

The Silver Lining

Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

*Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread?
and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me,
and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.*

Isaiah 55:1-2

May 2011

Sermon by Bro. James Knapp, Congerville, IL

I Thessalonians 1

I extend greetings of love to each one. We covet - I think it is one area we can covet - your prayers and support for the Word of Life, that it would come forth in pureness and truth and love. That again, it could touch our hearts and cause that flame to burn deep within us with fervency to serve Him.

I Thessalonians is a rather short chapter. But we know the power of the Word of God and how it can speak through just a few verses. We all have different needs. We all have different cares, concerns, trials, temptations, joys, happiness, sorrow. The Word of God is a Living Word and it can come alive unto us. The same verses can be applied in different stages and different lots as we walk this pathway of life, that they can speak to us in one way or another, that will benefit us spiritually. So we trust, as we read this chapter, it would be expounded upon to do just that.

We read often, not only in the Gospels of Jesus' life, to learn of who He was and what He stood for and why He came, but then also in the books, in the letters, in the epistles that His dear disciples and apostles had written and were recorded and kept even up to this time and hour. And will be preserved forever. As it says, all things may wax and vanish away but the Word of God will stand (Isaiah 51:6).

As he gave greetings and salutations to the Thessalonians, it would be the same Spirit that would come forth to each one of us here this morning, in the same way. Because it really speaks our hearts, doesn't it? So many times, as we read the Word of God, we can become almost one with the thoughts and the feelings and the understanding and the whole make up of God's children then. Because it doesn't change, does it?

Oh yes, it has come about that knowledge has abounded more and more. So technology and every-

thing that is around about us changes. But the make up of the human being and the mind and soul and God and His love hasn't changed. That communion that God desires with His creation is still the same. The calling is still there.

That is what the Apostle Paul was doing and what we hope comes forth this morning. He addresses them in about all the epistles, the letters he wrote. He starts out with a very important message. He says, "...Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ." I Thess. 1:1.

Grace can have two different meanings, I believe. The one we probably think of most often is His power, His strength within us to overcome sin, to walk worthy of our calling. To be a light and example. To do His will. Ready to go, ready to stay as the hymnal expresses (Ready, Hymns of Zion #124). Ready to do many things for the Lord, as done by His grace through faith.

But it also is, even as with Noah, in the time of building the ark amongst so many that had turned away from God that He destroyed everyone but Noah. It said, Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord (Genesis 6:8). Favor. Mercy. Love. So our desire in our hearts is, and for this relationship to continue with our Lord and Savior, with our God in Heaven, with our Father, we need to continue not only to receive grace to overcome. But along with that, the other definition and meaning of His favor and His mercy. That He would then give unto us that strength and that power to walk in His ways. To live overcoming lives. To flee from evil and to cleave to that which is good. To abhor that which is evil and to cleave to that which is good (Romans 12:9). To overcome evil with good (Romans 12:21).

Then peace. That is a beautiful word. That is something that many

are seeking out today. A peace. We sing also in a hymn, Peace, Perfect Peace (Hymns of Zion #26). That only comes from God. That only comes from the way that we must

Sermon continued on page 40

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"Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him."
(James 1:12)

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

May 2011

Overcoming Temptation

The Bible describes temptation in two ways: the act of testing or proving someone, or the enticement to sin. This article will address the universal experience of mankind being tempted by Satan to sin, which began with our first parents. It will focus on how the believer can overcome temptation by God's grace. When Adam and Eve were tempted in the Garden of Eden, they were enticed solely by Satan, as is true for us (Jam. 1:13). Because they disobeyed God, they fell into Satan's snare and committed a sin whose consequences affect mankind to this day.

Satan is a subtle, clever and dangerous foe who knows our weaknesses. In the case of Adam and Eve, Satan was aware of God's simple command regarding the tree of knowledge of good and evil: "thou shalt not eat of it" (Gen. 2:17). He craftily deceived Eve by enticing her in a way that implied God was withholding something desirable from them: "...hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" (Gen. 3:1). Eve played into Satan's hands at this approach. Her response exaggerated God's command in a way that may suggest she harbored a bit of resentment over it: "...God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die" (Gen. 3:3). This was partially true, but the biblical record of God's command does not refer to touching the tree. Having regressed to this weakened state, Eve was increasingly vulnerable to Satan's continued enticements. Adam had received this commandment directly from God before the creation of Eve. His failure to be a spiritual leader completed the descent into sin and they both partook of the fruit: "...she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat" (Gen. 3:6).

Satan uses much the same methods today as he did with Adam and Eve. James describes the process of temptation and man's pitiful response: "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death" (Jam. 1:14-15).

In this context, our own "lust" could

be a strong desire within our heart for anything which is forbidden by God's moral law. Our Lord understands these human tendencies and weaknesses, and He knows we are not strong enough to overcome them on our own. His promise is to help us avoid temptations through sincere prayer and reliance upon His grace.

"Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Matt. 26:41). From an "honest and good heart," we can recognize and humbly acknowledge any dangers in our life through prayerful self-examination, and, by God's grace, obey His teachings and remain faithful (Luke 8:12-15). Resisting temptation will require some temporary sacrifice on our part, but yielding may have eternal consequences. "And if thine eye offend thee (causes you to sin), pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire" (Mark 9:47). Application of this teaching may require taking specific steps to remove from our life something that is causing us to sin and could ultimately lead to our eternal destruction.

To be "drawn away" means to be lured from a place of spiritual safety to one of danger. Any uncontrolled inner desires for that which is sinful will place us in great danger of Satan luring us away from God. Because young King Solomon found the favor of God through his humility, he was given wisdom that exceeded all men before or since. Given this advantage, we could assume that Solomon should have been victorious against the temptations of Satan. Nevertheless, he did not control his attraction for ungodly women, and Satan was successful in luring him away into idolatry. "But king Solomon loved many strange women... it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods" (1 Kings 11:1,4). Solomon actively flirted with danger and he fell into sin. Spiritual laxity also greatly hinders our ability to overcome the human weaknesses within us and makes us more vulnerable to temptation. Jesus cautioned His disciples: "...Why sleep ye? rise and pray, lest ye enter into temptation" (Luke 22:46).

Temptation does not become sin until our "lust hath conceived" (Jam. 1:15) by

thinking seriously about acting upon a sinful purpose or desire within our mind. In doing so, we have sinned already in our heart (Matt. 5:28), and we are in very real danger of Satan taking us further into his snare. The key is to cast these thoughts out immediately before they develop into sin, as our Lord did by using the Word of God when He was tempted by Satan. (Matt. 4:1-11) Our sincere prayers, as well as those of others, are a powerful weapon against Satan. (Luke 22:32)

Jesus, having experienced all temptations, understands our human frame. (Heb. 2:18) He promises sufficient grace when we come boldly to His throne in our time of need. (Heb. 4:15-16) God has also promised that with every temptation comes a way of escape: "...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). Satan's array of temptations to sin goes far beyond the obvious sins of the flesh to include many heart issues which also grieve the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:30). The Apostle Paul exhorts: "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice" (Eph. 4:31). Our escape may be in placing an extra measure of protection and accountability in areas of known weakness and attraction. It certainly must include having the courage to say "No" when we are enticed (Prov. 1:10).

Our steadfastness in staying very close to the Lord, praying fervently, reading God's Word regularly, and attending church faithfully will help us to avoid being drawn away into sin (John 15:5; Acts 17:11; 1 Thess. 5:17; Heb. 10:25). Living an overcoming life is evidence of our love for God, who promises eternal life to all who are found faithful. Faithfulness is reflected in enduring faith which overcomes the world (1 John 5:3-4), purity of heart (Matt. 5:8) integrity (Ps. 25:21) and contrite openness to counsel (Prov. 4:13). "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him" (Jam. 1:12).

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

Suggestions for subjects are welcome and can be sent to:

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



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN Mission Committee

...The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest. Matthew 9:37-38

Needs in Mexico Ixtlán grade school grows

The school in Ixtlán is an outreach of the Apostolic Christian Church in Mexico. The school began in August 2009 with eight students in first grade. This year there are 27 students, 15 first graders and 12 second graders.

People in the community were hesitant about the school when it started, but their confidence increased after hearing and seeing positive results in the students during the first year. As they say in Mexico, "Gracias a Dios" ("Thanks to God"), and thanks to the generosity of our American brethren, the school is growing.

The work is God's, and if anything good is accomplished in the lives of the students, the credit is His. The work with the school hasn't been without challenges. It has proven difficult to find qualified teachers, a challenge we'll constantly face. Yet the uncertainty has provided an opportunity to trust God, cry out to Him, and watch in gratitude as He provides.

The mission of the school is twofold. First, to provide quality education for the students. The second part of the mission is to gently, consistently, and patiently expose students and families to Jesus Christ, the living Savior who rescues sinners from bondage and transforms us into who we were meant to be. Because almost none of our children come from Christian families, we need loving wisdom to be sensitive to where they are spiritually. At the same time, we need humble boldness to never compromise the truth of God's Word or water down the Gospel. There is no other hope for

the world. We want to see God's will accomplished by the conversion of lost souls.

Christian teachers needed in Ixtlan

For the fall term there are also 15 signed up for the next first grade. There is still a need for Christian teachers in the school in Ixtlan. It is possible for an American certified teacher to be qualified to teach in the school, but there is some paperwork that needs to be approved which may take a couple of months. If interested please send an email to: marsh070138@prodigy.net.mx.



Ixtlan School Children

Couple needed in Barra Vieja/Lomas

Can you imagine if the only spiritual instruction you received was, at best, once a month when visitors came? The closest minister twelve hours away? This is what life is like for the four believers in Barra Vieja/Las Lomas.

Clearly, the Holy Spirit is present with them to teach and comfort them, and He will not abandon them. But they continue to pray for God to send someone who can live among them and disciple them in the paths of the Lord. The need for a long-term couple to provide

spiritual leadership is even more urgent because there are now young people (especially some of the believers' children) showing interest in the Word.

Summer VBS was held both in Barra Vieja and in Las Lomas, with roughly 100 children attending. The living conditions in Barra Vieja and Las Lomas are very humble. In previous years for VBS, the children and teachers gathered outside under a big Tamarind tree, as pigs and chickens occasionally ran through and added to the drama of the lesson. Some of the children brought boards or bricks to sit on; others were content to sit in the dirt. This year it was raining, but thankfully a neighbor let them use the garage. There were no chairs or tables, so the children packed together on the concrete floor. But they don't seem to mind. They are thrilled to receive anything, even a pencil, as a small prize for attendance or memory verses.

Opportunity in Morelia and Queretaro

The need exists in both Morelia and Queretaro for brethren to move there to encourage these small groups of believers.

Brothers or couples would seek to establish themselves in their neighborhoods and work places, building relationships with people and looking for opportunities to share the Gospel. By doing this, they would be participating in the Lord's work of adding to the church (Acts 2:47). Please continue to pray for laborers, Mexican and American, to go to the harvest fields.

Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. John 4:35



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

Serving in Japan

Japan stands out as one of the largest unchurched nations of the developed world. Early missionaries may have arrived in Japan as early as 200 AD, but the gospel never took hold in this land where both Shintoism and Buddhism have had strong roots for many centuries.

Ways to serve

Today there are 27 members in the two churches in Tokyo and Shioda, and about 20 Sunday school children. Many Japanese are eager to speak and learn English, so contact with them can begin right away. But to reach the majority, it is necessary to learn both the Japanese language and the culture, which requires time and patience.

Outreach work through the years has included English teaching, various Bible study groups, Sunday school activities, and a church kindergarten. Getting a job as an English teacher is relatively easy, and is the way that several Americans have worked in our church throughout the years for both outreach, and also to support themselves.

Even without a trip to Japan, you can serve the Japanese by taking part in a homestay program for Japanese students. Many Japanese have had their first exposure to God's Word overseas, and bring back with them fond memories of the love of Christians in the US.

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

Japan Earthquake 2011

The Mission Committee and World Relief have been working with our brethren from the churches in Japan, who have been making several trips to Northern Japan and taking disaster supplies. We are providing funds to assist our brethren in Japan with their disaster relief efforts.

We will continue to look for opportunities for our brethren to assist with rehabilitation and development efforts in the weeks and months to come. Funds are needed 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.

A recent account

Following is an account from Bro. Andrew Klaus, "We went to the town of Minamisanriku, one of the hard hit towns that used to have a population of 18,000 but over half are feared dead. The main evacuation center was chaotic and it is clear that not enough supplies are getting into all of the smaller shelters scattered around town. We visited 4 shelters, providing supplies for which they were very thankful, and spending as much time as we could in each one talking to the people.

We told them that we are from Christian churches in the Tokyo area, and are come to share God's love with them, and that we really care for them. There is no Christian church in this town, and I would assume very few Christians if any.

At the last shelter we visited at the junior high school, I walked into one of the classrooms being used for living quarters, and started a conver-

sation with a family, a grandmother, mother, and 2 children in the 7th and 9th grades. After listening to their frightening experiences during the tsunami, we were able to have a deeper talk about who Jesus is. The only thing the mother knew was that this Jesus was born in a manger. At the end I presented them with a Bible and tract, for which the mother seemed genuinely thankful.

We didn't have any supplies left, but I also asked them what their needs are so we can better prepare for next time. The son answered that he wanted a pair of shoes. Some shoes had come in to the shelter, but they were all too small for him, and he had been wearing slippers for the past 3 weeks. After learning his shoe size, I asked if he wanted mine. Normally, Japanese would never accept such an offer, but he responded that he did, so I gave him my pair, and he was truly happy."

Opportunity to give

To make contributions to the relief effort and the anticipated need for reconstruction assistance, send 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. www.acworldrelief.org. Checks should be made out to ACWR and designated "Japan Disaster Relief."

Send to:

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711 Elm Drive
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**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
HOME FOR THE
HANDICAPPED
www.achh.org**

Spring is a time of new growth outside and inside all of our homes. Residents and staff enjoyed the Easter season and the coming of spring as some visited families for the holiday and many were able to get outside for walks, bike rides and outdoor events such as horseback riding and picnics. Some people are in the planning stages for taking day trips this summer.

The news of all the recent events in Japan touched the hearts of our residents at one of our group homes. Throughout the month many of the residents took turns crushing aluminum cans in order to save the money to send in support of relief efforts in Japan. Prayer time was set with the people of Japan in mind, and the residents designated an entire week to learning about the country. A staff member shared authentic items from her previous stay in Japan (clothing, photographs, artwork, music, and books). Residents and staff donned the beautiful kimonos, obis, and other traditional garments. Almost everyone joined in to create cherry blossom centerpieces for the tables. One special night the house was decked out with Japanese lanterns, cherry blossoms, oriental music, and the table was even set with tea cups and chopsticks! Everyone enjoyed the yakisoba (a dish of meat, veggies, and rice noodles) and had lots of fun trying to eat with chopsticks. The residents really took pleasure in learning about the culture and people of Japan and will continue to keep them in their hearts and prayers.

Good Friday was a special event for some of the residents as they got to experience a Passover Luncheon on their day off from work. The meal

began with a reading from the Bible and then a word of prayer and blessing from Keith. Unleavened bread, haroset (an apple/honey mixture), and baked fish were served and passed, all while listening to traditional Hebrew music. A bit of the history of the Passover meal and its significance to the Easter Holiday was shared as they ate lunch. As a whole, the residents found the textures to be "interesting" and the flavors a bit "different" from the general meals, but enjoyed the experience and the time of fellowship and learning together.

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

Brandon Wiegand

Gateway Woods is a place that blesses many hurting families and children. For the past few summers it has been a blessing to me as well. I have volunteered there, along with many others, and together we have seen the Lord directly using His people for His purposes in ways both great and small. Whether we were there for a day or several weeks, God taught us about service and the infinite love He has for us, His creation. This summer I am thankful and excited to be the Volunteer Coordinator at Gateway.

We are certainly in need of willing hearts again this year! If you are age 19 or older I ask that you would prayerfully consider coming out. Volunteers work on many diverse jobs throughout the summer. Whatever your skill set, from the arts to construction and everything in between, you can and will be used! Willingness to serve is the most important qualification. The blessings of serving are many and they are reciprocal; as you trust that God will teach you, and both you and Gateway Woods will benefit.

The experience of working together and meeting new Brothers and Sisters in Christ is just another perk of the job for all of those willing to volunteer. I am looking forward to seeing new and old faces alike! Please feel free to contact me, whether you are just curious or you are certain you want to come out to Gateway. Please remember to pray for Gateway Woods as well, and for the work God is doing there.

Check out gatewaywoods.org, and make sure to see the volunteer info at <http://www.gatewaywoods.org/suppliers/volunteer>

If you are interested in volunteering, please fill out the application form and volunteer reference form at the bottom of the page. To reach me directly please call (309) 310-9340

News:

- Gateway Woods welcomed one new resident to campus this past month. Please pray with us as she becomes accustomed to her new home. It can be a difficult adjustment for new residents as they discover a very different living situation than they have experienced before.

- We are very pleased to announce that Sis. Natalie Hoerr (Bloomington) has been brought on to become the newest member of the Gateway Woods family. She has been hired to help us move forward with earning our Adoption Agency license in Illinois.

- It is with mixed emotions that we bid farewell to Bro. Jarod and Sis. Molly Steffen and their two children this month. The Steffens have been Houseparents in the Cypress House and have now decided to move on from Gateway. We will miss them here on campus, but we thank them for their years of service and wish them the best as they move onto new endeavors.

- Bro. Paul and Sis. Nicole Suvar

will become the new Houseparents in the Cypress House after the Steffens depart. The Suvars have been Alternate Houseparents for some time and we ask for your prayers for them as they transition into this new role.

- We currently have three career positions open at Gateway Woods: Assistant Houseparent, Alternate Houseparent and Teacher's Aide. Please see the notices in this month's edition of The Silver Lining for more information or visit the Career Opportunities page on our website at: www.gatewaywoods.org/supporters/career-opportunities. We trust that God will continue to provide us with qualified, mature Brothers and Sisters who will be able to serve Him in a ministry that is 'Turning Lives Around'. Perhaps this includes you!

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

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

were thankful to have Board Members Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH), Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), Bro. Duane Reutter (Rockville, CT), and Bro. Daron Price (Milford, IN) with us for the meeting. We welcome Bro. Milton Ray to the Preschool Board.

The theme for April was Spring, Easter, Plants, and the color Green.

ALABAMA, ATHENS

**Louise Hall
Pam Moore**

"Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works."

James 2:18

On April 20, we were thankful to have Bro. Sam and Sis. Linda Schlatter (Junction, OH) return to Athens and spend a few days with us. We love their annual visit to Athens! On April 17, we welcomed Bro. Jon and Sis. Christine Zeller (Morton, IL) to Athens for the weekend and were thankful that he shared the Word of God with us. On April 3, Bro. Jeff Waibel (Leo, IN) brought to us the Word of God; we keep Bro. Jeff and Sis. Margo and family in our prayers.

We are finally able to welcome Bro. Roger and Sis. Becky Roberts and their family to our Athens congregation. They have added a blessed increase to our small Athens congregation. We hope they feel at home in Athens!

We thank Elder Bros. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) and Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) for sharing Holy Communion with us on March 27. We also thank Bro. Duane Reutter (Rockville, CT) for his part in the Sunday Service. How precious it is to know and feel that Christ died for our sins personally!

We keep Bro. Kerwin Edelman's father in our prayers, Bro. Levi Edelman, and his wife, Sis. Donna, as they deal with illness. We also pray for little Tommy Mayo, great-grandson of Sis. Corrine Thomas, son of Dana Thomas, as he has new challenges to face. Sis. Joyce Ray is undergoing medical tests and we keep her in our prayers.

As I write this news, we are now in the recovery stage of the tornadoes that came through Alabama on April 27. We are thankful to our Heavenly Father for protecting our Athens congregation, however, there are so many tragic stories of death and injuries from these tornadoes throughout our state. We ask for your prayers of healing; physical, emotional, and spiritual for all those affected by the tornadoes.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Heather Hinrichsen

On March 27, we witnessed the baptism of five young souls. Making a covenant to following Christ all the days of their lives by the help of the Spirit were Bro. Steven Emch (Bro. James and Sis. Gina), Bro. Tyler and Sis. Kristin Knochel (Elder Bro. Herb and Sis. Laurie), Bro. TJ Sutton (Bro. Tim and Sis. Verene) and Bro. Derek Knochel (Bro. Nate and Sis. Kathy). We thank Elder Bro. Tom Klotzle (Altadena) for assisting Elder Bros. Jon and Herb with the testimonies and baptisms. Aren't we blessed that God breaks down our barricades and softens our hearts so that we are willing to repent of our old ways and live a new life in Him.

We are thankful to Elder Bro. Steve Ringger (Bluffton North), Bro. Doug Wagenbach (San Diego), Bro. Jay Knapp (Tucson), and Bro. Brad Bauer (Tucson) for sharing the Gospel.

Many in our congregation have

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

**Athens, AL
Louise Hall**

"He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay."

Matthew 28:6

We had our Annual Preschool Board Meeting on March 26. We

had surgery or are undergoing medical testing and are in need of healing prayers, including Bro. Earl Roth (Sis. Marilyn), Sis. Toni Bentley, Bro. Jim Beres (Sis. Lois), Bro. Kenny (Sis. Mary Jo) Schmidgall and Sis. LouAnn Klopfenstein (Bro. Dave). We also pray for those who, due to age or illness, have not been able to worship with us for quite some time: Sis. Bertha Miller and Sis. Shirley Mohrman.

