

The Silver Lining

A photograph of a wooden covered bridge in a winter setting. The bridge has a gabled roof covered in snow. The walls are made of light-colored wood, and the interior is dark. The ground is covered in snow, and bare trees are visible in the background.

Matthew 7:13-14

*Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate,
and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction,
and many there be which go in thereat:*

*Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way,
which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.*

February 2012

Sermon by Bro. Bro. Ron Allenbach, Kiowa, KS

II Thessalonians 2

I don't know how it is in your congregation here, but there are many times in our congregation people will ask a question. We have had one or two Bible studies in various parts of the chapters Romans 5 and II Thessalonians as we went through this a number of years ago. Suddenly the number of individuals increased, as they did for the book of Revelation, Daniel and Ezekiel. It seems that this pricks our minds and it gets our interest because, it's future. It's what is going to happen tomorrow. You and I do not know what is going to happen tomorrow. I don't know if I will be drawing a breath tomorrow and neither do you. We pray that we will be. We look forward to it. But we do not know exactly what tomorrow is going to bring. I pray that we will be able to make our trip on to Detroit then back to Morton and then eventually back home again; that we'll be able to see our children, our sons and daughters-in-law and our grandchildren. But here Paul is telling the Thessalonians - evidently there were some questions about what tomorrow is going to bring, especially when it comes to what our lives are going to be in Christ.

He says, "Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him," II Thessalonians 2:1. Notice how he starts this; he's basing it on one individual, Christ Jesus. How many in the world today know who Christ Jesus is? How many in the world today know that He is our salvation?

As we were driving over, Lois said, "Look at the cars around that church, look at the cars around the next church and the next one." How many places in our nation today do we see individuals coming together on a Wednesday night? Yet more importantly to set aside one day of the week for church, for us on a Sunday. There are many congrega-

tions in the United States today that are closing their doors, because there is no future in Christ. He says, "...by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him. That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand." v.1 & 2. To me that means you are to be expectant of him.

When our first child was born, I was 15 miles away on a tractor and we had made out before I left that morning, that if the pain started, the time was near, that Lois would say by 2-way radio, "Company is coming, you need to get home." How many of us have our ear tuned to the Word of God that we're ready? I was ready to shut that thing off and head for the pickup. By the way, I had to too. But how many of us here tonight are that ready? You see, we can be, we can be! But there is something within the heart of man, many times, that says wait until tomorrow. Wait! That's what broke the wagon. And waiting is what is going to break the soul of man and deliver him into the one who wants to destroy it. We need to say yes to His Word, to the unction of the Holy Spirit.

"Let no man deceive you..." v.3. I was reading part of a book on the way up, and this man likened the four horsemen of the apocalypse - and of course we know if we get into the Book of Revelation, that we have those four horsemen and they represent the four various things of famine, death, war, and so forth (Revelation 6). This author said, think of the first one as deception. And that's what Paul is telling the apostles here, the Thessalonians. "Let no man deceive you..." II Thessalonians 2:3. We won't be deceived if we stick with this Word. We won't be deceived if we listen to the Holy Spirit. There are many

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

March

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

Suggested Donation: \$18/subscription

Next correspondence due:
For March Issue
 (16 Jan. News - 15 Feb. News)
Due: 20 February 2012

The Silver Lining (Vol. 67, #2)
 1389 County Road 1600 N
 Roanoke, IL 61561

USPS 496780

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

Official Apostolic Christian
 Church Website
www.apostolicchristian.org

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:
 cleman1377@gmail.com
(e-mail is preferred)

The Silver Lining
 1389 County Road 1600 N
 Roanoke, IL, 61561
 309-923-7192 (phone)
 866-737-3177 (fax #1)
 309-923-7359 (fax #2)

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

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

Sermon continued on page 41

“...for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.”
Luke 16:15

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

February 2012

Modern Day Idolatry

The basic elements of the following account actually happened. It may help us understand the power which an idol may exert over a person.

A hardened man drives down the highway on his way home. He is accustomed to the shadowy world of smugglers, thieves, and other petty criminals. His struggle to survive in a rough world has made him calloused to the wonder of life. As the miles fly by, his watchful eyes notice that two cars have been following him. A hardness that is not quite fear comes over him. He is quite familiar with evil intentions.

If he were a man of God, he might begin to pray. But he is a man used to relying on his own cunning to get what he wants in life, and thinks he can take care of himself. He verifies his concern by changing speeds numerous times. The two cars stay behind him and he knows they are just waiting for a convenient time to rob him of the substantial sum of money he is carrying. Assessing the options, he is rightfully concerned, but continues to believe that he is capable of taking care of himself.

Rounding a curve, he observes one of the cars accelerating to pass him. The other comes up close behind him. As they round the curve, he sees a slow moving semi-trailer truck ahead, and quickly grasps why they are choosing this moment to box him in. Supremely confident, he boldly decides to escape the trap by passing the semi on the right shoulder. He has no doubt that he can outrun the bandits.

To his dismay, as he pulls even with the semi's front wheels, the shoulder narrows and his right tires slip off the pavement onto a soft shoulder. The soft soil grabs the car and he veers off the road and down an embankment. For the first time, fear grips him. His car bounces to a stop at the foot of the hill. He knows he won't be able to drive out of this situation. Heart pounding, he climbs out of the car and begins to make his way to hiding. His eyes catch movement at the top of the hill. The sunlight glints off of several pistols. Now he can taste fear. He prays.

He doesn't pray to the living God,

but rather grasps the image of a skeleton of death on the gold chain around his neck. He prays fervently, "Help me, Grim Reaper. Help me. Save me from these men." The men search vainly. It's as if they can't see him. One of them passes within three feet of his hiding place behind a little shrub. Finally they give up and go away. The man gives thanks to the little gold image on his neck. He believes the idol hid him from the thieves' view and kept him safe.

Although we rarely witness it, idol worship still exists in our time. This man continues to pray to his idol god and believes in its protection. Idol worship is common across the world (Acts 17:29).

There are many other kinds of idols besides graven images. Sports figures, modern music artists, and Hollywood stars are some examples. In fact, anyone admired (worshipped) more than God can become a type of idol. Our possessions can be the idols that come between us and God. Could there be something in our life that compares to the profound *abomination* that is worshipping and praying to a graven image? The Lord taught the children of Israel: "*Cursed be the man that maketh any graven or molten image, an abomination unto the Lord...*" (Deut. 27:15).

An abomination is something morally disgusting or abhorrent, vile and repugnant to God. Daniel writes of the abomination that makes desolate sitting in the holy place. And Malachi, speaking of their worship of other gods, condemns his people, saying: "*Judah hath dealt treacherously, and an abomination is committed in Israel and in Jerusalem; for Judah hath profaned the holiness of the Lord which he loved, and hath married the daughter of a strange god*" (Mal. 2:11).

What would cause a man to put his hope in a graven image? Perhaps the man who worships the skeletal Grim Reaper was worshipping other idols before he cried out to his false god. His first reliance was clearly on his own ability. His self-confidence had gotten him through many difficult situations in life. Perhaps his greatest idol was himself?

Daniel's horrifying vision of the "*abomination that maketh desolate*"

(Dan. 11:31) was most likely directly fulfilled by Antiochus IV Epiphanes when he set up an idol in the Temple and perhaps even sacrificed a pig on the altar. But there was a prideful attitude that he had before he committed these actions. "*Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all*" (Dan. 11:37). The "I-doll" came before the idol. Perhaps this is a spiritual correlation that we can all take into account.

Paul teaches that our body is the temple of God. (1 Cor. 6:19-20) In this spiritual allegory, the outer courts of our life interface with the world, but the inner parts of our being are reserved as the dwelling-place of a holy God. The altar of our heart bears the sacrifice of the Lamb of God. (Eph. 5:2) If we have set up an "I-doll" in place of the Living God, could it lead to, or even be a horrifying abomination that will make us desolate?

Few, if any of us would consider worshipping a physical idol, but if—like the man who worships the Grim Reaper—we rely on ourselves, and our own wits, are we not taking those first steps? Perhaps the "I" factor is an abomination that will make us desolate. If we trust our own judgment, esteem our self higher than our brother, if we do not submit to sound spiritual counsel and correction, if we regard our own thoughts as wiser than the Bible, or lift ourselves up in any way above our Creator, is it not magnifying oneself above all? (Luke 18:9-14) If we do these things, how can we hope to keep our hearts holy?

It requires some very deep and sincere soul searching to determine if we are putting selfish interests or personal pursuits ahead of proper subjection of our entire life to God. (Rom. 12:1-2; 1 Cor. 9:27) The Apostle Paul writes: "*...all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any*" (1 Cor. 6:12). We surely need the grace of God and perhaps also an objective, mature fellow believer to help us assess where our affections, time priorities and activities need adjustment.

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 cleman1377@gmail.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

An Effective Ambassador

As discussed in a previous article, every believer has the responsibility to be a spokesman, an ambassador for Christ. An effective ambassador will love mercy, walk humbly and do justly with his fellow man, all the while living a sanctified and holy life in the unity of the Holy Spirit and in the bond of peace.

Though there are many attributes required of an ambassador, in this article we will consider two characteristics necessary to be effective fishers of men.

To be intercessors

Just as our Lord Jesus Christ had a burdened heart for the lost, his true followers will also feel a burden and responsibility for those who are lost in sin. This requires persistent and impassioned prayer before almighty God. It is interesting to note that in the dictionary, one of the synonyms given for pleading is prayer. Is it a possibility that every convert is the result of the Holy Spirit's pleading in answer to prayer?

In the scripture, we have examples of godly men passionately pleading with God for others. For example, in the Old Testament we have the account of Abraham pleading with God for Sodom:

Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city: wilt thou also destroy and spare the place for the fifty righteous that are therein?

GEN 18:24

Then in the New Testament, we have the example of the Apostle Paul pleading the cause of Israel:

I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, That I have

great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh. ROM 9:1-3

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. ROM 10:1

Like the Apostle Paul, as effective ambassadors, we will have great heaviness and sorrow in our hearts for those who have not come to the knowledge of the truth and found their salvation through Christ.

One of the greatest things we are called to do is to pray. Prior, during, and after any work for the Lord, we must spend time in prayer. Let us take a moment to reflect on our own prayer life. How often do we have passionate fervent prayer for the eternal salvation of others?

The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. JAMES 5:16

Our feet shod with the gospel

In Ephesians, the Apostle Paul encouraged the believers to put on the whole armor of God so that they could withstand the assaults of Satan.

Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saint. EPH 6:14-18

To be effective fishers of men we will have our feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. To shod means to furnish or equip. Paul's instruction here is clear. Just as we equip our feet daily with shoes prior to going to work or school, spiritually we need to be walking in grace and equipped with an understanding of the gospel of peace.

Our feet carry us places and bring us into contact with lost souls. So is it any wonder why Paul used feet for this teaching? Being equipped with the gospel of peace is critical, as Peter reminds us:

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ. 1PETER 3:15

Some who we encounter are the enemies of the cross of Christ, and may speak evil of us, as Peter noted. However, rejection has always been a part of the gospel and Jesus often experienced this himself. So the very gospel we share can also comfort us when we are evil spoken of.

The gospel of peace will allow the ambassador to be of a peaceful temperament and Godly behavior as he interacts with others, whether it is in business dealings or other conversations.

As an ambassador, do you take the time daily to read, study and memorize God's word? Have you hidden the Word in your heart, and are you familiar with the Scripture, so that you will be ready and capable to share the gospel when the opportunity presents itself?



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

Medical Committee Established

Each year 10 million children under the age of five will die. That is one every three seconds. Most of these could survive with access to simple and affordable interventions. For over 25 years, World Relief has been involved in sending medical teams and supplies to underserved areas in many countries including Mexico, Haiti, Indonesia, and Ethiopia.

The medical component of World Relief has gradually increased in size and scope of operation to include sending several medical teams per year to Haiti and Mexico, supporting a mobile medical clinic in Indonesia and the operation of Hospital Lumiere in Haiti.

In August 2011, the World Relief Medical Committee was established. It is a standalone committee within World Relief and supports the fourth pillar of the Apostolic Christian Church: To offer humble deeds of service to fellow believers and all mankind, in the name of Christ.

The purpose of the committee is to glorify God by facilitating high-quality medical care utilizing the resources with which we're entrusted. Our endeavor is to alleviate human suffering and encourage individuals to find their salvation through Jesus Christ.

Committee structure

The committee of fourteen consists of five physicians representing family practice, pediatrics, and ophthalmology, one dentist, two pharmacists, one physician assistant, two advanced practice nurses representing acute care,

cardiac and education, one physical therapist, one non-medical person, and one elder.

