hold dear?  
Shall life's swift passing years all fly,  
And still my soul in slumber lie?

God calling yet! I cannot stay:  
My heart I yield without delay:  
Vain world farewell, from thee I part:  
the voice of God has reached my heart.

*Gospel Hymns #375*

We are rejoicing that Cari Moser (Bro. Rick and Sis. Lori) and Perry Mogler (Jessica) have listened to the voice of God and have answered the call to repentance. May God be nigh unto them and grant them the needed grace to build their life on Jesus Christ and to overcome the world.

Faithfulness will never venture;  
Of this world it is aware.  
If your treasure is in Heaven,  
Then your heart is also there.

*Zion's Harp #47*

This verse of "Strive Aright" was sung at the funeral service for our Bro. Paul Leuthold who passed into eternity on March 6 at the age of 87 years. We are thankful for the memories of his steadfast example and we extend our sympathy to his dear family:

Bro. Larry Leuthold (Sis. Mardi), Bro. Bob Leuthold (Sis. Cindy), Sis. Diane Stickling (Bro. Dale, Goodfield, IL), Sis. Becky Wulf (Bro. Dale) and Sis. Bev Mogler (Bro. Brian). May God be a source of comfort.

On March 10, Josephine Feucht passed away at the age of 89 years. We extend our sympathy to her sons, Duane, Doug, Mike and Lowell Feucht, sister-in-law, Sis. Martha Feucht, and brother-in-law, Bro. Phil and Sis. Donna Mogler.

*Note of Thanks:*

I want to thank all of you who thought of me during my hospital stay and my return home. How uplifting it is to know loved ones are praying for you, caring for you and thinking of you.



May God bless each and every one of you.

*Sis. Carol Cordrey*

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

We were blessed to have visiting ministering Bro. Phil Schulz (Burlington, IA) with us on February 27. May God bless him for being willing to be used in His service.

A double blessing was given to Bro. Randy and Sis. Shayla Steiner as twin girls were born to them on March 11. Brynlee Jo and Lauren Kay were welcomed home by big sisters, Larae and Paige, and grandparents, Bro. Tom and Sis. JoAnn Steiner and Sis. Teresa Marti.

The Memorandum was shared to us by our Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall on March 12. May we adhere to our shepherds' exhortations and encouragement.

We hosted an invite-a-guest weekend on March 13 and among many visitors were two ministers, Bro. Jeff Bahler (Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Scott Wegman (Taylor, MO). We appreciated their service and welcomed all in our fellowship.

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

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me..." (Psalm 23) was read at the funeral of our dear Bro. Archie Banwart on February 21. Baptized on his 80th birthday, declining health didn't allow him the ability to pray aloud, therefore, Psalm 23 was very special to Bro. Archie for all his converted years. Cherishing his memory are four sisters, Sis. Berniece Banwart, Sis. Betty Wirtz, Sis. Phyllis (Bro. Elmer) Strahm (Sabetha, KS), and Sis. Caroline Banwart (Peoria, IL); two brothers, Frank Banwart (Lake Mills, IA) and Les Banwart (Dayton, OH); and three sisters-in-law, Sis.

Phyllis Banwart, Sis. Marilyn Banwart and Becky Banwart.

With joy and thanksgiving the West Bend church welcomed two new lambs into the fold. On March 6, Aubrey Fehr (Bro. Lee and Sis. Alicia) and Emma Fehr (Bro. Cory and Sis. Jennifer) shared their testimonies and were baptized. We appreciated having Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Sis. Karol, Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Nathan Walder (Sis. Denise, Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Lenard Meyer (Sis. Charlotte, Chicago, IL) here to rejoice with us.

On March 13, Bro. Dale Stoller (Sis. Sandra, Fairbury, IL), Bro. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Floyd Frieden (Sis. Jan, Elgin, IA) were present to break the Word of Life with our congregation, and for that we are thankful. May each minister of the Gospel feel God's blessings for their service in the Lord.

David Schneider and Sis. Marilyn Banwart both spent time in the hospital for surgical procedures and are recuperating well and are experiencing the miracle of healing.

It seems the miracle of birth never grows old! Our hearts rejoice as we see love and adoration shining in the eyes of siblings, Noah, Claire, and Ellie Gerber at the birth of their brother, Austin Carl, on March 12. Parents of this precious bundle are Bro. Carl and Sis. Sara Gerber and grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Diane Gerber and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gail Massner.

The Easter season is quickly approaching. As we ponder the crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, may we have a greater remembrance that we are not of this world and may our submission to the Word of God grow stronger.

We give Thee thanks, O Lamb of God,  
That on the cross beam Thou hast  
bought  
For us salvation, peace and grace  
With Thee in Heaven's resting place!  
We give Thee thanks!

We now rejoice, Lord Jesus Christ,

That Thou from death and grave didst rise.

Thou livest now, oh Lord, and we  
Hope Thou wilt take us unto Thee.  
We now rejoice!

Draw us to Thee, exalted One!  
Extend Thy hand from Heaven's  
throne,  
That we may follow faithful, true,  
In trials and afflictions, too;  
Draw us to Thee!

*Zion's Harp #199, vs. 2,3,5*

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### **JAPAN, SHIODA** **Carrie Ito**

We are thankful to report that all of our church members and friends were unhurt by the recent earthquake and tsunami. Our church buildings are also intact. Our hearts grieve, though, for the many people whose family and friends perished in this disaster. We pray and plead with you all to continue to pray for these people that they can turn to the Lord in this time — oh, for revival in this land! Several from our congregations are involved in helping the refugees. Please pray that God will bless the labors of their hands.

We appreciated a short visit from Elder Bro. Mark Bahr. May God richly bless him for his labors in our land.

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### **JAPAN, TOYKO** **Jana Klaus**

Most who are reading this have probably heard of the very strong earthquake and following huge tsunami that hit northeast Japan on March 11th. The earthquake was centered off the coast of Miyagi prefecture, about 200 miles northeast of Tokyo. Even in Tokyo, the strength of the quake was the strongest that most people living at this time remember experiencing. The tsunami that followed was so huge, it devastated towns and farmland more than anyone has ever seen before. It is feared that 20,000 or more lives were lost.

Thousands of survivors are without homes and are living in shelters, like

school gyms. Aftershocks still continue two weeks later. On top of all this, in the neighboring prefecture of Fukushima, just south of Miyagi, a nuclear reactor plant along the coast was badly damaged. Even though many seawalls were built around it for protection, they were nothing against the raging power of the tsunami waters. It is still a daily battle to fight off the leaking of radiation, and thousands have been evacuated around the plant, adding to those who are living in shelters.

Our thoughts have often gone to the Haitian people who went through devastation, loss, and fear just like this a little over a year ago. Our human minds cannot comprehend it all, but one thing is common to all of us—we want to help our fellow man. Prayers, supplies, financial donations, workers etc have all poured in from around the world on behalf of the Japanese people and we thank God. Our greatest prayer, and we ask you to pray with us, is that the Lord would open the eyes and hearts of these precious people, from those in government leadership to those whose homes have been washed away, to understand and know Him as their Creator God and loving Savior Jesus Christ. He is there to give them HOPE and SECURITY and LOVE. With God's help, Bro. Andrew Klaus was able to get up to the devastated area less than a week after the quake, and met a man who was trying to live on the second story of his washed out home. (It was his mother's home, and she was one of the blessed ones who didn't lose her whole home, plus escaped to higher ground.) When Andrew asked if he needed anything like food or water, his reply was "I just need LOVE." Pray for the many churches who will be reaching out with the LOVE of Jesus in the months and years to come as people deal with the astounding amount of clean up and rebuilding and especially the deep emotional aspect of it all. Thank you for your love and support!

Our dear Sis. Shizuko Urushino continues to decline in health and remain hospitalized in a facility for the el-

derly in Yokohama. A rotation has been set up so that she gets a visit weekly or almost weekly by one of the church people. It is our prayer that the Lord would be near to her heart every moment of the day. Her kind husband, who has been by her side daily, came down with pneumonia and is now hospitalized (at a different hospital) which has been difficult on both of them. We are thankful that he is improving little by little though and have high hopes that he will be back by her side before too long.

Our dear Sis. Yoshiko Sakuta, who is suffering from advanced Parkinson's, was able to come to church for a little in the afternoon, with her husband driving her, the second Sunday after the earthquake. She hadn't been in church for around 9 months and was so very happy to be there again and felt strengthened in body and spirit. It is our prayer that she can come again sometime before too long.

Psalm 46 has brought us comfort in the last two weeks and seems so fitting at this time. I have included verses 1-5, 10 and 11.

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah. There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early. Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah."

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

"Let brotherly love continue."  
*Hebrews 13:1*

Our congregation enjoyed everyone who was able to come to our invited guest weekend in March. We offer a special thank you to Bro. Jeff Fisher (Sis. Gloria, Fort Scott, KS) for ministering God's Holy Word to us that weekend!

Our church is now sparkling since we had a church cleaning. The trustees appreciated the help of those able to come!

Bro. Dan and Sis. Tami Coughlin are happy to welcome Zoe Esperanza into their family. Bro. Paul and Sis. Joan Kaeb are her grandparents here in Bern, while paternal grandparents are Mike and Sally Coughlin of Livonia, MI.

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

"I was glad when they said, Let us go into the House of the Lord." After a winter of snow, cold, and sickness, it has been good to assemble with God's people. The fellowship of the brethren is a valuable asset in our faith.

Our only visiting minister this month was Bro. Bradley Strahm (Sis. Michelle, Bern, KS). We look forward to visiting ministers each month. We appreciate their efforts and time when they come to fellowship with us.

We have two upcoming marriages in May. Sis. Andrea Banwart (Bro. Gene and Sis. Linda) will marry Bro. Richard Hany of Rockville on May 8. Richard is the son of Bro. Dick and Sis. Betsy Hany.

On May 28, David Sinn and Jennifer Leek, both of Fort Scott, will exchange wedding vows. David is the son of John and Sis. Carol Sinn. Jennifer is the daughter of Jay and Julie Leek. We extend our best wishes to these young couples. May God richly bless them as they begin their new lives together.

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**KANSAS, KIOWA**  
**Janice Bahr**  
**Jenny Stewart**

In earth's anguish, here I will not  
 murmur,  
 Neither seek nor crave a crown of  
 honor,  
 When my Lord a crown of thorns did  
 wear.  
 Will not seek the flow'ry path of roses,

When our Holy Lord and Saviour, Je-  
 sus,  
 There on Calvary the cross did bear.  
 Yea, upon this earth I am a stranger,  
 Burdened with a cross and many dan-  
 gers,  
 Am a pilgrim, poor and unbeknown.  
 Be the cross my pilgrim journey's to-  
 ken  
 Till my earthly house at last be bro-  
 ken,  
 And I reach that dear and heav'nly  
 home.  
*Zion's Harp #90*

As we are looking forward to Com-  
 munion in the near future to remind us  
 of the life and cruel death of our pre-  
 cious Lord and Saviour, may this beau-  
 tiful song remind us of the fact that this  
 world was not Jesus' home, and neither  
 is it ours. We are here to walk with our  
 Lord and God, and to keep our hearts  
 open to the Holy Spirit's direction that  
 others may see Christ in us until our  
 God deems it time to take us Home.  
 Sometimes we get so wrapped up in our  
 lives here on earth, that we forget what  
 Jesus died for and where our trust  
 should be.

We have recently been listening to  
 the tapes of the Conference, and we give  
 thanks to our God for the Elders and  
 ministers of the truth who work so hard  
 to keep this precious Faith together,  
 and strive for our sake to keep us  
 watching and praying so we are not  
 sleeping when Christ returns to take us  
 Home. It is not an easy task, as Satan is  
 the great deceiver and makes evil look  
 good. God bless each one for this great  
 labor of love.