Patrick and Amy Swain welcomed their first child, Carter Michael Swain, into their arms on March 28. His grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Diane Ebert and Mike and Nancy Swain (Phoenix).

Julie Lanz (Rittman) has accepted the way of salvation and has begun the road of repentance. She is living in Phoenix and attending graduate school.

“What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?”

Romans 8:31

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT Max Knobloch

Another month has come and gone. We are enjoying the many blessings the Lord provides and rejoice as always for Jesus Christ, and want to extend Christian greetings to all our Brothers and Sisters in Christ. We thank the Lord for each one of you.

“Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.”

I John 4:10-12

The visiting ministers, their wonderful wives, and families once again brought us joy for their company, thankful hearts for their efforts, and most importantly God’s Word. This month they were Bro. Ron and Sis. Ruth Steiner (Rittman, OH), Bro. Vic and Sis. Brenda Bauman (Smithville, OH), Bro. Roger and Sis. LaVonne Aberle (Sabetha, KS), Bro. Curt and Sis. Caroline Kaufman (Tucson, AZ), Elder Bro. Jon and Sis. Nancy, and Bro. James and Sis. Gina Emch (Phoenix, AZ). We must all remember, though, to only give glory to God. For it is His grace that gives us the strength to do His good will.

Several times our small congregation got together on Friday nights and worked on various World Relief projects. This also gave the Sunday School children a chance to practice for the upcoming Easter Program, and of course we also enjoyed several church potlucks.

We were also blessed with a work team from central Illinois. They got here very early on March 31 and stayed through Saturday, April 2. They came out to help continue the progress being made at Hallelujah Horse Ranch. We appreciate the very hard and very visible work they accomplished. We also were thankful to have the Phoenix Young Group join in on a day of good ‘ol hard work that Saturday at the ranch as well. Most of them stayed for church on Sunday, and we appreciate their efforts. Praise the Lord for a safe week, wonderful fellowship, and many laughs.

We were also able to begin the Love and Respect Bible Study led by Bro. James (Sis. Gina) Emch. It is mostly for married couples but applies to unmarried men and women of all ages as well. The study teaches how the differences in communication, behavior, and perception of words and actions between men and women can cause problems. One of

the main verses describing the remedy for these problems is Ephesians 5:33. Since God made us and knows what we need, we should not be surprised that modern statistical studies have proven that men need respect and women need love. The sovereignty of God’s Word is amazing. His Word given to the Ephesians almost 2,000 years ago still applies to us today.

“Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.”

Ephesians 5:33

ARIZONA, TUCSON Lisa Knapp

I think we officially set a record this past month. We had three babies born to families in our little church. Reuben and Eli Steffen made their very early arrival into the lives and hearts of Bro. Jamin and Sis. Lauren Steffen. We are so very thankful that so far their challenges and concerns have been fairly normal for premature twins. They are in the NICU at St. Joseph’s hospital and they are growing and gaining weight and even spending some much anticipated time together. Their victories are small but hugely celebrated by their parents and family and friends across the country. We will continue to hold this little family up in our thoughts and prayers. It’s hard to imagine how two little boys who have never been through the doors of our church are so tightly woven into the fabric of our lives already! We love you, Jamin, Lauren, Reuben and Eli!

Bro. Curt and Sis. Caroline Kaufman welcomed their own little bundle of joy as their grandson Chase was born to Carl and Sara Kaufman. Chase has been excitedly welcomed home by big sister, Lacey. May God

bless Carl and Sara as they strive to provide a Christian home for these two beautiful children.

As we welcome these new little additions to our church family, we are saying goodbye to more of our winter visitors. We pray for their safe return to their "other" homes and will look forward, Lord willing, to their returns next winter. We are having warm (almost, dare I say, hot) days and cool mornings and evenings after a brief cold weekend as we head towards Easter next week.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Greetings from Altadena!

This has been a couple of months of travel for many in our congregation! With church related trips, vacations, and work travel, many have been missing lately. We've had visiting ministers, Bro. Kent Mogler (Sis. Mary, Minneapolis) and Bro. Dan Goric (Sis. Mary Lou, Rockville). We miss Bro. Lazlo and Sis. Maria Cser when they are unable to make the drive in from Desert Hot Springs.

We praise God for the much needed rain this season, and for the beauty of flowers and green grass and shrubs that cover the mountain sides in Southern California. Surely creation shouts the glory of God to all who behold it!

KITCHENER, ONTARIO CANADA

Kim Leman

"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

1 Corinthians 15:57-58

March 27 was the wedding day of our Sis. Eva Toth and Bro. Doug Bradle (Eureka, IL). Their parents are Sis. Maria Toth (Kitchener), Zoltan Toth (Serbia) and Bro. Roger and Sis. Ila Bradle (Eureka). We enjoyed having our church full to overflowing that day! Among the many visitors were Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI) and ministering Bros. Dale Stoller (Sis. Sandra, Fairbury, IL), Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI), Dan Stoller (Sis. Diane, Rockville, CT), Mark Rufener (Sis. Julie, Mansfield, OH), and Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman, OH). We trust God will bless them in their marriage and give them grace as they continue to wait for Sis. Eva's immigration paperwork to be finalized.

Other ministering Brothers who visited us this month were retired Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN), Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), and Bros. Warren Zahner (Sis. Bonnie, Rockville, CT) and Gary Anliker (Sis. Edie, Elgin, IL). May God bless each Brother who comes to serve us the Word of Life.

REGINA, SK CANADA

Myrna Shipley

"Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord."

Psalms 27:14

This month we enjoyed a supper and singing together with our visitors from Morris. The visitors were Elder Bro. Roy and Sis. Jenell Koehl and Bro. Art and Sis. Sandra Nohl and some other young people. Then they shared some beautiful news! Four dear souls were announced for baptism: Hermann and Hilda Kaiser and their sons, Benjamin and Uli. Praise be to God they were able to let

God convert their souls and they gave their hearts to Him. The baptisms will be sometime in June, Lord willing. We still need to remember our dear converts, Andreas and Stefanie Kaiser as well as Bernhard and Angelika Kaiser. All of these Kaisers are from Saltcoats which is 2 1/2 hours drive from Regina. Many of you are so blessed to be part of a large church.

We're thankful for our ministers and folks that come with them. Our minister schedule this year is: (May 16, Princeville), (June 19, Rittman), (July 17, Forrest), (August 21, Chicago), (Sept. 18, Sabetha), (Oct. 16, Silvertown), (Nov. 11, Morris).

COLORADO, DENVER

Lily Zarkovacki

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

John 14:6

Our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, Portland) and Bro. David Obergfel (Sis. Kathleen, Peoria). We are thankful for the dedication and faithfulness of our ministering brethren!

It was so nice to see Sis. Ruth Pfeiffer back worshipping with us after being gone due to extensive health issues.

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE

**Laura Virkler
Bonnie Bahler**

Out onto Calv'ry's hill,
Where Jesus died I'll go,
To hear the words He speaks,
To see Him in His woe.

Zion's Harp #89

On the weekend of April 23-24, our congregation had the privilege to

partake of Holy Communion. In the solemnity of the evening, our thoughts went out to the cross in remembrance of our Lord and Saviour and the suffering that He paid for our sins.

Also on that weekend, we welcomed Bro. Greg Galat (Bro. Dave and Sis. Marlene) into the fold, as he gave his testimony of faith and was baptized. We rejoice with him and his family.

We are so thankful for those who come and minister the Word to our congregation. We want to thank Bro. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville, IA) who so willingly gave of himself to share God's Word.

The engagement of Bro. Rob Widmer (Bro. Dan and Sis. Virginia, Rittman, OH) and Sis. Anne Marie Hoffman (Bro. Steve and Sis. Joan) was made known to our congregation. We wish God's rich blessings on this couple as they plan for their marriage.

Our prayers and sympathy go out to Bro. Dave Galat (Sis. Marlene) in the passing of his brother, Philip Galat from Illinois.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Elsa Champ, Sis. Betty Gottier, and Phylis Lanz who have been sick and are recuperating. May the Lord heal and provide for each one.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

Our caretakers for March were Bro. Greg and Sis. Christy Greutman from Latty, OH. We always enjoy getting to know our caretakers. Thanks to those who have responded to our appeal for caretakers, we just have December left this year, but there are plenty of openings for 2012. If you have a desire to support our small church in this way, please contact

Sis. Doreen Steffen for more information at dkgsteffen@gmail.com or 302-540-6574. We have been richly blessed by our caretakers over the past four years, and we look forward to getting to know and fellowshiping with more in the coming year. We also encourage past caretakers to come again!

Last month I reported on the early blooming trees. We are done with the cherry trees and enjoying the dogwood and other flowering trees this month.

Our ministers this month were Bro. Jerry Isch (Sis. Linda, Philadelphia, PA), Bro. Jaye Rinckenberger (Sis. Peg, Goodfield, IL), retired Elder Bro. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kansas City, MO), Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH), and Bro. Dennis Kaufman (Sis. Bonnie, Bloomington, IL). Other visitors were from Akron and Sardis, OH; Fairbury and Gridley, IL; and Morris North, MN.

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 or Sis. Henrietta Meyer at (703) 904-8301 for assistance and to let us know how many to expect for Sunday services.

**FLORIDA
FORT LAUDERDALE
Renee Mangold**

We were thankful to have several visiting ministers this past month. Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL), Bro. Chuck Kellenberger

(Sis. Debbie, Elgin, IL), Bro. Matt Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville, IL), Bro. Tom Leman (Sis. Marlene, Denver, CO), and Bro. Ron Jones (Sis. Liz, Portland, OR). We pray that God will continue to bless the Ft. Lauderdale church with those willing to come and share His Word and pray for a blessing on those that do His work.

Congratulations to Bro. Mike and Sis. Renee Mangold on the engagement of their son, Nathan, to Jenna Forest. Jenna and Nathan both reside in the Bloomington, IL, area. We pray that God will be the cornerstone of their marriage and wish them both much happiness and many blessings.

**FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Kim Ott**

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

Luke 22:19-20

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) join our Elder Bro. Jeff Streitmatter for our spring Holy Communion services on April 2. As we were reminded of Jesus Christ's death and suffering, we are also very grateful that the story doesn't end there. Today we celebrate not only on Easter Sunday, but every day that the tomb could not hold Christ and that He has risen from the dead. Today we have hope that our sins can be forgiven and that we can spend eternity with Christ, our brother and God, our Father.

We were thankful to have many visiting ministers this month, including Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman

(Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL), Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI), Elder Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL), Bro. John Bradle (Sis. Jill, Roanoke, IL), Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie, Elgin, IL), Bro. Tim Ramsier (Sis. Joni, Rittman, OH), and Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI). We pray that God would add a special blessing to their lives for sharing of themselves in service to further His Kingdom.

Our Sunday School picnic was held on April 16 at Longwood Run Park. All ages from our congregation enjoyed the beautiful day filled with a relaxing time of fellowship and delicious cookout and potluck lunch. Many thanks to all who helped make this event possible. It truly is a blessing to have this memorable time with our church family!

We are continuing in prayer for Bro. John Krstec (Sis. Biserka) as he recently has had surgery. We pray that God would grant His healing strength to Bro. John. We miss having our brother assemble with us and we hope to see him join us in the near future.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

On Palm Sunday, the Sunday School children retold the precious story of salvation! We were lead from the foretold promises of Isaiah to the coming return of our Savior as proclaimed in Revelation.

We were so thankful to have two ministering brothers with us this past month; Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Elgin) and Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley). God bless you for your willing heart to travel the many miles and serve!

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

**Shayla Steffen
Doreen Moser**

Ordination (Titus 1:5): March 20 was the ordination of Bro. Dave Steffen (Elgin, IL). Our prayers are with him and his family as he strives to hold fast the faithful Word and labor for the Lord.

Marriage (I Cor. 7): Bro. Trent Steffen (Bro. Dean and Sis. Carol) and Sis. Kristina Rufener (Bro. Dave and Sis. LeAnn, Rittman, OH) were united in marriage March 27. We welcome Kristina to our small Belvidere congregation and may God be with them as they seek to do His will in their marriage.

Communion (St. Mark 14): On April 9 we took the cup and broke bread. We gave thanks for this "common union". We gave thanks for the shedding of His blood and His broken body. We also thank Elder Bro. Dave Steffen and retired Elder Bro. Nate Steffen for laboring on our behalf.

Easter (St. Luke 24): "...He is not here, but is risen..." The Sunday School children helped us to remember the resurrection and ascension of Jesus this past Sunday, April 17. It brings such joy to our hearts as we witness such pure love as the children sing praises to Him. Let us all remember and not be slow of heart to believe.

Giving (Galatians 6:9-10): The Sunday School held a benefit on April 16 to raise money for their mission trip to Tennessee. They appreciate the love and support of the many who attended.

Ministering (Hebrews 13:7): We are thankful to the brethren who not only visited our church but who also brought forth the Word. We thank Elder Bro. Dave Steffen (Elgin, IL), retired Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL), Bro. Troy Leyse (Bluffton, IN), Bro. Mark Wettstein (LaCrosse, IN), Bro. Dale Banwart

(Congerville, IL). May God bless you for your labors of love.

ILLINOIS BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

**Shelly Steffen
Heidi Rinkenberger**

"I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which Thou hast given me; for they are Thine. And all mine are Thine, and Thine are mine and I am glorified in them."

John 17: 9-10

At this time of year, we contemplate all the events that preceded the death and resurrection of our Lord. We are so grateful to Him for His sacrifice, and are blessed to be able to thank Him and worship Him with other believers. What a wonderful gift the Lord has given us in the Church body. We were reminded of this with the reading of the Memorandum. On April 16 we had a dinner at church and afterward Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter along with visiting Elder Bro. Bruce Endress (Bradford, IL) read the Memorandum.

We were also blessed to have Bro. Kerwin and Sis. Sara Edelman (Athens, AL) with us on April 10. Bro. Kerwin ministered to us in the morning. We appreciated so very much the visit.

Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter gave a Communion exhortation on April 10. We were reminded of the love we should have for our fellow believers. We look forward to Communion in a couple of weeks, and remembering what our Lord Jesus sacrificed for our souls' salvation.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

**Roseann Stahl
Sandi Joos**

In days of youth seek ye the Lord,

His love and truth with one accord!
Go offer Him thy youthful days
and walk within the Saviour's ways.

Hymns of Zion #135

We are rejoicing with Jamie Joos (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jenny) who has answered God's call and is now walking in the Saviour's ways.

We thank Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign) for his willingness to help Bro. Bruce in serving Holy Communion to our congregation. Such a blessing within the brotherhood that we have this opportunity to have sacred fellowship with our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Bro. Wayne also ministered to us on Sunday and we thank him for that as well.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN

Sarah Drake

Greetings from Champaign! We are thankful to have had several visiting ministers this past month. Many thanks to Elder Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago), Bro. Matt Kaufmann (Sis. Rebekah, Bloomington), and Bro. Jon Zeller (Sis. Christine, Morton) for sharing God's Word with us!

On April 9-10 our Bible Class had the opportunity to host an invite. For a congregation our size, it has been a blessing the past few years to have a Bible Class big enough to host such an event. We pray that seeds from God's Word were planted and that friendships from the weekend could blossom for years to come!

We extend a warm welcome to the family of Bro. Dan and Sis. Mary Schmidgall as they begin fellowshiping with our local congregation. We look forward to getting to know them better and growing in Christian Love!

Our sympathy goes out to those in our congregation who have lost loved

ones this month. Clint (Amy) Schaffer lost his dear grandmother, Madeline Miller of Forrest, IL; and Lois (Jerry) Vogel said goodbye to her brother, Raymond Steiner, of Cissna Park, IL. We pray that the Comforter would be with these families as they go through this difficult time.

April 17 was our Sunday School Easter Program. The theme was "Triumphant Entry to Triumphant Entry". This referred to Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, leading up to His triumphant entry into Heaven. It is always a blessing to hear all of the young voices proclaiming the greatest and most important story ever told! Thanks to the students and teachers for another wonderful program. He is risen!

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Rachel Meyer

Greetings from Chicago. We thank Elder Bro. Bruce Endress (Bradford, IL) for sharing God's Word with us April 9-10. We especially thank him for his willing service of Communion.

We also thank Bro. Justin Koch (Washington, IL), for his thoughtful Topical Bible Study on the book of Galatians and Bro. Galen Rokey (Bern, KS) for his service of ministry.

Our dear Sis. Lois Metzger (Bro. Boyd) underwent surgery this month. Our prayers are with this beloved couple. May God send healing and strength.

Sis. Katie Jones completed her tenure in Chicago and has returned to Minnesota. We enjoyed Sis. Katie's company and pray God will guide her future.

Our Bro. Lenny Meyer presented a Topical Bible Study on "Being Disciples of Jesus". We thank him for sharing his time and thoughts on our behalf.

The Francesville Bible Class and

their teachers visited April 10. They enjoyed their visit to the city and we enjoyed their fellowship and beautiful singing. Thanks for coming and please return.

There are times when I sit in church on Sunday reviewing everything scheduled to happen in the upcoming week. If I anticipate especially stressful events, I will remind myself, "Next week at this time it will be over." Perhaps you do, too? This thought crossed my mind Palm Sunday ... except I was wondering about another person's anticipation.

That person was Jesus. The ministering brother was sharing about the adulation Jesus received as He made His triumphal entry to Jerusalem. Waving palms...jubilant reception...adoration. No human knew that day the same hands that waved palm branches would crucify Him mere days later. Jesus knew. Perhaps He already felt the beginning pangs of the physical, mental, and spiritual agony He was destined to suffer. Thankfully we know the outcome of the story. Jesus had enough compassion on our sinful human condition to realize next week at that time it would all be over...and just beginning.

One more thought: I was talking to a mother of one of my clients via phone. She was asking to schedule with us on Good Friday evening and I told her we would be at church. She replied by asking, "Do I wish you a Happy Easter? Do people do that?" Praise God I could joyfully tell this dear woman that, yes, she could indeed wish me a Happy Easter!

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

Marilyn Maul

Tina Walder

Our hearts ache with sorrow for Bro. Eric and Sis. LouAnn Kaeb as they have lost a darling granddaugh-

ter, Addie Hartter. Addie is the daughter of Bro. John and Sis. Teresa Hartter (Sabetha).

We wish God's blessings on Trent Kaeb and Brandy Patterson as they were wed. Trent is the son of Bro. Eric and Sis. LouAnn Kaeb.

We rejoice with the birth of Leah Marie Manz, daughter of Bro. Randy and Sis. Bonnie Manz (Junction). Leah's grandparents are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Bonita Frank.

Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha) was here for the Conference Letter and Holy Communion exhortation. Bro. Lenny Meyer (Sis. Charlotte, Chicago) was here for the Topical Bible Presentation. Joining us for our Invite-A-Guest weekend were Bros. Jim Vierling (Sis. Linda, Eureka) and Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton). Elder Bro. Steve Martin (Sis. Vicki, Eureka) assisted our Bro. Tom serve Holy Communion. Bringing us the message of the Lord's resurrection were Bros. Dan Moser (Sis. Anne, Elgin, IL) and Les Kaeb (Sis. Christine, Francesville). We thank each of these brothers for giving of themselves for our congregation.

Let us ever go forward rejoicing that our precious Lord and Saviour arose from the grave so that we may have everlasting life.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE **Rachel Currier**

Sis. Amber Wettstein (Bro. Denny and Sis. Emily) was united in marriage to Bro. Daniel Maibach (Bro. Tim and Sis. Mary, Bloomfield) on Sunday, March 27. Also the wedding of Kary Leman (Bro. Ed and Sis. Gail) and Obed Fritz (Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica, Nashville) took place this past month on Saturday, April 2. We rejoiced to hear of the engagement of Sis. Elizabeth Virkler (Bro. Denny and Sis. Gayle) to Bro. Evan Stoller

(Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb, Remington). May the Lord be near these couples as they begin their lives together.

The home of Bro. Vic and Sis. Betsy Rinkenberger was blessed with a new son, Tyler John. Also welcoming him is big sister, Lexi, and grandparents, Bro. Mike and Sis. Pat Rinkenberger and Bro. Ron and Sis. Kay Rufener (Mansfield).

We appreciated the labor of Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield) as he assisted Bro. Ben in the sharing of Holy Communion. Also this past month we have heard the Word from visiting ministers, Bro. Mark Steiner (Sis. Sue, Smithville), Bro. Steve Pamer (Sis. Arliss, Akron), Bro. Ken Eisenmann (Sis. Sharon, Cissna Park), Bro. Tom Leman (Sis. Marlene, Denver), Bro. Nathan Walder (Sis. Denise, Cissna Park), and Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary, Fairbury). We wish them God's continued grace as they seek to preach the truth.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN **Amy Gasser** **Miriam Gasser**

On the evening of March 19, Elder Bro. Ted Steffen (Alto, MI) assisted Bro. Ron in the serving of Communion. May God bless him for traveling here with his young family to labor on our behalf.

The next morning, Elder Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) conducted the morning service. In the afternoon, the ordination of Bro. David Steffen (Sis. Linda) as our new Elder took the place of the regular service. Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) first exhorted the Elgin and Belvidere congregations. Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL) then exhorted the ministers, and Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL) exhorted Bro. David and Sis. Linda. Finally, Bro. Ron received the

vows and led the ordination prayer.

We are sincerely grateful to Bro. Ron Schambach for his many years of service as our Elder and also thank Sis. Nancy for her supportive role. Our prayers will be with Bro. David and Sis. Linda as they assume these positions within the Elgin and Belvidere congregations.