There are four subcommittees:

- **Quality Committee**
Define the scope of practice, utilizing evidence based practice and best practice medical models.
- **Inventory Committee**
Manage our medical supplies and resources within the Apostolic Christian Church.
- **Education Committee**
Facilitate orientation specific to medical clinics, including culturally sensitive practices.
- **Oversight Committee**
Maintain medical relationships, establish medical formularies, and to ensure spiritual aspects are incorporated into every aspect of our medical endeavors.

Opportunities

The Committee has administrative responsibility for short term medical missions and will collaborate with and advise regional committees on long term missions. Current medical missions include:

Mexico: Teams set up clinics in medically underserved areas. The medical team assists local physicians to assess vital signs, screening for diseases, health education, dispense free medicines and share God's love to the people. The dental team provides basic dental care and cleaning. Health and school kits, made by our brethren, are distributed. Bibles are also distributed and bring many smiles.

Ixtlan, Mexico: Many people in the Ixtlan area are now able to see thanks to cataract surgery and eyeglass clinics. Cataract surgery is provided in collaboration with a local hospital during a full week

team visit. During the eyeglass clinic, eyes are checked and needy persons are fitted with appropriate glasses thanks to your eyeglass donations. Teams have also provided training for the local ambulance.

Haiti: In January 2010 after the devastating earthquake, twelve medical teams were sent to Hospital Lumiere to provide emergency care and surgery to the earthquake victims. Since that time, World Relief has accepted the responsibility for the administration of Hospital Lumiere. Work teams are scheduled monthly except in the summer. Many medical personnel are needed to continue to provide medical support to this hospital.

Indonesia: One of the most medically underserved areas is the Telo Islands in Indonesia. Since 2008, World Relief has provided two medical teams here and financially supports a local medical team to travel via boat to these islands to bring vital medical assessments and supplies to the people.

In addition, the Medical Committee will assist in planning the biannual Apostolic Christian Medical Fellowship (ACMF). These meetings are a forum for disseminating information and encouraging physicians, dentists, APNs, PA-Cs as well as students in those respective fields. The next ACMF meeting will be at the Princeville Fellowship Hall on Saturday, April 28, 2012.

How you can be involved

Pray for the work, join a medical team, or provide financial support. For more information, contact Lee Klopfenstein 419-203-6850 or ldklopf@live.com or Cheryl Herrmann 309-385-1082 cherrmann@frontier.com.

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

Just prior to Christmas, a couple of the residents were helping me put up the train table around the Christmas tree in the Activities Room. We'd been working on it for about 20 minutes when one of them suddenly said to me, "I don't know why, but I think I like you." While I appreciated his conclusion—that he liked me, the "I don't know why" part got me thinking later. Why had he decided that he liked me? We had been working pretty quietly together, not saying much, but excited about getting the train up and running. Maybe that was a part of it, I hadn't said anything that he might have an issue with, but rather we were working together towards an enjoyable, common objective.

I later thought to myself, isn't this what God wants us, as believers, doing—working with our fellow man here in this earthly life towards the ultimate, joyful goal of every one of us being saved? And yet how often do we allow our human emotions of pride, bitterness, or envy to enter in, and divide us to the point where we feel we cannot work with someone, even for God's purpose? When we apply our natural human thinking to the situation, it is amazing to think that God loves us, especially knowing how "deceitful" and "desperately wicked" we can be (Jeremiah 19:9). What is there to love about us?

Fortunately for us, God says "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:9). His Word says that He commended his love toward us while we were yet sinners (Romans 5:8). Our human nature is to love those who love us—reciprocal love, but that is not what God does for us. He continues to

offer us a way to His eternal love, even though man has generally mocked and rejected His "peace offering", His Son Jesus Christ.

So as by God's example—His continuing to reach out to man in his wicked state, so we believers should take the "high road", and reach out to those around us, even to those with whom we may have a difficult relationship. God's Word says we are to love even our enemies (Matthew 5:44). I'm reminded of "Nan", the little girl who, in her letter to God, wrote, "Dear God, I bet it is very hard for you to love all of everybody in the whole world. There are only four people in our family and I can never do it." And, of our own selves, we probably can't love as we should, but, through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, God offers us help—wisdom (James 1:5), grace (II Corinthians 9:8), and the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22, 23)—to do it.

God wants an eternal relationship with us, but in order for that to be possible, we must repent and be born again. I am constantly reminded of God's love here at Timber Ridge when I see staff enthusiastically assisting the residents, and hear about staff comments such as these from our website: "I love making those who live here smile; it makes me smile...it's worth it all", and "I love coming to work...it's all about relationships." May we take the opportunity to show God's love to someone in our lives each day—maybe it will make them wonder why you like them.

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

In October of 1991, my wife and I had our eyes opened and our lives changed when we became Houseparents at Gateway Woods. I still re-

member seeing that huge kitchen table for the first time, realizing it would be surrounded by children who had some deeply rooted issues. Twenty years later, I am still involved with hurting, angry, confused but precious children. Now I have the privilege to be in their homes to see firsthand how the families operate and to learn the source of so many problems. As you can image, it is often not very pretty. At times, our Home-Based workers are frustrated and confused by what we see in these homes and what we should do and say in order to help. By the grace of God and with your prayers, we press on.

One of my recent clients was a middle-aged woman who had five children by several different men. Three of these children live with her. By God's love and mercy, this woman has come a long way in her life. She is a recovering alcoholic and has been involved in other sinful activities. At one point she was arrested because she was sitting in her car, passed out, by a railroad track. She doesn't remember how she got there and assumes she ran out of gas before the police found her. Thankfully, she has been sober for over a year, continues to attend her sobriety meetings, and is attending church on a regular basis. Overall she feels much better about herself and her children. The great news is that she gives God the credit. She is happy in the Lord! God is still alive and at work!

Some time ago I came in contact with a man named Evan, who was trying to raise his four children alone. He didn't know his children very well, because they had been living with their mother. The mother was involved in destructive activities that were harmful to her children, thus they were handed over to dad. The longer we talked, the more he opened up about past abuse by his father. He explained that when his siblings acted

out, he was the one who got the beatings. However, with tears in his eyes, Evan told me that later his dad became a Christian and asked him for forgiveness. Evan admitted that this is what he needs to do. In his heart he knows but to this day I have not heard that he has made that commitment. I ask for your prayers for Evan.

News:

- On March 10, we will host our annual Rep Meeting on the Gateway Woods campus from 8 am - 1 pm. All are welcome to "experience Gateway" for an inside look at what we do on this inspiring and informative day. If you wish to attend please RSVP by calling 888.443.4283 or emailing Emily.Kieser@gatewaywoods.org.

- Looking forward to summer already? Consider one of three summer positions at Gateway Woods. We have begun our annual search for a Summer Volunteer Coordinator, a Top Quality Coordinator, and an Education Intern. Please see the notices in The Silver Lining or email Adam McAfee at adam.mcafee@gatewaywoods.org for more information.

- Gateway Woods welcomed two new residents to campus this past month. Please pray with us as they become accustomed to their 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 would also ask for your prayers for the Houseparents as they grow to know and love the new children in their homes.

- It was a sad day for the Gateway Woods Staff as we said goodbye to Sis. Angie Knobloch. Sis. Angie is engaged to Bro. Seth Hodel (Roanoke) and has moved back to Illinois. We are thankful for her service to Assistant Houseparent and pray that God will bless them both in their marriage.

- We are grateful to God for providing us with a wonderful Staff. We cur-

rently have two career positions available. We have an opening for an Alternative Houseparent couple as well as for an Assistant Houseparent. For more information please see the notices in this month's edition of The Silver Lining or visit the Career Opportunities page on our website at: www.gatewaywoods.org/supporters/career-opportunities. We trust that God will continue to provide qualified, mature brothers and sisters who will 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 quick message to mail@gatewaywoods.org

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL Athens, AL Susan Koch

Our themes for January were Winter/New Year and Dinosaurs. The children, especially the boys, loved learning about the "long-necks," "plant eaters," and "meat eaters." We studied the letters M through Q. The students made magazine collages, tasted mangos and learned about tropical areas, and worked on developing their manners. They also learned about newspapers, nests, and nails. One of the most exciting things the students did was make and taste the ocean. The water was made from blue jello. We added gummy worms, octopi, Swedish fish, and Skittles for the ocean floor. Miss Kalla's class even got to taste the

ocean and have been talking about it ever since! Miss Louise's class made quilts this week, and painted some purple P's and glued on penguins last week. We were also blessed with a work team from Rockville, CT. It was fun watching our parking lot and playground turn into giant mole tunnels as they added to the preschool's drainage system. The kids asked them to build them a pool to use in the summer but unfortunately had their hopes dashed. A huge thanks goes to those that were on the Rockville team. We definitely enjoyed their fellowship.

ALABAMA, ATHENS Roger and Becky Roberts

The past month has again brought us several visiting ministers. We are grateful to Bro. Ron and Sis. Edie Bollier (Indianapolis, IN) and family, and Bro. Ed and Sis. Bonnie Sauder (Roanoke, IL) for being with us.

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

Matthew 18:20

On Christmas about a dozen of us gathered to stream into Christmas services. We are thankful for technology to allow us to do that.

We were also glad to see Kendra Coulter (Bro. David and Sis. Barbara) home for about a month at Christmas.

Psalms 127:1 reminds us the "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it." Please keep the World Relief teams in Alabama and Texas in your prayers as they rebuild homes. Pray specifically for safety and for the relationships that are built during this time among the homeowners and the brethren. What an opportunity to share the love of Jesus!

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

“There are friendships that we cherish in our daily walk of life.”

Hymns of Zion #91

Our Phoenix young group hosted over 40 members and converts from all over the country on the recent New Year’s weekend. What a blessing for our whole church to have them gather with us to usher in the new year! The singing was really a taste of heaven as we joined their young voices in praising Him.

Our visiting ministers this past month have been Elder Bro. Tom Klotzle (Sis. Jody, Altadena), Bro. Nick Gutwein (Sis. Suzanne, West Lafayette), Bro. Brad Bauer (Sis. Sandy, Tucson), Bro. Ted Schock (Sis. Heidi, Belvidere), and Bro. Jay Knapp (Sis. Lisa, Tucson). We are thankful for their visits and pray the Lord will bless their service to us!

The Ebert family recently lost their father and grandfather, Bro. Marvin Woodward, of Burlington, IA. Our heartfelt sympathy goes to Bro. Tom and Sis. Diane and their family as they adjust to their loss.

Sis. Helen Leman (Roanoke, IL) passed away January 12. Our prayers are with her daughter and family here in Phoenix: Bro. Ron and Sis. Marge, Sis. Aubrey, Luke, Sally and Austin Lindenbaum.

Those needing our prayers this month are: Sis. Marcelle Dapper and Sis. Helen Steffen, who recently spent time in the hospital.

“Delight thyself also in the Lord: trust also in Him: and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him; and he shall bring it to pass.”

Psalms 37:4-5

We rejoice with our new sister in

the Lord, Sylvia Mitchell, who gave her testimony and was baptized on January 14-15.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT Denise Steidinger

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth”

Romans 1:16

Our congregation has started our study on Romans. We want to thank Retired Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North) for being with us and leading the study on Romans 1. Why would Paul say he was not ashamed of the gospel? Because of the words immediately following: “for it is the power of God unto salvation.” Paul understood what the gospel is and what the gospel does. It is powerful and changes lives. Paul is overjoyed at the privilege of the proclamation of the gospel. He is eager to preach Jesus Christ. May we have that same passion and be unashamed!

Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Sis. Nancy, Phoenix) and Bro. Seth Gerber (Magdalena) came up to preach God’s Word this past month. We thank them for their willing service on our behalf.

ARIZONA, TUCSON Lisa Knapp

Winter is a busy time for the Tucson church. Our winter visitors have arrived along with people “passing through” in search of sunshine and warmer temperatures. We are having a lot of friends attending from a local shelter and we are getting to know them and hopefully making them feel welcome. In return, they are teaching us that we take a lot of things for granted in our lives – God’s love for us in eternal and earthly ways. We are

attempting to share God’s Word with them along with the care and concern of a church family.

We are enjoying visitors on our pulpit as well. Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia), Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Cissna Park) and Bro. Ron Allenbach (Kiowa) have all given themselves in service on our pulpit for which we truly thank them. Bro. Ron and his wife, Sis. Lois, will be with us for an extended time and we couldn’t be happier about that. Our sincerest thank you for being willing to serve us, Bro. Ron. We love your visits – they are another example of how God so richly provides for those He loves.