A big "thank you" to the group from

the Denver church who gave of their  
 time, to spend a weekend with us re-  
 cently. Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Sis.  
 Deb, Denver) lent himself on the Lord's  
 Day to share the Gospel and we were  
 grateful for the truths he shared, plus  
 the beautiful singing and fellowship of  
 the group. Anyone who comes to Kiowa  
 has a long drive both ways, so we truly  
 appreciate their effort on our behalf.

God bless all the people who help  
 with keeping things going at the  
 church: the recent working on the  
 lights, the lawn mowing, the rest home  
 services, Bible studies and singings,  
 and Sunday serving. It takes everyone  
 to keep a church going and we appreci-  
 ate all the effort!

To Sis. Darcy Kisling and family at  
 the passing of her sister, and to Sis. Mil-  
 dred Frieden and family at the passing  
 of her niece, we extend our deepest love  
 and sympathy. Although they are for-  
 ever with the Lord, they will be greatly  
 missed by those who knew and loved  
 them.

Always remember Psalm 46:1, "God  
 is our refuge and strength, a very pres-  
 ent help in trouble."

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**KANSAS**  
**LAMONT-GRIDLEY**  
**Sarah Somerhalder**

We were glad and thankful that we  
 could partake of Holy Communion on  
 March 5 and to remember our dear  
 Lord's death. We thank Elder Bro.  
 Duane Farney (Sis. Karen, Croghan-  
 Naumburg) for spending the weekend  
 with us. May the Lord bless him for his  
 labors on our behalf.

Also, we appreciate ministering  
 Bro. Beirne Messner (Sis. Joyce, Mor-  
 ris, MN) visiting our congregation one  
 Wednesday evening and bringing forth  
 the truth of the Gospel.

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**KANSAS, SABETHA**  
**Carrie Grimm**  
**Sally Strahm**

We lay the body in its tomb

Until the Lord's voice bids him  
 "Come".

We sow the seed to rise anew,  
 And glorified, his God to view.

The righteous soul with God doth live,  
 Who hath redeemed him from his  
 grief,  
 From all his sin and all his woe,  
 Thru Jesus Christ, who loved him so.

Oh Jesus Christ, Thy bitter death  
 Shall strengthen us in our last breath!  
 Our soul, Lord, we commit to Thee,  
 And joyful may our ending be!  
*Zion's Harp #248, vs. 1, 3, & 7*

We extend our sympathy to dear  
 ones in our congregation who have lost  
 loved ones. Sis. Phyllis Strahm (Bro.  
 Elmer) said farewell to her brother,  
 Bro. Archie Banwart, of the West Bend,  
 IA, congregation. Sis. Marge Edelman  
 said farewell to her brother, Bro. Don-  
 ald Steidinger (Sis. Alice), of the  
 Fairbury, IL congregation. May God  
 give strength and courage to each one  
 in the days ahead.

It is always a blessing to fellowship  
 with those across the miles. Our con-  
 gregation hosted an invite-a-couple the  
 weekend of March 12-13.

Our hospital patients this month  
 were Isaac Edelman (Bro. Darin and  
 Sis. Karen) and Sis. Marian  
 Kellenberger. We are thankful God is  
 giving them healing and strength as  
 they recover.

We rejoice that Loren Grimm (Bro.  
 Kevin and Sis. Nita) has found peace  
 with God and man and is awaiting bap-  
 tism.

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**KANSAS, WICHITA**  
**Emma Miller**

Elder Bro. Jay and Sis. Jane Luthi  
 and their three young daughters spent  
 Sunday, March 13, with us in Wichita.  
 They are so good to call me and offer to  
 stop and take me to church with them.  
 Not only does it make it convenient for  
 me, but it gives me an opportunity to  
 get to know the three young ladies who  
 make up the family. The Lord has

placed a dedicated set of parents over the children as they adapt to the changes in their lives.

Several Sundays ago we were singing a song in the Zion's Harp which used the word "asperse". Neither my daughter nor I understood what the word meant. I began to search for it in the dictionary. It's first meaning is a verb meaning "to censure harshly and falsely" and the second meaning was "to besprinkle or bespatter". From there I went to the internet and found more information. Now, my trouble is that I cannot find the song we were singing. We know it is not in the second half of the hymnal and that it was near the beginning of the first verse. If any of you know the song I am searching for, I would appreciate your help. My address is 320 S. Taylor, El Dorado, KS 67042.

Our prayer concerns for the sick continue to include Bro. Phil Bowers, his mother Sis. Lillian, Steve Langhofer, Bro. Howard Warner and Dwayne Reeves. It is a comfort to see them continue to trust in God's promises.

Bro. Glen and Sis. Sally Funk are blessed with another grandson, bringing the total to eight boys and one girl. Henry was born to Patrick and Joanne Funk in early March. We are all looking forward to seeing the little newcomer.

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**KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON**  
**Barb Huber**

"How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! How great is the sum of them!"

*Psalm 139:17*

How inspiring it is to sit under the teaching of God's Holy Word! We have been fed on green pastures and led by still waters with our dear Shepherd the Lord Jesus Christ, as Bros. Arlen Leman (Sis. Denise, Forrest, IL), Tony Manz (Sis. Denise, Junction, OH), Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL), and Lenny Meyer (Sis. Charlotte,

Chicago, IL) ministered to our small assembly each Lord's day. We were especially privileged to have Bro. Willis Ehle and his wife, Sis. Lois, former missionaries from Shioda, Japan, spend a Wednesday evening service with us recently. It was a joy to share and fellowship around the Word again and about things that are of eternal value. We dearly appreciate having dedicated Brothers who are willing to come and labor in the Lord's service. May the Lord bless each of you richly is our prayer.

Other visitors who blessed our fellowship and provided spiritual encouragement were represented from the following churches: Bradford, IL; Bluffton, IN; Columbus and Rittman, OH.

We extend a warm and hearty welcome to all who may be in our area or travelling through to worship with us. You may contact Bro. Lester Huber (859) 745-2541.

Church services are held at 3938 Becknerville Rd., Winchester, KY. Directions to the church are in the 2010 minister's book.

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**MEXICO, IXTLAN**  
**Matt Gerber**

"I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting."

*I Timothy 2:8*

God has given men a special calling to lead and serve in their families and in the church. Yet any man will testify that this is far from easy. Many men struggle alone, afraid to open themselves up and admit their need for help. Despite outward appearances of strength and having it all together in public, many men struggle with insecurity, fear, discouragement, anger, besetting sins, and fierce temptations. Satan loves to isolate us in our self-sufficiency and independence. The last thing he wants is for a man to share his soul with other men, to pray together,

to confess sin and seek accountability, to build close friendships of trust and honesty. But these are the very things that God calls us to.

The men in the Ixtlan church had an opportunity to do this when Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Denver) visited this month. All were invited to come together for a time of teaching and sharing. There were so many comments shared that another meeting was set up the following evening, and even then the conversation lasted late into the night. We talked about the need for fellowship among ourselves, and the barriers that can hinder trust between us. It had been a long time (perhaps the first time for some) since we had communicated spiritually at this level as men. We hope that this can be the start of growing closer to God together, and building love and trust among ourselves. Maybe God would even lead the brothers in your congregation to do something similar. Being a man shouldn't have to mean being alone.

We were blessed this month by visits from family members of the missionaries. The day they arrived, Bro. Samuel and his wife, Sis. Maria, invited everyone from church over to have an authentic Mexican style cookout in the field. It was a very enjoyable time to relax, be together, and fellowship.

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**MEXICO, MAGDALENA**  
**Jarrin Rabe**

Efesios 6:12 "Porque no tenemos lucha contra sangre y carne, sino contra principados, contra potestades, contra los gobernadores de las tinieblas de este siglo, contra huestes espirituales de maldad en las regiones celestes."

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

*Ephesians 6:12*

The enemy is ever present and powerful. I don't think anyone can deny that. Most of our kids here have come from backgrounds and generations of non-Christian homes. They come from places where most of us can't even begin to imagine. And Satan uses that to tie them into sin and bondage that goes beyond what our eyes can see – he goes to their hearts and ruins them with lies and torments their very souls. BUT, we serve a God who can use that exact same background and those exact same things that Satan intended to destroy us with, for good. He says in Romans 8:28 “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose” and we believe that with all our hearts.

Every day, everyone across the face of this world is confronted with the lies of Satan and his evil tactics. Recently, we've seen him in a whole new way. We are asking that the church please continue to pray and fast for us in Magdalena as we are battling an enemy who is no amateur. He has woven his fingers tightly into the hearts of our children, but by God's grace and provision, they will be free! In Mark 9:29 we are reminded that “this kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.” As we work with these children, please pray that God's truth would be proclaimed, that their hearts and minds would believe it, and that they would have a desire for God over Satan.

March brought us a large work team from ISU, who in turn lifted up a lot of prayer and praise to God. All of the staff are grateful for all the evenings of worship and singings we were able to spend together. Also, Lord willing, at the end of March we will be hosting 2 more work teams: the seniors from Bluffton and the Bible class from Tremont.

In the last three weeks we have had four new children added to our family putting our total up to 31 kids who live at CVE! Please be prayerful for the children as they adjust to their new “homes” as well as for the mentors who

are caring for the children. We are also excited to welcome Bro. Zach Knobloch from Peoria, IL to Magdalena! Bro. Zach will be working as a house assistant to Bro. Joel and Sis. Kristi Leman. Please pray for Bro. Zach as he adjusts and settles into his new “home” as well.

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

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

*Matthew 18:20*

It was wonderful for our church to have so many visitors for our Alto invite weekend of March 4-6. It was full of fellowship and team work as we all gathered for singing, food packing, and fellowship.

“Thou, straggler into loving arms, young climber up of knees, when I forget thy thousand ways, then life and all shall cease.”

*(Mary Lamb)*

Bro. Jake and Sis. Meika Gerst were blessed with the safe arrival of their second son, Leo Wallace, born February 22.

Heaven  
 There'll be no parting in heaven,  
 For time and space count no more;  
 God's love will there reunite us;  
 With dear ones who've gone before.

*Heavenly Highway Hymns*

Our prayers and love extend to our dear Sis. Darlene Goodwin with the passing of her husband Rick. He will be missed by many family and friends left behind. Our time on earth is short and saying goodbye aches the heart. Yet God is faithful through all the pain.

*I Know Who Holds Tomorrow*  
 I don't know about tomorrow,

It may bring me poverty;  
 But the One who feeds the sparrows,  
 Is the One who stands by me;  
 And the path that be my portion,  
 May be through the flame or flood;  
 But His presence goes before me,  
 And I'm covered with His blood.  
 Many things about tomorrow,  
 I don't seem to understand;  
 But I know Who holds tomorrow,  
 And I know Who holds my hand.

*Heavenly Highway Hymns*

We rarely understand the full will of God, and with our dear friends, Nick and Emily Blough, we pray for comfort and strength. Their baby Cooper passed away just days after his birth. We also lift their families and grandparents, Bro. Jim and Sis. Julie Blough, up in prayer.

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

We gathered to hear the Memorandum on March 5. We are thankful that Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL) was able to be here and assist Bro. John for the weekend.

We also were blessed to have two visiting ministers on March 13. Bro. Matthew Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville, IL) traveled to Bay City to share about the work that is taking place at the Home for the Handicapped. We are thankful that Bro. Nathan Steffen (Sis. Susan, Alto, MI) traveled with him and that they both shared the Gospel with our congregation. May all of these brothers be blessed for their labor of love.