In recent weeks, the hearts of four young people were quickened and turned to the Lord in repentance. We pray that Nathan Moser (Bro. Dan and Sis. Anne) and Kathleen, Jack, and Kaelin Schambach (Bro. Eric and Sis. Erika) will feel nurtured and encouraged within the fold, as they embark upon their spiritual journey.

Our annual Easter program was presented by the Sunday School students on the evening of April 17. The recitations, Bible reading, and singing reminded us of the love that drew salvation's plan and the mighty gulf that God did span at Calvary.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Dee Baer **Jodi Blunier**

Bro. Jake and Sis. T. Anne Wiegand welcomed Abram John. Happy to help care for him are Anna, Emma, Sara, Ella, Maria and William. Grandparents are Dale and Sis. Freidora Wiegand and Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy Rudin (Forrest).

Experiencing new birth were Bro. Kurt Cottrell (Bro. Brent and Sis. Darla) and Bro. Brant Martin (Bro. Tim and Sis. Becky). Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke) came to assist for this occasion.

Remembering the sacrifice, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus through Holy Communion brought renewal to the brethren. Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO) was here to help in the work.

Sis. Dorothy Gandell was called from life. Mourning her loss are

stepchildren, Dr. David (Dahn) Gandell of Fairport, NY; Dr. Ruth (Leo) Gideon of Evanston, IL; her sister, Sis. Norma Pfaffmann; as well as many nieces and nephews in our nearby churches. Bro. Lenny Meyer (Chicago) had her services.

Bro. Clarence "Mitz" Lehman passed from life. He is survived by two sons, James (Michele) and Thomas, both of Eureka; and daughter, Janet (Darel) Walker of Valparaiso, IN.

Sis. Lillian Koehl resides at the Eureka Home and has felt infirmities in her health.

Additional visiting ministers have been Bro. Glen Braker (Princeville), Bro. Jedd Rocke (Goodfield), Bro. Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park), Bro. Randy Beer (Milford, IN), Bro. Jerry Bauman (Rittman, OH), Bro. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO), Bro. Arlen Leman (Forrest), Bro. Chad Leman (Kitchener, ON) and Bro. Craig Stickling (Peoria).

Notes of Thanks:

Many thanks for the lovely cards that I received for my 80th birthday. It was appreciated very much. May God bless you.

Sis. Helen Knecht

I want to thank you for all the cards I received on my 80th birthday. May God bless each one of you.

Sis. Arlene Huette

Thank you to everyone for the cards, gifts, visits, thoughts and prayers at the time of my surgery and since returning home. May God bless each of you.

Sis. Thelma (George) Saathoff

Our family sincerely thanks everyone who was involved in the funeral service and meal for our father, Clarence Lehman. Our hearts were truly touched by every kindness

shown.

The family of Bro. Clarence "Mitz" Lehman

We certainly felt God's goodness and love through so many of you and would like to express thanks for each visit, prayer, kind deed, and expression of support shown to our family during the passing of our loved one, Sis. Dorothy Gandell. May the Lord bless you and keep you close to Him.

Ruth and Leo Gideon

David and Dahn Gandell

The Hinrichsen Family

Robbie DeSigne (Bro. Bob and Sis. Cindy) has returned from Afghanistan and sincerely thanks everyone for their prayers for his safety and care.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

**Angela Herr
Kay Steffen**

The angels in heaven are rejoicing along with our congregation as we have a new convert, Sadie Moser (Sis. Julia and late Bro. Doug). May she continue to feel God's grace and mercy as she begins her new walk in faith.

"Our love shall not diminish, nor fade nor wane away..." Zion's Harp #137. April 3 was the wedding day of our Sis. Karla Steidinger and Bro. Jesse Zimmerman (Forrest, IL). Their parents are Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish Steidinger and Bro. Kent and Sis. Paulette Zimmerman. We wish them God's rich blessings as they walk the path of life together.

Elder Bro. Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL) and Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Rick Plattner in serving us Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Steve read and so beautifully meditated in the Old Testament of the first Passover and the Israelites putt-

ing the blood on the doorpost, before they were led out of bondage. May we each day remember the precious gift of the shed blood and broken body of our dear Lord and Savior, that we may be free from the bondage of sin.

We were privileged to have several visiting ministers this month, including Bro. Todd Sinn (Latty, OH), Bro. Gary Brown, Bro. Paul Zimmerman, Bro. Arlen Leman (Forrest, IL), Bro. Calvin Schneider (LaCrosse, IN), Bro. David Eisenmann (Champaign, IL), Bro. Clint Schmidt (Winthrop, MN), Bro. Randy Mogler (Washington, IL), Bro. Dennis Rassi (Austin, TX), Bro. Al Schambach (Remington, IN), Bro. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL), Bro. Chad Leman (Kitchener, ON), and Bro. Fred Witzig (Washington, IL). We appreciate the efforts these brothers put forth in the ministry, and pray God will continue to bless them.

We extend our love and sympathy to those who have lost loved ones recently. Our prayers are with Sis. Marguerite Lorch (Bro. Ben) in the loss of her brother, Elmer Kilgus of Morton, IL. Also, Sis. Norma Fehr (Bro. Wayne) is grieving the loss of her sister, Kathryn Kaeb (Norman) of the Cissna Park area. We pray that God will comfort the heart of each of these loved ones.

Bro. Kyle and Sis. Alicia Steidinger have been blessed with another baby boy, Tate William, born April 18. Big brother Jackson is happy for a playmate. Grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Anna Schmidgall and Bro. Randy and Sis. Dawn Steidinger, all of Fairbury.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Troy Hale (Sis. Annette) and Sis. Carol Bazzell (Bro. Donald) who have had surgery recently. Also our Bro. Duane Kilgus (Sis. Arlene) has spent time in the hospital. May God continue to heal and provide for each

one.

We were reminded once again of our dear Savior's death and glorious resurrection as our Sunday School students brought forth the message of hope and salvation during our Easter program on the evening of Palm Sunday.

On Easter Sunday we were thankful to have two souls baptized. Our new sisters in faith are Sis. Maria Steidinger (Bro. Keith and Sis. Kristine) and Sis. Traci Bunch (Curtis).

May they feel God's continued grace and guidance as they walk the straight and narrow pathway. Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN) and Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) were with us on Saturday evening to assist Elder Bro. Rick for testimonies. Elder Bro. Marvin was also with us on Sunday.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Lynn Dotterer
Lisa Aberle**

We joyously celebrated Holy Communion this month. Elder Bros. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL) were here to assist our Elder Bro. Marvin. We also enjoyed having Bro. Curt back later in the month. Bro. Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL) and Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) were our other visiting ministers this month. We thank them all for serving us.

Bro. Jesse Zimmerman and Sis. Karla Steidinger were united in Holy Matrimony on April 3 in Fairbury. Their parents are Bro. Kent and Sis. Paulette Zimmerman and Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish Steidinger (Fairbury, IL).

Bro. Matt and Sis. Kim Zimmerman welcomed their first son, Marshall Owen. His sisters, Cambria and Jenna, along with his grandparents, Bro. Mike and Sis.

Jeanette Zimmerman and Bro. Dean and Sis. Dawn Herrmann (Princeville, IL), are also thankful for his arrival.

Our Bro. Dan and Sis. Mary Schmidgall are now assembling with our Champaign, IL, congregation; we will miss them.

Our prayers and thoughts are with those who underwent medical treatment this month. Bro. Nate Bachman (Sis. Heidi), Bro. Alan Gerber (Sis. Marcia) and Beth Ifft (Bro. Duane and Sis. Mary) spent some time in the hospital.

Madaline Miller, the mother of our Sis. Sally Schaffer (Bro. John), passed away this month. Our prayers are with Sis. Sally and family at this time.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

**Kayla Wiegand
Melissa Rokey**

A heartfelt thank you to all who lent helping hands as we worked together on the spring cleanup of our church and grounds.

"Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ."

Galatians 6:2

Goodfield hosted a Hope for Haiti benefit and sale featuring the handmade items from the women in Haiti. We are thankful to those who contributed their love and support. The proceeds go to benefit the Centre Lumiere in Haiti.

Our annual Sunday School meeting was held March 29. We appreciated Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary, Fairbury, IL) who attended and gave encouragement to our teachers. Bro. Joe Wiegand (Sis. Myra) was elected to be assistant superintendent for next year.

We are so happy for our Sis. Inge

Zimmerman (late Bro. Dean) as we learned of her engagement to Bro. John Zimmerman (late Sis. Jan) from our Morton congregation. We wish them God's richest blessings.

Eva Grace made her debut March 21 into the family of Bro. Josh and Sis. Carolyn Knapp. Her older siblings are Job, Gabrielle, and Jude. Her grandparents are Bro. Carl and Sis. Becky Kieser (Bloomington, IL) and Bro. Rick and Sis. Kathy Knapp. A precious little boy, Cruz Robert was born on March 26 to Gretchen Hohulin.

Glory be to God in heaven,
Praise to Christ, our Savior great!
By the power of Thy Spirit
a new man Thou didst create.

Zion's Harp #34

We rejoice with our new brothers and sisters in Christ. March 20 was the baptism date for Herman and Sara Glueck, and Joni Zacha (Jeremy). On April 3, we witnessed the baptisms of Amy Sinn (Mark), Will Rokey, and Joe and Abbie Tabor.

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

II Timothy 3:16-17

We heard the encouraging words from the reading of the Memorandum on April 13. We appreciate Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sara) assisting in this work.

We said farewell as God has directed two families to move from our area. Bro. Curt and Sis. Larisa Wettstein and their daughter Isabella moved to southern Illinois for schooling. Bro. Roger and Sis. Becky Roberts and their children,

Rhoda, Reuben, Russell, and Rachel, have moved to Athens, AL. We miss their presence but know God will bless them.

We pray for God's healing hand to be upon Sis. Melita Hodel (Bro. Curt) and Bro. Roger Gerber (Sis. Trish) as they have both undergone surgery and are recovering. Our Bro. Wilbur Heinold (Sis. Mildred) and our Sis. Marie Kieser (Bro. Alfred) spent several days in the hospital. We want to give them our love, support, and prayers.

"He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds."

Psalms 147:3

We wish to extend our sympathy and prayers to the families who have lost loved ones this month. Sis. Clara Yackley (Taylor, MO) was the sister of our Bro. Ben Tanner, Sr. Janet Loshier (Mike, Deer Creek, IL) passed away following surgery complications. She was the sister of our Bro. Curt (Sis. Melita) Hodel.

We appreciate the ministering brothers who visited and served our congregation. They included Bros. John Bradle (Sis. Jill, Roanoke, IL), Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL), Jon Zeller (Sis. Christine, Morton, IL) and Elder Bros. Steve Martin (Sis. Vicki, Eureka, IL), Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) and Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sara, Bloomington, IL).

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry Klopfenstein

Over the ages (and centuries) distresses and turmoils have predominated. Social upheavals are not uncommon as one reviews history. Yet, in our time, there seems to be trouble and turmoil of all kinds—national, social, political, and in families. And weather patterns in the

form of storms, tornadoes, earthquakes and tsunamis seem to be more and more frequent. If one was without God and hope in this world, distresses could cause much worry and fretting.

There is a song entitled "A Shelter In The Time of Storm" that surely fits our time, and can be very heartening for those converted souls who trust in God. One verse reads:

The Lord's our Rock, in Him we hide
A Shelter in the time of storm;
Secure whatever ill betide,
A Shelter in the time of storm.
The Chorus is meaningful:
Oh, Jesus is a Rock in a weary land
A weary land, a weary land;
Oh, Jesus is a Rock in a weary land,
A Shelter in the time of storm.

Many wonder if we are in the "end times". Only God knows for sure. Our main mission, personally, is to insure we are ready to face our Maker, either at the end of our life, or when the trumpet sounds. It could be said that "readiness" is one of the most important doctrines of the end times.

We took Holy Communion this month. Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Cissna Park) was here for the occasion. A visiting minister was Bro. Wayne Leman (Roanoke). We are thankful for visiting ministers and their labors.

We have had much illness. Bro. Stan Ringger had a tumor removed from his brain, and is home recovering, thanks to much prayer. Sis. Patti Schifferer has been ill. Bro. Roy Hodel is recovering from surgery. Bro. Larry Kiefer was hospitalized for a stroke. Bros. Orlan Miller and James Funk are facing surgery.

On Easter Sunday afternoon, our Sunday School put on a choral program for the congregation, which pointed to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and we surely thank

them, and all their teachers, for their efforts.

ILLINOIS, MORTON Annette Tanner Julie Bahr

Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley) and Bro. Jedd Rocke (Sis. Marsha, Goodfield) served us in the work of the ministry this past month. Bro. Jedd gave our Wednesday Evening topic, "Wounds, Healing, and Scars". Through Christ, we can experience healing from our wounds; but, the scars may always remain to remind us to not forget of His mercy and grace!

An inspiring all church Easter program was presented on Palm Sunday. The message was based on Isaiah 12:2, "A Time to Trust/ What Did He Do?" The Mortonaires Men's Group, Sunday School groups, Timber Ridge Special Needs group, Hearts Of Praise Trio, and the Morton Youth Choir all gave of themselves to share the Easter message in song and scripture.

Our love and sympathy is shared with Don Carius (late Gladys) and his beloved family, in the loss of his daughter, Janet Renfroe.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA Pam Fritzenmeier

We were blessed by the services of several visiting ministers this past month. They include Bro. Garry Bucher (Sis. Lois, Valparaiso), Bro. Roger Sauder (Sis. Judy, Ft. Lauderdale), Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley), Bro. Ron Kipfer (Sis. Linda, Bluffton) and Bro. John Reinhard (Sis. Pam, Bluffton) who ministered at the jail.

Four families have been blessed with precious babies recently. March 20, Emerson David was born to Bro. Morgan and Sis. Kyra Langhoffer

(Indianapolis). Grandparents include Bro. Wayne and Sis. Carol Klopfenstein and Bro. Erik and Sis. Cynthia Langhoffer (Phoenix). Braelyn Jo was born March 24 to Bro. Phil and Sis. Anna Sceggel. Her grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gertie Esslinger (Bloomfield) and Bro. Mark and Sis. Judy Sceggel. Isaiah Mesay was born April 21, 2010, in Ethiopia and was recently welcomed into the home of Bro. Ben and Sis. Heidi Hartter. Very excited siblings are Kyler and Macy and grandparents include Bro. Bob and Sis. Chris Hartter (Roanoke) and the late Bro. George and Sis. Ruth Huthmann. Bro. Spark and Sis. Rhonda Meister are thankful grandparents again. Jane Leah was born April 17 to Jay and Tara Brenner of Mackinaw. Big sisters are Myah and Renee. John and Cheryl Brenner, Spartansburg, PA, are Jane's paternal grandparents.

Once again, we were blessed to hear the story of Easter presented in song and word by our Sunday School students Sunday, April 10. Thank you to all the teachers and students for your part in the vivid portrayal of the message: "He is not here, but is risen." (Luke 24:6). The following Sunday, April 17, we celebrated Holy Communion, coming together as one body to remember and celebrate what Christ did for us in His life, death, and resurrection.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Sis. Clara Yackley, who passed away March 26.

Bro. David (Sis. Rita) Sauder is very thankful to report that his cancer is in remission and wishes to thank you for your continued prayers. Others who need our prayers for healing are Sis. Elsie Eilers, Sis. Barb Schafer, Sis. Kathy Obergfel, and Bro. Tim Feucht.

Please keep our local families serving in the mission fields far away

in your prayers. These include Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard and family, Haiti, and Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Bere Aupperle and Bro. Zach Knobloch, Magdalena. Our thoughts and prayers also turn often to Japan and those suffering from the disaster and those serving them.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE
Gloria White
Linda Joos

We are thankful for two new converts. Mikaela Wieland (Bro. Brian and Sis. Renee) and Laura Herrmann (Bro. Dean and Sis. Dawn) have begun this most important step in life of repentance and turning from the world. May God bless and direct them always.

Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) shared in serving Holy Communion with our congregation. It was a blessed evening as we remembered our Lord's suffering and dying for us. Bro. John Grimm (Columbus, OH) spent a Sunday with us, and we always appreciate his willingness to share with us the Living Word.

We remember Sis. Cheryl Herrmann in our prayers as she was recently in the hospital. May God continue to be near her.

Tiffany and Shankar Annamalai welcome their first child, Naveen Lee, born March 27. Happy grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Nancy Wieland. Bro. Steve and Sis. Mary Lynn Streitmatter are thankful for a new grandchild, Kaley Paige, born April 1, to Ben and Esther Cozadd. Bro. Dean and Sis. Dawn Herrmann have been blessed with a grandson, Marshall Owen, born April 5. Thankful parents are Bro. Matt and Sis. Kim Zimmerman (Forrest, IL). Sis. Mary Lou Streitmatter (late Bro. Don) is thankful for a new grandson, Benjamin Eugene, born April 8, to Craig and Anne Thistlethwaite.

Note of Thanks:

Thank you for the love shown our family at the death of our husband, father and grandfather. We also want to thank you for the understanding and kindness shown the last 19 ½ years after his serious head injury from a sixteen foot fall on the farm.

The Family of Bro. Harry Herrmann

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE
Jamie Hodel
Judy Sauder

Psalm 116: 15: "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." Sis. Amelia (Millie) Leman went to be with the Lord on April 1. Among her survivors are a sister-in-law, Sis. Verla Leman. Bro. Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield) offered the prayer at her gravesite. Also Tjark Rients of Flanagan passed away March 16. He was the father of Don (Theresa) Rients. We extend our love and deepest sympathy to these dear families and ask that God would comfort them in their loss.

The Bible Class was invited to Peoria for the day on March 26. We thank the Peoria church for their kind hospitality to us.

Bro. Kevin and Sis. Annette Fischer welcomed another grandson on March 22 when Boone Elliot was born to Bro. Jason and Sis. Ellie Rassi (Eureka). Big brother Jackson and paternal grandparents, Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy Rassi (Tremont), are also thrilled with his arrival. Also, Bro. Ben and Sis. Heidi Hartter, Kyler and Macy (Peoria) welcomed Isaiah who was born in Ethiopia into their family. Bro. Bob and Sis. Chris Hartter are his excited grandparents. Then, Patrick Eugene arrived on April 12 to bless the home of Bro. Sam, Sis. Marjorie, David and

Samantha Bertschi. His thankful grandparents are Bro. Clark and Sis. Lisa Leman and Bro. Rich and Sis. Bev Bertschi. Bro. Bob Zimmerman became a grandfather again when twin grandsons, Nathan Theodore and Levi Robert, were born to Bro. Steve and Sis. Tammy Hofstetter (Washington) on April 14. Luke and Joel are the twins' older brothers. We rejoice with these families and pray for God's blessing upon them as they raise their children in the ways of the Lord.

Bro. Greg Lehman (Wolcott) was our guest minister on March 27, and Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Denver) was our visiting minister on April 3.

Exodus 18:21-22: "...able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them...and they shall bear the burden with thee." On April 6, Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington) exhorted us on the qualifications of church leaders. Lord willing, we will be selecting an ordained deacon in the near future to assist Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman in his responsibilities.

Genesis 28:15: "And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest," On April 3, we said a sad farewell to Bro. Ed, Sis. Boni, Michael and David Stoller who are relocating to the Denver area. We will miss them but know they will be a blessing to the Denver congregation as they have been to us!

St. Luke: 22:19: "...This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me." On April 16, we were privileged to partake of Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Remington) and Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Peoria) assisted Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman and Bro. Bill Hodel in this work. It was a beautiful evening of worship and remembrance. We thank all of our visiting brothers for their gracious service to us and ask that God would continue to bless

them.

We lift up Bro. Walt (Sis. Mary) Schwind and Bro. Earl (Sis. Marilyn) Roth (Phoenix) in fervent prayer, as they are facing health issues.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

**Teresa Rowell
Janice Sauder**

Oh the blessings of little babies. We are always excited to announce the newest additions to families. Bro. Greg and Sis. Mary Beutel welcome Tirzah Camille to their family. Max and Nora are happy to have a new sister. Grandparents are Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy Rassi and Bro. Dean and Sis. Karen Beutel.

Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy also welcomed a grandson when Boone Elliot joined the family of Bro. Jason, Sis. Ellie and Jack Rassi (Eureka, IL). Bro. Dean and Sis. Karen welcomed a second granddaughter when Annika Salome was born to Nate and Stephanie Ramquist. Elena is her big sister.

We want to thank Bro. Mike Rieker (Sis. Carol, Peoria, IL) for being here for our "Family Night" and Elder Bro. Ted Witzig (Sis. Cindy, Morton) for being with us for Holy Communion. We are always glad that there are brothers who are willing to sacrifice their time on our behalf.

Bro. Bob Frank (Sis. Rosie) and Michelle Loesch (Sis. Katie Ehnle's sister) have been in the hospital and undergoing treatment. We pray that the Great Physician will heal and restore according to His will.

The death of a believer gives us hope, but we want to extend our sympathy to Bro. Rich Sauder and Sis. Camille Sauder in the death of their mother-in-law/grandmother, Sis. Clara Yackley (Taylor, MO). We know that it isn't easy to have our loved ones go on before us, but we have that blessed hope that someday we will see them again.

Wade Sinn (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Gail) has been sent to Okinawa, Japan, with the military. Our prayers go with him for God's protection as he serves our country.

Note of Thanks:

Thank you for remembering me on my 80th birthday with many cards and gifts. May God bless you.

Bro. Bob Wagenbach

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

**Nancy Leman
Linda Folkerts**

"So we thy people and sheep of thy pasture will give thee thanks for ever: we will shew forth thy praise to all generations."