Our Sis. Carole Haas fell and broke her shoulder requiring surgery. She is recovering well and we hope that she is up and around very soon. Our prayers are with her and Bro. Bob as she recovers.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

We have been blessed with the beautiful hearts of our Sunday School Teachers and leaders and, while we are aware of this throughout the year, it is nowhere more evident than during our Sunday School Christmas Program. This year’s program was called “Joy” and the joy was clearly written on the hearts and faces of our children. Our littlest ones shared their joy in poetry while our Bible Class shared their joy in song, and everyone, from the youngest up to the eldest in our congregation, was warmed with the knowledge of the gift of joy that God gave to us through Christ Jesus.

Following the Christmas program, we went on our annual Christmas caroling outing to neighboring nursing homes and the homes of friends. This beautiful day was capped off with a supper of chili and

treats.

We bade farewell to Sis. Suzanne Klotzle as she moves to Minnesota to spend time with her brother's family (Bro. Jim Klotzle, Sis. Krissa). We also bade farewell to Bro. Joe Klotzle (Sis. Sue) as he departs for his temporary assignment in Switzerland. We will also be bidding a temporary farewell to Sis. Sue, who will be following Bro. Joe to Switzerland. Our close knit congregation is saddened by the loss of fellowship, but rejoices with Sis. Suzanne, Bro. Joe and Sis. Sue as they set forth on these exciting new journeys. We pray that God will bless their efforts and return them safely to us.

Christmas and the New Year have brought the weather that snowbirds flock to each year. We pray that you will come and join us as we celebrate the gift of joy, and grace and peace. We long to fellowship with all who travel in our direction.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO Yasmin Koehl

The Heavenly Home

My longing heart oft yearns for home!

Oh when shall I be there?
I fain would be on heaven's shore,
With God's elect forevermore
in blessed harmony.

In heaven there will no parting be
And tears have there no place,
There we'll rejoice with jubilee,
Immersed in love as in a sea
Before God's holy face.

In heaven dwells the countess
throng,
That blood bought, white robed
band,
Which endlessly God's praise pro-
longs
Thru wonderful and sweet new
songs
And harps within their hands...

Hymns of Zion #214

Lovingly, Bro. Denes, Sis. Joy Fulop and family said farewell to their beloved mother and grandmother as Sis. Joy's mom was laid to rest in Dunavcse, Hungary. Our heartfelt prayers are that the Lord will bring comfort, peace and even joy in the hope of being united. What comfort we can find when a servant of the Lord has gone to meet their reward. The final verse of the hymn above echoes in our hearts...So many are already there, Fain would I join them now! But I will meekly heed God's Word, And forward on my pathway tread, Toward that eternal home!

Retired Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle (Sis. Lois, Peoria, IL) worshipped amongst us. We thank Bro. Willis for bringing forth the Word of God and serving us.

With joy and thanksgiving, Sis. Breana Wagenbach (Sis. Lillian and Bro. Doug) was united in marriage to Bro. Vince Fiechter (Elder Bro. Lynn and Sis. Rhonda) of Bluffton Country. Visiting ministers in attendance were Elder Bro. Lynn Fiechter (Sis. Rhonda, Bluffton, IN), Bro. Joe Klotzle (Sis. Sue, Altadena, CA), Bro. Jim Meiss (Sis. Candy, Phoenix, AZ) and Bro. Justin Moser (Sis. Robyn, Altadena, CA). Our heartfelt prayers and love surround this couple as we commit them in God's care. We pray that He will always be the center of their union so that their lives may be blessed as they heed the Word of God. We will sincerely miss Sis. Breana in our congregation! How thankful we are that no parting words shall ever be spoken in our heavenly home, but songs of joy, peace, and gladness, will forever be echoed there.

KITCHENER, ONTARIO CANADA Kim Leman

"Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth forever."

Psalms 119:160

We were blessed with the ministry of Bros. Clint Schmidt (Sis. Magdalena, Winthrop, MN) and Howard Plattner (Sis. Kristen, Alto, MI) this month. May God richly reward them for their service in His vineyard.

REGINA, SK CANADA Myrna Shipley

We're so happy to report the safe arrival of a healthy, new baby, Sara Kaiser, born just before Christmas! Her parents are Andreas and Stefanie and she has two sisters, Cora and Lynn. These girls have an Opa and Oma Helfried and Monika Huhn from Freudenstadt, Germany. Bro. Hermann and Sis. Hilda Kaiser are the other grandparents who live just a few kilometers away.

There were two deaths in my family recently; my brother, Karl Leir, and my sister-in-law, Lillian Leir. Both of them had Alzheimer's and did not even know who we were close to their end. The only thing that matters, though, is that they knew God and that He knew them. We can have the hope that this was the case. "For thou art my hope, O Lord God: thou art my trust from my youth." (Psalm 71:5)

We are appreciating ministers from a wonderful variety of churches scheduled to come to Regina this year. Hopefully these ministers can see this as more of an opportunity than just taking their turn out here. However, please don't feel badly if you think you should cancel your

trip out here because of the weather, etc.

COLORADO, DENVER
Lily Zarkovacki

“I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD”

Psalms 122:1

This past month we were blessed to have visiting Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, Portland, OR). We appreciate his willingness to share the Gospel from the pulpit.

We rejoice with Bro. Jake Leman and Sis. Tifani Bahr as they were united in marriage on January 22. May God’s blessings be with this dear couple.

Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds
is like to that above.

Hymns of Zion #156

CONNECTICUT
ROCKVILLE
Sheila Gerber
Lauren Goric

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

Hebrews 6:10

Our dear Bro. Dan Stoller has announced his retirement from the ministry of God’s Word. We thank Bro. Dan and his wife, Sis. Diane, for their dedication and faithfulness over the 33 years he has served our congregation. We wish them the Lord’s nearness as they enter a new phase of life.

We rejoice with the family of Tyler Kevin Guay, born to Kevin and

Jeanette Guay on January 5, joining sister Alaina. Grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Terry Mangold and Jacques Guay and Irene Guay.

On January 28-29 our congregation had the privilege of hearing the testimonies and witnessing the baptisms of three dear souls: Bro. Tom Gerber (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Carole), Sis. Ashley Luginbuhl (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Karen), and Sis. Julianne Gottier (Guy and Sis. Beth). May the Lord continue to be with them as they walk in His ways. We appreciated the labors of Elder Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL) throughout the weekend and were reminded that we are saved by the shed blood of Jesus Christ, not our own righteousness.

We extend our sympathies to Sis. Lois Schulz at the passing of her brother-in-law, Bro. Lee Gerber (Bluffton, IN). We keep Gloria Schambach Lawson in our thoughts and prayers as her husband, Tom Lawson, has passed away. Also mourning his passing are his siblings, Doris Atkinson, Barbara and Bill Poole, sister-in-law Sis. Shirley Lanz, brother-in-law and sister-in-law Bro. Edwin and Sis. Marilyn Lanz; and his stepchildren, Darleen and Alan Humphries, Doug and Donna Schambach, Jeff and Lisa Schambach, Jodi and Tyler Champ, and David and Brenda Morissette.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer

Our caretakers for January were Bro. Kurt and Sis. Kelly Gasser and family (Rittman, OH). The caretaker calendar for 2012 is filled except for the last two weeks of December. Just looked at the calendar, three months already filled in 2013, so if this is something you are considering, please contact Sis. Doreen Steffen at 302-540-6574 or dkgsteffen@

gmail.com. We look forward to meeting new caretakers each month, as well as reconnecting with caretakers who come for a second or third visit.

Our ministers this month were Bro. Wayne Hartzler (Sis. Camille, Rittman, OH), Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH), Bro. Ron Kipfer (Sis. Linda, Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Dan Goric (Sis. Mary-Lou, Rockville, CT). Other visitors were from Rittman and Smithville, OH.

The highway/toll road is now open behind the Church (even if your GPS or internet map says it isn’t). It will save time, miles and stress as you travel from I-270 to the Church. There are no toll booths; you will need an E-Z Pass or other electronic payment method. I-Pass works. If you have another multi-state device, check with your provider to see if it works in Maryland. If you use the highway without such a device, you will receive a bill by mail with a service fee added.

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

Our winter residents and visitors are now here and we welcome and appreciate their locating in our area. South Florida is a semi-tropical climate with wonderful winter weather and the opportunity to renew Christian friendships each year is a true blessing. Many families have made this their winter place for generations and we welcome anyone who would like to make this their home.

Christmas has once again come and gone, and we have fond memories

of family and seasonal gatherings that are so precious to everyone. With the new year upon us, and our dedication to our faith always at the forefront of our mind, we wish everyone a “successful” year in their walk.

Our visiting ministers this past month have been Bro. Tom Bollinger (Sis. Jane, Tremont, IL) and Bro. Mark Gerber (Sis. Barb, Bluffton, IN). As always, we welcome and appreciate their willingness. We also want to acknowledge our appreciation to Bro. Roger Sauder and Bro. Mike Hohulin for their efforts during the whole year to provide that which we dearly need and appreciate. Many times we forget to say “thank you”.

The wedding of Andrew Hohulin (Bro. Mike and Sis. Faye) was celebrated as we began the new year. May blessings follow them each day of their life. Many family members were able to attend and it was nice to see one and all.

Sis. Doris Huber is back with us after an extended visit to her children up north, following the passing of Bro. Bob. We want to keep her in our prayers as she lives her life with her precious memories of a dear brother.

FLORIDA NORTH FORT MYERS Victor Beer

Our wonderful weather is contributing a lot of new faces at worship for which we are thankful. That is despite the severe frost, actually a light freeze the first week of January. Our fishermen brethren are really doing fine now.

Several accidents have plagued our folks recently. Our Sis. Verna Hodel had a fall but is recuperating at their place in Fort Myers, and Sis. Dottie Beer is recuperating at home in LaBelle after her accident at home.

We were recently blessed by our visiting ministering brethren. They were Bro. Tom Bahler (Sis. Lanae,

Rockville, CT) and Bro. Dana Nieman (Sis. Leah, Remington, IN). We pray the Lord’s blessing on them for their service to us.

The New Beginnings ministry is located in Cape Coral. It was started in June of 2011 as a ministry that our church is involved in. We currently have three single mothers and their children. It is a ministry that helps young women to have a safe free place to stay so they are able to go to college or technical school to earn a degree to enable them to obtain a job that will allow them to get a job to support themselves and their children without compromising themselves. It consists of six units of apartments each with two bedrooms and two baths, along with a nice sized living area and kitchen. If you would like to know more about this ministry, please visit our website at www.thenewbeginnings.org.

Our family at The New Beginnings is growing. Brooke and her about two-year-old son, Connor, have joined us. Brooke is finishing out her high school education and she plans to graduate in June of this year. We will be welcoming Angelica and her almost two-year-old son, Maleke, and her four-month-old daughter, Jalzyiah. We have some exciting times with all of our two-year-old boys. We are enjoying our fenced in yard to let the boys ride their trikes and run off some of their endless energy.

We are excited to have recently purchased the duplex behind our New Beginnings apartments. As soon as we have them cleaned up and remodeled a bit, we will use one of them as our community center where we can meet together as a group for Bible study, breakfasts and cooking classes and parenting classes.

We are in need of someone to come and help with this ministry. At present, Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary Masters

are the mentors and caretakers of this ministry and live on site in one of the apartments. We are looking for someone to come along side and help with the many duties and teaching that is needed in this type of ministry. It is a challenge to care for so many young children on Sundays and to go on outings on the weekend. If you or anyone you know may feel a calling to this type of ministry, please contact Bill or Mary Masters at 239-699-2597.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA Kim Ott

“I thank my God upon every remembrance of you.”

Philippians 1:3

We are thankful that God’s kind, traveling mercies have allowed us to not only be once again reunited with our returning northern brethren, but to meet new brothers, sisters, and friends as well. We want to extend a special welcome to Bro. Joel and Sis. Amber Virkler and their two sons, Liam and Aiden. Previously, Bro. Joel had been working through his orthopedic residency in Detroit, MI, and is now continuing on with a four month rotation in Tampa. We are so grateful to have a new family joining our Sarasota congregation, even if for a short time.

Our hearts are also thankful to see the healing touch of God upon our retired Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Sis. Judy, Chicago, IL). Bro. Dale was recently found to have a small stage 1 cancerous mass in his arm and was able to have it surgically removed. Bro. Dale is steadily recovering now and, Lord willing, plans to start radiation treatment on his arm and physical therapy in the near future.