Sis. Marian Knochel (Bro. Floyd), Sis. Marlene Mosher, and Bro. Dean and Sis. Connie Pashak all spent time in the hospital recently. We trust that God will provide their every need.

Our hearts were saddened to hear of the passing of Ken Mosher (Shirley). His siblings are Sis. Marlene Mosher and Bro. Neil Mosher. We pray that God will be their Comforter and fill their void with love.

The Easter season is here and it causes us to remember the tremendous price that was paid at Calvary. May our lives ever reflect the thanks and appreciation that we owe our Heavenly Father for giving us the gift of salvation.

Alas, and did my Savior bleed?

And did my Sovereign die?

Would He devote that sacred head

For such a worm as I?

Was it for crimes that I had done,

He groaned upon the tree?

Amazing pity! grace unknown!

And love beyond degree!

At the cross, at the cross where I first

saw the light,

And the burden of my heart rolled

away,

It was there by faith I received my

sight,

And now I am happy all the day!

*Gospel Hymns #305*

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## MICHIGAN, DETROIT

**Kay Rauhe  
Manuela Denes**

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

*II Corinthians 5:17*

With the promise of spring in the air, we welcomed two new souls into the fold. Sis. Autumn Gasser (Bro. Randy and Sis. Sue) and Bro. Caleb Ramseyer (Bro. Mark and Sis. Kelly) shared their testimony with us Saturday night and were baptized on Sunday. What a blessing to be able to greet them in the name of Christ! We were also blessed with many visitors that weekend including a number of ministering brothers: Elder Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandy, Alto, MI) was here to assist our Elder Bro. Mark Bahr with testimonies; on Sunday, we were glad to share the Word with Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL), Bro. Greg Stieglitz (Sis. Lisa, Indianapolis, IN), Bro. Steve Stieglitz (Sis. Jane, Leo, IN), Bro. Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, St. Louis, MO),

and Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis, IN). Thank you all so much for being here and spending the weekend with us!

“The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.”

*Psalms 34:18*

So often, things happen that may have us asking the question “why?” We mourn with Sis. Laura Plattner (Bro. Brett) at the news of the passing of her little nephew, Cooper Park Plattner (parents are Nick and Emily Blough of Alto, MI). He lived for such a short time and while his death brings so much sadness, we can only know and be certain that God had a reason for taking Cooper home to be with Him. We also share our sympathies and prayers with Bro. Joel and Sis. Amber Virkler at the passing of Bro. Joel’s grandfather, Bro. Edwin Bahler (Sis. Lois) from Remington, IN. Sis. Kristie Meyer lost her uncle, Don Kipfer, of Bluffton, IN. He leaves behind his wife, Jean. May the Lord comfort and care for their families.

Likewise, we are all saddened and shocked at the devastation that we’re hearing of coming from Japan. We were so blessed to have Elder Bro. Akito Inoue and his wife, Sis. Marie, visiting with us just a few weeks ago. We are so grateful to hear that our brethren and dear friends there are safe. May God keep all the dear people of Japan in His care and may they know that, although we have many miles between us, we are close to them in our thoughts and prayers. I can only be amazed at the power of God when I see the tremendous force of the earthquake and tsunami! “The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.” (Proverbs 18:10). We need to always be prayerful for those brethren and friends who are involved in missionary work around the world and know that God will watch over them.

We are thankful for continued mercies and blessings from God, but we do

need to continue to be prayerful for those who are facing difficult challenges. Our thoughts are with Sis. Barb Johnson as she continues to undergo chemotherapy treatments. Special prayers go out to her and her precious daughter, Kyra.

Congratulations and many happy thoughts go out to Bro. Dan and Sis. Tamra Coughlin at the birth of their daughter, Zoe. We’re sure that her older brother Kaeb is as excited as grandparents, Mike and Sally Coughlin of Livonia, MI, and Bro. Paul and Sis. Joan Kaeb of Bern, KS, must be!

A final special “thank you” to ministering Bro. Nathan Steffen (Alto, MI) for serving at Woodhaven this past March. It was a blessing to have him and his son, Zachary, and niece, Nicole Steffen, with us, too. Please come and visit us again soon!

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## MINNESOTA MINNEAPOLIS

**Tim McMillan**

We began the month in Minneapolis reading from Ezekiel Ch. 21 and Galatians Ch. 1. Ezekiel was called to cry out unto the people of Israel, and Paul was “sent by God to proclaim the Word” (vs. 16). Reminders both that we are called to proclaim God’s Word, both to those who are His people and those who are not, (YET), his people. Let us all glorify Him in word and deed and proclaim His Word to all!

The Lord did not bless us with any visiting ministers this month. We are thankful that there are brothers in our congregation willing to serve and preach His Word unto us.

Two souls were announced as having peace with God and man. Claire Dill (Bro. Dewayne and Sis. LaRae), and Alissa Messner (Bro. Doug and Sis. Sue). We rejoice in this announcement and hope to have a baptism date set soon.

Plans are being set to have a church sponsored home in Rochester to provide lodging while families are visiting the Mayo Clinic. Thank the Lord that

Bro. Mark and Sis. Sandy Stork have found it in their heart to be on site house sitters to keep the property available to those who will be in need. Lord willing, more information will be announced as the project grows.

I owe the Lord a morning song of gratitude and praise, for kind mercy He has shown in lengthening out my days.

*Hymns of Zion #203, vs. 1*

Please make note that the location of the services in Rochester, MN, have changed to 819 15th St. NW, 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.

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**MINNESOTA, MORRIS**  
**Kim Feuchtenberger**  
**Susie Wulf**

We were thankful for visiting ministers this month. Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi and Bro. Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO) were here for the provings and baptisms of Alissa Koehl (Bro. Randy and Sis. Shirley) and Mark Schaefer (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Denise). Also visiting this month was Bro. Joe Dotterer (Bloomfield, IA), Bro. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Oakville, IA). May the Lord be their rich Rewarder as they labor in His vineyard.

On March 6, Meyer Jacob was born to Bro. Kevin and Sis. Kelli Joos. Meyer's sisters are Mallory and Adyson. His grandparents are Bro. Harvey and Sis. Debra Joos and Sis. Sharon Adams (Fairbury, IL). March 12 brought the arrival of Katelyn Marie Wulf. Katelyn's parents are Bro. Byron and Sis. Amy Wulf. Exited siblings are Haley, Hayden and Harlan. Grandparents are Bro. Doug and Sis. Joyce Wulf and Charles and Deb Hacker of Hancock, MN.

Bro. Chris Moser, Sis. Violet Wulf and Haley Wulf have all spent time in the hospital. May God heal and

strengthen as He sees fit.

We rejoice with Lucy Wulf (Bro. Davis and Sis. Nancy) and Tonia Judkins (Bro. David and Sis. June Schmidgall) and as they have begun upon the way of repentance. May we continue to remember our converts in prayer that they may forsake the things of this world and seek upon the straight and narrow way which leads to the heavenly home above.

May grace be with us ever,  
The grace of Christ the Lord.  
May He as here we journey,  
His grace to us afford.  
*Zion's Harp #134*

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**MINNESOTA**  
**MORRIS NORTH**  
**Wanda Gramm**  
**Lois Schmidgall**

Oh Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder,  
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made.  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
Thy power throughout the universe display.  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee,  
How great Thou art!  
How great Thou art!

After a long winter as we are entering the beauty of spring, our heart and mind can't help but burst into song, "How great Thou art"! The tiny blades of green grass, the little flowers poking their heads out, the birds singing so cheerful, and above all, the old, old Easter story being told. Truly we rejoice in the hope of Easter and spring. The true hope of resurrection.

We are so thankful for the ministering Brothers and their families for coming and sharing the Word and giving of themselves for our little church. This month we were blessed to have our Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan, Winthrop), Elder Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL), and Bro. Alan

Schambach (Sis. Sarah, Remington, IN). May God richly bless your labors for the Lord.

Hospitalized this month were Sis. Edna Zeltwanger, Sis. Pearl Moser, Bro. Rueben Luthi. We are thankful that God has restored their health and they are able to assemble with us again. Our congregation extends a warm invitation to those who may be planning ahead for spring or summer vacations, to please join us.

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**MINNESOTA, WINTHROP**  
**Lindsay Schmidt**  
**Heather Steiner**

The Heavens are praising the name of Jehovah!  
His praise through all the world is heard.  
The earth and the ocean resound with His glory  
Ye mortals hear His wondrous Word.  
*Hymns of Zion #49*

Once again we are reminded of the glory and might of God and the world He has created and that we are indeed mortals. We do not always understand the reason for events that happen in our lives, but let us remember that God in all His infinite wisdom, power and love is in control. This entire song really reminds us that God is our mighty sovereign. Our heartfelt thoughts and prayers go out to our brethren and friends in Japan. We pray that God will continue to hold you in the palm of His hands and carry you through this time of difficulty.

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!  
Wounded and weary, Help me, I pray!  
Power- all power- Surely is Thine!  
Touch me and heal me, Savior divine!  
*Hymns of Zion #113*

We also are thankful as Melissa Isaacson (Jerry) has recovered from surgery. We wish her God's continuing healing.

*Note of Thanks:*

I want to thank everyone for their cards, visits, telephone calls, and above all their prayers, which without question accelerated the healing of my injury. May God richly bless each one for your kindness.

*Jerry Messner*

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**MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY**  
**Brittany Fehr**

We appreciated the labors of Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Oakville, IA), Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian, San Diego, CA), and Bro. Galen Rokey (Sis. Nancy, Bern, KS), who were our visiting ministers recently. Bro. Jon visited especially to assist our Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen) in reading the Memorandum; we are thankful for the sound counsel brought to us by the Holy Spirit through these brothers. May God richly bless these ministering brothers for their labors.

We would like to thank those who recently completed their terms in various duties within the church as well as ask God's grace and blessings on behalf of those recently elected. Sis. Allison Meyer replaces Sis. Elizabeth Conzo (now of Bradford, IL) as Sunday School teacher, and Bro. Joe Fehr (Sis. Joan) was elected to replace Bro. Devere Meyer (Sis. Michelle) as trustee. Sis. Kara Snyder (Bro. Greg) and Sis. Joan Fehr (Bro. Joe) have replaced Sis. Tina Fehr and Sis. Anna Donahue on the food committees.

Also, sympathy is extended to Bro. Dana Regier from Princeville, IL, on the recent death of his mother, Patricia, who resided in the Kansas City area.

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**MISSOURI, LAMAR**  
**Venetta Banwart**  
**Rebecca Dotterer**

Bro. Greg and Sis. Wendy Braker are thankful for the safe arrival of Nathan John Braker, born on March 7. Also welcoming him home are his big

brothers, Levi, Isaac, Kyle and Landon. Grandparents of little Nathan are Eugene and Judy Edelman (Bern, KS) and Bob and Sis. Janice Stoller.

We appreciated many visitors this past month, including ministering Bros. Steve Pamer (Akron, OH), Mike Ursu (Kitchener, Ontario), Dale Moore (Elgin, IA) and Merlin Meyer (Lester, IA). May the Lord ever give His Holy Spirit to humble brothers so the Truth can be preached.

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**MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS**  
**Kary Mangers**

We were again thankful for the willingness of ministers to fill the rotation schedule and for those who join them. February's rotation was filled by Bro. Brian and Sis. Wendy Waibel of Campaign. The University of Illinois single group came along for the weekend also and we were blessed by their presence. We were also blessed when Elder Bro. Kent and Sis. Jan Heimer spent a Wednesday evening sharing with us the mid-winter Conference summary and a time of fellowship. The Lord continues to share His love with us in many ways.

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**MISSOURI, TAYLOR**  
**Melissa Reiman**

Easter is not about the Easter eggs  
That are filled with candy, Easter is  
About the egg that when opened is  
empty.