Psalms 79:13

With thanks, praise, humility and gratitude we reflect on the miracle of Christ's arrest, trial, death and resurrection! We love and serve a living Savior. We will show our praise to all generations, glory be to God!

Our congregation was privileged to share in the blessing of Holy Communion on April 16. We were glad to welcome Elder Bro. Mark Masters and his wife, Sis. Jeannine (Mansfield, OH) as they assisted in serving us. On Palm Sunday we enjoyed the program our Sunday School children presented. It is so significant to hear children proclaim the message of Easter.

Also assisting on the pulpit this month were Bro. Jeff Wiegand (Sis. Janelle, Goodfield) for our monthly Bible Study and Bro. Brian Waibel (Sis. Wendy, Champaign).

With joy we welcome healthy twin boys, Nathan and Levi Hofstetter. They were born April 13 to Bro. Steve and Sis. Tamara Hofstetter. Also welcoming these little bundles are big brothers, Luke and Joel, as well as

grandfather, Bro. Robert Zimmerman (Roanoke).

Thomas Kellenberger and Sarah Selenke have announced their engagement and plans to marry June 19. Their parents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Carole Kellenberger and Dave and Dixie Selenke of Viola, KS. We wish them many rich blessings as they plan their wedding.

We extend our deepest sympathies to Rosie Wargo and her family as they said goodbye to their husband and father, Rick, after a difficult battle with cancer.

We also lift our dear Bro. Dean Kellenberger up in prayer as he continues to deal with difficult health issues.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

Suzie Fiechter

Kim Meyer

“So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.”

Isaiah 55:11

I was reminded this past week that sometimes it's the process that God wants us to pay attention to and not just the end product. This time of year it's easy to focus on when the flowers will be blooming and the cold weather will be behind us. But what does God want us to take from the transition of seasons?

Bro. Allen and Sis. Susan Stoller are currently in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia training with LSM as they will be serving full-time come this summer. We pray God's direction and grace on them and their families as they make this transition. Bro. Mike Leyse (Sis. Becky) shared with us his near death experience. God has used this situa-

tion to challenge each of us and cause each of us to ponder Matthew 25:23 "...Well done, good and faithful servant... enter thou into the joy of thy lord." Will the Lord say this to us and if He does, why will He say this to us?

Three young souls made public vows to God with their baptisms. As we were all able to take part in dedicating them to the service of the Lord, we pray they will grow abundantly in God's grace and remain faithful unto Him until they are welcomed into the joy of the Lord someday. These three young souls were Bro. Tad Tonner and Sis. Tiffani Tonner (Bro. Tim and Sis. Susie) and Bro. Nate Eichorn.

We rejoice with Bro. Bart Frauhiger (Bro. Kris and Sis. Annie) and Sis. Tara Schwalbach (Jim and Dawn) as they announced their engagement. May the Lord bless them as they begin the process of growing together as one in the Lord. Bro. Abe Habegger (Bro. Ted and Sis. Jane) and Sis. Julie Beer (Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb) were blessed with a beautiful wedding day in Milford. May they continue to seek the Lord and bring glory to His name.

The Bluffton congregation did some reflecting and purifying as we prepared for Holy Communion. What a blessed evening we had as we were reminded of what Christ went through because of us and who we possibly would be without the shed blood of Christ in our lives. Elder Bro. Steve Sauder (Sis. Mary, Tremont) came and shared the weekend with us as well and we look forward to having him back again next year, Lord willing.

Not only did we do some soul cleaning, but also did some church cleaning. We had our annual church cleaning night and enjoyed the fun and fellowship while we worked together. What a joy it is to get together as a church body outside of worship.

Many sisters were exhorted and encouraged during a Virtuous Women evening. The topics ranged in different areas of life but all the sisters left blessed and uplifted. Another special evening was the Love One Another supper where singles of all ages gathered for dinner and singing. Apples of Gold (a six week nurturing course for young women) also finished their first 6 week course. When these kind of activities take place, we are excited to see the bonds that are formed across generations and how God prospers these events. Growing together and from each other produce blessings that go beyond the generations involved.

As we think about passing on and preserving our special heritage to the next generation, we are excited to welcome all the new births into our congregation. Bro. James and Sis. Vanessa Stoller welcomed their first child, Eden, into this world on March 16. Blessed grandparents would be Bro. Allen and Sis. Susan Stoller and Bro. Jim and Sis. Rachel Isch. Bro. Jim and Sis. Rachel Isch also welcomed another grandson into their family. Their daughter, Sis. Amanda, and Bro. Bart Frauhiger, gave birth to their second son, Mack, who will join his big brother Dirk. Bro. Kris and Sis. Annie Frauhiger would be the other proud grandparents of baby Mack. Bro. Jamin and Sis. Lauren Steffen gave birth to not one, but two little boys. Reuben and Eli were born premature, but seem to be doing quite well. The grandparents would be Bro. Bob and Sis. Marcia Steffen and Elder Bro. Ben and Sis. Michelle Wiegand (Philadelphia).

As the Bluffton congregation continues to grow together through life's experiences, may we take the time to see what God would want us to learn along the way and not be too focused just on getting to our destinations. It might be the angel we entertain un-

aware along the way and not the destination that we need to be ready for. May God find us faithful and willing with the things He brings our way. What a sweet sound to hear when we stand before our God, "...Well done, good and faithful servant... enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." Let us together be prosperous in God's eyes!

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Jessie Longenberger
Amy Moser**

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

John 3:16

Bro. Kent and Sis. Jodi Reinhard (Bluffton) are rejoicing as they welcome little Denessa Mae on March 8. Excited siblings are Desiah, Deena, Deidra, Darin, Daylin, and Devin. Denessa's grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene Frauhiger and Sis. Ann Reinhard (Bluffton).

Bro. Vernon Gerber has been blessed with two great-grandchildren this month. Eden Jolie was born to Bro. James and Sis. Vanessa Stoller (Bluffton) on March 16. Mack Remington was born to Bro. Tyson and Sis. Amanda Frauhiger (Bluffton) on March 24. We wish him all of the joys that come with being a great-grandfather.

Our Singles Weekend was held March 26-27. It was refreshing to meet new brothers and sisters and to hear the Word proclaimed by the Bluffton and Bluffton North ministers. May God bless Bro. Ron Kipfer (Sis. Linda, Bluffton), Bro. John Reinhard (Sis. Pam, Bluffton), and Bro. Robert Meyer, Sr. (Sis. Lela).

Lord willing, as Holy Communion approaches, we prepare our hearts,

minds, and souls to partake in the Lord's supper on April 30.

**INDIANA
FRANCESVILLE
Jacki Huber
Mildred Clauss**

"Praise ye the Lord. Praise ye the name of the Lord; praise him, O ye servants of the Lord. Ye that stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God, Praise the Lord; for the Lord is good: sing praises unto his name; for it is pleasant."

Psalms 135:1-3

We have so much to praise and thank God for! Above all, we praise Him for Christ's sacrificial life given for us. Jesus lived a life away from the glory of heaven, and struggled with temptations as we do, but was perfect. Then He died, bore all of our sins upon the cross, and arose victoriously from the grave so that we might be saved from our guilt and shame, and live eternally with Him in heaven!

As I write this, we are enjoying the Easter season and look forward to gathering as a congregation for Good Friday Services to remember Christ's suffering and death. We also look forward to the annual Sunrise Service at the Fellowship Center early Easter Sunday morning. It is a special time to celebrate Christ's resurrection, and to enjoy breakfast and fellowship together. On that Sunday afternoon, we look forward to the annual Easter Program, shared with us by the Sunday School students.

It is a busy time, but how could we spend our time in a more fulfilling way than to thank and praise God for His wonderful plan of salvation?

Little Brett Gutwein, who has suffered with health problems here on

earth, is now "Safe in the arms of Jesus!" Brett is the son of our dear Bro. Jan and Sis. Val Gutwein who are currently serving the Lord in Haiti with their children, Sis. Alisha, Mark, Derek and Joel. Another daughter, Sis. Tess (Bro. Dan) Leman, resides in Aurora, CO. Brett's grandparents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Miriam Metz and Bro. Harold and Sis. Maxine Gutwein, all of Francesville. We extend our sympathy to all of the family, and know that Brett "just got there ahead of us", as a family member shared with us.

We are thankful any time that we have visitors, and thank Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Morton, IL), for sharing God's Word with us on a recent Sunday.

Our prayers have been with Karen Albrecht who was a surgical patient this past month. We also continue to pray for all of those with health concerns or ongoing illnesses, that they would feel the tender love and healing mercies of God.

**INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS
Penny Schroder
Sandy Lichtle**

On March 20, we hosted an open house at our recently renovated and expanded church building for the local community and contractors. We give thanks to God and you for your love and support that made this possible. We look forward to the dedication service on May 8.

We rejoice with first-time parents, Bro. Morgan and Sis. Kyra Langhofer, on the birth of their son, Emerson David, born on March 18. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Erik and Sis. Cindy Langhofer (Phoenix, AZ) and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Carol Klopfenstein (Peoria, IL).

On March 27, we said good-bye to a dear couple, Mark and Grace Zeller.

We wish them God's richest blessings as they move back to Grace's home town of Big Sandy, Texas.

On April 2-3, we had Indy Outreach Weekend. Many young people joyfully gave of their time to help with a variety of service projects in our community. We thank all of those who participated in this weekend, and we appreciate their servant hearts and willingness to help others. We also thank Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Washington, IL) who shared an informative presentation on Saturday evening on "Freedom in Christ to Serve Others" from Galatians 5:13-14.

On April 16, we had the privilege of sharing Holy Communion. We appreciate the labors of love of our Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL) and Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville, IN) who humbly served us. May we daily remember and be thankful for the price that Jesus paid on the cross for our sins.

Our Easter program was held on April 17. It was a joy and blessing to hear the Sunday school students proclaim the Easter message through verse and song.

Additionally, we want to thank Elder Bro. Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra, Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Daron Price (Sis. Monica, Milford, IN), Bro. Fred Funk (Sis. Diane, Morton, IL), and Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Washington, IL) for their willingness to be used in the Lord's service by sharing God's Word with us this past month.

INDIANA, LACROSSE
Meagan Frank
Julie Rocke

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through

Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:7

We are thankful to hear that Mindy Wettstein (Bro. Mark and Sis. Karen) has found peace with God and man and is looking forward to sharing her testimony and baptism in the coming weeks. We are also thankful that God continues to call souls unto repentance. Kyler Gudeman (Bro. Owen and Sis. Nicole) has made a beginning in his walk with the Lord. May each of these souls and all of our converts feel God's continued guidance and direction as they search out their soul's salvation.

Several of our loved ones have spent time recovering from injury, surgery or illness. Our thoughts go out to Sis. Margene Peasley (Bro. David) who has undergone surgery several times this month, Bro. Owen Gudeman (Sis. Nicole) who broke his elbow, and Sis. Carolyn Levy. May the hand of the Great Physician work healing in each of their lives.

Our congregation enjoyed a large number of visitors in March for our annual Fellowship weekend. Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Sis. Nancy, Phoenix, AZ) ministered unto us on April 3. Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) spent the weekend with us to help serve Holy Communion and gather with us on Sunday. Many thanks to each of these brothers for their service on our behalf.

Our Sunday School students and Young Group brought us the Easter story in song and verse for our Easter program. May each of them be blessed as well as their teachers and those who helped them learn their pieces and songs. They did a wonderful job!

May each of you be blessed with a renewed spirit even as we see the renewal of the earth outside with Spring upon us.

INDIANA, LEO
Kirby Reutter

There is so much going on right now within the Leo congregation that it is sometimes hard to keep up! According to the old saying, "April showers bring May flowers." Well, April showers also seem to have brought us a flood of activities. Some of these events include the following: marriage engagements, singing showers, wedding receptions, the Spring Banquet, Spring Cleaning, College Weekend, the Sunday School Easter Program, the Sunrise Easter Breakfast, Holy Communion, Leo Church Choir practices and performances, and preparation for Vacation Bible School. In addition, the Leo congregation continues to participate in monthly outreach services at the Fort Wayne Rescue Mission, as well as weekly services at the Cedars Nursing Home.

Amongst this flurry of activity, there were two announcements in particular which gave us good reason to pause and rejoice. First, we rejoice with our dear friends, Rob and Jennie Carter, on the final adoption of precious little Hailei, who joins her big brother Devon. The story of adoption never seems to grow old, especially since it is such a profound Biblical theme across the pages of both Testaments. "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father" (Romans 8:15).

Secondly, we rejoice with our dear Sis. Tashi Bent and our dear Bro. Blake Widmer on their betrothal in faith. Both Tashi and Blake are residents of the island nation of Jamaica. As you may recall from a previous article, Sis. Tashi is a native of Jamaica who was recently baptized into the Leo congregation based on her testi-

mony of faith in a risen Savior. It has been such a faith-boosting experience to witness the Lord's sovereign providence in Sis. Tashi's life over the last several months. In faith she joined the Bride of Christ; now in faith she will also become a bride to Bro. Blake. "This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church." (Ephesians 5:32).

It has been awhile since we have reported on the many visiting ministers who come to serve our local flock, so please pardon this lapse. In no particular order, the following Brothers have all labored on the Leo pulpit over the past several months: Elder Bro. John Jackson (Bay City, MI), Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL), Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH) and Bro. Nate Lehman (Denver, CO). All the way from the Great Lakes to the Great Plains to the Great Mountains, these four Brothers came to share the Gospel of Christ with the very least of the believers. In addition, several other dear ministering brothers worshipped with us without being used (this time). Please come back!

INDIANA, MILFORD

**Janie Price
Paula Haab**

Michael Lehman has chosen to commit his life to the Lord. His zeal and love for Jesus is a blessing to our flock. May Michael also be uplifted by our congregation.

Bro. Abe Habegger and Sis. Julia Beer were united in marriage on April 3. Our congregation, along with Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb Beer and Bro. Ted and Sis. Jane Habegger, rejoice as they join hearts to become one in the Lord. Visiting ministers who shared the day with us were Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily), Bro. Tim Drayer (Sis. Gwen), Bro. Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi), Bro. Rich Gramm

(Sis. Samantha), and Bro. Steve Stieglitz (Sis. Jane). Also visiting Milford this month were Bro. Daren Metz (Sis. Rita) and Bro. Chris Laukhuf (Sis. Rachel).

"I will bless thy name for ever and ever."

Psalm 145:1

On March 31, Sis. Kathryn Price passed on to her eternal home for ever and ever. Stan (Sis. Ginger) Price, Sis. Sue (Bro. Bob) Cockburn, Bro. Phil (Sis. Janie) Price, Kathy (Mike) Kohl and Sis. Sandee Price praise God for the Christian mother God so abundantly shared with them for 87 years. A great-granddaughter was born to Kathryn's family on April 18. Precious Aubrey Nicole was born to bro. Daron and Sis. Monica Price as the circle of life continues. Alayna, Haley and Joshua welcome her home along with grandparents, Bro. Dick and Sis. Gwen Steffen and Bro. Phil and Sis. Janie Price.

Bro. Walt Steffen has spent time in the hospital. We pray he feels the love of his brethren as we pray for God's healing hand upon him.

With tender hearts for Jesus, our Sunday School children shared the Easter story. The following Sunday we arose early to celebrate sunrise service. As the sun rises to rejoice in a new day, we gathered to praise God for His wonderful plan of salvation.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Jenni Honegger
Marcella Tyler**

We are thankful to our visiting ministers, Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN) and Bro. David Hartter (Sis. Beth, Sabetha, KS) for lending us their efforts this past month. In addition, Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville, IL) joined us for the most blessed oc-

casional of Holy Communion and shared the Word with us. Elder Bro. Jim read from John 6:58 "This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever." He pointed out that the bread used in the Old Testament Passover was unleavened bread, but the bread that Jesus broke and used in the Last Supper was bread with leaven in it and so was literally filled with "life". What a blessed miracle that we are invited to partake of this Living Bread!

One year old Trae Virkler (Bro. Paul and Sis. Miranda) spent some time in the hospital recently to be treated for RSV. We are very relieved and thankful that he is recovered and can toddle around church with us again.

We rejoice with Bro. Evan Stoller (Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb) and Sis. Elizabeth Virkler (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gayle) of Congerville, IL, as they announce their engagement. Sis. Elizabeth is also the niece of our Bro. Stan and Sis. Beth Virkler. We are thankful that the Lord can give clear direction to such an important decision as choosing a spouse, and we pray that the couple will grow in love for both the Lord and for each other during this special engagement time.

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

Romans 12:15

As we rejoice with those who rejoice, we also weep with the family over the loss of our dear Bro. Edwin Bahler (Sis. Lois) as he went to be with the Lord on March 17. A retired minister, Bro. Edwin was a true messenger of God's Word. He was a pillar in our church family and loved visiting with everyone about his Saviour. He shared many a card with Scriptures on it with those he came into

contact with. Even though he had been ill the past several years, when asked how he was feeling his ready answer was usually "thankful". Bro. Edwin will be missed by many because he truly loved his neighbors as himself.

Bro. Edwin is survived by his dear wife, Sis. Lois, and their children: Barry Bahler (Jackie), Sis. Libby Wahl (Bro. Fred), and Bro. Ed Bahler (Sis. Annette), all of West Lafayette, Bro. Kurt Bahler (Sis. Patti) and Sis. Beth Virkler (Bro. Stan) of Remington, Brad Bahler (Dorene) of Athens, WI, Sis. Lili Koehl (Bro. Dale) of Bloomington, and Sis. Charlene Hartter (Bro. Tim) of Sabetha, as well as 41 grandchildren and 30 great-grandchildren. His brothers are our Bro. Walt Bahler (Sis. Esther) and Raymond Bahler of Fort Wayne, IN, and his sisters are Evelyn Knochel of Lafayette, IN, Edith Kaufman (Ben) of Fort Wayne, IN, Mabel Bahler of Columbus, OH, Betty Zimmerman of Atlanta, GA, and Sis. Viola Stoller (Bro. Richard) of Wolcott, IN. We ask for your prayers for the entire family during this difficult time, especially Sis. Lois as she mourns the loss of her lifelong helpmate.

We are also in sorrow for the tragic loss of dear little Addie Hartter (Bro. John and Sis. Theresa) in Sabetha, KS. Addie's grandparents are Bro. Tim and Sis. Charlene Hartter of Sabetha and Bro. Eric and Sis. Lou Ann Kaeb of Cissna Park, IL. Her great-grandparents here in Remington are Bro. Ken and Sis. Bernice Schneider and Sis. Lois and the late Bro. Edwin Bahler. It's so very difficult to keep our faith when we hear of a tragedy such as this, but my mind turns to the song Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam that the children often sing. Our Lord in His infinite wisdom desired to have Addie's sunshine in Heaven with

Him, and we pray for an increase in our faith and our trust in His perfect will.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND Natalie Virkler

"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup and gave thanks, and gave it unto them, saying, Drink ye all of it; for this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

Matthew 26:26-28

We are very thankful to Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Lacrosse) and Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich and their wives for sharing Communion with us. It was a wonderful reminder of our hope of Heaven.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO Marguerite Hoerr

Distance and circumstances prevented us from being with our congregation this past weekend, when Holy Communion was served. This morning we searched in the scriptures to renew our hearts and to refresh our minds to learn once more how we should prepare ourselves for this Holy sacrament. At our ages we know that we will soon be meeting our Lord in person and that it's more important than ever that our hearts are ready to meet Him. Our loved Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna), assisted by Bro. Garry, served this Communion to our Valpo congregation. We thought of this occasion and were with them in spirit as they partook of this Holy sacrament.

As we read in Philippians 1:23-24, "For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with

Christ; which is far better: nevertheless to abide in the flesh..." This feeling was in our hearts as we spent time with our family recently. They planned a 90th birthday homecoming for Bob over the past weekend. We experienced the joy of seeing each member, down to the great-grandchildren, and our hearts were filled with the love they showed to us, and with the respect Bob was shown by his five children and spouses and grandchildren. It was a little bit of Heaven on earth for both of us, to experience this occasion.

Sherry Meiss (Dale) had surgery recently to correct injuries suffered in a car accident. We all have lifted her up in prayer prior to this event and are praying that she now is spared the pain she felt before. She and Dale are loved by all of us as are their children, Anthony and Stacia.

Please keep in mind that we are just 2 3/4 miles South of U. S. 30 on State Road 49. We'd love to have you drop in and worship with us.

INDIANA WEST LAFAYETTE Katie Widmer Beth Tonner

Spring is almost here, and along with it we remember the death of our Savior and His glorious resurrection!

My brother, Bro. Blake Widmer, was also engaged on March 20 to Sis. Tashi Bent from Kingston, Jamaica (Leo congregation). Their wedding is planned for July 24 in Jamaica. We are so excited for the way God has worked in their lives and how He continues to make them "better together".

We are happy for Karl Kirsch as he was announced for peace this month.

Elder Bro. Jon and Sis. Nancy Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ) joined our Elder Bro. Curt and Sis. Lyla Frank for our Communion. We were thank-

ful that they made the long journey to come. We were very blessed by everything that night.

In the midst of family get-togethers and Easter programs, let us not forget the only true reason for the holiday. And let us continue looking up and smiling huge because God is always in complete control and He loves us.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

**Sasha Kyburz
Donita Edelman**

We were very blessed to have Elder Bros. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN) and Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville, IL) with us as we gathered together on the evening of Saturday, April 9, and partook of Holy Communion. What a wonderful time of refreshing for us as believers. It is such a great time for us to remember what our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ did for each one of us. Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN) was also able to be with us for Sunday services on April 17.