We were blessed to hear God’s Word from several visiting ministers

this month including: Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Campaign, IL), Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL), Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS), Bro. Barry Dietz (Sis. Rachel, Bradford, IL), and Bro. Nelson Beer (Sis. Minnie, Milford, IN). We so appreciate their willingness to be of God's service.

Our congregation held its annual business meeting this month and along with the shared reports of the year, new or continuing positions were filled by a voting ballot. Our new ushers include Bro. Miklos Bozzay, Bro. Timm Kaeb, and Bro. Clyde Earley. Our song leader is Bro. Glenn Ott. Continuing as Sunday School teacher is Bro. Timm Kaeb. Sis. Emily Koehl has been voted on the kitchen committee. Bro. Adam Ott is our new trustee. As this new year brings in new responsibilities, our support and confidence is given to these brothers and sisters for the duties they will carry out.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

In the month of January, we were blessed by the ministering hearts of Bro. Jedd Rocke and his wife, Sis. Marsha (Goodfield), as well as Bro. Barry Dietz and his wife, Sis. Rachel (Bradford).

A new year thought: "What if you woke up tomorrow with only the things you thanked God for today?"

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

**Doreen Moser
Shayla Steffen**

Greetings of Love, of Christmas Joys and New Year's blessings from Belvidere. The joyous time of the season goes by so fast and now another year lies before us. What will the year hold and what can we do for our Lord each and every day?

At the funeral of a dear Aunt who gave so much of herself for others was the poem "Let Me Give" and it seems something we can all strive for.

I do not know how long I'll live
~But while I live, Lord, let me give
Some comfort to someone in need
~By smile or nod, kind word or deed
And let me do what ere I can
~To ease things for my fellow man
I want naught but to do my part
~To lift a tired and weary heart
To change folks frowns to smiles again
~Then I will not have lived in vain
And I'll not care how long I live
~If I can give and give and give

Giving....

Our annual business meeting was held this month and we elected a new treasurer, Bro. Sam Bachtold. Thank you, Bro. Sam, for giving of your time and talents. Bro. Sam and Sis. Betty now make Belvidere their home church and we welcome them with much joy and know they have very giving hearts and we are so thankful for their fellowship.

GivingGiving

We spent time in praising the Lord in song with our Senior Sing-a-long at the local senior apartments in Belvidere. Bro. Brian and Sis. Peg Anliker hosted a singing at their home as former Belvidere loved ones came to spend the week-end. Singing together certainly gives joy to the hearer and the singer.

GivingGiving and Giving every Sunday

We were served by our loving ministers, Elder Bro. Dave Steffen (Elgin, IL), Bro. Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and Retired Elder Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL). Every Sunday our ministers are called on to give of themselves

to preach God's Word. They extend the invitation every week for others to come and taste and see.

Giving and Giving again

World Relief was held on a recent Sunday after church. Much time and love was given to the projects that were completed. A meal and the extra fellowship followed and that is always a shared blessing.

May we strive each day to forget self and do for others as the Lord did for us ~ HE GAVE EVERYTHING so we could have life eternally.

ILLINOIS BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL Heidi Rinkenberger Shelley Steffen

What were they really celebrating? This was the question posed by Bro. Matt Kauffman at Sunday morning services on New Year's Day. Many people across the world celebrated the changing of the year 2011 to 2012. But what were they celebrating? What are we celebrating? Bro. Matt challenged us to celebrate the life of Jesus Christ in the coming year. Our relationship with Christ is our most important relationship and should be our central focus. Our center of faith in Jesus Christ should give rise to everything else in our lives. What an encouragement for the new year!

We were excited to hear the engagement announcement of Bro. Dustin Huber (Bro. Dave and Sis. Debbie) to Sis. Brittney Kiefer (Bro. Rich and Sis. Gale, Gridley) of Chicago, IL. Brittney is also the granddaughter of our retired Elder Bro. Everett (Sis. Bev) Hari. We wish them much happiness as they plan for their new life together.

We were blessed with visiting ministers who joined us for Christmas Day services. We extend a heartfelt thanks to Bro. Kerwin Edelman (Sis. Sarah, Athens, AL) and Bro. Harvey

Kuenzi (Sis. Jennifer, Silverton, OR). Bro. Bill Masters (Sis. Mary) was also here this month and served on the pulpit.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
Sandi Joos
Roseann Stahl

“If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven;”

Colossians 1:23

Elder Bro. Ben Walder (Sis. Juanita, Congerville, IL) was with us for the reading of the Memorandum. He also shared the Word with us on Sunday. We are thankful for his labors on our behalf.

Marion “Butch” Knobloch (Mary Ann) has been a surgical patient this past month. Our prayers continue to be with him. Sis. Delores Duckworth (Bro. Don) was also a surgical patient this month.

“And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4:7

We rejoice with Tim Ringger (Bro. Bill and Sis. Karen) as it was announced to the congregation that he has found the peace of God. God’s peace truly does pass all understanding.

In January we had our annual business meeting. Bro. Daryl Knobloch (Sis. Deb) is our new trustee and Bro. Adam Endress (Sis. Brittany) is our new usher. We are thankful for the years of service Bro. Bill Ringger (Sis. Karen) was trustee as well as the time Bro. Philip Nenadov (Sis. Donna) was usher.

Note of Thanks:

Dear ones,

Please accept our heartfelt thanks for all the prayers, encouragement, meals, and gifts of love during Philip’s physical trial. May the Lord bless you for your kindness and love. Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we face a long road ahead. God bless you.

Philip and Donna Nenadov and family.

*Silver Lining issues
 from July, 1974 to present*

If you would like a Silver Lining from July, 1974 to present, contact Barb Klumpp at (309)479-3272.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN
Sarah Drake

From the moment the clock struck midnight on January 1, noteworthy occasions were occurring in our congregation. On New Year’s Eve, the young group was enjoying the first evening of a blessed mission trip to Reynosa, Mexico. It was a privilege to spend the week serving the Lord and supporting the efforts of the Isaiah 55 mission. We are thankful for another safe and encouraging trip.

Our congregation extends a warm welcome to Ashley Aberle. Ashley spent several recent years residing in Champaign-Urbana, and she has decided to make Champaign her home church. We are happy to have you worshipping with us, Ashley!

Sis. Ila June Hari has moved from the Champaign-Urbana area to a new residence in Bolingbrook, IL. We will miss Sis. Ila June, and we wish her the best in Bolingbrook.

We rejoice with Bro. Calvin and Sis. Bethany Teubel over the safe arrival of their precious daughter, Piper Rae Teubel. Grandparents are Bro. Clark and Sis. Lisa Leman (Roanoke) and Bro. John and Sis. Lavonne

Teubel (Forrest). Congratulations!

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO
Rachel Meyer

Greetings from Chicago. As I type, our second snow of 2012 is falling ... glory to God for His creation.

We are thankful to know Peggy Ryan and Bro. Dale Eisenmann are recovering from surgery. Sis. LaVirra Lehman is currently in the hospital in serious condition and needs our prayers, and treatments continue for our Bro. Dan Plattner and Bro. Steven Hofstetter. We love each of these families sincerely and pray for God’s healing if He wills.

Our Bro. Paul Leman (Sis. Millie) lost his sister-in-law, Sis. Helen Leman of Roanoke, IL. We extend our love and sympathy to them. Thank God for eternal hope.

On Christmas Day we rejoiced to hear the engagement of Bro. Greg Eisenmann (Elder Bro. Brad and Sis. Cindy) and Sis. Diana Wagenbach from Taylor, MO. Sis. Diana is the daughter of Bro. Dave and Sis. Charlene Wagenbach (Oakville, IA). We wish them God’s richest blessings as they plan their life together.

As a church we thank Bro. Dave Westfall for agreeing to serve as a church trustee and Bro. Jay Nicholas for agreeing to serve as usher.

The month of January finds Chicago hosting three Elder Forums. We welcome each dear brother and pray God will add His blessing and strengthen His church.

We joyfully welcome Sis. Tasha Steffen from Alto, MI, to Chicago. She is here to be a nanny for the Dan Plattner family. God provides.

Last month Bro. Rick and I were in Asia. We had the opportunity to spend Christmas and ring in the New Year on the other side of the world. Several of our nieces and nephews found it fascinating that we started our new year exactly twelve hours be-

fore them. Different places...same God. Praise Him for His blessings and provision. He is always sufficient.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

**Marilyn Maul
Tina Walder**

We always appreciate the visiting ministers who lend themselves so willingly to bring forth God's Word to us. Our thanks to Bros. Dan Moser (Elgin, IL), Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL), Warren Schlatter (Junction, OH), and David Eisenmann (Champaign, IL).

We pray for the full recovery of Sis. Virginia Ehman who had surgery recently.

Our annual church business meeting was held January 4. We extend a special thank you to the Brothers and Sisters who have diligently served and devoted their time to our church. We lend our support to the Brothers and Sisters who have been chosen to fulfill their new duties: Sunday School teachers, Bro. Dale Waldbeser, Bro. Steve Eisenmann, Sis. Luann Kaeb and Sis. Susan Waldbeser; Trustee, Bro. Wayne Laubscher; and Fellowship Hall committee, Bro. Arlyn Rudin.

Due to the mild start of the winter, the church's new windows have been completed. The fresh new roof and windows look nice. We are thankful God has provided for some much needed repairs on our church.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Rachel Currier

... O do Thou hold me fast;
From sin, O make me free,
So that henceforth my heart
Thy temple pure may be!

Zion's Harp #45, vs. 7

We rejoice that the Lord is still

calling souls to Him. Andrew Schrock (Bro. John and Sis. Jackie) and Heidi Banwart (Bro. Dale and Sis. Missy) have recently begun their repentance. May the Lord keep and guide them, and provide daily grace to serve Him faithfully.

Bro. Kent and Sis. Lanae Wiegand have embraced a new daughter, Sarina Jenn, into their family. She is welcomed by brother Reilly and grandparents, Bro. Rick and Sis. Sue Wiegand and Bro. Mark and Sis. Cheryl Zimmerman (Eureka).

We are thankful once again to have had visiting ministers with us. They include Bro. Tim Zimmerman (Sis. Barb, Lamont-Gridley), Bro. Paul Kilgus (Sis. Carmen, Fairbury), Bro. Brent Kellenberger (Sis. Beth, Kansas City), Bro. Mark Rufener (Sis. Julie, Mansfield), and Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Sis. Erica, Wolcott). May they feel God's peace and Holy Spirit as they preach His Holy Word.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

**Amy Gasser
Miriam Gasser**

While here to visit family members, Bros. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH), Dale Frank (Oakville, IA), Dan Koch (Tremont, IL), Alan Schambach (Remington, IN), and Scott Schambach (Columbus, OH) also ministered to our spiritual needs. We pray that God will continue to strengthen and inspire each faithful servant.

As the angels in heaven rejoice over one sinner who repenteth, likewise are we at the news of Abbey Schieler turning her heart to the Lord. She is the daughter of Bro. Eric and Sis. Nancy.

Bro. BJ, Sis. Mollie, and Sophie Schambach welcomed little Oliver Jon into their family circle on December 23. Oliver's delighted grandparents are Bro. Earl and Sis. Susie

Beery (Rittman, OH) and Sis. Leann Schambach.

Prayers are requested for Kyle Wewetzer (Bro. Mark and Sis. Nancy), as he moves to Minneapolis to attend college at the University of Minnesota. Words of encouragement may be sent to him at kjwewetzer@gmail.com.

Two who recently crossed the bounds of life leave many memories for their loved ones. Charlotte Preiss, the sister of Sis. Ginny Schock (Bro. Norm), passed away December 21 at Resthaven after a brief illness. Sis. Dorothy Kellenberger (Bro. Adrian) was laid to rest in Sabetha, KS, after her death on January 3. She was the sister-in-law of Sis. Dolores Kellenberger.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

**Dee Baer
Jodi Blunier**

In addition to our own brothers on the pulpit, visiting brothers were Bro. Arlen Leman (Forrest), Bro. Chad Leman (Kitchener, ON), Bro. Randy Mogler (Washington), Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN) and Bro. Glen Braker (Princeville). We are thankful for God's counsel.

Bro. Sam Schmidgall was blessed in death as he was in life, as God took him quickly to his eternal home. Saddened by his death are his wife, Sis. Gladys, sons, Ron (Chris) and Bob (Leann), and daughters, Sis. Janet (Bro. Ron) Hartter and Sis. Sue (Bro. Dale) Zimmerman, all of Eureka. Also grieving are his sister, Sis. Ruth (Bro. Les) Martin of Eureka and his brother, Bro. Harry (Sis. Helen) of Morton, and sister-in-laws, Sis. Lucille Schmidgall of Taylor, MO, and Sis. Helen Schmidgall of Morton.