The egg can symbolize the tomb in  
which Jesus  
Was buried and the egg is empty be-  
cause Jesus

Arose again! During this Easter sea-  
son, let us  
Remember that Jesus Christ suffered  
and died

On the cross so that we would not  
have to suffer

For our sin. Then He arose again to  
give us one more

Promise! The promise that He would  
return for us again!

Hallelujah! We rejoice with the angels with a new convert. Diana Wagenbach (Bro. Dave and Sis. Charlene Wagenbach) has turned her heart towards the Lord! We offer all of our support during her repentance and her new walk with the Lord.

We would like to extend our prayers and support to Annalynn Knochel (Bro. Eric and Sis. Penny) as she has recently moved to the Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped. We hope that she will one day return to the Taylor church. Best wishes, Annalynn!

We would like to thank Bro. Ed Sauder (Sis. Bonnie, Roanoke, IL) and Bro. Troy Leyse (Sis. Kelly, Bluffton, IN) for teaching this church during a Wednesday night Bible Study. Bro. Ed taught about spiritual lessons that were learned from mountain climbing. He told about a woman that went climbing with their group but then got fluid in her lungs, forcing the whole group to abort the climb to get her to safety. However, no one complained about aborting the climb and the guides were astonished. The whole group put this woman's life above their own goals and brought her to safety. The mountain would always be there but the woman needed help immediately! What a great way to show the love of Jesus Christ!

We had six hospital patients this month: Sis. Rosie Massner, Sis. Lois Sutter, Sis. Kathy Haab, Kip Massner, Sis. Marge Sutter, and Bro. Arnie Gerst. May God grant them His healing hand.

We had our annual Invite-A-Guest weekend! What a wonderful turnout we had with about 50 guests. The invitees would like to extend their thanks and willingness to the servants that made the weekend so wonderful.

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**NEW YORK**  
**CROGHAN-NAUMBURG**  
**Hope Graves**

We enjoyed the opportunity to get together to assemble school, health and sewing kits for World Relief. The chil-



dren love to help and many were present on Friday evening, February 25. Snack bags were also put together for a local children's home.

On Saturday, March 19, we shared a potluck dinner together, followed by a singing. The next evening we were also able to sing at the hospital for our Sis. Louise Purvines. We enjoyed having sisters with us for the weekend from Forrest, IL.

We are excited to see the arrival of spring! The grass is starting to show through the snow and maple syrup is being produced. How amazing that the Lord can provide so many things for us from the trees that grow. May we always be thankful for the many blessings that surround us every day.

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## OHIO, AKRON

### Erika Gal

"Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."

*Phil. 2:12-13*

We are so thankful for another soul that has surrendered her life to Christ in repentance. We are praying for Bethany Laubli (Bro. Guy and Sis. Ilona) that God will continue to lead and encourage her.

Our congregation was richly blessed and thankful to share in the joy of our two new members, Bro. Brad and Sis. Amanda Gasser. We were glad to hear their provings and witness their baptisms on March 5-6. Their parents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue Gasser (Junction) and Gary and Sis. Susan Murray (Rittman).

We are so thankful for all the ministers who visited us to share the Word of God. We especially want to thank Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction), Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Rittman), Bro. Don Manz, Bro. Tony Manz (both from

Junction), Bro. Vic Bauman and Bro. Ted Luginbuhl (both from Smithville).

We are saddened by the passing of our dear Sis. Esther Grossenbacher. Her gentle presence and smile will be greatly missed by all, especially her dear children and grandchildren.

Our thoughts and prayers are with many in our congregation who have had medical care this past month. We want to remember our Bro. Peter (Sis. Margaret) Zarkovacki, Bro. Carl Graf, Sis. Esther Boleratz, Sis. Alma (Bro. Bob) Graf, little Malachi Rufener (Bro. Jacob and Sis. Beth), Esther (Bob) Emich, and little Gibson Henico (Bro. Greg and Sis. Darla). We trust the Lord will provide for each one and heal according to His will.

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## OHIO, COLUMBUS

### Esther Saurer

As our days of snow are decreasing, our times of sunshine and warmer temperatures are increasing here in Columbus. It was a blessing to have Bro. Kurt and Sis. Elizabeth Walter (Mansfield, OH) to share a weekend with us. We were also thankful to have Bro. Warren and Sis. Cindy Schlatter (Junction, OH) to share another weekend with. Bro. Tim and Sis. Joni Ramsier (Rittman, OH) also shared some time with our congregation. We enjoyed and appreciated all of their labors.

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## OHIO, JUNCTION

### Vicki Boroff

Our congregation was blessed with two new babies recently. Barik Elias was born on March 3 to Sis. Cheree and Bro. Larry Manz. He has several happy siblings at home; grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen Manz, and Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz (Nashville). On March 19, Makenna Ruth was born to Bro. Tim and Sis. Joy Manz. Makenna's grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Sandra Manz, and Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth Stoller (Latty).

Our prayers go to the family of Sis.

Sheila and Bro. Ralph Schlatter's family. Sis. Sheila's mother, Sis. Eldora Steiner, passed away March 18.

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest), help our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter with Communion.

### *Continue On*

A woman once fretted over the usefulness of her life. She feared she was wasting her potential being a devoted wife and mother. She wondered if the time and energy she invested in her husband and children would make a difference.

At times she got discouraged because so much of what she did seemed to go unnoticed and unappreciated. "Is it worth it?" she often wondered. "Is there something better that I could be doing with my time?"

It was during one of these moments of questioning that she heard the still small voice of her Heavenly Father speak to her heart. "You are a wife and mother because that is what I have called you to be. Much of what you do is hidden from the public eye. But I notice. Most of what you give is done without remunerations. But I am your reward.

Your husband cannot be the man I have called him to be without your support. Your influence upon him is greater than you think and more powerful than you will ever know. I bless him through your service and honor him through your love. Your children are precious to Me. Even more precious than they are to you. I have entrusted them to your care to raise for Me. What you invest in them is an offering to Me.

You may never be in the public spotlight. But your obedience shines as a bright light before Me. Continue on. Remember you are My servant. Do all to please Me."

—Roy Lessin

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**OHIO, LATTY**  
**Carmen Eisenmann**  
**Mindy Stoller**

We are rejoicing as Martin Stoller (Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth) has answered God's call to repentance. May he feel our love and prayers as he begins this new walk of life.

Nolan and Calvin Sinn (Bro. Todd and Sis. Janet) have professed peace with God and man. With thankful hearts we continue to lift them up in prayer as they await baptism.

Sis. Andrea Nuest (Bro. Lee and Sis. Paula) and Bro. Lucas Gerber (Bro. Steve and Sis. Gayla, Bluffton North, IN) were united in marriage this past month. We pray God's Spirit will dwell in their home and bless their marriage.

We were blessed with many visiting ministers this past month. Elder Bro. Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra, Bluffton North, IN) ministered to us at the wedding of Sis. Andrea Nuest. Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL), Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI), and Bro. Craig Stickling (Sis. Jacqueline, Peoria, IL) ministered to us this month. We know it is a great sacrifice for these brothers and their wives and thank them for their willingness to serve us.

We enjoyed the Peoria Choir visiting us recently. It was a blessing for the church and we wish to thank them for this. May God be praised!

**OHIO, MANSFIELD**  
**Tami Griffey**

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

*Matthew 5:16*

World Relief Days were held two days in March. With many wonderful helpers, over 14,000 bags of pasta pilaf, 500 health kits for Mexico, 100 infant layettes divided for Haiti and Mexico, and many sewing projects were completed. Hearty thanks to all who made the effort to plan and complete the

work projects. May God's name be glorified as these items are distributed to those in need.

We thank Bro. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda; Winthrop, MN) for visiting and sharing God's Word with our congregation.

**OHIO, RITTMAN**  
**Jenny Rupp**  
**Marge Stoller**

We know that children are a blessing from the Lord and this month we have been abundantly blessed. Quincy James joined the family of Bro. Eric and Sis. Jami Hartzler (Sardis, OH) on February 1. Leah, Grace and Conrad are happy for a little brother. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Dean and Sis. Jan Hartzler and Bro. Gary and Sis. Terry Zollinger (Sardis, OH). First-time parents are Andy and Holly Anschutz, welcoming little Abigail Nicole into their hearts on February 18. Bro. Stan and Sis. Margaret Winkler are happy first-time grandparents. Austyn Noel was born February 24 to Bro. Jon and Sis. Kelly Zollinger. Older brother Peyton is excited for a baby sister. Blessed grandparents are Bro. Tim and Sis. Jonell Ramsier and Bro. Ken and Sis. Becky Zollinger (Smithville, OH). On February 25, Bro. Andrew and Sis. Esther Raifsnider welcomed a new son, Adam Douglas, into their home. Now Brandon will be the older brother. Happy grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon Rupp and Sis. Diana Raifsnider (Doug, dec.). We rejoice with Bro. Dean and Sis. Jan Hartzler as they welcome another grandson, Titus Daniel, born February 28 to Bro. Shane and Sis. Suzanne Hartzler. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Carl and Sis. Carol Steiner. Older sisters are Carla and Esther. All are happy for a little boy. Then on March 2, God blessed Bro. Corban and Sis. Jessica Riggenschach with a new baby girl, Delaney Lynn. Now Hans has become her big brother. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Anita Riggenschach and Bro. Dave and Sis.

Luanna Dotterer (Smithville, OH). Also desiring God's wisdom as they endeavor to raise another child are Bro. Nathan and Sis. Anita Steiner. On March 2, they welcomed little Alex Matthew into their heart and home. Siblings at home are Hannah, Leah, Cecelia, Clay and Laina. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Connie Maletich (Smithville, OH). Paternal grandparents are Bro. Matt and Sis. Gail Steiner. March 6 was the birthday of little Damon Jay who was born to Jason and Dara Winchell. Older sister Ashley is delighted for a little brother. Rejoicing in the arrival of little Damon are grandparents, Bro. Doug and Sis. Dianna Bauman. Our prayer would be that all these precious babies would grow up to love and serve God.

God's work in the hearts of His children is again evident as we heard the engagement of Bro. Nathan Steiner (Bro. Jim and Sis. Sara) to Sis. Lynn Stoller (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Millie, Smithville, OH) on February 20. We are thankful for God's leading in their lives.

"For thou Lord art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee."

*Psalms 86:5*

We are thankful that two dear souls have given their hearts to the Lord in repentance. Jessica Steiner (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Jill) and Anna Hartzler (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Camille) have taken the first step to serve their Lord. We wish them much grace and understanding.

Our hospital patients this month were Sis. Eldora Steiner (Bro. Alvin, dec.), Sis. Marie Bauman (Bro. Ernie, dec.) and Sis. Betty Steiner (Bro. Bob, dec.). May the Lord restore health according to His will.

Several lost loved ones recently. February 27, Bro. Ernie Stetz (Sis. Diane) lost his mother, Evelyn Stetz Prock (87). Clara Hafely (89) passed away March 6. She was a sister-in-law to Doretta Kaufman. Then on March

10, Bro. Sam Gardner (Sis. Joy) learned his grandfather, Major Clark (90), died. Three days later on March 13, Bro. Sam's grandmother, Vera Clark (88), also passed away. Our love and sympathy go to these dear families as they adjust to life without their loved ones.

Many thanks to Bro. Fred Domka (Sis. Connie, Mansfield, OH) for ministering to us on March 6. It was much appreciated.

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### OHIO, SARDIS Faith Beard

True love doth fellowship desire.  
It seeks a faithful brother-heart;  
True solace here we can acquire,  
Where hand in hand and heart in  
heart  
In mutual harmony are bound.  
And Christ's love has a dwelling  
found.