We are rejoicing with the angels for the Lord is still calling souls to repentance. We have two new converts; Diane and Lindsey Mailloux have answered the Lord's call. Our thoughts and prayers are with these two dear souls as they begin their walk with Jesus.

We were all richly blessed on Good Friday as we gathered together to listen to the children recite and sing about the Easter story. Each and every child did a wonderful job reciting their part in the Easter program. We would like to thank all the students, teachers and parents for helping make the Easter program such a success. Without each one's hard work, the program would not be possible!

We welcome now the Hero, who lay

in calm repose,
For over death He triumphed and
from the grave arose.
O Lord, Thou hast now conquered
that strong and crafty foe;
This giveth faith and comfort, For
God is with us now!
The peace, which thou hast brought
us, all fear has put to flight;
The righteous now in chorus are
singing with delight!
May we with consolation, Thy trophies
with Thee share.
O, that this great salvation, Extend
here everywhere!
Zion's Harp #121, vs. 1-4

IOWA, AMES

Brett Wulf

We are thankful for the ministering brothers who have been willing to be used in the past month. They included Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove, IA), Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA), Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Sally, Oakville, IA), Bro. Kevin Fehr (Sis. Lonnie, West Bend, IA), and Bro. Tom Lanz (Sis. Mary, Oakville, IA). May God richly bless them for their labors.

IOWA, BLOOMFIELD

Rachel Stoller

"For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land;"

Song of Solomon 2:11-12

Even as spring is a time of new life and new beginnings, we have several new paths of life in our congregation. On March 19, Anthony Esslinger of Morton, IL (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gerty) was married to Sarah Kuntz (Bob and Edra, Mediapolis, IA). Also married that day was Eric Zimmerman (Bro. Ben and Sis. Kathy, Congerville, IL) to Jody Wettstein

(Bro. Jon and Sis. Rita). On March 27, Bro. Daniel Maibach (Bro. Tim and Sis. Mary) and Sis. Amber Wettstein (Bro. Denny and Sis. Emily, Congerville, IL) were united as one in the Lord. We wish each couple the Lord's guiding hand upon their marriage.

We are also thankful these new couples can have examples of a faithful marriage in the Lord, as is found in our Bro. Roy and Sis. Evelyn Metzger, who just celebrated 60 years of marriage. May He continue to reside in their home.

Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gerty Esslinger became first-time grandparents to Braelyn Jo Sceggel (Bro. Phil and Sis. Anna, Peoria, IL). May they find joy in this new life.

Along with new beginnings, we also bid farewell to loved ones. Yet we trust each will have a new body in heaven. Sis. Mary Maibach's (Bro. Tim) mother, Sis. Eldora Steiner of Rittman, OH, passed away. We extend our sympathy to their family.

Our church had invite - a - friend on April 2-3. It was the largest turnout we have ever had and was a huge blessing to our friends and members alike. With us that weekend was Bro. Brent Kellenberger (Sis. Beth, Kansas City, MO) and we appreciated his labors on our behalf that weekend.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

**Marilyn Anderson
Karla Gerst**

We are thankful for the many visitors from various congregations this past month. What a blessing it is to meet and greet them one and all.

We shared in Holy Communion on Saturday evening, April 9. It was a blessing to be reminded of our Lord's suffering, death on the cross, and victory over the grave. Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO) assisted Elder Bro. Jon

Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Oakville) in serving us. They expounded on the Word on Sunday as well. May God richly bless them.

We pray for the nearness of our Lord and Savior to be with those who are currently having health issues.

IOWA, ELGIN
Maria Roche
Brianna Strahm

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

Spring has come once again and the beauty and warmth is refreshing after the long, cold winter!

Our congregation shared Communion together on March 20. Elder Bros. Rod Bajema (Sis. Twyla, Lester, IA) and Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA) were with us for the weekend. It was a sobering, yet encouraging, weekend as we renewed our faithfulness to God and to each other as brothers and sisters in the Lord.

Sis. Kristin Wyss spent some time in the hospital. Sis. Brianna Strahm and Sis. Jan Frieden both sustained injuries recently. We are thankful they are all regaining health again.

Bro. Charles and Sis. Sue Schneider welcomed another grandson into their lives on April 3. Malachi Brian Squiers was born to Luke and Brenda Squiers of Tama, IA. Brenda is the daughter of Bro. Charles and Sis. Sue.

We bid farewell to our dear friend, Rachel Miller, as she recently moved back to Oregon. We will miss her presence in our small congregation.

We welcome Bro. Chad Desmet from the Lester, IA, congregation. How thankful we are for God's leading and directing of the hearts of His

children.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE
Laura Funk

O Lord, behold us gathered here,
As children 'round a light!
We pray Thee, Lord, that Thou come near,
And guide our hearts aright.
Zion's Harp #216, vs. 1

The brothers ministering to our congregation this past month include Bro. Dale Moore (Elgin, IA) and Bro. Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA).

Spending time in the hospital is Sis. Eileen Funk. We are thankful she is recuperating rapidly.

In humility, dear Saviour,
Thou for me, I know hast died;
Though I was Thy foe, Redeemer,
Thou for me wast crucified.
Silence keep I, Humbly weep I!
Thus through Thee I'm justified!
Zion's Harp #226, vs. 6

Prayerfully and thankfully let us remember our Lord's death, suffering and resurrection.

IOWA, LESTER
Gloria Moser
Polly Metzger

A powder sugar covering of snow makes the grass appear greener. The cool Spring breezes let us tuck Winter's heavy coat in the closet for a later day. Hope grows in our lives as the earth warms and new life appears once more.

Three precious bundles arrived this month. March 22, first-time parents, Bro. Paul and Sis. Stacey Messner, welcomed Bethany Rae. Her grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley DeSmet and Bro. Henry and Sis. Charlene Messner. On March 24, Hudson Lee was born to Bro. Justin and Sis. Jodie Metzger.

Welcoming him home are his siblings, Isabelle, Preston, Annie and Olivia. His grandparents are Bro. Art and Sis. Kris Metzger. April 5, Bro. Willis and Sis. JoAnn Nester welcomed their third daughter, Ahna Marie. Her sisters are Ava and Adria and grandparents are Bro. Pat and Sis. Twyla Meyer and Bro. Gene and Sis. Shirley Nester. May these dear parents always look to the Lord as they raise their children.

"Foryeshall go out with joy and be led forth with peace..."

Is. 55:12

Our converts, Tad Meyer (Bro. Denis and Sis. Jill) and Lanna Meyer (Bro. Dean and Sis. Linda), have found their peace with God and man. May these dear souls continue to look to the Lord as they walk this path of life.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Larry Bahr (Ft. Scott), Todd Zollinger (Silverton), Kevin Fehr and Pat Zaugg (West Bend). Our Communion service was held April 16, and Elder Bro. Bruce Endress (Bradford) was here to assist Elder Bro. Rod. We truly appreciate the efforts of these dear brothers. May God richly reward them.

On April 3, Sis. Tasha Metzger (Bro. Tom and Sis. Deb), and Bro. Matthew Warner (Bro. Stan and Sis. Sue) were united in marriage. We ask God's blessings go with them throughout their life together.

We bid farewell to Bro. Chad DeSmet (Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley). We pray he feels God's nearness as he takes up residence in Elgin, IA.

Our hospital patients this past month were Sis. Kristi Knobloch (Bro. Lance), Sis. Martha Knobloch (Bro. Marti), Glen Alderson (Charlene), Sis. Lucy Knobloch, Sis. Wilma Knobloch (Bro. Melvin) and Kendon Knobloch (Bro. Marti and

Sis. Martha). We want to remember all these dear souls and their families with our prayers. Our continued prayerful support to those in our church and community, who are undergoing treatment and doctors' care.

On April 10, we learned of the passing of Carol Roemen. She was 52. We extend our deepest sympathies to her husband Glenn, and her mother-in-law, Sis. Amelia Roemen, and her family. May God comfort them all through this time of sorrow.

Whatever our heartache or grief, may God's gift of hope shine through to give us consolation.

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Sharla Wiegand

It is always a uniting evening to observe Holy Communion together. Elder Bro. Bruce Endress (Bradford, IL) willingly helped serve our congregation on March 19.

We wish to thank Bro. Garry Bucher (Valparaiso, IN) for bringing forth the Word on March 27.

IOWA, WEST BEND
Janet Fehr
Leona Fehr

We are delighted to have three precious bundles added to our congregation this month. Arriving first on March 17 was Nathan Reed Massner. Welcoming him home are his parents, Bro. Darin and Sis. Twila Massner and siblings, Aaron, Benjamin, Cloe, and Seth. Grandparents of little Nathan are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gail Massner and Bro. Ken and Sis. Marlene Banwart.

Following closely behind on March 19 was Wesley Benedict born to first-time parents, Jay and Annette Benedict. Mason's grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Diane Gerber and Holly Benedict.

Our third newborn arrived safely

to the home of Bro. Wes and Sis. Kary Banwart on March 21. Ethan Andrew is lovingly welcomed by his parents and grandparents, Bro. Ken and Sis. Marlene Banwart and Bro. Roger and Sis. Ila Bradle (Eureka, IL).

Our prayers went out to little Austin Gerber (infant son of Bro. Carl and Sis. Sara) as he spent some time in the hospital. We are thankful he is now doing well at home. Also, Sis. Edith Kellenberger (Ernie) was hospitalized, and we continue to pray for God's nearness and strength in her life as she adjusts to her new home at the care center. May God bless and keep each one facing health issues in His tender care and mercies.

Bro. Dale Moore (Sis. Cheryl, Elgin, IA) was with us March 27 and brought forth the Word, inspired by God alone. We are thankful for his willingness to give of himself.

Feeling it is the direction of the Lord, Sis. Betsy Mogler has relocated to the Austin, TX, congregation and Bro. Derek and Sis. Anne and Kelsey Knapp have moved to Morris, MN. We have all experienced the blessing of being within the will of the Father, and may these loved ones feel His presence during the transition time. They are all greatly missed here in West Bend.

As Mother's Day approaches, we think of our mothers with tender love and thankfulness. Hymn #801 in the Gospel Hymns comes to mind, with a prayer on our heart that each one of us may someday meet our earthly mothers in heaven.

O Saviour, tell my mother I'll be there.

Tell mother I'll be there, in answer to her pray'r.

This message, blessed Saviour, to her bear!

Tell mother I'll be there, heav'n's joys with her to share;

Yes, tell my darling mother I'll be there.

JAPAN, SHIODA
Carrie Ito

We enjoyed a brief visit from Whitney Stieglitz from Leo, IN. Her mother, Jane, was a teacher at the kindergarten, so it was fun to show her around. We pray she has a blessed visit as she plans to visit Joel and Sally Kaufman in Northwest Japan.

JAPAN, TOKYO
Jana Klaus

Greetings of love from Tokyo. It has been about 6 weeks since the big earthquake and tsunami in North-eastern Japan. We here in Tokyo have returned to fairly normal life, but do still experience aftershocks or new tremors several times a week. We are still reminded that life is very far from normal for those in the heavily damaged areas as Bro. Andrew Klaus has been going up nearly weekly to join other volunteers who visit shelters to deliver supplies and offer love and hope in Jesus Christ. People are deeply hurting, although trying their best to keep up a good attitude. It is our earnest prayer that God will mercifully draw the Japanese people back to His Father heart. We so appreciate all the continued prayer and financial support from our brethren around the world.

April is a time of new beginnings here in Japan as the new school year begins. Sis. Hannah Klaus graduated from Jr. Hi, and started home schooling for High School joining her two older siblings, Sis. Sarah and Caleb. Caleb reached his 18th birthday and is finally able to take driver's training, which is two years later than in the States. Nathan Klaus started kindergarten, which is a separate system from the elementary school. None of the other church

family children had any school changes this year. May God watch over all the school children and bless them with a productive year of growth.

The Sunday before Easter, the whole church, young, old and in between, went for the second Easter in a row, to sing at the local nursing home. We are getting to know many of the faces now, as we have also gone twice at Christmas. It is such a mutual blessing as we see the joy on their faces as we sing to them and then greet them one by one. Elder Bro. Akito explained a bit about the reason why we celebrate Easter and many of them kept the song sheets that we passed around, so it is our prayer that God would speak to their hearts with His love for them.

Then on Easter Sunday we had our special morning Easter service in which Isaiah 53 was read, the prophecy of Jesus' suffering to bring salvation for all—how can we comprehend the love that He has to have gone through with this? And then Luke 24 on Jesus' resurrection and ascension to heaven—we know in another gospel how the angel proclaims that He will some day return again in the clouds. It may be soon! May we remember some of Jesus' last words as He spoke of that which was prophesied about Himself: "That repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations..." In the afternoon, we had our usual Sunday School program and the children did a fantastic job in their presentation of the Easter story through a question and answer session—each representing a person or animal and giving hints for the audience to guess who they were, then showing the picture they had drawn of their character after he/she/it was guessed properly. It was inspiring to see the interaction between the children and adults. Some of the adults

also took part in other ways, too, through song and Bible reading. Several Sunday School mothers and fathers came who do not normally attend, plus two new children and their mothers who are interested in learning English.

We pray the Easter message seeds planted in their hearts take root and grow.

The highlight of the day though was seeing dear Sis. Yoshiko Sakuta walk in for the first time in nearly a year to have lunch with us around the table and attend a service in church. She has been restricted to her home due to an advanced case of Parkinson's, but the Lord gave her courage to again travel out of her house, and she even recently visited her very precious friend, Sis. Shizuko Urushino, who is hospitalized in Yokohama. They hadn't seen each other in well over a year. Thank you for continued prayers for these two dear sisters.

KANSAS, BERN
Sheri Edelman
Jill Meyer

According to thy gracious word,
in meek humility,
this will we do, our dying Lord,
we will remember Thee.
Thy body broken for our sake,
our bread shall be;
Thy sacramental cup we take,
and thus remember Thee.

Can we Gethsemane forget?
Or there Thy conflict see—
Thine agony and bloody sweat,
and not remember Thee?
When to the cross we turn our eyes,
and rest on Calvary,
O Lamb of God, our sacrifice,
we must remember Thee.

A reverent evening was spent on April 9 as we partook of Holy Com-

munion, remembering the death, suffering and love of our Savior. We are thankful to Elder Bro. Rod Bajema (Sis. Twyla, Lester) for his labors in serving us that weekend, as well as Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha) for assisting.

It was a blessing for our congregation to host the National World Relief meeting the weekend of April 16-17. Many visitors provided much fellowship and we especially thank those who served us in the ministry: Elder Bros. Duane Farney (Sis. Karen, Croghan-Naumburg), John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia, Latty) and Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra, Bluffton North) and Bro. Joe Klotzle (Sis. Sue, Altadena).

Our prayers have been with Amanda Rokey (Bro. Dwight and Sis. Anita) who had back surgery, and also Sis. Lois Hartter (Bro. Steve) who is undergoing chemotherapy treatments.

May we always remember the great price that was paid for our sins—not only at Easter, but every day of our lives.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT
Martin Hohulin Sr.

Bro. Jerry and Sis. Maria Bahr announced the engagement of their daughter, Anna Marie, to Kyle Carpenter. Anna Marie is a senior at Pittsburg State University. She will graduate in May with a major in technical writing and a minor in graphic design. Kyle is the son of Jon and Kim Carpenter. He is also a senior at Pittsburg State University majoring in secondary chemistry education. We wish the Lord's blessings upon them.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend, IA), Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS), and Bro. David Hartter (Sis. Beth,

Sabetha, KS). We appreciate and thank these Brothers for their willingness to travel the many miles to serve us.

Bro. Floyd Banwart has been in a Fort Scott nursing home since the passing of his wife, Sis. Clara. He recently enjoyed a visit from Bro. Peter Weber from Peoria, IL, and his daughter, Sis. Margie Schick from Princeville, IL.

The Sunday School children presented their Easter program on the evening of April 17. A lot of work goes in to putting it on from the teachers to the students. May God richly bless them for their efforts. On the Saturday evening before, Bro. Chris and Sis. Janelle Wuthrich hosted an all church wiener roast. It is always nice to be able to enjoy times of fellowship.

KANSAS, KIOWA

**Janice Bahr
Jenny Stewart**

We would like to thank our visiting minister, Bro. Gary Brown (Forrest, IL), this past month for sharing God's Holy Word with us and all the efforts he made to join us on the Sabbath.

Our congregation partook of Holy Communion with the guidance of our Elder Bro. John Lehman. We felt a blessing for this special time of worship and fellowship with one another.

At our annual meeting we elected and re-elected brothers and sisters to serve on the committees that keep our congregation functioning. Thank you for your efforts and labors of love each and every one of you show for serving others.

A few of our loved ones have been hospitalized this month. Some had surgery and are mending well. Our prayers are with all of you for God's healing touch.

KANSAS LAMONT-GRIDLEY Sarah Somerhalder

Spring is indeed a blessed time of year when we see God's handiwork in the rebirth of the earth – the beautiful flowers, green lawns and the leaving of the trees. May our faith also be renewed as we celebrate this beautiful season.

March 13 was our last Wednesday evening church service and now will begin our first of the month Sunday evening singings until Thanksgiving. What a joy it is to assemble together and sing praises unto the Lord!

KANSAS, SABETHA Sally Strahm Carrie Grimm

Jesus loves me! this I know,
For the Bible tells me so:
Little ones to Him belong;
They are weak, but He is strong.
Hymns of Zion #176, vs. 1

We have been reminded of the purity, faithfulness and humbleness of a little child. Addie Larae Hartter went to her eternal home to be in the arms of Jesus on March 29. Addie is the 11 month old daughter of Bro. John and Sis. Teresa Hartter. Grandparents are Bro. Eric and Sis. Luann Kaeb (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Timothy and Sis. Charlene Hartter. We rejoice with little Addie. She tenderly touched many hearts during her short life and we pray the Lord could use Addie to draw many closer to Him. We continue to pray for the loved ones left behind. May they feel God's nearness each and every day and may our hearts always be as soft as they were the day we laid our dear Addie to rest. Sis. Charlene also lost her father, Bro. Edwin Bahler (Sis. Lois, Remington, IN).

Bro. Edwin was laid to rest on March 21.

Silas Walker was born to Bro. Kurt and Sis. Hannah Grimm on March 21. Big sisters Addison and Marissa and big brothers Tucker and Tyler also welcome little Silas home. Grandparents are Bro. Guy and Sis. Lanette Koehl (Morris, MN) and Bro. Doug and Sis. Jeryl Grimm. Bro. Jared and Sis. Carla Metzger welcomed little Lucy Sue into their hearts and home on April 7. Siblings Leah, Logan, Laban, Laura, and Luke also welcome her home. Grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene Hartter and Bro. Art and Sis. Kris Metzger (Lester, IA). May the Lord continue to guide and direct these dear families as they raise their children in the fear of Him.

Jesus from His throne on high,
Came into this world to die;
That I might from sin be free,
Bled and died upon the tree.
Jesus loves me! He who died
Heaven's gate to open wide!
He will wash away my sin,
Let His little child come in.

Hymns of Zion #176, vs. 2, 3

We rejoice with the angels above as converts Jed Hartter (Bro. David and Sis. Beth) and Loren Grimm (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Nita) made a covenant with God and buried their old lives in the waters of baptism on April 3. How thankful we are that Jesus came into this world to die and wash away our sin! Let us live our lives in a way that would show the Lord our thankfulness.

We appreciate the ministering Brothers who came to serve our congregation. Visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA), Bro. Ron Isch (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS), Bro. Galen Rokey (Sis. Nancy, Bern, KS), Bro. Ned Bahler (Sis. Anna, Fairbury, IL), Bro. Don Sinn (Sis.

Linda, Silverton, OR), and Bro. Virgil Kaeb (Sis. Suellen, Sarasota, FL). Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Elizabeth, Silverton, OR) shared Wednesday night service with us at Bern, KS.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Silas Grimm (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Hannah), Bro. Harvey Wenger (Sis. Arleta) and Sis. Marian Kellenberger as they each spent time in the hospital. Sis. Sheila Moser has been home from her duties in Haiti because of a broken arm. May each feel God's nearness and gain strength through His power.

Jesus, take this heart of mine;
Make it pure, and wholly Thine:
Thou hast bled and died for me,
I will henceforth live for Thee.

Hymns of Zion #176, vs. 4

Let us always keep the precious gift that God has given us close to our hearts. May our hearts be pure, and wholly Thine.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

Bro. Ron Isch (Lamont/Gridley) was our visiting minister for the month of April. Bro. Ron and Sis. Jane thoughtfully invited two grandmothers from Lamont/Gridley to accompany them so they could visit their grandchildren who live in Wichita. They still had room to take me back to my home after enjoying a potluck and a special program. I rarely get to participate in late afternoon or evening fellowship so I was blessed by their thoughtfulness.

Bro. Marty Langhofer talked to us about his recent involvement with a veterinarian from Taiwan who had asked Marty to go on a walking tour of the small island off the coast of China, formerly known as Formosa. The land was rugged, and we saw amazing examples of architectures

and agriculture. We also were aware that this was not a Christian nation and had little use for Christian beliefs.

"April showers bring May flowers" is an often quoted statement. Our part of Kansas has been windy and parched. In spite of our lack of rain, the flowering trees and shrubs have been extraordinarily beautiful—a joy to behold.

Bro. Max and Sis. Judy Reimchisel spent a week with the Kansas work crew in Haiti. Poor roads required much time traveling to the work site, leaving less time to spend on the building project.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Barb Huber

"Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart."