Bro. Bob DeSigne (Sis. Cindy) is remembered in prayer for healing.

Note of Thanks:

The Merle and Debbie Wiegand

family would like to thank everyone for the cards, gifts of love, and especially for your prayers. Our Debbie is recovering from surgery to remove a brain tumor and is beginning her chemo and radiation therapy. Please keep praying for her. We love you all.

*Merle, Debbie and Bret Wiegand
Bro. Dietz and Sis. Loretta
Wiegand*

Lost and Found

On Sunday, November 13, I accidentally took someone else's coat. It was exactly like mine only slightly newer. When I realized it and returned the coat to the coat rack in Eureka church, mine was gone. This is a navy "rain" coat with tan trim, CS brand, with zipper and gold buttons. Please call me if you have mine and we'll exchange.

*Sis. Cyndee Anderson
(309-448-2269)*

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY **Angela Herr** **Kay Steffen**

A Christian now baptized, to me much grace is given.
Why was this granted me? That I with Christ am risen!....
Zion's Harp # 43

Our hearts rejoiced on the weekend of January 14-15 as we witnessed the testimonies and baptisms of four dear souls. Our new brothers and sisters in Christ are Bro. Toby Steidinger (Bro. Martin and Sis. Trish), Bro. Derek Stoller (Bro. Bryan and Sis. Kara), Sis. Lexi Knapp (Bro. Matt and Sis. Dana) and Sis. Miranda Kaeb (Sis. LeAnn and Leon). Our prayers are with them as they continue their walk with the Lord. We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Bruce Endress (Bradford, IL), Elder Bro. Ben Walder (Congerville, IL), and Elder Bro.

Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) to assist our Elder Bro. Rick on this special weekend.

Again God has heard our prayers as more souls have answered His call to repentance. We continue to pray for Brett Fehr (Bro. Nathan and Sis. Marsha), Brianna Rinckenberger (Bro. Doug and Sis. Beth), Drew Banwart (Bro. Dale and Sis. Donna), Eric Bahler (Bro. Neil and Sis. Tami) and Elisa Kaeb (Will and Juanita). May each one of these dear souls feel God's grace and love as they turn their back on the world and follow in the Savior's way.

We rejoice with Bro. Justin Kilgus (Bro. Paul and Sis. Carmen) and Sis. Kaylee Kaeb (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Stephanie) of Forrest as their engagement was made known on January 15. May God continue to guide them as they plan for a life together.

Other visiting ministers serving our congregation this month were Bro. Arlen Leman (Forrest, IL), Bro. Al Schambach (Remington, IN), Bro. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA), Bro. Daren Metz (Gridley, IL), Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS), Bro. Nathan Walder (Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Dan Moser (Elgin, IL). We thank each of these brothers for sharing God's Word with us and pray He will richly bless them.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Bro. Merle Kaisner (Sis. Marge), Joan Gaston (late John), Bro. Randy Stoller (Sis. Ronda), and Bro. Warren Zehr (Sis. Dolores) as they each have had surgery this past month. Also Dave Steidinger (Deann) has spent time in the hospital. May God heal and provide for each one according to His will.

ILLINOIS, FORREST **Lisa Aberle** **Lynn Dotterer**

"For this cause shall a man leave

his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh."

Ephesians 5:31

The engagement of Bro. Justin Kilgus (Bro. Paul and Sis. Carmen, Fairbury) and Sis. Kaylee Kaeb (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Stephanie) was announced; and the engagement of Bro. Reuben Leman (Bro. Fred and Sis. Brenda) and Sis. Krystle Kaeb (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Stephanie) was also made known. Also planning weddings are Ruston Edelman (Bro. Ken and Sis. Carol) and Carlyn Seeman (Doug and Carol, Chenoa); and Philip Kleiss (Tom and Barb, Tolono) and Heidi Schaffer (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Martha). May each of these couples look to God for guidance and direction as they begin their walk together.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Nettie Kyburz as she recovers from her illness and hospital stay.

We extend our sympathy to those in our congregation who have lost loved ones. Our prayers are with Bro. Gary Brown (Sis. Jane) and his family at the death of his mother, Ella Brown; with Carol (Jerry) Turner whose mother, Lucille Menold, passed away; with Sis. Jodi Slagel (Bro. Kevin) and children at the passing of her grandmother, Esther Berry; and with Sis. Earlene Hamilton (Tom) and Sis. Elaine Mueller and their families as they have said good bye to their sister, Karel Righter. May each one feel God's comfort and nearness.

Bro. Chad Leman (Kitchener, ON), Bro. Matt Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL), and Bro. Jacob Kuntz (Croghan-Naumburg, NY) ministered to us this past month. We are always thankful for brothers willing to be used by God.

We extend our thanks and appreciation to Bro. Troy Lanz (Sis.

Kathleen) and Bro. Karl Edelman (Sis. Bethany) for their years of service in Sunday School. We give our support to Bro. Kevin Slagel (Sis. Jodi) and Bro. Kent Edelman (Sis. Bethany) as they begin teaching our young people.

We rejoice with Troy and April Slagel (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Kathy Slagel and Will and Juanita Kaeb) as they have answered God's call to repentance!

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD
Melissa Rokey
Kayla Wiegand

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

Isaiah 41:10

We have had several in our church family who have been hospitalized or had a family member hospitalized this past month. They include: Bro. Roger Gerber (Sis. Trish), Bro. Gary Allen (Sis. Connie), Robbie Rieke (son of Bro. Brian and Sis. Lisa), and Bro. Rich Knepp (Sis. Janet) from Roanoke (father of Bro. Alex and Sis. Cassie). We trust that God will uphold them in His hands and lend healing and comfort in His time.

We continue to remember Chad Gerber (Bro. Roger and Sis. Trish) as he moved from Timber Ridge to a home in Freeport, IL. His new address is:

Chad Gerber
 564 Greenfield
 Freeport IL 61032

Our convert Katie Wood's (Doug and Lori) grandfather, Peter Klobucher Jr., from Michigan passed away January 1. Our prayers are with Katie and her family at this time.

Kevin Brady (father of our convert

Joe Brady and our loved one Sheri (Justin) Zobrist) passed away on January 19. We pray that they will feel God's nearness during their time of mourning.

“I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.”

Psalms 139:14

A precious little baby boy, Bentley David, blessed the home of Justin and Sis. Christy Bauman on January 9. Big sister Zoe welcomed him home. His grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Pat Kuntz and Glen and Sis. Becky Bauman (Eureka, IL).

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

Isaiah 26:3

We are so blessed to share that four dear converts have felt the power and the presence of the Holy Spirit and have come to God by faith, with a broken, repentant heart and have expressed peace with God and man. They are Kalene Kloter (Chad), Keith and Perri Grimm (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Ruth and Bro. Jim and Sis. Ree Hartman), and Brittany Rieke (Bro. Brian and Sis. Lisa). We are planning on having testimonies and baptisms on March 10-11, Lord willing.

“For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.”

Ephesians 5:31

On Sunday, January 15, we witnessed the marriage of Sis. Megan Knapp (Sis. Judy and the late Stan) and Bro. Fred Rokey (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Phyllis). We share in their joy as they begin their lives together.

We were again blessed with minis-

tering brothers this past month. We want to thank Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL) for updating our congregation on Timber Ridge, Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North, IN), Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL), and Bro. James Fehr (Sis. Brenda, Tremont, IL) for being willing to preach the Word to us.

“This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.”

1 John 1:5

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY
Perry A. Klopfenstein

Surely, we have many wonderful worship services, but on a Wednesday evening in January, our worship seemed special. The fore-reading was Psalm 145, and that text is a worthy description of God and all that He does for us. It tells of His power and might, and of His “mighty acts”. It says His saints shall speak of His kingdom and talk of His power. Further, in verse 12, we are “to make known to the sons of men His mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of His kingdom.” Then, we sang the hymn, “Receptive Hearers” out of the Zion's Harp Hymnal, page 144. We can be thankful to God for the depth and rich substance of our simple worship services, which are intended to focus solely on Word and Spirit.

Sis. Brittany Kiefer was announced to be married to Bro. Dustin Huber of Bloomington. She is the daughter of Bro. Richard, Jr. and Sis. Gale Kiefer, Gridley. His parents are Bro. Dave and Debbie Huber, Bloomington.

As of this writing, Bro. Paul Klopfenstein, who has been recuperating from a serious illness, plans to return to his home from several

weeks of rehab therapy at Heartland Health Care in Normal.

Sis. Marilyn Schieler continues her therapy following her stroke, and resides at the Meadows Mennonite Home. It is her hope to at some point return to her home in Gridley.

Randy Funk is recovering from surgery. Sis. Barb Kiefer has returned home following a mild heart condition. Bro. James Funk is recovering from surgery.

We offer our sympathies to Sis. Joanne Aupperle over the passing of her sister, Marlene Moser, originally of Fairbury, who resided at the Morton Home for the Handicapped for many years. And we offer support to Sis. Bonnie Funk, who lost her father, who lived in the Henry, Illinois, area.

Chance Copper Wettstein was born on December 12, 2011, to Bro. Kyle and Sis. Tara Wettstein. Chance's brothers are Benjamin and Miles. Grandparents are Bro. Lyle and Sis. Linda Wettstein and Bro. Roger and Sis. Darleta Gramm, all of Gridley.

Dixie Laine Schick was born on December 15, 2011, to Josh and Wendy Schick. Grandparents are Bro. Lynn and Sis. Elaine Stoller, Gridley, and Bro. Tom and Sis. Carol Schick, of the Washington congregation.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Annette Tanner
Julie Bahr

We are truly thankful for the Brothers who commit their time to bringing us the Word of Truth. Bro. Ted Hirstein (Sis. Joyce) gave our Wednesday Evening Family entitled "New Year's Make Over!" What more could a child of God desire than a "complete makeover" by the Master Himself. Visiting Brothers who ministered to us were: Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest) and Bro. David Eisenmann (Sis. Jackie,

Champaign).

We wish to offer our love and sympathy to the entire family of our dear departed Sis. Clara Staker, especially to her son, Bro. Ted (Sis. Mary) Staker, Morton.

Our sympathy is also shared with Bro. Harry (Sis. Helen) Schmidgall in the loss of his brother, Bro. Sam Schmidgall (Sis. Gladys) of Eureka.

Bro. Eldon Bauman (Sis. Doris) and Sis. Dorothy Krantz (Bro. Jack) were saddened to learn of the death of their brother, Willis Bauman.

No matter how prepared a family is for death of a loved one, the reality is never an easy one to experience. Let God's peaceful nearness be felt by each one.

To our Brothers and Sisters in the Lord:

On April 28, 2012, the Apostolic Christian Medical Fellowship (ACMF) will be meeting in Princeville, IL. This is a forum within the Apostolic Christian Church for sharing information and encouraging the healthcare providers with an advanced degree: MD, DO, DC, DDS, RPA, APN, & CRNA, as well as students in these respective fields. Registration begins at 12:30 pm with the meeting starting at 1 pm. This will be the 4th meeting of this fellowship which meets biennially. A program agenda will be sent once it has been finalized.

If you are not currently on the ACMF list of healthcare providers and have an interest, or you need to change your information, please email Bro. Todd Stoller at tstoller@grics.net. Questions about ACMF can be directed to Bro. Lee Klopfenstein at ldklopf@live.com or Sis. Cheryl Herrmann at cherrmann@frontier.com.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Pam Fritzenmeier

We rejoice with Bro. Loris and Sis. Pat Knobloch as their daughter, Angela (Leo, IN), was announced on Christmas Day to Bro. Seth Hodel of Roanoke. Bro. Seth's parents are Bro. Brad and Sis. Patti Hodel (Roanoke).

Our thanks to Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington) who brought the Word to us on a recent Wednesday evening.

Babies are such a blessing and Bob and Sis. Michelle Coburn are happy first-time grandparents! Koby Jozsef was born January 13 to Bro. Jozsef and Sis. Tina Davidovics. His paternal grandmother is Irma Davidovics.

Sis. Marilyn Baurer and Bro. Dave Obergfel had surgery and Sis. Kathy Obergfel and Sis. Barb Schafer struggle with ongoing health issues. Please keep them in your prayers.