The words of "Brotherly Love" echoed in our mind as we finished singing the hymn and listened to the Memorandum, as read to us by Elder Bro. Merle Hartzler (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH) and our Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle. Many countless, unknown hours have been spent in prayer and concern for the eternity of our souls, certainly by our Elders, but also by many other Godly people. How needful brotherly love is.

Thanks also to Bro. Merle for serving us during Sunday worship service the next day. Later in the month we were again blessed with a visiting minister by Bro. Don Steidl (Sis. Nan, Akron, OH). Preaching the Word to the congregation is truly a labor of love.

True love by God has been selected,  
Where it is found, there dwelleth He;  
In all who are with God connected  
Love floweth as within a sea;  
Where real and true love holdeth  
sway,  
A child of God is found alway.  
*Zion's Harp #76, vs. 6, 10*

The time of the year is once again

here to plan for the memorial service held annually at our church in New Martinsville, WV. This is being planned, Lord willing, during the last weekend in June, the 25th and 26th. All are welcome to attend, and anyone needing more information may contact Bro. Ken Indermuhle at 740-483-1593.

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### OHIO, SMITHVILLE Lydia Dotterer Gina Brake

We are thankful to report several new babies in our area recently. Tobias Nathan was born on January 20 to Bro. Scott and Sis. Cindy Steiner (Rittman). His siblings are Adelynn and Solomon, and his Smithville grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Jane Hartzler. January 28 was the birthdate of Gibson Denny, born to Bro. Greg and Sis. Darla Henico (Akron). Gibson has two siblings, Ariana and Dexter, and his grandparents are Bro. Denny and Sis. Kay Nieman. Bro. Jon and Sis. Kelly Zollinger had a girl, Austyn Noel, on February 24. She has a brother, Peyton, and Bro. Ken and Sis. Becky Zollinger are her grandparents. Also on February 24, Bro. Jacob and Sis. Bethany Rufener (Akron) had their first child, Malachi Michael. His grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Janice Rufener. On March 2, Delaney Lynn joined the family of Bro. Corban and Sis. Jessica and Hans Riggerbach. Bro. Dave and Sis. Luanna Dotterer are her grandparents. Bro. Dave and Sis. Connie Maletich welcome a new grandson, Alex Matthew. He was born on March 3 to Bro. Nathan and Sis. Anita Steiner (Rittman), and joins siblings Hannah, Leah, Cecelia, Clay, and Laina.

We were also blessed to have several engagement announcements. January 30 was the announcement of Bro. Anthony Amos (Sardis) to Sis. Jill Maibach (Toledo). Sis. Jill's parents are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Lois Maibach. On February 6 we heard of the engagement of Bro. Doyle Stoller to Sis. Naomi Ursu (Kitchener, Ontario). Bro. Scott and Sis. Charlene Stoller are Bro. Doyle's

parents. Sis. Lynn Stoller (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Millie) was announced to Bro. Nathan Steiner (Rittman) on February 20.

Our prayers are with those who have lost a loved one. Sis. Millie Stoller (Bro. Jeff) and Sis. Becky Zollinger (Bro. Ken) recently lost their mother, Sis. Evelyn Manz (Bro. Eli, Junction).

Sis. Carol Schuster (Bro. George), Sis. Kelly Zollinger (Bro. Jon), and Sis. Janet Indermuhle (Bro. Darrel) have all spent time in the hospital over the past month. We pray for God's healing for each of them.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Mike Ursu (Sis. Barb, Kitchener), Bro. John Grimm (Sis. Julie, Columbus) and Bro. Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman). We are thankful for their willingness to serve us.

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### OHIO, TOLEDO Deanna Manz Teresa Rywalski

"But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you."

*Luke 12:31*

Understanding the need for a Savior, John Harmon (Bro. Doug and Sis. Lanna) has begun his repentance. May we continue to encourage and pray for our converts as they strive to build a firm foundation in Christ.

On a recent Sunday after church, we gathered in the basement to make cards to send to children in Haiti. What a blessing it is, when from the youngest to the oldest, we can work together to share the love of our Heavenly Father.

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### OREGON, PORTLAND Renee Angstrom

We extend our love and sympathy to Bro. Peter and Sis. Elizabeth Folia and their family on the passing of his sister, Emilia Coric, from Los Angeles.

Our prayers are with Sis. Kathy Fehr (Bro. Wayne) as she is recovering

from surgery. Sis. Kathy was hospitalized in Laredo, TX, while she and Bro. Wayne were visiting at Zapata. We pray for her continued healing.

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## OREGON, SILVERTON

**Kris Luthi  
Deb Roth**

We rejoice with Nelson Sinn (Bro. Tom and Sis. Edith) as he has found peace with God and awaits baptism. We wish him grace and pray that many more will answer the call to salvation while there is still time. We know not when the Lord will come again or call us home.

Derek Kuenzi (Bro. Art and Sis. Mary Beth) and Jesse TeSlaa (Jim and Rhonda Thielen, Gary and Barb TeSlaa) were baptized and welcomed into the family of God. We thank Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA) for assisting our Elder Bros. John Wiegand and Art Metz for the weekend.

Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) assisted in the reading of the Memorandum. We appreciate his efforts on Saturday evening as well as Sunday. We were reminded of our high calling in serving the Lord and encouraged to continue on.

We wish Tristan Kuenzi (Bro. Todd and Sis. Melissa) and Chalsea Knobloch (Bro. Vern and Sis. Chalea, Lester, IA) many blessings as they have announced their engagement. They are planning an August wedding. May God be their Guide as they plan for their life together.

We thank Bro. Paul Kilgus (Fairbury, IL) for spending a weekend with us recently. We always appreciate our visiting ministers and welcome them back anytime!

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**PENNSYLVANIA  
PHILADELPHIA  
Emily Wiegand**

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

## *Ecclesiastes 3:1*

We were saddened at the loss of our dear Bro. Franz Soni last month, but are comforted to know that there is coming a day when “our faith shall be sight.” Franz was the first convert baptized in our Philadelphia Church over 20 years ago. Bro. Franz was always thankful to hear the preaching of God’s Word and the blessed fellowship, and drove over two hours to church in Philadelphia, Union City, and as his health declined, to Secaucus, NJ. We are thankful for his diligent example and trust that each of us will have that same desire to hear the truths of God’s Word.

We were thankful for two dear ministering brothers who served us in Philadelphia this month. Sharing God’s Word with us were Bro. Dana Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) and Bro. Ev Gerber (Rockville, CT). We very much enjoyed being able to fellowship with these brothers and their families, and are thankful for their willingness to preach the Gospel.

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## TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

**Mike and Monica Fritz**

We are thankful that our son, Ezra Fritz, has found peace with God and man and is awaiting baptism in the near future.

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 are also thankful that the work teams have found some time to do some repair work on our church building.

We have been encouraged and strengthened by God’s Living Word so ably shared with us by our recent visiting ministering brothers: Bros. Mark Wettstein (LaCrosse, IN), Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy; Tremont, IL), Byron

Stoller (Sis. Carol; Gridley, IL), Bob Pflederer (Sis. Ellie; Morton, IL), Wayne Leman (Sis. Julie; Roanoke, IL), and Dale Stoller (Sis. Sandra; Fairbury, IL), and Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane; Lamont-Gridley, KS). We have also been greatly blessed by the fellowship of brethren and friends, visitors and World Relief workers, from Atlanta, GA; Belvidere, Bloomington-Normal, Bradford, Chicago, Congerville, Elgin, Eureka, Fairbury, Goodfield, Gridley, Morton, Peoria, Roanoke, Tremont, and Washington, IL; Bluffton, Bluffton North, Indianapolis, LaCrosse, Remington, and Wolcott, IN; Lester, IA; Bern and Lamont-Gridley, KS; Alto and Bay City, MI; Winthrop and Morris North, MN; Taylor, MO; Akron, Junction, Latty, and Rittman, OH; Silverton, OR; Philadelphia, PA; and Austin, TX.

If you are traveling to or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. The following churches are scheduled for services in the near future: Elgin, IL (4/24); Bloomington-Normal, IL (5/1); Remington, IN (5/8); Eureka, IL (5/15); Champaign, IL (5/22); and Mansfield, OH (5/29). If you are planning to worship with us, please call ahead to confirm our schedule. Often we gather on Saturday evenings for fellowship, and all are heartily welcome. We typically meet on Wednesday evenings at 7:15 p.m. for singing or call-in services and would welcome any midweek visitors. Contacts are Bro. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder, (615) 373-8928; Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz, (615) 866-5543 (fritzmb.family@gmail.com); and Sis. Gwen Leuthold, (615) 356-5755.

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## TEXAS, AUSTIN

**Serenity and Jasmine Ringger**

Our sympathies are with Sis. Rachel Hartzler; her grandfather, Bro. Harvey Ifft (Forrest), passed away.

Welcome to Ted Grimm (Bro. Doug and Sis. Jeryl) from Sabetha. He is temporarily working in Fort Hood for several weeks, and we look forward to

worshipping with him.

We were blessed to have several of the Sabetha/Bern single group come to visit.

Ministers who served us were Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sabetha, KS), Bros. Gene Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Duane Reutter (Sis. Kay, Rockville, CT), and Glen Braker (Sis. Audrey, Princeville, IL). We also had other visitors from Congerville, Bradford, McAllen, and Rittman.

The following is the minister schedule for May: (1) Lester, IA; (8) Fairbury, IL; (15) Congerville, IL; (29) Silverton, OR.

We welcome visitors. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." (Col. 3:16).

Please refer to the ministers' directory for directions and contacts.

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### TEXAS, MCALLEN Gloria Walder

Perhaps as young children, we were told by parents to "be still". As God's children, we also must "be still, and know that I am God." Our hearts and minds can be comforted when we obey Him.

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. John Hartman (Fairbury, IL) and Elder Bro. Ben Walder (Congerville, IL). Other visitors from San Diego, Oakville, Congerville, and Tremont added to the blessings of our gatherings.

Services are scheduled for May 1, Elgin, IL, and May 15, Goodfield, IL. We also meet on Wednesday evenings at the home of Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Joyce Nohl. Please call them if you can join

us.

Recently we were privileged to have mid-week visitors from Bradford and Zapata.

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.

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### TEXAS, ZAPATA Mary Plattner

All of our winter residents have returned to the north for the summer months and we appreciate the months they reside in Zapata. We appreciate that Bro. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam, Latty, OH) and their children spent a few days in Zapata. We are thankful for all of the visiting ministers that we had this winter season.

Anyone coming to Zapata this summer is most welcome, but we encourage you to call as we do not always assemble in Zapata during the summer months if we should be traveling.

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### VERMONT, CLARENDON Nathan and Miriam Reutter

"But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup."

*I Corinthians 11:28*

We are thankful for God's provisions for us this past month. The snow is melting and we have seen buds starting to spring forth from the earth. What a wonderfully refreshing sight!

Communion exhortation along with our annual business meeting was held on the 6th of this month. Here for this was Ordained Deacon, Bro. Warren Zahner (Sis. Bonnie, Rockville, CT). We were reminded to look into the mirror of God's Word and examine ourselves so that we could be counted worthy of this glorious salvation through Christ Jesus! We want to thank all those who have been faithful in holding a church duty over this past year.

With such a small church, each one is so needed. It has been a blessed privilege to work together in love and unity for the functioning of our church.

Ministering brothers who came to lead our worship services this month were Bro. Duane Reutter (Sis. Kay) on the 13th and Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Diane) on the 20th. Both are from Rockville, CT. Many thanks are extended to these dear Brothers and their wives for giving of themselves in the Lord's work.