Psalms 32:1

God's Word has been alive in our midst and we do rejoice! We are glad in our Lord! We greatly appreciate the visiting ministers and their families who have come to share and support in the Lord's vineyard: Bros. Art Ingold (Sis. Bonnie, Rittman, OH), Ted Luginbuhl (Sis. Stephanie, Smithville, OH), and Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI). Bro. Randy and his family were a special "surprise" on Easter Sunday which was also a wonderful blessing from the Lord. May the Lord bless each of our visiting ministers in a rich measure for their willingness to be used in His service.

Sis. Bethany Gerber (Bluffton, IN), who assembles with us and is attending the College of Mount St. Joseph in Cincinnati, OH, has informed us that her education for this school year has ended. We will miss you, Sis. Bethany, during the summer

months, but look forward to your return in the fall. God bless and keep you in His love and care.

As we give tribute to our dear Mothers, may we remember what a blessing they are! They are a gift from God and we treasure them even more as time goes by. The fruit of the Spirit is truly portrayed in the lives of our precious mothers. (Galatians 5:22,23)

It's always a joy to have visitors and we welcome 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.

MEXICO, IXTLAN

Matt Gerber

"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Matthew 5:14-16

In one part of town, several women from church have been opening their homes during the week to have a ministry to neighborhood children. They tell them a Bible story and have coloring sheets. The children love it. Many of them are hungry for attention and love. During the week the children frequently stop by to ask if the lesson is going to be today, and on the day of the lesson some of them arrive hours early. It's exciting to see these two women, one a sister and the other a convert, taking the initiative to share God's love with

children who are not even their own. Please pray for these boys and girls and their parents, that they would continue to let their children come, and that God would put a spiritual hunger in them as well.

Bro. Bryan Stoller (Fairbury) and his wife, Sis. Kara, and their family, and Corey and Sis. Beth Steffen's family spent a busy week serving in the eye clinic and setting up computers at the school. Sis. Hannah Zimmerman was part of the group as well. As a result of the clinic, one young lady has started attending church, and many more were invited. We hope that they will come to see their spiritual need and desire to know more about the Lord.

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Listyn Oesch
Melissa Blough

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

Romans 12:15

Our deepest sympathies reach out to Sis. Michelle Oesch (Bro. Tom) at the loss of her stepfather, Jim Fahrni. We pray for the comfort and healing of the Spirit during this time of mourning in their family.

New joy has filled the household of Ron and Michelle Zaagman at the birth of their first child, Jeremy Levi Ronald Zaagman. Happy grandparents are Ed and Joy Zaagman. We praise God for His beautiful miracle in their lives.

Bro. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN) visited our congregation this month. We are thankful for their love and service.

In the old rugged cross,
 Stained with blood so divine,
 A wondrous beauty I see;
 For 'twas on that old cross
 Jesus suffered and died

To pardon and sanctify me.

Hymns of Zion #168

The Sunday school children proclaimed the truth of the Cross this past Sunday during the Easter program. It is a real blessing to hear our children tell of the love of Christ. We appreciate all the efforts of our teachers and children. Let us continue to look to the Cross, not only during this Easter season, but every day.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Sarah Knochel
Janelle Ramseyer

The engagement of Sis. Ann Jacobs (Leo, IN) to Bro. Nate Smith (Kansas City, MO) was announced in Bay City in early April. Sis. Ann's parents are Girard and Sis. Diana and Bro. Nate's parents are Ron Smith and Sis. Diane Smith. We rejoice with this couple and wish them God's richest blessings as they prepare for their life together.

Several staff members from Gateway Woods traveled to Bay City recently to give a presentation on the services provided by Gateway.

Our prayers are with Jennifer Curtis (Jim and Laurel) and Sis. Char Wieland (Bro. Brian) as they both spent time in the hospital recently. We trust that God's healing hand would be with each of them.

May God be with each one in the coming days.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT
Manuela Denes
Kay Rauhe

"In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine showing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,"

Titus 2:7

We were so blessed and privileged

to have Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter, his wife, Sis. Sara, and their three children from Bloomington-Normal, IL, with us the weekend of March 19-20. We were given wonderful and insightful instruction as the reading of the Conference Letter was read by both Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter and Elder Bro. Mark Bahr, from our congregation, on the evening of the 19th. We were then, once again, encouraged and uplifted by Bro. Mark's awesome and interesting sermon on Sunday. Our sincere thanks for his willingness to serve the Lord.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son..."

John 3:16

Christ reached out to us in love so we could reach out to Him and live. This was the theme of our Easter program on March 27. As usual, the children all did a fabulous job reciting their pieces, but the singing this year was outstanding—heaven sent as everyone in the congregation had goose bumps because it touched our hearts! We are so blessed and should be thankful that God loved us so very much and that His love keeps right on no matter what the circumstances. He is always faithful and will never leave us!

We are so excited to announce the birth of Brianna Rose Young on March 23 to happy first-time parents, Matt and Andrea Young. Matt and Andrea (a former Detroit) live in central IL as do his parents, Ray and Pat Young. First-time grandmother, Sis. Sanche Denes, is overjoyed and plans on visiting them very often. A child is such a joy and a blessing from God, and we rejoice with this happy family as they add a new little bundle of joy to their lives.

We are so joyful when a new little bundle arrives from Heaven and

then so very sad when someone that we love so very much has died but will live forever in the arms of Jesus. Our deepest sympathy, continued prayers and love to Sis. Crystal Frank (Bro. Lucas) on the death of her grandmother, Sis. Aldine Ramsier, from Rittman, OH. She is survived by her husband, Bro. Nelson, who is missing his wife and appreciates our prayers. How comforting it is to know that God will give you strength for the needs you face today. "I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you." (John 14:18)

A special thank you to visiting ministering Bro. Howard Plattner (Sis. Kristen; Alto, MI) for such a captivating sermon on Sunday, April 3. Our heartfelt thanks to visiting ministering Bro. Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH) for preaching April 5 to the residents of Woodhaven. We were blessed to have his wife, Sis. Lanna, her parents, Bro. Gale and Sis. Janet Stoller, and Bro. Brad Shields join us. It was wonderful having all of you with us and please come back whenever possible. We sincerely appreciate their willingness to "serve the Lord with gladness." (Psalm 100:2)

Let's continue to pray for our brethren in Japan as that country has recently experienced another earthquake and for those among us who need our continued and constant reminder that God hears and does answers our prayers!

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

Psalms 96:1-2

If you have never been to the Detroit church, please consider the following your personal invitation to come and visit us. If you have been here before and would like to return,

the invitation is especially for you, too! Everyone is warmly welcome and personally invited to be part of the Detroit Church's 23rd Annual Choir Benefit. Following last year's popular format, the dinner will be at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 16, followed by a 7:00 p.m. choral program all taking place at the church. The invitation is for the entire weekend and overnight accommodations are being coordinated by Bro. Scott and Sis. Jamie Bahr (734) 513-5907 or spbahr@yahoo.com. Please RSVP for meal planning purposes to Bro. Scott or Sis. Jamie by the 4th of July. Come and glorify God with us!

On Friday, April 15, Joseph Sabados died leaving his sisters, Sis. Suzanne, Sis. Anna and Pauline, grieving and missing him. Our congregation extends our deepest sympathy, love and continued prayers to them. May God's promise to be with us be especially real for you now, and may you know the gentle comfort of His healing touch.

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

I John 4:12

**MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS
Tim McMillan**

We began the month with John 8:1-11 regarding the woman brought before the Lord accused of adultery 'caught in the act'. After the Lord spoke there were no accusers, only the woman alone with the Lord. On the judgment day will we find ourselves alone with the Lord or will there be accusers of us standing by? Pray we all also find ourselves alone without any accusers nearby!

We are thankful the Lord brings visiting ministers our way! Bro. Glen Steiner (Sis. Rachel) delivered God's

teaching to us on April 3. The weekend of April 9 we partook of Holy Supper (Communion). We were blessed with the visit of Elder Bro. Tom Waldbeser (Sis. Susan, Atlanta) who assisted our congregation with the supper. While the Lord provided us with Holy food for our souls, we were able to provide others who struggle with little in this world with 1000 meals of soup. The children enjoy helping with the packing and it is a great teaching opportunity in giving unto others we don't even know. Other bi-annual lessons for the children took place in the singing of praise for the Lord on April 10 in front of the congregation. The memories will go with them throughout their life and we all pray they choose the right path in following the Lord.

A thought has been with me this month regarding 1 Sam 14:6, "and Jonathan said to the young man that bare his armour, Come and let us go over to these uncircumcised: it may be that the Lord will work for us: for there is no restraint to the Lord to save by many or by few." With this in mind, it may be that just one of us in conversation may have the Lord's words put forth unto someone who will then be saved. Whether we are one or in a group, the Lord will work for us if we submit unto His truth in all we do!

O God our King whose sov'reign
sway
the glorious hosts of heav'n obey,
Display Thy grace, exert Thy pow'r
til all on earth Thy name adore!
Hymns of Zion #189, vs. 5

**MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Susie Wulf
Kim Feuchtenberger**

Our congregation gathered together for Holy Communion on April 2. Elder Bro. Duane Farney assisted our home Elder Bro. Roy Koehl.

What a blessing it was to be reminded of Christ's suffering and death for us so that we have the opportunity to rid our lives of sin and live an overcoming life in humility and obedience to God's Word. Also visiting us were Bro. Brian Metzger (Sis. Angie, Lester, IA), Bro. Wayne Wiegand (Sis. Rosemary, Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Steve Pamer (Sis. Arliss, Akron, OH). We have so much to be thankful for when the Word of God is brought forth in truth and sincerity.

The engagement of Bro. Kyle Feuchtenberger (Bro. Ken and Sis. Sally) and Sis. Rachel Martin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Marilyn) of Eureka, IL, was announced on March 13. They plan on a May 15 wedding, Lord willing. We wish this couple the blessings of God as they take this step of faith together.

We have had quite a few in the hospital lately, including Sis. Vi Wulf, Mildred Sauder (Bro. Virgil), Katelyn Wulf (Bro. Byron and Sis. Amy), Bro. Doug Koehl (Sis. Maxine), Bernice Luthi and Bro. Chris Moser (Sis. Marion). We pray the Lord will heal and strengthen each one as He sees best.

"... the Lord is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you."

II Chronicles 15:2

**MINNESOTA
MORRIS NORTH
Wanda Gramm
Lois Schmidgall**

Our loving Savior's spirit was present and proclaimed through the voices and energetic smiles of our youth during our Sunday School Easter Program. We are so appreciative and thankful for our youth and the wonderful program they blessed our congregation with.

Living, HE loved us....
Dying, HE saved us....
Buried, HE carried our sins away....
Rising, HE justified freely forever....
One day, HE'S coming, the trumpet
will sound, his glory revealed....
On that glorious day, it will be our
SAVIOR JESUS!

"Blessed are they that have not
seen, and yet have believed."

St. John 20:29

Our hearts are thankful for the ministering brethren this past month: Bro. Dewayne Dill (Sis. LaRae, Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Glen Steiner (Sis. Rachel, Winthrop, MN), Bro. Klint Beyer (Sis. Cara, Sabetha, KS), Bro. Warren Schlatter (Junction, OH), Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan), Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH), and Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH).

Rejoicing in the Lord, we gathered for a Hymn Sing at Skyview Plaza, a senior living community. Blessings overflow when we see the anxious hearts waiting to hear God's Word through song.

Chloe Fehr (Tyler and Britney) was a hospital patient and we are thankful to see her blessed with a full recovery.

**MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Lindsay Schmidt
Heather Steiner**

"As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children..."

1 Thessalonians 2:11

Our congregation was privileged to hear the reading of the Memorandum. The Memorandum was a good exhortation to each one. Exhortation means to "urge or persuade the recipients to take some action". After

hearing the Memorandum, we definitely felt the urge to take action. It is our hope that each one is continually taking actions in their life towards their eternal life.

We want to thank Elder Bro. Ted and Sis. Cindy Witzig (Morton, IL) for coming to share in the responsibilities of reading the Memorandum. May God bless them for their willingness to serve. We truly enjoyed getting to know them.

"Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

Psalms 139:23-24

Once again we were encouraged and reminded of our responsibility of preparing for Holy Communion. We were reminded that our hearts are God's temple and we should be living a separate life. We were encouraged to examine not only our actions but also our thoughts and words because God is all-knowing, all-powerful, and ever-present. We were encouraged to pray that God will reveal to each of us what we need to do in our lives so that we can be prepared not only for Communion, but for eternity.

"Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved: for thou art my praise."

Jeremiah 17:14

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Bro. Dick Schmidt (Sis. MaryLou) during his recent surgery and hospitalization. We pray that God will continue to grant healing and good health to Bro. Dick as He wills.

MISSOURI, LAMAR

**Rebecca Dotterer
Venetta Banwart**

Our visiting minister this month was Elder Bro. Art Metz (Portland, OR). May God richly bless Elder Bro. Art for helping Elder Bro. Lawrence in serving Holy Communion. What a blessing it is when we can remember what Christ has done for us.

Our hospital patients this month were Sis. Luetta Braker (Bro. Raymond), and Alyssa, Russell, Lana and Lila Braker (Bro. David and Sis. Laura). May God continue to bless them all with healing.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Kary Mangers

This month we had Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill Stoller (Forrest, IL) and a large part of their family here to serve from the pulpit and to fellowship with us. We were also again blessed to have Elder Bro. Kent and Sis. Jan Heimer here to worship with us on a Wednesday evening. Bro. Kent exhorted us to prepare our heart for Holy Communion. We hope each of you had a blessed Easter season.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Melissa Reiman

Happy Mothers' Day! Let's make sure that on this Mother's Day, we remember to thank our mothers for all the love that they have given us. How blessed we are to have mothers that are willing to love and take care of us!

We would like to thank Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) and Elder Bro. Tom Klotzle (Sis. Jody, Altadena, CA). Thank you for your willingness to come to Taylor and teach Christ's Word! Elder Bro. John and Elder Bro. Tom shared the Memorandum with our church body. Elder Bro. Tom talked about how things would have been different if Jesus would not have died on the

cross. If Jesus would have ran away when the servant's ear was cut off, what would our lives be like today if that had happened? How wonderful it is to have a Saviour that does not run away but cares about us! Elder Bro. John gave a very touching quote on how to remember God's love. He said "There is not anything in this menu (salvation through Jesus) that we are not going to like because it is all good and all God's! The special is always the same! God's love and mercy is the special!" I thought that quote was a good way to remember that all we have to do is ask God into our lives and we can indulge in His love and mercy forever.

We would also like to thank Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA) for coming to our church and sharing Communion with us. Thank you for helping us remember that the breaking of the bread is in remembrance of how Jesus' body was broken for us and how drinking of the wine is to remember how His blood was shed for us.

Dear Sis. Loida Hodel was in the hospital for surgery and we are thankful that she is now at home recovering.

Death is such a difficult thing; you mourn for the loss of your loved one but yet rejoice that they are with the Heavenly Father, at peace, and no longer having to suffer the pains of this life. We weep but also rejoice with the family of Sis. Clara Yackley who passed away March 26. Our hearts go out to her family: Faye (Ron) Hoenes, Sis. Eleanor Yackley, Sis. Dorothy Yackley, Bro. LeRoy Yackley, Karen (Rick) Rule, Bro. Elwood (Sis. Trudie) Yackley, Bro. Rich Sauder, and Bro. Joe (Sis. Jerilyn) Yackley.

Visiting ministers, Bro. Willis Ehnle (Peoria, IL), Bro. Kenny Dietz (Bradford, IL) and Bro. Ron Joos (Bloomfield, IA), participated in Sis.

Clara's funeral service.

Hallelujah! We rejoice with the angels with a new convert. Zach Sutter (Bro. Jim and Sis. Chris) has turned his heart to the Lord! We offer our support during his repentance and his new walk with the Lord.

We would like to welcome a new couple to our Taylor Church family. Welcome, Bro. Doug and Sis. Tricia Banwart!

We also would like to thank Bro. Matt Kaufmann (Sis. Rebekah, Bloomington, IL) for leading our Wednesday night Bible study. Bro. Matt talked about the six ways that we can magnify Christ using our body: 1. Magnify Christ in our feet by standing fast in the Word (Philippians 2:10); 2. Knee – being humble enough to bow to the Lord (Philippians 2:11); 3. Hands – holding forth the Word (Philippians 2:16); 4. Tongue – shall confess the name of Jesus (Philippians 2:11); 5. Eyes – look at others with heavenly eyes; 6. Mind – in the mind of Christ.

**NEW YORK
CROGHAN/NAUMBURG
Hope Graves**

We were sad to hear of the passing of Bro. Fred (Sis. Barb) Ebersol's brother, Gerald Ebersol, on March 2. May the Lord give comfort to his family.

We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Kenneth Indermuhle and Sis. Linda with us from Sardis, OH. We shared a potluck dinner together followed by the reading of the Memorandum on March 26. May the Lord bless Elder Bro. Kenneth for his labors and the effort they put forth to share the weekend with us.

It was a blessing to be able to share another potluck together the following weekend with a singing after. We thank the visitors who have come to fellowship with us this spring.

Sit and pause awhile my spirit,
this great miracle behold.

See the King of highest merit,
on the cross, so bare and cold!
Out of heaven God has given,
His own Son in love untold!

Zion's Harp #226, vs. 1

May we all pause awhile to re-
member daily what our Saviour has
done for each of us!

OHIO, AKRON Erika Gal

"For we know that if our earthly
house of this tabernacle were dis-
solved, we have a building of God, an
house not made with hands, eternal
in the heavens."

II Cor. 5:1

This month, we suffered the loss
of two dear sisters. We will miss our
Sis. Esther Grossenbacher (the late
Bro. Joe). Surviving her is her
daughter, Edna (Ned) Clem, and her
daughter-in-law, Heidi Grossenb-
acher. Her son, Edwin, preceded her
in death. We also extend our prayers
and sympathy to our Bro. Bob Graf in
the loss of his dear wife, Sis. Alma.
She is survived by her five step-child-
ren, Bro. Bob (Sis. Joan) Graf, Neil
Graf, Wiley Graf, Colin (Donna)
Graf, and Colleen (Joe) Incremona.
We trust God will provide comfort to
each one.

Our thoughts and prayers are
with Bro. Leon Graf as he is recover-
ing from surgery. We miss his faith-
ful presence in church, but trust the
Lord is near to strengthen and sus-
tain him each day.

Many visitors have been with us
this past month including Elder Bro.
Ken Indermuhle (Sardis) and minis-
tering Bros. Warren Schlatter (Junc-
tion), Dana Indermuhle (Sardis), and
Fred Domka (Mansfield). We are al-

ways thankful to hear God's Holy
Word proclaimed in truth. May God
bless each one.

OHIO, COLUMBUS Esther Saurer

We were blessed to have Bro. Don
and Sis. Nan Steidl (Akron, OH) with
us one weekend. It is a blessing to
have willing ministers to share God's
Word.

We are thankful that Sis. Nancy
Banks is doing well as she recovers at
home after her recent knee surgery.
We continue to pray for her as she
heals.

OHIO, JUNCTION Vicki Boroff

Our congregation was blessed
with three new babies recently. Leah
Marie was born on April 2 to Bro.
Randy and Sis. Bonnie Manz. She
joins Megan at home; grandparents
are Bro. Russ and Sis. Vera Manz,
and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Bonita Frank
(Cissna Park). On April 17, Allison
JoAnne was born to Bro. Klint and
Sis. Kallie Manz. Allison's grandpar-
ents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy
Manz, and Bro. Keith and Sis. Jo-
Anne Klopfenstein (Latty). Lincoln
Frederick was born on April 23 to
Bro. Fred and Sis. Kayla Manz.
Grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis.
Connie Manz, and Bro. Gene and Sis.
Evie Heinold (LaCrosse).

We were thankful to have Bro.
Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonita, Cissna
Park) share the Gospel with us this
month.

OHIO, LATTY Mindy Stoller Carmen Eisenmann

We are thankful for our visiting
ministers this month. They were
Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Reming-
ton, IN), Bro. Bill Waibel (Sis. Carol,

Bay City, MI), and Bro. Ken Schnei-
der (Sis. Bernice, Remington, IN).
May God bless these brothers for
their efforts.

We rejoice with our convert,
Mallory Rosswurm (Bro. Bruce and
Sis. Amy), as she is professing peace
with God and man. We are so thank-
ful for God's work in her life and pray
that she will feel the nearness of God
as she prepares to give her testimony
and be baptized.

Bro. Ross and Joy Stoller, along
with siblings, Blake and Ava, wel-
comed Olivia Lynn to their family on
March 18. Grandparents are Bro.
Craig and Sis. Ruth Stoller and Bro.
Mark and Sis. Bonita Bahler
(Remington, IN).

Sis. Janel Schlatter (Bro. Eli) had
surgery this month. May God bless
her with healing according to His
will.

OHIO, MANSFIELD Tami Griffey

We have several loved ones in
need of prayers after hospitalization
for surgery or illness. These include
Bro. Gaylord Dotterer, Sis. Dorina
Miller, Sis. Marcela Sauder, Sis.
Zuzanna Pfeiffer, and Bro. Mike
Baumann. May each one feel His
nearness and comfort, and may God
grant healing according to His will.

"...this do in remembrance of
me."

I Corinthians 11:24

We partook of Holy Communion
on April 9. Sharing in the Lord's
work was Elder Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis.
Sandy, Alto, MI). As we reflected on
Calvary and all that our Saviour en-
dured in love for us, our hearts were
moved. "...How great has been Thy
sacrifice! To Thee our thanks and
praise shall rise." (Zion's Harp #25)

“Preach the Word...”