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to three families who recently laid their loved ones to rest. Mary (Bro. Brian) Elsasser's mother, Lucille Menold, passed away on January 7. Sis. Helen Leman (Roanoke), mother of Sis. Sandy Leman, passed away January 12. Sis. Lillian Koehl, who turned 100 on October 29, passed away January 16.

We wish to remember with prayers for wisdom, safety, and strength those of our congregation serving far from home. These include Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Bere Aupperle and Bro. Zach Knobloch in Magdalena, MX and Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard and family and Sis. Janelle Grassi in Haiti.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Linda Joos
Gloria White

Sis. Heidi Schick and Bro. Loren Kaeb (Alto, MI) were united in holy matrimony on January 22. Parents are Bro. Stan and Sis. Margie Schick

and Bro. Curt and Sis. Luanne Kaeb of Alto, MI. May God's blessings be upon them. Our visiting ministers that day were Elder Bro. Ted Steffen (Alto, MI), Bro. Ned Stoller (Alto, MI) and Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN). Our other visiting minister during the month was Bro. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL).

We are thankful another soul has found the need to come to the Lord in repentance. Kourtney Stahl (Bro. Rod and Sis. Cathy) has made known this most important step in her life. May she continue to seek God for guidance and direction.

Sis. Eleanor Asal was in the hospital recently. We are thankful she is doing better.

Sis. Ginny Streitmatter bid a final farewell to her brother, Willis Bauman. Let's remember her in prayer.

Our annual business meeting was held on Wednesday evening, January 4. We thank all who have given of their time and talents in the past and those who will give of their time and talents in the future. It is heartwarming to know that brethren are willing to serve in whatsoever capacity God does call them.

Kara Martin (Gerald and Louise) has moved back to the area from Colorado and is assembling with us again. Also, Joe and Sarah Malone (Bro. Larry and Sis. Vera Baer) have moved here from southern Illinois. We are thankful to have them in our congregation again and hope they feel very welcome.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Jamie Hodel

Judy Sauder

Psalm 32:8: "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye." We are thankful for the leading of God in the lives of those recently

engaged in our congregation. We rejoice with Bro. Seth Hodel (Bro. Brad and Sis. Patty) and Sis. Angie Knobloch (Bro. Loris and Sis. Pat) of Peoria who were announced for marriage on December 25. We also were made known of the engagement of Bro. Brian Schwind (Bro. Dan and Sis. Donna) and Sis. Rebekah Davidovics (Bro. Fedi and Sis. Ruth) of Peoria on January 22.

Our congregation was blessed to be able to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of three dear souls on January 21-22. We praise God for His work in the lives of Sis. Heidi Bradle (Bro. John and Sis. Jill), Sis. Brooke Marcille (Lance and Julianne of Eureka), and Sis. Lauren Schroeder (Bro. Duane and Sis. Rachel). We thank Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield) for being with us for the weekend.

Romans 12:15: "Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep." As there has been great joy in our congregation, we also have had reason to sorrow with those whose loved ones have went Home to be with the Lord. Bro. Dave (Sis. Carol) Knapp passed away January 3. Bro. Dave leaves behind his wife, three daughters, Krista (Chad) Hancock of Tremont; Sis. Gini (Cory) Gerber; Mary Beth (George) Garza of Morton; a son, Dan, of Eureka; his mother, Sis. Helen; a sister, Barb (Dave) Rankin of Eureka; and seven grandchildren. Visiting ministers with us for the funeral were Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall and Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Oakville), Bro. Dale Wulf (Lester), and Bro. Matt Steffen (Princeville). On January 12, Sis. Helen Lemman passed away. She leaves behind five daughters: Sis. Sandy (Peoria); Sis. Ruthie (Bloomington); Amy (Paul) Peteet of Athens, GA; Sis. Marge (Bro. Ron) Lindenbaum (Phoenix), and Mary Beth (Dennis) Zimmerman,

Roanoke; five sons: Bro. Bill (Sis. Jeanne); Scott, Peoria; Bro. Dan (Polly); Bro. Dave (Sis. Stacy); and Bro. Rob (Sis. Marla) (Bloomington); a brother, Bro. Stan (Sis. Verna) Hodel (Bloomington); twenty grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren. Visiting ministers were Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield) and Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor).

Bro. Fred Witzig (Washington) presented a talk on Armenianism & Calvinism on January 14, and then was also with us on January 15, along with Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha).

Our Bible Class along with their teachers, and our young group served at Loaves & Fish, a soup kitchen in Peoria on January 14.

We rejoice in the birth of Piper Rae, a daughter born on January 13 to Bro. Calvin and Sis. Bethany Teubel (Champaign). Grandparents are Bro. Clark and Sis. Lisa Lemman and Bro. John and Sis. Lavonne Teubel (Forest).

Isaiah 40:28-29, "Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? There is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength." We take comfort in these words as we continue to lift up in prayer those who are struggling with physical infirmities: Bro. Rich (Sis. Janet) Knepp, who has undergone a stem cell transplant; also, Sis. Madlyn (Bro. Rich) Fehr, Sis. Ann Hodel, Sis. Margaret (Bro. Gene) Fehr, Sis. Mabel Getz, Bro. Steve (Sis. Tammy) Hofstetter (Washington), and Bro. Dan (Sis. Deann) Plattner (Chicago).

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Teresa Rowell

Janice Sauder

We are always happy to have visit-

ing ministers come “home” for a holiday to be with their family. We thank Bro. Glen Steiner (Winthrop, MN) for his part in our services on New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day. May God bless his family!

“Best wishes” are to be extended to two couples on their engagements. Lisa Wagenbach (Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz) and Jason Leigh of Peoria, IL, are planning to be married in January, 2013. His parents are Jim and Becky Leigh of Pekin, IL. Nichole Kilgus (Bro. Todd and Sis. Rita) and Jon Zimmerman (Bro. Mike and Sis. Sue, Morton, IL) have set their wedding date in July, 2012. May God bless their love as it grows for each other.

Bro. Pete (Sis. Debbie) Aberle and Sis. Frances (Bro. David) Koch have been in our congregation’s prayers, as they have suffered illness or surgery. We pray that God can continue His work of healing for them.

A bright spot for Bro. Pete and Sis. Debbie Aberle during his hospital stay, has been the birth of another sweet little granddaughter, Brinlee Jo. She is the daughter of Rodney and Staci Aberle, and sister to big brothers, Micah and Austin.

“Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.”

Joshua 1:9

We are keeping both Caitlyn Wagenbach (Bro. Simon III and Sis. Lori) and Wade Sinn (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Gail) in our thoughts and prayers as they serve our country with their respective branches of the military. Caitlyn is in Afghanistan now, and Wade is preparing to leave for there by the end of January. We have many freedoms in our country that have not come without price! We thank God first, and then the men and women

who give their all.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

**Linda Folkerts
Nancy Leman**

“For this God is our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death.”

Psalm 48:14

What an encouragement to know that our God is our God forever—in life and in death. In the last month, our congregation has said final farewells to two of our precious loved ones. Bro. Rich Dreeste passed away on December 22. Our prayers are with his eight children, Bro. Mike (Sis. Kathy) Dreeste of our Washington congregation, Tim (Noreen) Dreeste, Susan (David) Muhr, and Nancy, Kathy, Janet, Joyce, and Mark Dreeste, and his grandchildren. On January 14, our dear Sis. Freida Mogler was called to that eternal Home. Our sympathy and prayers go to her husband, Bro. Andy, their three sons, Bro. Randy (Sis. Evie), Russ (Linda), and Jay (Holly) Mogler, her sisters and brothers, which include Sis. Lydiann (Bro. Carl) Wyss and Sis. Pearline Streitmatter of our congregation, Bro. Elmer (Sis. Mariann) Metzger (Lester), and Bro. Roy (Sis. Evelyn) Metzger (Bloomfield), and her grandchildren. May the comforting peace of our Heavenly Father be with these dear families.

Our continuing prayers are being lifted for our Bro. Steve Hofstetter (Sis. Tamara) as he undergoes cancer treatments and for Sis. Sue Ruppert considering her ongoing health issues. Also, Bro. Keith Steffen (Sis. Cathy) spent time in the hospital with pneumonia and is home recuperating. May these dear ones feel our love and prayers.

We extend our sincere sympathy

to Loretta Wettstein and Richard Goldsmith in the loss of their brother, Frank Goldsmith. May God’s comfort and peace be with them.

Our visiting ministers this past month include Bro. Virgil Metzger (Sis. Mary, Chicago) who shared in Sis. Freida’s funeral service, and Bro. Jim Meiss (Sis. Candy, Phoenix) who visited on January 22. We thank these dear brothers for their willingness to serve and share God’s Word with us.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Freida Mogler would like to thank all those who have prayed, encouraged and supported us during her illness and at the time of her death. We also deeply appreciate the support and outpouring of love from the Washington church family when Mom and Dad moved to the area in 2009. Then it was such a blessing to have Mom receive warm Christian, professional care at Eureka AC Home the last two months of her life. We are blessed and loved, and pray God will reward you richly.

Andy Mogler, Randy and Evie, Jay and Holly, Russ and Linda

INDIANA, BLUFFTON

**Kim Meyer
Suzie Fiechter**

As we begin another new year, we are reminded of new beginnings, new choices and new opportunities. Our dear Elder Bro. Lynn reminded us that Satan has a personalized plan to destroy each of us, that each new day we have the grace to say “no” to him and live as Christ taught. He pointed out several ways that we could live our lives in 2012 and fail to make a positive difference for eternity. In our families, we could neglect guiding our children’s, as well as our own, hearts, thus moving into more selfishness and sin. We could minimize our own failures, thinking we’re OK as long as

we just avoid the “big” sins, while harboring impure motives and living unfruitful lives. We could desire to be like everyone around us, avoiding social awkwardness at any cost, instead of aspiring to true godliness. Or we could choose to crucify self, love Him completely and follow Him wholly.

Several of our loved ones have begun their new year in eternity. Sis. Freida Steffen now walks on streets of gold. Surviving are her children, Don (Carolyn), Bro. Marvin (Sis. Della), Ruth (Larry) Melching, Betty (Dave) Smeltzer, and Bonnie (Russell) Mulkey. Bro. Lee Gerber met his Lord on January 8, leaving his wife, Sis. Jenny, and children, Doug (Kristi), LeAnn, Renee, Eric (Lori), and Christopher (Laura). We extend our loving sympathy to Bro. Rob and Sis. Sierra Parker on the death of his father, Robert Parker, Sr.

Our hospital patients have been Bro. Bob (Sis. Jan) Herring, Sally (Dale) Meyer, Sis. Sally (Bro. Lester) Schwartz, Bro. Craig (Sis. Jean) Steffen, and Sis. Josephine Schwartz. They each have ongoing health issues and we pray that God will be their constant companion and loving Guide.

New Year’s Day brought news of the beginning of a new life together. The engagement of Bro. Lyndon Kaehr (Bro. Keith and Sis. LuAnn) to Sis. Kinsey Kershner (Bro. Dan and Sis. Jacki) of Bluffton North was announced. God has brought together the lives of Bro. Todd Drayer (Bro. Herm and Sis. Julie, Bluffton) of Leo and Sis. Tianna Stieglitz (Elder Bro. Lynn and Sis. Leonda) of Leo. May He continue to direct and bless the relationships and homes of these couples!

On January 8, many of our congregation were blessed to travel to San Diego for the wedding of Bro. Vince Fiechter (Elder Bro. Lynn and Sis. Ronda) and Sis. Breana Wagenbach (Bro. Doug and Sis. Lillian). God’s

presence was felt as we met brethren from across the country and celebrated the joining of two families and two congregations. We extend our loving welcome to Sis. Breana and the whole Wagenbach family, as hopefully, they will visit often!

Three families are celebrating the miracle of God’s gift of new life. Bro. Todd, Sis. Jessica, Lexie and Briggs Fiechter welcome Tenley Marie. Grandparents are Bro. Rick and Sis. Beth Fiechter and Doyle Reinhard and Sis. Jan Reinhard. Elijah Matthew Schrenk was born to Bro. Matthew and Sis. Alicia in St. Louis. Praising God are grandparents, Bro. Craig and Sis. Jean Steffen and Bro. Loren and Sis. Betsy Schrenk (St. Louis). Bro. Cory and Sis. Holly Aschliman, along with grandparents, Bro. Kevin and Sis. Beth Aschliman and Bro. Don and Sis. Suzie Fiechter, rejoice with the birth of their first daughter, Jade Elizabeth.

We thank Bro. Jerry Isch (Sis. Linda, Philadelphia) for bringing his family and ministering to us. Bro. Jerry grew up in Bluffton and now Sis. Linda’s father, Bro. Glen Furrer, resides here, so they have many reasons to “come home”.