If you are interested in fellowshiping with us here in Vermont, and would like information about service times and dates, please contact Bro. Chad & 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 together.

Service times are as follows:

Mid-week services  
(Please contact local brethren)  
Sunday Morning Service  
10:10 AM  
(Sunday school held concurrently)  
Sunday Afternoon Service  
12:15 PM



## Japan Earthquake 2011

The 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami was caused by a 9.0-magnitude undersea megathrust earthquake off the coast of Japan that occurred at 3:46 PM on Friday, March 11, 2011. The epicenter was approximately 45 miles east of the Oshika Peninsula of Tohoku, with the hypocenter at an underwater depth of approximately 19.9 miles.

The earthquake triggered extremely destructive tsunami waves of up to 124 ft that struck Japan minutes after the quake, in some cases traveling up to 6 miles inland, with smaller waves reaching many other countries after several hours.

The Japanese National Police Agency has officially confirmed 12,259 deaths, 2,858 injured, and 15,315 people missing across eighteen prefectures, as well as over 125,000 buildings damaged or destroyed. There are more than 160,000 living in evacuation shelters. These numbers are expected to increase as several cities and towns have not been included yet.

The earthquake and tsunami caused extensive and severe structural damage in Japan. Around 4.4 million households in northeastern Japan were left without electricity and 1.5 million without water. At least three nuclear reactors suffered serious damage. Residents within a 12 mile radius of the Fukushima I Nuclear Power Plant and a 6 mile radius of the Fukushima II Nuclear Power Plant were evacuated.

Estimates of the Tohoku earthquake's magnitude make it the most powerful known earthquake to have hit Japan, and one of the five most powerful earthquakes in the world overall since modern record-keeping began in 1900. Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan said, "In the 65 years after the end of World War II, this is the toughest and the most difficult crisis for Japan." The earthquake moved Honshu 7.9 ft east and shifted the

Earth on its axis by almost 3.9 in. Japan's government said the cost of the earthquake and tsunami that devastated the northeast could reach \$309 billion, making it the world's most expensive natural disaster on record. - FROM WIKIPEDIA ARTICLE

### World Relief Response

Shortly after the earthquake, World Relief contacted the Christian relief organizations that we have found to be most effective in responding to disasters. We reviewed relief plans from two of the organizations, and each was approved for a grant of \$30,000.

These grants have been used to provide essential items such as temporary shelter, food, hygiene supplies, medicine and first aid for those in need, as well as satellite phones, computers and other essential equipment for those providing assistance.

We have also been working with our brethren from the churches in Japan, who have been making several trips to Northern Japan and taking disaster supplies which are more readily available in Tokyo. World Relief is providing funds to assist our brethren in Japan with their disaster relief efforts, as well as assisting Christian aid organizations they have been working with. World Relief will look for opportunities for our brethren to assist with rehabilitation and development efforts in the weeks and months to come.

Those who wish to make contributions to the relief effort and the anticipated need for reconstruction assistance can do so by sending donations to the World Relief Disaster fund designated for Japan Relief. Donations can also be made through your local World Relief representative or online through the World Relief website.

The Sunday following the earthquake our brethren in Tokyo were reading from Psalm 46, "God is

*our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof."* Please pray that many in Japan will come to believe this Truth.

### Opportunity to Give

The World Relief Disaster Fund is open to receive donations for the relief efforts in Japan. The Disaster Fund is used to help relieve hunger and suffering in domestic and international disaster areas. Donations for relief can be sent through local Apostolic Christian churches or to the national World Relief Treasurer. Checks should be made out to ACWR and designated "Japan Disaster Relief."

#### Send to:

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

### Contribute Online

Donations can also be made at the "Japan Earthquake" section on the home page of the World Relief website. Designate "**Disaster Funds**" in the drop down box.

### Email Updates

Subscribe on the World Relief website to receive email updates on Japan relief efforts.

Thank you for your support of World Relief. We are trusting God to provide.



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
**World Relief**

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

## 2011 Athens/Tennessee Memorial Day Weekend

### Scheduled on May 28-29

*"And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily." Acts 16:5*

The 20th annual Athens/Tennessee Memorial Day Weekend is planned, Lord willing, for May 28-29, 2011. Everyone is invited, and we hope you will plan to join us for a wonderful weekend of fellowship, singing and worship.

This year's topic will be the History of the Apostolic Christian Church led by Bro. Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN). Bro. Ron will speak on the "Conversion of Samuel Froehlich" and then "The Beginning of the Apostolic Christian Church" on Saturday and Sunday, respectively. Additionally, an auction is planned for Saturday afternoon beginning at 2:00 p.m. Additional details follow 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/prayer
6:00 p.m.	— Supper
7:00 p.m.-end of evening	— 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
4:00-5:30 p.m.	— Singing and Speaker
5:30 p.m.	— Supper
7:00 p.m.-end of evening	— 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](mailto:jayne.sauder@gmail.com).

**Local Motel Accommodations:** Athens, Alabama Area - Best Western (256)233-4030; Travel Inn (256)232-2704; Country Hearth Inn & Suites (256)232-1520; Days Inn (800)329-7466 or (256)233-7500; Quality Inn (800)424-6423 or (256)232-0030; Hampton Inn (256)232-0300; Holiday Inn Express (800)465-4329 or (256)232-7931; Sleep Inn (256)232-4700; Super 8 (256)233-1446. TN Fellowship Area in Pulaski, Tenn. —Super 8 (931)363-4501

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

*Please RSVP before Monday, May 16 to your local church contact or one of the names listed below.*

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

### EVERYONE IS INVITED TO DETROIT

What: 23rd Annual Choir Benefit  
 When: Saturday July 16, 2011  
 Details: 5:00 Dinner 7:00 Choir Program

Overnight Needed?  
 Contact Scott or Jamie Bahr - 734.513-5907 or [spbahr@yahoo.com](mailto:spbahr@yahoo.com)

R.S.V.P. to Scott or Jamie by 4th of July for meal planning purposes  
 Side Trip: Consider spending the day at Greenfield Village: [www.thehenryford.org](http://www.thehenryford.org)

*Sermon continued from page 2*

spit upon. These things would happen to Him. (Isaiah 53:5) And He knew it, loved ones. He knew it was coming! He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane so hard, Father, if it could be Thy will, that this cup could pass from me. But then He ended with those words which should be part of our words, loved ones. Nevertheless, not my will but Thine be done. (St. Matthew 26:39) Those need to be first and foremost in our thoughts. When we pray, when we bring our supplication to our Father and we pray in His name, in Jesus' name, Amen, we want to pray in a way that we are submissive to Him. That we are submitting our will to His. Because that is what Jesus did. That is praying in His name.

"Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe..." St. John 19:5. There is no doubt there was blood coming down His head already. He had been scourged. There is no doubt He was bleeding on His back. He had this purple robe upon Him. "...And Pilate saith unto them, Behold the man!" v.5. Look at Him! And the people cried out, saying, crucify him, crucify him! And Pilate saith unto them, Take ye him, and crucify him, for I find no fault in Him. (v.6).

"The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God." v.7. I believe if we look back in that old law, we see that there was a sin called blasphemy. That's what the Jewish people accused Him of before Pilate. They accused Him of blasphemy, saying, He made Himself the Son of God. The penalty for blasphemy, I believe, would have been stoning at that time, back in the old law. (Leviticus 24:16) But they did not want Him to be stoned. They wanted Him to be crucified. I am not certain why. I don't know if any of us really know why. We know it was fulfilled.

We can read back in the Book of Numbers (21:8,9), how the brazen serpent was lifted up and how Jesus prophesied and said, the serpent was lifted up in the wilderness. Even so must the Son of man be lifted up. (St. John 3:14) So He knew He would be lifted up. He would hang upon a tree. He knew that would happen. It was prophesied of old that it would happen. So he knew that.

I don't know if the Jewish people just had so much hate or sin is just so terrible or that is the way He would bleed more - His atoning blood? But they wanted Him crucified. They didn't want Him to be stoned. They wanted Him to be crucified. They kept saying, crucify Him, crucify Him. That was the Roman method. They turned Him over to the Romans to carry this out.

Stephen was stoned (Acts 7:59). The woman caught in adultery, they were just itching to stone her. But they didn't. (St. John 8:3-11) But the Lord and Savior, they wanted Him crucified. They wanted His blood to flow. His blood needed to flow. They did not yet know it.

"When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he was the more afraid; And went again into the judgment hall, and saith unto Jesus, Whence art thou? But Jesus gave him no answer." St. John 19:8,9. We can read back in the Book of Isaiah 42, how quiet and meek and mild Jesus was. He was a quiet man. He was not one to kindle a strife and bring about harsh words or anything like that. His voice was not heard in the street (Isaiah 42:2). He was quieter.

"Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee? Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the

greater sin. And from thenceforth Pilate sought to release him: but the Jews cried out..." St. John 19:10-12. Loved ones, those Jews were not alone but our sins were crying out as well to our Lord and our Savior. He heard our cry there as well, loved ones all. He felt our sins there upon that cruel cross. When He laid there upon that tree and it was laying on the ground and they were driving in the nails, they were doing that.

It says very simply here, "Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led him away. And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha: Where they crucified him..." v.16-18. That is just one phrase, loved ones. They crucified Him. But loved ones, that hurt! It was painful! It hurt terribly when they drove those big, old nails into His hands and into His feet. Then set that cross up and put it in the hole and propped it up or however exactly they did these things - we don't know for sure - but it hurt! He bled and He died. He did that because He loved us so much. What a wonderful Lord and Savior we have. What a wonderful, wonderful Savior!

The roots of all this, when we think of Jesus' blood that flowed there, when the soldiers came to brake the legs of the first and the second thief, then they came to Jesus, He was dead already. So they didn't brake His legs. (v.32,33) But they took a spear and they pierced His side. Forthwith came there out blood and water. (v.34) "And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe." v.35.

So blood and water flowed, loved ones. We can look back there in the old law and we can read in Leviticus and see that blood is the life of the flesh. God has said I have given it to you for an atonement for your



sins. For it is the blood that maketh an atonement for sin. (Leviticus 17:11)

We read in the Book of Hebrews how there is no remission without the shedding of blood. (Hebrews 9:22) Loved ones, it took this shedding of blood. God has deemed it so. Jesus had to be. He was a better sacrifice than that of bulls and goats.

Back in the Old Testament time, they were speaking of the bulls and goats and the cleansing and purifying they did back then. But loved ones, our Lord and our Savior died once. We can read so much about that there and it would do us all good to read through that Book of Hebrews in chapters 8, 9 and 10 and read about the better sacrifice. It was prophesied by Jeremiah of old. Behold there would be a new covenant. There would be a better covenant. I will write my word within your hearts. Not on tables of stone but in the fleshly tables of your hearts. All shall know me and all shall love me. (Jeremiah 31:31-34) Loved ones, that is true. By the Spirit of God, He writes His Word within our hearts and we have that Spirit within.

Another reason why Jesus had to die was so that the Spirit could come. He wrote that also and explained that to the disciples in the upper room. He said, it is expedient for you that I go away, that I can send a Comforter to you. (St. John 16:7) So that Comforter could come after His death, a full measure of the Spirit. Loved ones, that applies also to us as well. After death, after conversion, after we die off to the old man, the full measure of the Spirit can come to us. There is a parallel there. There is a like manner for us, that we also have to do that.

When this happened and Jesus' blood was shed, and forthwith came there out blood and water, the people wondered about it later on. They even mocked. Remember in the day of Pentecost? The people

mocked the disciples, saying, these men are full of new wine (Acts 2:13). They were speaking with tongues and there were cloven tongues of fire upon their head, signifying in a visible manner, the coming of the Holy Spirit (v.3,4). We don't see that now but the people did back then, to make no doubt in the people's minds that what Jesus said was true. That He would send His comforter and it would happen and it had a purpose, a very real purpose for them. The people mocked.