II Timothy 4:2

Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN) and Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sis. Alice, Sardis, OH) ministered to our congregation recently. May God bless their labors of love.

The Jamaican Work team hosted an appreciation night with a covered dish supper and picture presentation of their trip last summer. The evening was a blessing and brought back fond memories for those who experienced the trip.

Our Easter Program was held April 17. The Sunday School students proclaimed the message of the events surrounding the death and resurrection of Jesus, and we thank them for their efforts.

OHIO, RITTMAN

**Jenny Rupp
Marge Stoller**

We were blessed to be observers of the March 27 wedding ceremony that joined Sis. Kristina Rufener (Bro. Dave and Sis. Leann) and Bro. Trent Steffen (Bro. Dean and Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL) together in holy matrimony. We will miss Sis. Kristina, but wish much grace and many blessings upon her and Bro. Trent.

We also have engagement news as Bro. Rob Widmer (Bro. Dan and Sis. Virginia), who is formerly from Rittman, and Sis. Anne Marie Hoffman (Bro. Steven and Sis. Joan) of Rockville, CT, have plans to marry.

Bro. Scott and Sis. Cindy Steiner happily welcomed Tobias Nathan into the world on January 20. He joins siblings, Adelynn and Solomon, and his grandparents are Bro. Rich and Sis. Pat Steiner and Bro. Ken and Sis. Jane Hartzler (Smithville, OH). On Friday, April 1, Jax Byron was born to Matt and Julie Hostetler. Jax joins his sister Kylie, and his grandparents are Joe and Sis. Karen

Riggenbach. Jon Caden Bauman was welcomed by parents, Bro. Jon and Sis. Karen (Smithville, OH), siblings, Kaylee and Addison, and grandparents, Bro. Joe and Sis. Mim Stoller.

More reports of new life come in the form of a handful of new converts, all of which were so exciting to hear. Included in this number are Kirk Gasser (Bro. Mark and Sis. Jill), Julie Lanz (Bro. Vern and Sis. Deanna), Daniel Kipfer (Bro. Jon and Sis. Suzanne) and Jeremy and Danelle Vanni.

Even as new lives were created, we extend our sympathy to the many who experienced the loss of a loved one. Sis. Eldora Steiner passed away on March 17. Surviving are children, Michael (Kathy), Bro. Mark (Sis. Sue), Bro. Matt (Sis. Gail), Sharon Taylor, Sis. Sheila (Bro. Ralph Schlatter, and Sis. Mary (Bro. Tim) Maibach; and siblings, Ed (Linda) Ramsier, Bro. Nelson Ramsier, Sis. Rowene Howell and Sis. Marie Gasser.

Sis. Mabel Maibach passed away on April 1. Her children are Nancy (Jim) Bates, Sis. Karen (Joe) Riggenbach, Jane (Dave, dec.) Curie, Sis. Betty (Zane) Bachman, Marge, Bro. Ben (dec.) (Linda), Bill (Nadita), Bro. Ken (Sis. Sue Ellen), Bro. Steve (Sis. Dawn), Sis. Sandy (Bro. Gary) Dotterer, and Deb (Don) Ramseyer. Her sister, Sis. Marie Bauman, survives.

Sis. Aldine Ramsier passed away on April 4. She is survived by her husband, Bro. Nelson; and children, Bro. David (Sis. Dottie), Bro. Steven (Sis. Karen), Fred (Sheila), Daniel (Debbie), and Gene (Kim) Howard. Sis. Evelyn Hessidence passed away April 13 and is survived by her children, Janice (Paul Burstadt) Beeman, Rita Hornlein, Mary, and Joan (Rick Wall) Hessidence.

Bro. Bob (Sis. Marge) Boltz experienced the loss of his brother, Ed

Troutman, who passed away on April 14.

We were blessed to have numerous visiting ministers this month. We extend our gratitude and appreciation to Elder Bros. John Lehman (Bern, KS), Dave Steffen (Elgin, IL), Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT), Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN), Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH), and ministering Bros. Nathan Steffen (Alto, MI), Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN), Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL), Matt Steffen (Princeville, IL), and Lucas Frank (Detroit, MI).

Prayers have been with Sis. Joann Widmer (Bro. Bob) and Rebecca Steiner (Bro. Aaron and Sis. Holly) as each recently spent time in the hospital.

OHIO, SARDIS Faith Beard

“Man of Sorrows,” what a name
for the Son of God who came
Ruined sinners to reclaim!
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Bearing shame and scoffing rude,
in my place condemned He stood;
Sealed my pardon with His blood;
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Guilty, vile and helpless we;
Spotless Lamb of God was He;
“Full atonement!” can it be?
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Lifted up was He to die,
“It is finished,” was His cry;
Now in heav’n exalted high;
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

When He comes, our glorious King,
all His ransomed home to bring,
Then anew this song we’ll sing:
Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Tabernacle Hymns, #258

As Jesus was betrayed, scourged
and condemned to crucifixion, did

Satan rejoice and believe that he had finally won? Then at some point while He hung there in unbelievable anguish of body and soul, did the realization hit Satan that he had been deceived - that this was actually Jesus' triumph, not his destruction? Was that the moment when many people - the chief priests, the scribes, the soldiers, even one of the malefactors - started taunting Jesus that if He were the Son of God then He could get Himself down? How thankful and undeserving we are that He did not succumb to what may have been His final temptation - and to any other - and gave His life for all so that we now have that perfect Plan of Salvation for any are willing to give their lives to Him!

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Gina Brake
Lydia Dotterer**

We have had two additions to our congregation this month. Kenna Mae was born to Bro. Kirby and Sis. Carrie Stoller. She joins her three siblings, Wynn, Avery, and Marla. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Andy and Sis. Roberta Stoller and Bro. Larry and Sis. Edith Miller. Bro. Jon and Sis. Karen, Kaylee and Addison Bauman welcome Kaden Jon into their home. Grandparents, Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie Bauman and Bro. Joe and Sis. Mim Stoller, are also thankful for his arrival.

Although there are families rejoicing for new life, there are also those mourning the loss of loved ones. Bro. Dave and Sis. Dot Ramsier lost their mother, Sis. Aldine Ramsier (Bro. Nelson). Sis. Eldora Steiner also went to her reward. We think of her son, Bro. Mark and Sis. Sue, as well as the rest of the family, in their time of loss. The mother of Bro. Ken and Sis. Sue-Ellen Maibach and Bro. Steve and Sis. Dawn Maibach, Sis. Mabel

Maibach, went to her reward. May each of these families feel the hand of God mightily upon them through this time.

We are thankful for two converts. Bethany Indermuhle (Bro. Brian and Sis. Bev) has started her repentance. Also Travis Wilson (Jack and Carol) has answered the call of the Lord. We rejoice that the call of God is still being heeded and pray that they will find much grace to deny self, take up the cross, and follow Jesus.

Bro. Art Riggensbach (Lynne) was recently hospitalized. Certainly we are thankful for healing when it is God's will.

We have had several visiting ministers this month. Bro. John Reinhard (Bluffton), Bro. Dana Nieman (Remington), and Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty) all came and shared the Word with us.

OHIO, TOLEDO

**Teresa Rywalski
Deanna Manz**

We are thankful for the many members and friends of our congregation who were willing to participate in our inside church clean-up. Many hands truly do make light work!

Our congregation enjoyed hosting visitors from near and far for Invite-a-Friend weekend. What a blessing it was to see our church filled. We thank Bro. Nelson Beer (Sis. Minnie, Milford, IN) for his willingness to teach us from God's Word.

April 9 was a special, yet sobering evening as we partook of Holy Communion. We are grateful for our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) and Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis, OH) for serving us Saturday evening and again on Sunday.

Joe Croy (Sis. Mary) has been hospitalized recently. We pray he will

feel the Lord's nearness during his recovery.

OREGON, PORTLAND Rebekah Jones

We were blessed to have Elder Bro. John and Sis. Jane Wiegand from Silverton come and share the Word with us. We gladly welcomed back Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy Fehr from their stay in Texas. We wish Bro. Wayne God's blessings as he traveled back to Iowa for several weeks to help with crop planting.

OREGON, SILVERTON

**Deb Roth
Kris Luthi**

Whoever repents and forsakes every sin,
And opens his heart for the Lord to come in,
A present and perfect salvation shall have:
For Jesus is ready this moment to save.
Gospel Hymns #387

We rejoice that our convert, Jenna Wiegand (Elder Bro. John and Sis. Jane Wiegand), confesses peace with God and man. We pray that on her pilgrim journey she keeps her eyes on her Saviour.

Watch and pray; the tempter may be near us;
Keep the heart with jealous care,
Lest the door a moment left unguarded,
Evil thoughts may enter there.
Watch and pray, nor leave our post of duty,
Till we hear the Bridegroom's voice;
Then, with Him the marriage feast partaking,
We shall ever more rejoice.
Hymns of Zion #121

We are grateful for our visiting ministers this month. Bro. Tim

Zimmerman (Sis. Barb, Lamont/ Gridley, KS) and Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, Portland) were willing to be our ministering servants and encouraged us with edifying messages.

As it so often seems to be, we have many in our congregation that have extra burdens to bear. There were several who had surgery and we are thankful that they are recovering. Jordan Sinn (Bro. Dean and Sis. Heidi), Shari (James) Klopfenstein and young Jerome Kuenzi (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Jennifer) have all been in our thoughts and prayers as they have had hospital stays. Our prayers of sympathy are offered for Kent and Terry Kilgus and family, who lost their dear mother and grandmother, Juanita Mallorie. We also offer our sympathy to Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda Kuenzi, Ron and Ginge Lichty, Bro. Dick and Sis. Jan Gudeman and Bro. Harold and Sis. Linda Hari whose Uncle Albert Scharer recently passed away. We continue to pray for Bro. Nick and Sis. Mary Kuenzi and their family as their young grandson, Kendon Knoblock (Bro. Marti and Sis. Martha, Lester, IA), has undergone heart transplant surgery. May God provide each day their every need. We also want to remember in prayer those who have on-going needs or those who have special needs that we are unaware of.

Gary and Sis. Tami Dettwyler along with Carol Niehues (the late Michael Niehues) of Sabetha, KS, are thankful grandparents of baby boy Jase Michael born on March 5. His excited parents are Dustin and Hannah Dettwyler. Bro. Jason and Sis. Collette Snook are also thankful to have a new baby boy in their home. Zaiden Michael was born on April 14 and is welcomed home by siblings, Shalyse, Kiara, Kyra, Elisha, Jade, Mason and Jayla. Happy grandparents are Vance and Sis. Liz Snook and

Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy Fehr. May both families seek the patience, strength and wisdom to raise their children, from our Father in heaven.

**PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA
Emily Wiegand**

“Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established.”

Proverbs 16:3

We have had many opportunities recently to “commit [our] works unto the Lord”, knowing that, as Proverbs 14:23 states, “in all labour there is profit”. On March 12, we were able to gather together to aid World Relief - filling bags with useful supplies to be sent around the world to those in need. Then, on March 27, we were blessed to spend the afternoon singing in the Alzheimer’s ward at a nearby nursing home. We were also reminded of God’s power during a Bible Study on March 30, featuring the book of Nahum. April 16 was our annual Church spring cleaning, which allowed us yet another opportunity to work and fellowship with one another.

**TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE
Mike and Monica Fritz**

We have been greatly blessed this winter to have a World Relief work project in the Nashville area. Seven homes were completed, and a dedication was held on March 24. We are thankful for all 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. All the workers are now returned home, but we and our

community will retain fond memories and thankful hearts for all that was done.

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

We were privileged to share in Holy Communion on March 26 and want to thank Elder Bros. John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia; Latty, OH) and Tom Waldbeser (Sis. Sue; Atlanta, GA) who came to serve us.

We are blessed to welcome a new daughter into our family as our son, Obed Fritz (Congerville, IL), was united in marriage with Kary Leman (Bro. Ed and Sis. Gail; Congerville, IL) on April 2. We trust they will seek the Lord’s guidance as they begin their life together as one.

We rejoice that our son, Bro. Ezra Fritz, was able to give his testimony, and then was baptized on April 9. Again, we want to thank Elder Bros. John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia; Latty, OH) and Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen; Bluffton North, IN) who came to serve us, as well as the many visitors who came to share in the blessed weekend.

We have been encouraged and strengthened by God’s Living Word shared with us by our recent visiting ministering brothers: Elder Bros. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan; Taylor, MO) and Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary; Fairbury, IL), and Bros. Dale Stoller (Sis. Sandra; Fairbury, IL), Dale Frank (Oakville, IA), Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane; Austin, TX), Mark Ramsier (Sis. Alice; Sardis, OH), Nathan Walder (Sis. Denise; Cissna Park, IL), and Virg Metzger (Sis. Mary; Chicago, IL) We have also been greatly blessed by the fellowship of brethren and friends, visitors and World Relief workers, from Atlanta, GA; Chicago, Cissna Park, Congerville, Eureka, Fairbury, Forrest, and Tremont, IL; Bluffton

North, Francesville, LaCrosse, Leo, and Milford, IN; Oakville, IA; Bay City, MI; Taylor, MO; Junction, Latty, Sardis, and Smithville, OH; 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: Champaign, IL (5/22); Mansfield, OH (5/29); West Bend, IA (6/5); Akron, OH (6/12); Princeville, IL (6/19); and Kansas City, MO (6/26). If you plan 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 mid-week 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.

TEXAS, AUSTIN Jasmine Ringger

Call and cry, ye watchmen, boldly,
Call aloud and spare them not!
Jesus wants a faithful witness;
Teachers not confessing Jesus,
Have Stern judgment as their lot.
Truly stones could not help crying
If the watchmen's call would cease,
And the very rocks about us,
Every one a crying witness
Could no longer hold their peace.
Therefore rise, all ye, His servants;
For Elijah's spirit pray!
If as Lord ye would address Him,
Faithfully ye must confess Him,
And His holy will obey!

ZH #112, verses 1-3

On March 23, Bros. Peter Petrovic, Wayne Banwart (Champaign IL) and Lee Plattner were here for services. We appreciated their ex-

hortation as Bro. Wayne assumed the Eldership.

We are thankful for Bro. Peter's loving labours for our church, his steadfastness in the Word and doctrine, and his willingness to help out in the coming year. Our prayers are with Bro. Wayne as he takes on this responsibility to sound the clear warning of the watchman on the walls.

Ministers who served us were Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN), Bros. Frank Sauder (Tremont, IL), Dan Pfister (Sis. Sherry, Bluffton North, IN), and Retired Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Sis. Nancy, Elgin, IL).

We are always thankful for visitors. We had visitors from Akron, Forrest, Rittman, Rockville, Smithville, Sardis, Oakville, and Bluffton.

The following is the minister schedule for June: (5) LaCrosse, IN; (19) Minneapolis, MN; (26) Fairbury, IL. Please refer to the minister's directory for directions and contacts.

TEXAS DALLAS/FORT WORTH

We are thankful for Elder Bro. Ron and Sis. Nancy Schambach who are spending time in Texas, and were able to serve on April 3 in bringing the Word to those that gathered.

The next services are scheduled for May 15, and June 12. Services are being held generally the 2nd Sunday of each month at the Holiday Inn Express, 4450 W. John Carpenter Freeway, Irving TX. There are many that have Apostolic Christian ties in the area. Please inform your relatives and acquaintances that may have interest. Please call ahead to verify — Leland & Mary Plattner 956-265-0351 or Dennis & Diane Rassi 512-321-2345.

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

Neh. 7:4

We humbly request your prayers that God may grant the increase.

TEXAS, McALLEN Joyce Nohl

Visiting ministers have been: Bro. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam, Latty), Bro. Tim Lehman (Sis. Amber, Taylor), Bro. Gary Brown (Sis. Jane, Forrest), and Bro. Leland Plattner (Sis. Mary, Zapata). May God bless these brothers for their time and effort to serve us.

We've had more visitors this past month as a couple work teams from Isaiah 55 have come to worship with us. They were from: Champaign, Chicago, Eureka, Forrest, Morton, Peoria, Princeville, Tremont, Washington, Bluffton, Lester, Taylor, Latty, Columbus, Rittman, Austin, Zapata, Montgomery, AZ and Taiwan. It is such a blessing when they visit us.

We are enjoying retired Elder Bro. Ron Schambach and his wife, Sis. Nancy, as they are spending some time in South Texas this month.

Services are scheduled for June 5, Francesville, IN; June 19, Lester, IA; July 17, Bradford, IL.

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 1 1/2 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.

VERMONT, CLARENDON**Nathan and Miriam Reutter**

We would like to thank our visiting ministers who came to bring us the Word in this past month. They were Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl), Bro. Dan Goric (Sis. Mary Lou), and Bro. Tom Bahler (Sis. LaNae), all of Rockville, CT. May God's blessings rest upon them for

their willingness to serve us.

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



Summer Worship Services in Colorado

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

July 17 and July 24 - Best Western Alpenglo Lodge - Conference Center

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

Office: 888-726-8088 (Toll free)

www.wplodging.com

Winter Park is accessible from the Estes Park area as well as the Summit County area.

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

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

Sermon continued from page 2

take, the way that we must go, the only door, as it says, into the sheepfold. That is through Jesus Christ our Lord and His shed blood on the cross and in faith believing in that to the point of action. To the point of repentance, confession, restitution and a baptism of our testimony of faith. Then through that period and that process, we experience peace. That is true peace.

That is not a paper that is written between two countries that can be annulled or be written off at any time. That is a false peace. Perhaps there is deception in the world where a false peace is given, a false hope. That it is more than just saying, I believe. It is more than just our words. It is our actions, it is our life. It is our daily living. We can maintain that peace with God - the peace that passeth all understanding (Philippians 4:7) .

What does that mean? I am not for sure, but I have to think that it could mean two things perhaps. That it would give us understanding in the things that we need to find our salvation and to keep it until our last day. Or, it could also mean we can still have a peace when we don't understand all the Scripture. But we understand enough that we can find our soul's salvation. That is a peace that passeth all the understanding that we could try to gain and understand. Not that we don't want to understand more of the Bible and God's ways and apply them to our lives. But there are areas, we will all confess and admit readily, that we don't understand about the Word of God and some of the mysteries it contains.

He addresses them with that. Two things that are very comforting to the believer. Grace and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Carries us through many things of life, doesn't it, loved ones?

Then he goes right into what should spring forth from those who

have found grace and peace. "We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers;" I Thess. 1:2. Don't we feel that in our beloved brotherhood? Many, many times. How it is a phone call or a letter or just through the Spirit, of prayers that pass from one to the other. Perhaps for myself, we don't exercise that enough, I believe. And we don't realize the power of prayer, that if we are sincere in it and have faith in believing, there is a verse in the Gospels that talks about what it will do and what God will do for us through prayer and faith and believing, if it is His will and His ways. (St. Matthew 21:21,22)

Some of the reasons we maybe don't rely upon prayer enough is what we all have before us. It takes away just a little bit. I am not saying it robs us totally of prayer and faith. We still rely upon that. But we look back and there are older ones here that grew up in a time where they didn't have all the technology. They didn't have all the modern conveniences of life. Especially when we think of illnesses and sicknesses and diseases and things of that nature, where we go to hospitals to treat and to take care of.

I remember conversations with my Grandpa in that. There was a lot of prayer and a lot of faith and trust. That probably went a little deeper at times than what we exercise today. So we need to think about that, when we pray for one another. Who we are praying to and how powerful and great He is. That He knows best. His ways are far above our ways. That when our prayers aren't answered according to the way that we would like, we can still trust that God knows best.

"Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;" v.3. Your work of faith and labor of love and patience of hope. Those sayings are actions. Work of faith, labor of love.

Those are things that are evident. Those are things that are seen. Those go beyond just the thoughts in our minds, don't they. Those go beyond just expressions of our lips, don't they.

That is something that our precious faith holds dear and encourages in this repentance and conversion, in this walk of life pleasing to God. That it is action. It is because of that relationship that we can re-establish with our Lord and Savior through His shed blood on Calvary's cross, then the action can come out. The Word speaks to that. We are saved by grace through faith. Not of ourselves, lest any man should boast (Ephesians 2:8).

So the Apostle knew what was inside of us. He knew of that pride that we will have to continually deal with until our last breath. He knew of that pride that is always there welling up, taking credit for what we do. We know, as true children of God, that nothing is possible except by God's grace and His strength. Nothing is recognized of what we do for Him, unless we have gone and made that first step at the cross, with a broken and contrite spirit, recognizing the sin, recognizing the wretchedness. Recognizing the state we are in, we are lost to eternal damnation and hell. We are recognizing and we are taking advantage of His plan of salvation, of His gift to mankind of eternal life. Then, then He recognizes and rewards those that work, what comes out of faith, as James later explains; faith without works is dead (James 2:26).

Another Scripture talks about, we then are created unto good works (Ephesians 2:10) That part that is created within us is God's Holy Spirit and a new mind and a new heart. Transformed as the Word says. That is all glory and honor and praise to Him. Because we crucify and we keep in subjection, pride and those thoughts that would puff us up. Because it is by God's grace and it is to God's glory

that we live this way.

Labor of love. That is also an action. That also is what has come into our hearts. The love of God. As we read the Scripture, we read about Jesus, the compassion and the love He had, first and foremost to His Father. That is the only way true love can come out of our hearts and minds to our fellow man. Is first of all, having that true love for God.