Our dear Bro. Gary (Sis. Diann) Tonner has announced his retirement from the ministry. Bro. Gary often encouraged us in our family relationships and used examples from his family to help us apply the Word. We will certainly miss his kind, humble exhortations, but thank him and Sis. Diann for their loving service to us for many years!

Hymn number 171 in our Hymns of Zion is a fitting prayer as we begin a new year.

Lord, I am fondly, earnestly longing
into Thy holy likeness to grow;
Thirsting for more and deeper communion,
Yearning Thy love more fully to
know.

Dead to the world would I be, O Father!

Dead unto sin, alive unto Thee;
Crucify all the earthly within me,
Emptied of sin and self may I be.
I would be Thine, and serve Thee
forever,
Filled with Thy Spirit, lost in Thy
love;
Come to my heart, Lord, come with
anointing,
Showers of grace send down from
above.
Open the wells of grace and salvation,
Pour the rich streams deep into my
heart;
Cleanse and refine my thought and
affection,
Seal me and make me pure as Thou
art.

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Jessie Longenberger
Amy Moser**

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord”

Luke 2:11

On December 18, our congregation was treated to the Sunday School Christmas program. The children did a wonderful job sharing the good news of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. It was good to be reminded again of the reason for the season through the message of the children’s songs. We thank the children, teachers, song leaders, and parents for their dedication and hard work.

Our Sis. Phyllis Dotterer became a great-grandmother again with the birth of Naomi Joy on December 20. Naomi is the daughter of Ben and Jackie Dailey and the granddaughter of Bro. Doug and Sis. Susan Daily. Naomi joins brother Caleb and sister Lydia at home.

After successful foot surgery, Bro.

Wendell Gerber is recovering nicely at Bluffton Regional Continuing Care.

Our Sis. Sally Meyer (Bro. Dale) continues to recover from a heart attack that she suffered shortly after Christmas. Prayers would be appreciated to endure therapy for the next month and the strengthening of her heart.

In light of Bro. Zach Bertsch's cancer, a 1-year daily devotional titled Prepare to Die...and then Live has been written. The book is not for sale but is free for the taking. Perhaps you have a neighbor or friend who could be blessed by this devotional. The goal of this book is three-fold: 1. To raise additional funds for the Cancer Redemption Project in Haiti. 2. To strengthen your faith on a daily basis. 3. To spread the Gospel. If you or someone you know would benefit from this book, please contact Zach (zach_bertsch@gmail.com or 260-273-1716) or Bro. Ryan Bertsch (ryan_bertsch@gmail.com or 260-273-9412).

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Mildred Clauss
Jacki Huber

“Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord;”

Psalm 127:3

We rejoice with Bro. Ben and Sis. Deana Cook as they welcomed a precious baby girl, Melanie Joy, into their family on December 19, 2011. Older brothers and sisters who joined in welcoming Melanie are Michaela, Megan, Isaiah, Zachary and Mandolyn. Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet Overmyer and Sis. Deb Cook are Melanie's loving grandparents.

On New Year's Eve, we gathered together for services and the annual New Year's Eve Program. Bro. Mark Wettstein (Sis. Karen, LaCrosse, IN)

and their family were with us for the evening, and we were thankful that Bro. Mark shared God's Word with us. After this, numerous thoughts, poems and inspirational songs were shared, and we enjoyed fellowship and snacks following, as the year 2011 came to a close.

The Simone Orphanage in Haiti was the topic shared on a recent “family hymn sing” Sunday evening at the Fellowship Center. It is always a blessing to hear of ways we can serve, or support others as they serve, those less fortunate in worldly goods. Many times those with “less” teach us lessons about life by their joyfulness in living simply. It is a constant challenge to keep the Joy of the Lord when we have so many things to distract us, but GOD is faithful, and sees our heart's desires!

We have had several loved ones with surgeries, tests, and health concerns this month. Our prayers have been with Stacy Metzger (Austin), Sisters Carol Gutwein (Bro. Phil), Diane Clevenger (Jon), Bro. Chris Welker, and Jim Albrecht (Karen). God has shown His kindness and mercy to each one, and we are grateful for His answers to our prayers, sometimes by healing, sometimes by giving grace to endure, and always, for His love and faithfulness as we call out to Him.

Our home ministering brothers are sharing the book of James with us in topical Bible Studies that will last for five Wednesday evenings, one for each chapter in James. We have been blessed to begin this, and look forward to learning more about James as the studies continue.

INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS
Sandy Lichtle
Penny Schroder

We rejoice with Bro. Sasha Mojic on the announcement of his engage-

ment to Sis. Marija Doric. Marija is a member of our sister church in Novi Sad, Serbia. Her parents are Zarko and Sis. Mirta Doric of Novi Sad, Serbia. Sasha's parents are Laza (sister church in Windsor, Canada) and Sis. Ranka Mojic (Detroit, MI). We look forward to welcoming Marija to Indianapolis.

Bro. Ken and Sis. Lyn Wuethrich are thankful for the healthy arrival of another grandchild, Jude Elliott Wuethrich, on December 30, 2011. Jude is the son of Sean and Julie Wuethrich and little brother to Reagan.

On January 18, we gathered for our annual business meeting. It was encouraging to review how God has been faithful throughout the past year. The new officers were announced for the coming year: Trustee - Bro. John Sauder; Usher - Bro. Orlyn Fehr; Missions Committee Coordinators - Bro. Aaron Klopfenstein and Bro. Daniel Bollier; Sound System Controller - Bro. Matt Schieler; Silver Lining Correspondent - Sis. Katy Frantz; Kitchen Committee - Sis. Cindy Schieler; Head Song Leader - Bro. Jerry Leuthold. We pray for God's blessings on each of these new positions and also for those who faithfully served in the past year.

INDIANA, LACROSSE
Julie Roche
Meagan Frank

“Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
 There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
 Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;
 As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.”

Melodies of Praise #216

As we celebrate the birth of our Savior and anticipate the New Year,

we are compelled to reflect on the faithfulness our Heavenly Father. How blessed we are to have the constant assurance that in whatever joy, trial, or change He brings in the year to come, His grace will be sufficient.

It was a day of rejoicing when Noah Gudeman and his parents, Bro. Glen and Sis. Kerri, returned home from a nearly ten week hospital stay. In 4-year-old Noah's recovery from a swing set accident they spent time in Chicago, Cincinnati, and Indianapolis. How wonderful it is to see him again happily joining his classmates in Sunday School, having Bro. Glen and Sis. Kerri back as teachers, and simply to have the whole family, a missing part of our church body, once again in our midst. Indeed, great is His faithfulness!

Yet again, we have enjoyed Christian fellowship, as well as said farewell to loved ones this past month. We enjoyed gathering for World Relief soup packaging at Bro. Brad and Sis. Julie Rocke's. Our thanks go to Bro. Jim Butikofer, his wife Sis. Diana, and their children for Bro. Jim's serving us in the ministry over New Year's. After a brief return for the holidays, Sis. Mary Ann Feller has again returned to Florida, and Bro. Elvin and Sis. Jan Nuest have traveled to California for their winter stay.

A blessed evening of singing and lunch was had in appreciation for our dear Bro. Don and Sis. Mary Gudeman's 36 years of service in the ministry. We can be so thankful that the Lord continues to reveal His faithfulness in the consistency of our brothers and sisters who have weathered the storms of life and overcome by His grace. We wish each of them "...Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!"

INDIANA, LEO Kirby Reutter

Here in Leo, this was a relatively calm month — only two marriage engagements and only two new staff members at Gateway Woods. Perhaps the theme for this month is best expressed by the title of Zion's Harp hymn number 86: "The Lord Will Provide"

First, we rejoice with Bro. Todd Drayer (Bro. Herman and Sis. Julie, Bluffton Country, IN) and Sis. Tianna Stieglitz (Elder Bro. Lynn and Sis. Leonda). Secondly, we also rejoice with Bro. Seth Hodel (Bro. Brad and Sis. Patty Hodel, Roanoke, IL) and Sis. Angie Knobloch (Bro. Loris and Pat Knobloch, Peoria, IL).

Sis. Angie Knobloch currently serves as the Assistant House Parent at the Hickory House. Although her director supervisors (Bro. Dustin and Sis. Mandy Hodel) are not too happy about losing another assistant, they are nonetheless quite pleased that they will gain another sister-in-law in the process. God certainly works in mysterious ways. May the Lord bless both of these marriages with the gifts of peace and mutual surrender.

Finally, we also rejoice that two vacancies at Gateway Woods were immediately filled by two very dear sisters. First, Sis. Danielle Sauder (Bro. Bill and Sis. Becky Sauder) joined us from Columbus, OH, to serve as Gateway's new secretary. Secondly, Sis. Emily Kieser (Bro. Mark and Sis. Cathy) joined us from Peoria, IL, to serve as Gateway's new receptionist. May the Lord bless both of these "handmaidens of the Lord" as they seek to labor for the Kingdom and glorify the name of Christ.

INDIANA, MILFORD Janie Price Paula Haab

Christmas time brought our Mexico laborers home for a short time. It

was good to see and visit with Bro. Regg and Sis. Bev Beer (Ixtilan) and Sis. Jodi Beer (Magdalena). May God bless their labors of love. Christmas time also brought opportunity for some our congregation to work in Haiti and return safely. A larger group is preparing to spend several days in Haiti soon.

It was an unusually nice January evening for Elder Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily Schlatter to come be with us for our business meeting compared to some past January meeting dates. We are so thankful for those who willingly served the past few years and ask God to bless them. We ask special blessings on those who allowed their names to be placed on the ballot and on those who will begin new responsibilities to help make our church function smoothly. Teaching Sunday School will be Sisters Sue Cockburn and Mary Lehman, and Bros. Troy Wuthrich, Bob Cockburn, and Jeremy Price. Bros. Stan Wuthrich, Mark Beer, and Sisters Judy Longcor, Pat Mikel, and Linda Wuthrich also have new responsibilities.

Our hearts were warmed on a cold Sunday when we had many visitors. Among them was Bro. Tim Drayer (Sis. Gwen, Bluffton North) who opened to two chapters referring to Moses as did our own Bro. Dan Beer. It seemed God really wanted us to be reminded of Moses's life and not to be murmurers like the Israelites and to have faith that God is in control. The same Sunday, Psalm 100 (Bluffton) sang such beautiful inspirational songs for us. Thank you and God's blessings on each one.

INDIANA, REMINGTON Jenni Honegger Marcella Tyler

On January 8 we celebrated the wedding of Bro. Trent Bahler (Bro. Tim and Sis. Lynette) and Sis. Katie Furrer (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Pam) in

Wolcott. We were so thankful to witness the love of Christ and of each other evident in their faces on such a happy day! We welcome Sis. Katie to our congregation and pray a special blessing on her and Bro. Trent as they begin their life together as one.

This month we also held our annual business meeting and elections. We want to thank each teacher and office holder for their years of service. It is truly a labor of love to keep our church running as effectively and efficiently as it does. Even though much of the labor is done behind the scenes, we are aware of the effort each one puts in and are thankful for each one's contribution. We also want to be prayerful as the newly elected begin their terms of service that they may feel the love and support of the church in their new duties.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND
Joshua Martinez

“For this child I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of him.”

1 Samuel 1:27

On January 2, we celebrated the safe arrival of Thomas and Ramona Langhofer's sweet baby girl, Boston Samantha. Her thankful grandparents are Bro. Marty and Sis. Lavilla Langhofer and Titi and Dorina Iacob of Romania.

“But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”

1 Corinthians 15:57-58

We pray a blessing upon those dear brothers and sisters who will-

ingly and cheerfully served our congregation and the needs of others in faraway lands. May the Lord bless Elder Bros. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, La-Crosse) and Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville) for sharing the Memorandum with us. We also thank visiting ministering Bro. Steve Stieglitz (Sis. Jane, Leo) for his service from the pulpit.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue Beebe went on a 19-day mission trip to Haiti to serve at Hospital Lumiere (Bonne Fin) and the S.E.E.D. Institute (Les Cayes). Bro. Brad, Sis. Becky Langhofer and our Romanian friend, Chip Iacob, traveled on an ACWR work team to Cullman, Alabama to help in reconstruction efforts.

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.”