We read in the second chapter of Acts how Peter responded. "This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, He hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear." Acts 2:32,33. He was speaking there of the sending of the Holy Spirit. "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ." Acts 2:36. They knew who Christ was. They knew He was a Messiah. They knew it was prophesied in the Book of Daniel, that the Messiah would come (Daniel 9:25).

What did they do? It says, "Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Acts 2:37. They were reminded of the crucifixion. Maybe some of them had a part in it. Maybe some of them were of that mob that cried out, crucify him. They were convicted. They were pricked of heart. What shall we do? That was a serious question. They really wanted to know.

"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Acts 2:38. We are yet preaching that today, loved ones all. We read

in Acts 3:19 where Peter had another sermon. He said, "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord," So it takes a repentance, it takes a conversion, it takes a baptism. During that process, there needs to be a death, like as Jesus died, that we need to die, that His blood can truly come and cleanse us of our sins and of our sin nature as well.

We read how, "...forthwith came there out blood and water." St. John 19:34. We read about that blood and water if we turn back to I John 5. We read about the Holy Trinity. "This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one." v.6,7. That is the Holy Trinity. "And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one." v.8. Sometimes we think that means the blood of Christ, the Holy Spirit and the water of baptism. But loved ones, there is a significance in the blood that flowed from Jesus' side, I am sure.

The people that sacrificed in the Old Testament, they would shed the blood of the animals. The animals would die and they would bleed. That blood would be shed forth for an atonement, even as God told Moses, it is the blood that makes the atonement for your sins upon the altar. He told him that very specifically. It is the blood that does it. That blood pays the price for the sins, sins that had been committed by the people. But what did they do? Once a year they would do that. They would have a day of atonement. But then they would come back the next year and they would make another sacrifice. They

*Sermon continued on page 42*

*Sermon continued from page 41*

would commit more sins.

Loved ones, what does the Bible say about what we have just read, the crucifixion of Christ and His shed blood, His atoning blood? It says very clearly in the Word, He died once (Romans 6:10). It is given unto men to die but once and then judgment. So He died once. He didn't go to the cross more than once. That blood still flows, loved ones. It is still there. It still beckons unto the souls that will come unto Him in true repentance and want to be saved. Men and women who ask, what shall I do to be saved?, in sincerity and from the depths of their heart, that answer still goes out. We are so thankful for that, that the call can yet go forth and God will be with us one and all.

We think of what Jesus has done for us: His suffering, His shed blood. In Revelation 7 - this chapter fell open this morning at home - from verse 9 it says, "After this I beheld,..." This is where Jesus' blood gets us, loved ones. This is really what it is all about. "...and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number,..." This is John's vision of heaven, this same Apostle that we just read of there in St. John. This is His vision that He saw. "...of all nations, and kindreds and people..." Red and yellow, black and white, the children's hymn says. "...and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the

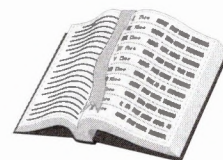
Lamb..." That's Jesus. "... clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?" v. 9-13.

It is not often the Bible uses the word, 'me', where it gets so personal. The Book of Nehemiah says that. It says, I did this. I thought this. I wrote this. He uses the first person. Here John, very specifically and very personal, said unto 'me'. The question goes to each one of us personally, who are these? What are these which are arrayed in white robes and whence came they? "And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes." v.14-17.

That is what it is all about. That is where Christ's blood gets us, loved ones. That's where Jesus' desire is. That we can dwell with Him. Where there are souls that have not turned to Him, the invitation goes out.

We read in the Book of Isaiah, a very familiar chapter, one that I was going to turn to first, until we opened to the Book of Psalms. "Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?" Isaiah 53:1. It says 'arm', not arms. You might think the Lord would have both His arms open. Loved ones, I thought about that. He is holding His children with the other arm. He is holding us who have come unto Him and He is holding His other arm out for the rest. He wants everyone to come. He wants both arms full. Loved ones, if there are any that have not come, come and see what it is like to have the arm of the Lord about you.



## Assistant Houseparent Needed

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

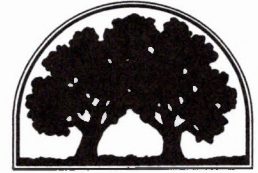


Ed Graf  
Residential Program Director  
PO Box 151  
Leo, IN 46765  
1-888-443-4283  
ed.graf@gatewaywoods.org

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

## Child Placement Manager Opening

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



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

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

Bro. Jeff Schumacher

Administrator

PO Box 151

Leo, IN 46765

1-888-443-4283 (GATE)

jeff.schumacher@gatewaywoods.org

Bro. Lynn Stieglitz

Counseling Elder

15417 Doty Rd.

New Haven, IN 46774

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lynnstieg@lightningnet.net

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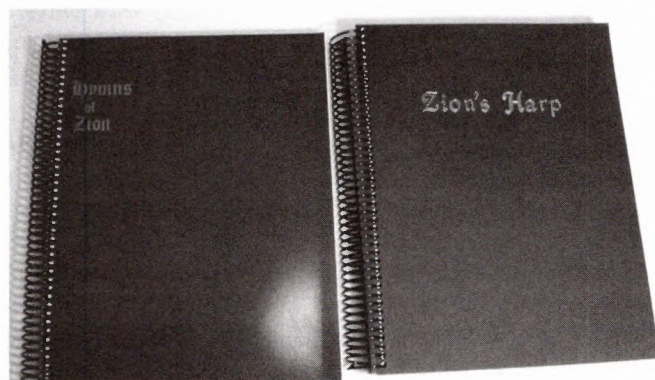
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### Christ-Centered Self Worth Part 1 of 3

Is it being proud if you feel good about your accomplishments (or when you get compliments)? Does being humble mean that you should put yourself down in front of others? Do giving people compliments (especially children) encourage them to be proud? If you recognize that you have a spiritual gift or talent, are you being proud? If Christians have self-esteem, are they relying on "self" rather than God's spirit? Aren't we trying to get rid of the self? All of the preceding questions relate to the important concept of self-worth. In this issue we begin a three part series with the goal of promoting a Biblically based understanding of self-worth. In this edition, we will examine ways self-worth may be impacted by our view of God. Part two will focus on how our view of others can affect self-worth. Our perception of ourselves, including our understanding of spiritual gifts and serving, will be the focus of part three.

Much of the confusion and controversy surrounding the idea of self-worth or self-esteem comes from distorted secular approaches to the topic. Secular approaches pre-suppose that human beings are basically good at the core. But Jeremiah 17:9 states: "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" Here are some other assumptions of secular approaches:

- \* Self-esteem is something that can be obtained.
- \* Uniqueness equals worth
- \* Good things that we do define what we have to feel good about.

Romans 4:4-5 "Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness."

We prefer to use the words "self-worth" rather than self-esteem because it points to the questions that are at the heart of the matter. The first question is: "Who (or what) defines your worth?" The second question is: "What is the value of a soul?" Ultimately, self-worth is meant to be a relational concept that is generated from two sources: being created in God's image and our position in Christ.

Both sources of self-worth start with our understanding of the nature of God. As im-

perfect human beings living in an imperfect world, we are susceptible to forming an imperfect view of God based on our life experiences. 1 Corinthians 13:12 "For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known." There can be a disconnect between our head knowledge of God and our heartfelt feelings toward Him. Our "God concept" might include truths like:

- \* God created the world in 6 days.
- \* Sin separates us from God.
- \* He gave us the Bible.
- \* Jesus died on the cross.
- \* He wants all people to be saved.
- \* God is love.

However our "God image", develops over time through:

- \* Our relationship with major attachment figures -primarily our Father and Mother
- \* Critical incidents and traumatic life experiences
- \* Experiences with authority figures that teach us about God.

Many of us are not consciously aware of the distortions of our "God Image." A distorted "God Image" may lead to difficulty trusting God and submitting to God and His Word. It may also lead us to have faulty expectations of God. When all is said and done, most of the time we react to life out of what we feel in our "heart," even though we know differently in our "head." This is why it is very important that we correct any faulty God image distortions in order to bring it in line with the truth of God's Word.

Here are a few of the common distortions of our "God image":

*The God of Impossible Expectations* – viewing God as never being pleased, always 'raising the bar', and perfectionistically pointing out your failures.

*The Emotionally Distant God* – viewing God as only truly feeling love toward you when you are happy; and angry/disappointed with you when you are sad, down, or worried.

*The Disinterested God* –viewing God as if He looks at you with a "why are you bothering me again?" mindset.

*The Unreliable God-viewing God* as abandoning you when you need him most, often in your darkest hour. That is, when the going gets tough, He leaves you stranded.

*The Rug-Pulling God* – viewing God as waiting to "pull the rug out" from underneath you when things are going well. That is, just when you think things are going well, He's going to "get" you with something negative (like an illness, tragedy, etc.)

*The Abusive God* - viewing God as enjoying seeing you in pain and as wanting to rob you of joy. Seeing Him as being vindictive and "playing" with your life as if you are a pawn.

Here are some overly positive distortions of God:

*The Cosmic Buddy* – viewing God as universally loving without seeing a need to respond to His call to holiness. You see God as loving you with blind acceptance without ANY expectations of how you should submit your life to Him, change your behavior, or deny yourself.

*The Vending Machine* – viewing God as a vending machine from which you can get what you want, when you want it. If something doesn't turn out the way you wanted, you get angry at God for not responding like you thought He should.

How thankful we can be that it is God's desire that we love Him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

#### Luke 10:27

And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.

Therefore, we can be confident that He will help us in taking steps toward growing in a more healthy and accurate image of God. Here are some steps we would like to suggest:

- 1) Pray to see God more clearly
- 2) Don't force your own meanings onto the Scripture
- 3) Let Scripture be your lens
- 4) Balance grace & truth
- 5) Learn to meditate on Scriptural images of God
- 6) Get perspective from others who seem to have a healthy image of God
- 7) If struggles continue, counseling may be helpful. We have materials available at ACCFS that can help. Referencing the Matters of Faith/Healthy Concept of God section of our website would be a good place to start.

### **Important Notice to Americans Crossing the Canadian Border by Land.**

*All adults will need just one of the following documents:*

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

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

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

**Printed Sermons**  
**102 Lake View Drive**  
**Fairbury, IL 61739**  
*(815) 692-3616*  
 printedsermons@gmail.com

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

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

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

*Jerry and Arlene Banwart, 307 First St, Congerville, IL 61729*  
*(309) 265-0857*

### **Light From The Word**

*now available by downloadable PDF from the  
 Apostolic Christian Publication web site  
[www.acpublications.org](http://www.acpublications.org)*

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

## **BIBLE DISTRIBUTION**

*Sharing The Word In Love*

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

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

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

*To order, contact,*

Apostolic Christian Church  
**Bible Distribution**

PO Box 30

1254 S. Main Street  
 Bluffton, IN 46714

Phone and Fax 260/824-5587

E-mail: [biblelist@adamswells.com](mailto:biblelist@adamswells.com)

### **Rochester, MN Services**

Times:

7:30 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month

Location:

819 15<sup>th</sup> St. NW  
 Rochester MN, 55902  
*(within a few blocks  
 of the Mayo campus)*

Contacts:

Bro. Jim and Sis Deb Tilbury  
 (507)281-2875.