How is that expressed? By obedience, by submission. By the works that come forth of the fruit of the Holy Spirit that is within us, of those nine things that are listed in the Word of God that are contrary to the works of the flesh. Where it says, against such there is no law (Galatians 5:23). Which is very interesting. Because they are the ways of God: love, joy and peace. You don't see people taken before judges because of too much of that. Or temperance, faith, goodness, kindness. But the works of the flesh, there are many that are brought before rulers and judges, to sentence them to a punishment.

So labor of love, again, extends first from our love for God. That has to be deep. That has to be real. That has to be exercised, again through obedience and submission. Then it stems out. Then it automatically radiates. It automatically reaches out to our fellow man. We have to pray for grace that we talked about earlier. The strength and the power to exercise this. But the impact it has on mankind is great. It is huge.

Because we know when we feel and see around us, the works of another power, the works of Satan. What the Word warns us about coming into the household of faith: of backbiting, of reveling, strife, envying. All those things that Satan is behind and that self automatically would go to in the flesh.

As we come about different situations, different circumstances of life, different people in the way they treat us, one thing love does not do. It is maybe confused with forbearance and compromise. Love is for-

bearing but love does not compromise. We don't change our ways so that we don't hurt other people's feelings and convictions. It makes others feel bad perhaps because of the wrongdoing they have done. That is not what God expects. That is not what God requires from a true believer. But with gentleness, with kindness, that the truth and this faith and love could always come forth from our lives. Again, it takes a lot of patience. The patience of hope.

Patience is something that I believe is sometimes hard to exercise. We all know how we live in a time where we can click a button and it still is not fast enough, even though it comes up in sometimes seconds or less, as we research something on the computer at work. Or cell phones. Where we went from not having them and you had to wait on letters. Someone who came from that generation could explain it a lot better than I, of dialing up and sharing lines. But there are so many things this world gets immediately now. Perhaps going back to doctors we have. We expect more immediate cures. Faster recoveries. I am not saying we don't endure. Again, don't take me wrong. There are still afflictions and trials and we rely upon God and we want His will to be done.

Patience. The patience of hope. What is the hope? Patience of the hope of heaven. Hope of life eternal. While we live here below and time is measured as we look and we watch the clocks. Sometimes that affects our patience, doesn't it? We think, my, this is just taking so long. This is taking forever. But if we have joy and peace and we are busy about our Father's work, it is like anything else. Sometimes time can just fly by. And before we know it, we are there.

How is it for our heavenly walk? Are we busy in God's work? Are we thankful? Are we joyful? God would want us to be that way and not woe me. How do we look at our walk of life, our salvation, our being

God's children? I believe time would go much faster and swifter and our end would be here before we knew it. I am sure, if we asked the older ones here again today, I believe that is how it automatically works. In the youth, we look forward to this. We look forward to that. We want to be this. We want to be able to do that. Whether it is drive or whatever it might be. Get a job, get our license. Always looking forward to something.

Then there comes a time of transition, when we want it to just slow down a little bit. Life starts passing us by as we have responsibilities with children and a job, a wife. Other duties and responsibilities. As we are in the age of perhaps not being able to work anymore, we see how quickly it went. But we still have to be patient. Because sometimes at that point in life, we have a deterioration of the body, as it says, corruptible, mortal. So we have to be patient for God's calling, calling us home.

So patience of hope. That will come forth also in our lives. That will come forth in action. People will realize how patient we are in many, many different ways. Patience with one another. When somebody differs from us, in our makeup, our personalities. Patience with one another, that couples with forbearance.

This is all in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father. So we are being seen. That has been told from our youth. You can't hide from God. You can hide it from Mom and Dad for a time perhaps and then it is sometimes found out. You can hide it from friends. But God sees all, whether it is good, whether it is bad. That is in His Word over and over. Those things will be made manifest some day. But God sees all. In the sight of God our Father.

He talks about examples. He talks about following. I have often wondered about that, when the

Sermon continued from page 41

Apostle Paul talked about following him. But he always referred to, as in Jesus Christ. "And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost." I Thessalonians 1:6. That is the assurance he had in his walk. That is the faith that he had. That is the peace that he had, that he was doing what God was wanting and called him to do, when He struck him down on the road to Damascus with a great light (Acts 9:2-4). He always coupled it with: in the Lord. In Jesus Christ.

So that is what we are supposed to do. Provoke one another. Provoke one another unto good works. To help one another. We do that, don't we? It doesn't have to be said by words. We appreciate them. A lot of times it means much more when somebody comes and visits us or writes a letter. But we can just do that in passing by, can't we? That in a changing world, we have unchanging brothers and sisters in their walk of life. That they have stayed constant with the Word of God, in the way we dress, the way we appear, the places we go, the activities. I don't just mean staying away from all the worldly things. I mean going to visit the poor, the needy, the sick, the shut in. The good places where people can be seen going and doing. God's work. Along with abstaining from going to

those places that feed the flesh and excite the flesh and cause us to be tempted and exercised in the work of the flesh.

So he is encouraging those here in Thessalonians, in the area of Macedonia and Achaia. How, if they practice and continue in the work of faith and labor of love and patience of hope in their Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of God, the ensamples, it says, that you will be. That is the calling. That we are ambassadors for a heavenly land. For a mansion prepared for you and I. That the Lord said He is preparing. And if He is preparing one, He will return again to take us there.

So Paul ends up expressing, because of this exercising of those three things that we have expounded upon this morning, that then it will just be shed abroad. It will shed abroad to all those around about, in our communities, wherever we go. Again, in technology today, we have a lot of ways of traveling very far very quickly. So our light can shine. Accountability to God, no matter if there is nobody else around about us, because of faith in our hearts, and that work of faith and that labor of love, wherever we go, should radiate.

"For they themselves shew of us what matter of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; And to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus, which deliv-

ered us from the wrath to come." I Thessalonians 1:9,10.

In closing, dear friends, the door is still open. The day of grace is at hand. That is what these verses bear out. That is what transpires in our lives, dear friends. We turn away from idols. We turn away from those things that we are expressing that we love more than God when we don't turn to Him in repentance to let Him convert our hearts and minds. They are idols because we are putting them before God. That goes for all of us, that are converted too, we have to be careful in all that we have in this land of America.

To wait for His Son. Again, His return from heaven. Whom He resurrected. We know in His likeness, we shall be resurrected. He overcame death and the grave. So it is, when we put a loved one into the bosom of the earth, we know it is just a waiting period for that body to take on a new body. Because it says that the dead in Christ shall first be raised (I Thessalonians 4:16). That corruptible will put on incorruption and that mortal will put on immortality (I Corinthians 15:53). So we wait for this time.

Dear friends, in waiting, we need to make ourselves ready. We need to be prepared. We cannot tell how precious the Savior is to me. We only can entreat you to come and taste and see (I Cannot Tell How Precious, Hymns of Zion #51).

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:

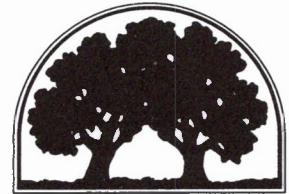
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ed.graf@gatewaywoods.org

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



Teacher's Aide Needed

Gateway Woods School is looking for a service minded brother or sister to serve as a Teacher's aide. We will have an opening starting in August of 2011. The Teacher's aide provides for the educational needs of the students who are in Gateway Woods School by working with and supporting the Teachers, supervising students in the vocational/community service programs and carrying out additional tasks that further the students' education. This is a full time position with benefits. Please contact Adam McAfee for more information.



Adam McAfee
 Director of Education
 PO Box 151
 Leo, IN 46765
 1-888-443-4283
adam.mcafee@gatewaywoods.org

Lynn Stieglitz
 Counseling Elder
 15417 Doty Rd.
 New Haven, IN 46774
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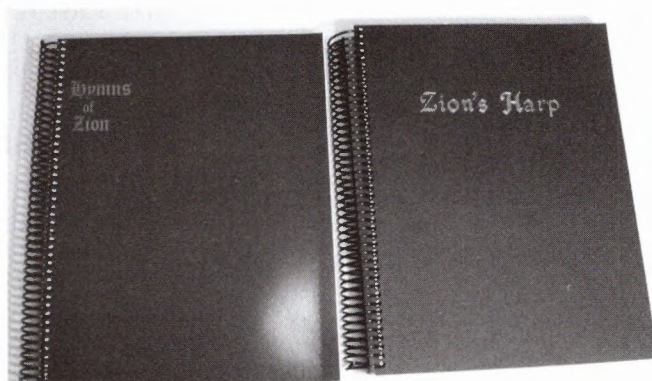
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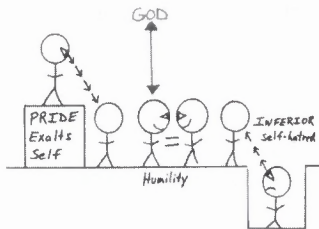
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Christ-Centered Self Worth Part 2 of 3

This article on Christ-Centered self-worth will focus on how our view of others impacts self-worth. The goal will be for us to look at how God instructs us to view others and how that instruction can impact how we view ourselves. It is important not to have a view of others that is higher or lower than what the Bible instructs us to have. Scripture gives us clear instruction not to look down on others in Philippians 2:3, "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves." We also know that scripture clearly encourages us to know and understand that men are not to be worshiped or valued because of their possessions. (Acts 14:12-15, James 2:2-4)

The graphic below illustrates three ways to view others.



Men and women have always struggled with how to appropriately view their fellow man and we can easily fall into viewing others higher or lower than we ought. To help us rightly view others we must rightly understand that we all sin (make mistakes, disappoint God) from time to time and do not live perfect lives. We are all in need of a savior. When we remember this truth, we can conclude that we all need God. We are also then in a much better position to humbly acknowledge that the source of our worth comes from Jesus Christ, alone, and the Lord working in us. It is far too easy to look at others' sin and measure ourselves against them. This leads to either concluding we are much better or much worse than they are. When we do this, we have begun the journey of viewing others wrongly and will inevitably come to unbiblical conclusions about how to view others. The Bible clearly warns us not to compare ourselves with others in II Corinthians 10:12 "For we

dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise."

When we become overly focused on what others say or think about us, this can quickly lead to either fear or pride. Consider the following questions:

- * How much importance do you place on others opinions of you?
- * What do you desire from others?
- * How do you receive counsel from others?
- * How much is your interaction with someone affected by their position/status?
- * What is your first thought when someone who looks different than you walks in the door?

When we elevate others too high, their opinions or what we think their opinion might be begins to rule our thoughts and behaviors. This shifts our focus from what the scripture says about how God views us as His people and how He desires us to conduct our lives to focusing on what others think or want from us. When others think highly of us, we feel good about who we are and when others think negatively of us, we see ourselves negatively. This then causes us to constantly seek approval from others rather than looking to God for instruction in daily living. Proverbs 29:25 tells us, "The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe." Ultimately, when we elevate man's opinion too high, we become more fearful of man than God.

When we devalue others, we elevate ourselves over others. This inevitably leads to pride. Consider the following passage from Luke 18:10-14, "Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so

much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." As we can read from this passage, pride leads to finding faults in others, denying faults in ourselves, and an inflated view of self. These are clearly not scriptural. Viewing others lower than self will result in our self-worth being built upon decreasing other's value and worth so that you are elevated above them. This is clearly not biblical and will inevitably collapse.

To rightly view others means to acknowledge that none of us are perfect and to acknowledge that God has placed great worth on those whom are His own. Others like you have worth because God has given us worth. This is not because we are worthy but because God is gracious and helps us see that others have worth and value because of God and not because of what they have accomplished or how we view them. Romans 12:3 helps summarize how to rightly view self and therefore how we are to view others. "For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith."

To rightly view others, consider the following:

- 1) See God as the creator of man.
- 2) See others as equally needful of a savior as yourself.
- 3) See the redemptive work of Christ as complete through faith.
- 4) Walk in the freedom and hope that forgiveness brings.
- 5) Have confidence in Christ working in others.

What others have been given by God is not something to diminish or worship. Rightly viewing others means to acknowledge others' strengths and weaknesses and using our own strengths and weaknesses to sharpen each other.

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*)

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 Proverbs 29:18*

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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

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Interested in Houseparenting?



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

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1-888-443-4283
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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

CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 2011

All volunteers should contact the project coordinator. Should you not be able to contact the coordinator, for Haiti direct your inquiry to Bro. Rich Bertschi, Ph. 309-467-6110, E-mail lemangm@mtco.com.

HAITI

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

Project	Year 2011	Coordinator	Capacity	HAITI MEDICAL WORK TEAMS			
Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Jun 8-18	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 rick@wuethrichfarms.com	4	Hospital Lumiere at Bonne Fin, Haiti Haiti Medical Team	May 13-21	Alice Widmer 330-939-0083 alice.widmer@jmsmucker.com	8-10

JAMAICA

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

Project	Year 2011	Coordinator	Capacity				
Jamaica Deaf Villg CCCD	Jun 10 - 18	Ted Hirstein 309-266-8769 hirstein@mtco.com	40	Jamaica Deaf Village CCCD	Jun 25 - Jul 2	Harvey Landis 330-925-8632 landziv@aol.com	Akron/ Rittman BC Trip

MEXICO

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

Location	Year 2011	Coordinator				
Magdalena Construction	Jun 11-18	Jason Schambach Elgin Bible Class 847-468-1194 jkschambach@att.net	Magdalena Construction	Jul 9-16	Jason Kaeb Bern Bible Class 785-284-3202 jason.maggs@gmail.com	
Magdalena Construction	Jun 18-25	Stan Virkler 219-863-5913 svirkler@fbibuildings.com	Reynosa Medical	Oct 5-12	Cheryl Herrmann cherrmann@frontier.com	
Reynosa Construction	Jun 18-25	Joe Sprunger Indianapolis Bible Class 317-491-4424 joesprunger@gmail.com	Magdalena Construction	Nov 19-26	Rod Schmidt 303-774-7913 rschmidt@acosta.com	

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

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, AL
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.

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.

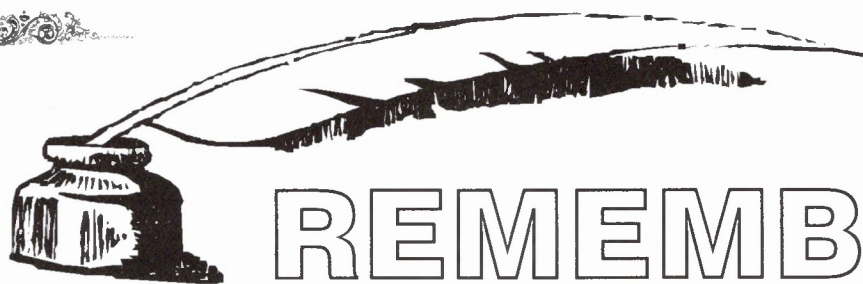
*Sis. Gwen Leuthold (Tennessee Fellowship Secretary) — 615-356-5755 or leutholdg@aol.com
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EVERYONE IS INVITED TO DETROIT

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

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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



REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

The series on church history by Elder Noah Schrock, Oakville, Iowa, continues. He was asked to give a presentation one Sunday evening at Phoenix, Arizona. It is believed this was given after a singing at that congregation, and Bro. Schrock spoke with no notice beforehand. Excerpts from his remarks continue.

So things went along, and the church (in America) began to grow. Mike Zimmerman, who I told you didn't receive this Bro. Virkler very courteously, also became converted along with his wife. They were also Mennonites. He became the elder there at what we might call the Slabtown church. We called it Slabtown because the town was built up of shanties made out of slab. They had a big sawmill there. That's one of the oldest congregations. (*Editor's note: he is referring to the Congerville church.*) At that time there was no Gridley, there was no Fairbury, there was no Cissna Park, much less Indiana churches — perhaps Bluffton, and Leo; and churches in Sardis, Ohio, and New Martinsville, West Virginia; and a few older congregations.

After the church got established, the influx of people from Europe began to become evident. They had heard about this America and that "money grows on trees". So they came over and elders came over and took over in the American church. That proved to be rather detrimental in the long run. The people from Europe did not understand these rugged American people. They got along for quite awhile until 1906.

By that time (1906), there had been

a sizeable influx of people, not only from German and Switzerland, but from Hungary and Yugoslavia and those areas. To get the history of the church in the Balkans, I made it a point (to inquire), and I have a letter from old father Gutwein on it. He was in Yugoslavia (he was a Hungarian) and he told me that at one time when he lived there, there were 70,000 members in Hungary alone. Now we are told there are 8,000 or 9,000 in that area. But they had a great many believers over there previously. (*Editor's note: when Communism took over, the membership declined drastically.*)

They came to this country and brought with them their customs which were far different from ours. And then, we had a clashing of customs and practices which was very unfortunate. In 1906, this thing erupted into a very unpleasant situation, if I may mention it. I wasn't in the church at that time, but I was 14 years old. I was conscious of it. I could overhear the various discussions and conversations.

This thing reached into my Grandmother's family. Her own sister took issue with our brethren. There was a division in the church, which is not Scriptural. Bro. Gutwein told me himself that when this thing happened in the United States, the Hungarian church was never involved. That may seem strange to you. The Hungarian church had no part. The Swiss and German people were torn apart over there (in Europe). They had a meeting in Budapest. Now if I wouldn't have this from Bro. Gutwein, I wouldn't dare to tell you.

They had a mass meeting of the Hungarian church. They lamented the fact that there was a separation casting a shadow over the American church. By all means that should not be permitted to come to pass (at that time).

They delegated an elder by the name of Christian Schmid, a German-speaking man, to come over (to America). I was (recently) talking with some of the Nazarean people, and the older ones knew Christian Schmid. He came over here with the express orders to advise these resistant members to go back to the Mother church and accept the American customs. When he got over here, he was talked out of his mission. They persuaded him to ordain elders among those who had gotten into discord with ourselves. By doing that, they established another organization, unfortunately. In Peoria, another church was set up not far from our Peoria church; and in Tremont a new church was established not far from our church in that town. You can imagine the terrible situation. Families were torn apart. Unfortunately, there was ill feeling, excommunication resulted, and many other unpleasant things resulted.

Next Issue:

More history excerpts
by Elder Noah Schrock

(Editor's note: Bro. Schrock came into the church in 1910 at age 18 and became quite well-versed regarding the progress and struggles of the church in America during the 1900s.)

The Light Of Hope

“Is It Good To Be Faithful?”

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

Recently it was brought to my attention that I may be enabling a false doctrine by my support of our church traditions. To teach that we are saved by our traditions is said to be a false doctrine and I agree. We are forgiven and saved by the Lord Jesus Christ.

One day later it was brought to my attention that some may feel they are saved because of the all the work they do in World Relief. To teach that we are saved by hard work in World Relief is also a false doctrine, if I'm not mistaken. We are forgiven and saved by the Lord Jesus Christ. He said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

One way to solve this problem is for me to no longer support our traditions and no longer support World Relief. Certainly I do not want to support a false doctrine. But it may be that the problem is not with our traditions or with World Relief, but with the way I think and believe about them. I am inclined to give full support to our traditions and to World Relief while loudly proclaiming that my salvation is based entirely on the Lord Jesus Christ and His atonement, and what I am doing is because I love Him so much and want to do His will with all my heart. We must be very careful not to embrace anything or any idea which gives the impression that we put that ahead of simple faith in Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Galatians, 3:10, “For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse.” He admonished the church not to think that their salvation was based on circumcision and the keeping

of the Old Testament law. In Galatians 3:26 Paul wrote, “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.” I believe that it is important that we all remember that.

Is it good to be faithful? Yes, but not to a false doctrine. It is good to be faithful to God and the Lord Jesus Christ, and to our church so long as our church teaches us what the Bible teaches, which is precisely what our church is attempting to do.

Something else which I would like to address is the matter of whether or not the shortcomings we commit after conversion should be called sin or just shortcomings. In I John 5:17 we read “All unrighteousness is sin.” In the next verse, 5:18, we read, “We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not.” I conclude that sometimes the word “sin” means anything short of perfection and sometimes it means outright living for the devil. We all agree that we have not yet reached perfection so long as we are in the body and that we all should live the most holy life possible, by the grace of God. However, if we say that we sin daily it gives the impression that we may live a careless, self-centered life and its all right. No, we are to abide in Christ and we are to walk in His foot steps, as much as possible, by His grace. I John 2:6 “He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.” It's better to say that we fall short of perfection every day but we are striving for it, by the grace of God.

Another matter concerns how grievous sins, which sometimes occur after conversion, are forgiven. He-

brews 10:26, “For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins.” In Hebrews 6:4,5, and 6, we are taught that it is impossible to renew such again unto repentance.” This may mean someone who willfully continues in sin. In any case, David in the Old Testament was forgiven of grievous sin and we all hold to the belief that it is possible to be forgiven of such sin after conversion if the individual is repentant and does not continue in sin. The important thing is that forgiveness is available to the contrite and penitent person. I propose that we leave the matter of on what basis that forgiveness is offered, up to God. We don't have to know. God knows. We should also remember that God specializes in the impossible.

Love and respect for each other is probably more important than we realize. Let's not criticize or blame others, although, surely it is all right to caution one another in love. Also, we are taught to consider ourselves the least of the brethren. The Apostle Paul, who served the Lord quite faithfully, said in Ephesians 3:8, “Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given.” One of our traditions is to sign our letters Your Least Brother or Your Least Sister, but it is even more important that we live and act out the belief that we consider ourselves to be the least of the brethren.

Is it good to be faithful? Yes, it is a joy to see faithfulness. The only exception is if you are faithful to something that is bad.

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*For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace:
the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.*

Isaiah 55:12