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

# Give a Child Hope

## Child Sponsorships

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



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

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

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

### To sponsor a child

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mr.  Mrs.  Miss

Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Ph \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Ph \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please check preference:

- Haiti  Guatemala
- Mexico  Jamaica
- Wherever needed

If possible I would prefer:

- Boy - Age \_\_\_\_\_
- Girl - Age \_\_\_\_\_
- No Preference

Cost: \$25.00/month

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

### Send to:

ACWR Child Sponsorship

PO Box 36

Morton, IL 61550

Phone: 309-266-6080

Fax: 309-266-5281

E-mail: [childsponsorship@acwr.org](mailto:childsponsorship@acwr.org)



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
**World Relief**

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

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:ALM38@aol.com)

## 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](mailto:lemangm@mtco.com).

### HAITI

Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011 - [www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/](http://www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/)

Project	Year 2011	Coordinator	Capacity	<u>HAITI MEDICAL WORK TEAMS</u>			
Les Cayes MEBSH Haiti Evaluation	May 13-20	Rich Bertschi 309-467-2351 <a href="mailto:lemangm@mtco.com">lemangm@mtco.com</a>	Invitation	Hospital Lumiere at Bonne Fin, Haiti Haiti Medical Team	May 13-21	Alice Widmer 330-939-0083 <a href="mailto:alice.widmer@jmsmucker.com">alice.widmer@jmsmucker.com</a>	8-10
Les Cayes MEBSH Medical	May 20-27	Keith Knepp 309-467-3468 <a href="mailto:kknepp@mchsi.com">kknepp@mchsi.com</a>	8				
Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Jun 8-18	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 <a href="mailto:rick@wuethrichfarms.com">rick@wuethrichfarms.com</a>	4				

### JAMAICA

Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011 - [www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/](http://www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/)

Project	Year 2011	Coordinator	Capacity				
Jamaica Deaf Villg CCCD	Jun 10 - 18	Ted Hirstein 309-266-8769 <a href="mailto:hirstein@mtco.com">hirstein@mtco.com</a>	40	Jamaica Deaf Village CCCD	Jun 25 - Jul 2	Harvey Landis 330-925-8632 <a href="mailto:landziv@aol.com">landziv@aol.com</a>	Akron/ Rittman BC Trip



**MEXICO**

If anyone is interested in leading a team to Mexico, contact Bro. Mike Fiechter at 260-597-7330 or [mfiechter@onlyinternet.net](mailto:mfiechter@onlyinternet.net)  
Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011 - [www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-mexico/](http://www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-mexico/)

Location	Year 2011	Coordinator			
Magdalena Construction	May 28 - Jun 4	Todd Baum Phoenix Bible Class 480-563-8286 <a href="mailto:toddbaum@svmasonry.com">toddbaum@svmasonry.com</a>	Reynosa Construction	Jun 18-25	Joe Sprunger Indianapolis Bible Class 317-491-4424 <a href="mailto:joesprunger@gmail.com">joesprunger@gmail.com</a>
Magdalena Construction	Jun 11-18	Jason Schambach Elgin Bible Class 847-468-1194 <a href="mailto:jkschambach@att.net">jkschambach@att.net</a>	Magdalena Construction	Jul 9-16	Jason Kaeb Bern Bible Class 785-284-3202 <a href="mailto:jason.maggs@gmail.com">jason.maggs@gmail.com</a>
Magdalena Construction	Jun 18-25	Stan Virkler 219-863-5913 <a href="mailto:svirkler@fbbuildings.com">svirkler@fbbuildings.com</a>	Reynosa Medical	Oct 5-12	Cheryl Herrmann <a href="mailto:cherrmann@frontier.com">cherrmann@frontier.com</a>
			Magdalena Construction	Nov 19-26	Rod Schmidt 303-774-7913 <a href="mailto:rschmidt@acosta.com">rschmidt@acosta.com</a>

**Haiti and Jamaica Work Team Code Definitions**

**CCCD** = Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf

**MEBSH** = Missions of Evangelical Baptists of South Haiti

**Palm Grove** = Mission of Haiti

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

**TBA** = To Be Announced

**Palm Grove** = Mission of Haiti

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

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

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

**(\*)** = Changes or additions since last issue

**(\*\*)** = Spring Break Timeframe

**USA World Relief Committee**

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

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



# REMEMBERING

## *Our Spiritual Heritage*

*We are continuing with history remarks made at Phoenix, Arizona (long ago) by Elder Bro. Noah Schrock of Oakville, Iowa. Bro. Noah traveled widely as an Elder over many congregations, and was conversant in the history of our church. The first installment ends after his grandmother Schrock had come into a state of repentance. She formerly had been a Mennonite in the Congerville, Illinois area. Bro. Noah now tells about the time when Elder Benedict Weyeneth came back to America.*

They (members in our first new church in America) were having quite a turmoil in Croghan (New York). Benedict Weyeneth came back to America from Europe, and the condition of that church was such that he had to excommunicate some members. That was a pretty gloomy outlook to start a new church. He had to bring about an order. Somebody had to be in authority, and somebody had to be responsible. The church began to thrive.

(Editor's Note: In time, the new church began to grow. In the summer of 1881, 139 converts were baptized on 13 consecutive Sundays. A few weeks later, one more was baptized for a total of 140.)

Bro. Weyeneth stayed in the United States and migrated to Illinois. He began to hold meetings. He held meetings on alternate Sundays. One at a place they called Dillon (about four or five miles southeast of Tremont) and the other place was near Metamora.

By that time, my Grandfather and Grandmother Schrock had become converted and were baptized. She told me they had a new baby at that time, so it was a matter of time until he (Bro. Weyeneth) came out again and estab-

lished the churches in Illinois. From Congerville they had 22 miles to Dillon, and 22 miles to the church near Metamora. Every Sunday morning, and they could hardly wait for the time to come, they drove a big wagon and bedded it down with straw where they laid their baby down — and took off at 4:00 a.m. in the morning, not in Phoenix climate, but in Illinois climate.

They drove these 22 miles and back. The speed of a team of horses is about four miles an hour, so you can figure about how long it took. They were so zealous to go, unless there was serious illness or some other thing. They had to ford the Mackinaw River, there wasn't any bridge and they had only the meagerist of roads.

I say this — **I have in the memory of my grandparents a very rich heritage that I rejoice in and I treasure.** I hope I will find time to write my memoirs someday and leave them for my family because very few people of my own age people have had the privilege to live with a grandmother. She lived in our home. I used to get so tired having her repeat all of these incidents, and I wasn't converted, of course, but I was patient. I did have the capacity, and I thank the Lord, to retain these memories.

Well, there were no special efforts put forth that I ever found (to record the early memories). Our brethren did hold religious meetings. At that time (this might surprise you), there were more meetings held in the English language than there were afterwards. One leader spoke English and several others did too, and most of the early converts were from the Amish and Old Order Mennonite faith, and occasionally a Baptist.

Grandmother told me a few things

and I don't like to repeat all of them about her living in the Mennonite or Amish church. When she was 12 years old, (she was raised by an old aunt), the aunt said, "Now Lena, you are old enough to join church. I am going to get a group together and the preacher is going to come next Sunday and he will assign you some scriptural passages. Then you are to memorize them."

So the next Sunday the preacher came and gave them some passages that they should memorize. In two weeks he came back and if they recited these from memory, they passed the examination and were sprinkled; and lo and behold they put on the Mennonite garb and they were members.

She was satisfied with that until such time as I mentioned that she saw this Bro. Virkler. Then she told me that one of the things she had never conquered was her temper. She confessed to me she had a terrible temper. That got her into trouble. She told me the terrific struggle she had with her temper. She said when she felt it coming on, that is (when she was repenting), when she felt this thing coming on, she started to pray. She said one time when she was becoming angry at something, she stopped right there and prayed, "God, Thou can't help me so I don't get mad."

She told me all of this when I was just a boy. Here she found a victory that she never knew existed. She found victory over her own self, over impatience, and over many other things. She was a morally good woman.

### **Next Issue:**

Noah Schrock's Remarks Continued

# The Light Of Hope

## “What Manner Of Communications Are These”

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

One day many years ago when I was working as a clerk-typist in an army office in Yokohama, Japan, one of the office people came into our room and asked, “Does anyone in this room know where it is in the Bible where the words are used, “Manner of communications?” I helped that man find those words in Luke 24:17, and they have been dear to me ever since.

You will notice that the subject of the sentence is “manner” and it is in the singular form, while “of communications,” which modifies “manner”, is in the plural form. In today’s English I would say, “What manner of communications is this?” but I have decided to leave it as it is, with the emphasis on the “communications” and not on the “manner.”

The Lord Jesus Christ, the very Son of the eternal God, had arisen from the dead and decided to join Himself to a couple of His disciples who were walking on the road to Emmaus from Jerusalem, a distance of threescore, or 60, furlongs. One furlong is 1/8 of a mile so that would be a distance of 7 ½ miles. Please correct me if I am wrong. It appears that people got considerable exercise in those days.

Jesus asked the two disciples what they were talking about and they proceeded to tell Him all about His trial and crucifixion, as well as His alleged resurrection. Was Jesus pleased with their manner of communications? Not so. In verse 25 He said unto them, “O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken.” He admonished them for not

having more faith in the resurrection. They evidently could not believe it and were on their way out of Jerusalem.

In verse 33, after they recognized Jesus, it is written, “And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem.” What, they walked or ran back to Jerusalem, 7 ½ miles, after dark? They had told Jesus in verse 29, “Abide with us; for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent.” They forgot all about the danger of being out on the road at night. Nothing mattered now that they knew Christ had arisen. All of the disciples were transformed and no longer recognized danger. Just let us serve Him and do what He has taught us. Nothing else matters. No theological questions were discussed at that time.

I wonder if Jesus is pleased with our manner of communications. The two disciples on the road to Emmaus were at least speaking of spiritual things and about the Lord Jesus Christ. That seems to be good but evidently that is not good enough to please the Lord. Then how does He want us to communicate with one another about spiritual things?

It seems to me that He wants us to communicate with one another in a manner that shows we don’t doubt His power. I would also venture to say that I believe He wants us to have joy in what He has done for us. I believe He wants us to be vibrant with the joy we have because of His atonement and resurrection and what that means for us.

You will remember that Jesus told His disciples in Matthew 28:20,

“Teaching them (all nations) to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.” If we believe that Jesus is the author of the Bible, being one with the Holy Spirit, then the commandments written by the Apostles are equally binding. This is our calling and this, I believe, is the manner of conversation with which Jesus is well pleased. Jesus has arisen and He is coming again, soon. What can we do to better serve Him and please Him? Let’s get busy immediately and do our best. There is no time to be stewing about how or why God does what He does. We have work to do and we still believe “To obey is better than sacrifice.” I Samuel 15:22. I believe God is waiting to see if we are willing to obey, not that all of His commandments are all that important, but I believe He wants us to show what our attitude is in regard to being surrendered and obedient, even if it is walking or running 7 ½ miles at night. I believe that our attitude toward being willing to obey is so very important. If our conversation by-passes such an attitude, I am concerned that our manner of conversation may not be so pleasing to the Lord.

I know that we are not saved by what we do but I believe that if we are interested in pleasing our Savior, Jesus Christ, our attitude, our demeanor, our actions, and our manner of conversations, are very important. Perhaps we can improve, not only in the topics of our conversations, but also in the manner of our conversations. Let’s try.

# 希望の光

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



\*\*\*\*\*CAR-RT LOT\*\*C-002

LF SL:2767 C38 PK136

ARTHUR BAHLER  
207 S 10TH ST  
FAIRBURY IL 61739-1317



*Cheer up, ye hosts of righteous,  
Your shining lamps display!  
Evening has come upon us,  
Daylight has passed away.  
The Bridegroom in His splendor  
Will soon again appear;  
O watch and pray with candor,  
Midnight will soon be here!*