II Corinthians 13:14

INDIANA, VALPARAISO
Marguerite Hoerr

The first day of January, 2012, was a joyful day for our Valpo congregation. We heard the testimony of our new Sister in faith, Sherry Meiss, and witnessed the baptism that followed. The radiant smile that was on Sherry's face as she stepped out of the baptismal waters brought joy to each of our hearts. Having her presence with us each Sunday is a true blessing. Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus and his wife, Sis. Jenna, were with us for the day. Their presence always warms our hearts.

Ministering Bro. Tom Troxel and his wife, Sis. Luann, blessed another Sunday by being with us. We thank them for their love in coming to share with us.

Our ministers and trustees made the decision to worship with Lacrosse members on the first and last

Wednesdays of the month. We have elderly members that find it difficult to drive at night, so the attendance is sparser at these times. Isn't it wonderful that they can make a decision such as this knowing they will be welcomed by the Lacrosse brothers and sisters? It means so much.

Bob and I drive 38 miles from our home in New Buffalo, MI, to our church home in Valparaiso, IN. Since both areas can experience lake effect snow, we sometimes find it difficult to set out on icy or snow covered roads. At times like these we are most grateful to attend church services via our computer. We've experienced, when we are shut in, what it means to hear singing and sermons from another one of our Apostolic Christian churches. We pull two chairs up to our computer and feel the blessings roll into our home using modern technology. We thank God for the foresight of our leaders who make this possible to us.

Please remember if you are traveling nearby that you will be most welcome if you stop to visit us. We're just 3 ½ miles S. of U.S. 30 on S.R. 49.

INDIANA
WEST LAFAYETTE
Katie Widmer

We continue to thank God for His mercy in answered prayers in the healthy report for Bro. Ed Bahler.

We are excited to see our church fill up with Purdue students again and look forward to another semester.

INDIANA, WOLCOTT
Sasha Kyburz
Donita Edelman

What a blessing it was to gather together on January 8 to witness Bro. Trent Bahler (Bro. Tim and Sis. Lynette, Remington, IN) and Sis. Katie Furrer (Bro. Bruce and Sis.

Pam, Wolcott, IN) saying their vows to one another in front of the church and God. We wish them much happiness in their marriage and God's bountiful blessings.

We were very thankful to have had many visiting ministers this month. A heartfelt thanks goes out to these Brothers and their wives for all the effort they put forth: Bros. Dale Banwart (Sis. Missy, Congerville, IL), Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL), Marshall Heinold (Sis. Jan, Ixtlan, Mexico), Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam, Latty, OH) and Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN).

We had our annual meeting on January 9 and we would like to thank all members leaving offices for all of their hard work. Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have come into office; we wish you many blessings throughout your term!

IOWA, BLOOMFIELD Rachel Stoller

"...Arise, and be baptized..."
Acts 22:16

We are thankful that our new Sis. Rachel Dotterer (Bro. Joe and Sis. Rose) has submitted to holy baptism and erected a covenant with God. We wish her daily grace to overcome. Visiting Elder Bros. Steve Martin (Sis. Vicki, Eureka, IL) and Lawrence Luthi (Sis. Becky, Lamar, MO) were with us for the weekend. Also sharing the pulpit were Bros. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Lisa, Eureka, IL) and Bill Brake (Sis. Miriam, Sardis, OH).

The previous weekend we gathered together to read the Memorandum. Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO) was here to assist Bro. Doug. We thank each of these brethren for lending of themselves on our behalf.

We also would like to wish much grace and humility to our Bro. Ryan and Sis. Melanie Schock, as they have been selected to serve us in the ministry. We are thankful for the Lord's leading and nearness to our church in this matter.

IOWA, BURLINGTON Marilyn Anderson Karla Gerst

Yea with Thee, Lord, I'll continue
As in pleasure, so in grief;
And in daily consecration
Unto Thee my life I give.
For Thy summons I am ready,
And Thy final call await;
He can welcome death who daily
All to Thee doth consecrate.
Zion's Harp #205, vs. 4

Our prayers are with Sis. Verna Woodward and her family as her husband, Bro. Marvin, passed away recently. Bro. Marvin and Sis. Verna also recently lost their son-in-law, Tommy Niemtschke (Bonnie) of Texas. We wish them an extra measure of God's grace at this difficult time.

There were a number of visiting ministers this past month. Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall was with us, as well as retired Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (both of Oakville) and ministering Bros. Dale Wulf (Lester, IA), Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Dave Marquart (Taylor, MO), and Dale Frank (Oakville).

Once again it was time for a change of responsibilities in the church. Bro. Brett Wulf will be our new Trustee, and Sis. Melody Schultz and Sis. Carolyn Wulf will be on the Kitchen Committee. Sis. Monica Eisenmann will be taking a term as Silver Lining reporter. We appreciate the efforts of those who have completed their terms. May God bless each one in their new duties.

IOWA, ELGIN Maria Roche Brianna Strahm

Miriam Joan Knobloch was welcomed into her family on December 23, 2011, by her parents, Bro. Caleb and Sis. Maranda, and big sister, Lydia. Miriam's grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Marcy Knobloch and Troy and Vanessa Luthi (Athens, WI).

"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men."
Col. 3:23

Our annual business meeting was held in the month of January. We thank Bro. Jim Knobloch for his labors as a trustee. Bro. Ben Frieden was elected to fill this position. We also thank each one who has responsibilities, as we do not always see the efforts put into fulfilling them.

We're thankful our Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA) was able to be with us this month. May God bless him for his labors.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE Laura Funk

Greetings to all! We enjoyed a blessed holiday season.

Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be,
In working or in waiting,
Another year with Thee.
Hymns of Zion #150

Serving our congregation from the pulpit this month were Bro. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Clint Beyer (Sabetha, KS). Many loved ones accompanied these ministering Brothers. We appreciate the fellowship. God bless you!

IOWA, IOWA CITY **Diana Butikofer**

Belated congratulations to David and Stephanie Milder following the birth of Victor Thomas born August 4. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Rhonda Reker.

Bro. Pat and Sis. Julie Zaugg (West Bend, IA) were with us on Christmas Day. We appreciate Bro. Pat's service on the pulpit and ask the Lord to bless him.

IOWA, LESTER **Polly Metzger** **Gloria Moser**

"...I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee. And again, I will put my trust in him ... Behold I and the children which God hath given me."

Hebrews 2:12-13

Two dear families have entrusted their little babies to the Heavenly Father. A little boy, Tyler Lee, was born to Bro. Daniel and Sis. Stephanie Messner on January 2. Big brother, Jared, and grandparents, Bro. Rod and Sis. Denise Schaefer (Morris, MN) and Bro. Henry and Sis. Charlene Messner, are thankful for a new baby to love. First-time parents, Bro. Matthew and Sis. Tasha Warner, welcomed a son, Miles Benjamin, into their family on January 8. Bro. Tom and Sis. Deb Metzger and Bro. Stan and Sis. Sue Warner are the delighted grandparents. May these families put their trust in God who has given them these precious gifts.

We were blessed to have several visiting ministers over the Christmas season: Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA), Elder Bro. Roy Koehl (Morris, MN), Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Harvey Kuenzi (Silverton, OR), Bro.

Larry Bahr (Fort Scott, KS), Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Phil Schulz (Burlington, IA). On January 14, our congregation was privileged to have the Memorandum read and exhorted by Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) and our Elder Bro. Rod Bajema. How thankful we can be for willing servants to sound the warnings and preach the Gospel for the benefit of our soul's salvation.

Loved ones that have been hospitalized in the past month were: Bro. Jerome Hartter (Sis. Gail), Taryn Besonen (Brant and Samantha), Bro. Ezra Knobloch (Sis. Marie), Bro. John Tolvstad and Bro. Larry Leuthold (Sis. Mardi). May God provide healing according to His will.

Peace, Perfect Peace, In this dark world of sin?
The blood of Jesus whispers peace within.

Hymns of Zion #26

Cari Moser (Bro. Rick and Sis. Lori) has found her peace with God and man. May she always forsake this dark world of sin and cling to this precious gift that has been provided through the blood of Jesus.

We welcome Tristan and Chalsea Kuenzi who have relocated to our area from Silverton, OR. May they bloom where they are planted.

Brian Leuthold (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Vicki) and Deanna Kruse have announced their engagement. May God be near them as they plan their March wedding.

Several families have been affected by the death angel. Sis. Dorothy Kellenberger passed away at Sabetha, KS, at the age of 89 years. We remember her siblings from our congregation: Bro. Phil Mogler (Sis. Donna), Bro. Howard Mogler (Sis. Lillian), Sis. Leona Moser (Bro. Leo), Sis. Florence Knobloch (Bro. August) and Sis. Marge Mogler. We extend our sympathy to Bro. Dale and Sis. Becky

Wulf and Bro. Arnie and Sis. Myra Wulf as they sorrow over the death of their brother-in-law, Bro. Dave Knapp, from Roanoke, IL.

Sis. Frieda Mogler went to her eternal reward on January 13 at the age of 95 years. She leaves behind her beloved helpmate, Bro. Andy Mogler, and sons: Bro. Randy (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL), Russell (Linda) and Jay (Holly); as well as a brother, Bro. Elmer Metzger (Sis. Mariann), and sister-in-laws, Sis. Alice Metzger and Sis. Esty Metzger. Bro. Andy and Sis. Frieda were a part of our Lester church family for all but the last three years where they were warmly welcomed by the Washington congregation. We have all been blessed in one way or another by their kind words or deeds. Many of us were recipients of Sis. Frieda's delicious homemade buns or other homemade gifts given in love. We are so thankful for her example of faith.

IOWA, OAKVILLE **Sharla Wiegand**

What a wonderful start to this year as New Year's Day was on a Sunday. We thank Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Wolcott, IN) for sharing the Word with us.

Many from our congregation made the trip to Oregon for the wedding of Sis. Abigail Sinn (Bro. Mark and Sis. Elsie) of Silverton and Bro. Joel Steiner (Bro. Tom and Sis. JoAnn) on January 15. We hope Sis. Abi soon feels at home in Oakville.

On that same weekend, we enjoyed the visit of Elder Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Chicago IL) and his family as his son, Bro. Greg, is engaged to Sis. Diana Wagenbach (Taylor, MO), daughter of Bro. Dave and Sis. Charlene of Oakville.

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

We extend congratulations to Darrel and Sis. Julie Zaugg and Kirk and Cindy Augustine (Omaha, NE) on the wedding of their children, Benjamin and Joy Zaugg. The wedding date was November 23 and we pray for God's presence in this union.

On December 18, Sis. Paula Mogler was announced to Bro. Ryan Grimm (Morris, MN) and on January 1, Sis. Betsy Mogler was announced to Bro. Andy Bruellman. Parents of these two couples are Bro. Kevin and Sis. Nita Grimm (Sabetha, KS), Bro. Larry and Sis. Teresa Bruellman (North Fort Myers, FL) and Bro. Chuck and Sis. Beth Mogler. We rejoice with these dear souls and pray for the Lord's blessings as they follow His leading for their lives. They are planning a double wedding on February 12.

In the midst of the holidays, tragically struck here and we pray for the grieving family of Bro. Mark and Sis. Deb Bruellman in the death of their young son-in-law, Levi Bransfield, on December 24. Our prayers ascend to the Father for his dear wife, Minnie, and infant daughter Mia as they mourn his loss.

The Elder brethren will soon be gathering for the mid-winter Conference. May we spend our days in fervent prayer for them as they counsel one with another.

If a single, fervent prayer
Of a soul prevaileth
On the tender heart of God
Brings its fruit unfailing
How much more, is in store
When whole congregations
Raise their supplications.

Zion's Harp #174, vs. 6

JAPAN, SHIODA**Carrie Ito**

It was extra special to have our New Year's Day service on a Sunday this year. We started a new tradition for Shioda church by making homemade mochi (compressed rice). It was dipped in soy sauce and wrapped in toasted seaweed or dipped in a soybean and brown sugar dip. We'll have to make more next year because it all got eaten up!

Our prayers are with the Furuya family, Biren, Kotaro, and Koshin, as Biren's father in Malaysia passed away this month. We were thankful she could go home for his funeral.

JAPAN, TOKYO**Manuela Denes****Marie Inoue**

We greet all of you in the name of Jesus in this new year of 2012. New Year's time is emphasized in this country with a long holiday period filled with family gatherings and special foods.

Good advice and instruction for this new year came from our pulpit last Sunday as we heard the account of Naaman in II Kings 5:1-15. We were reminded to keep our expectations of life in proper perspective. The king of Israel and Naaman both became overly anxious when considering the healing of Naaman's leprosy. The king of Israel rent his clothes at being asked to recover a man of his leprosy, and Naaman was wrathful when only a messenger came as he expected Elisha to come and do something great to heal him. Both became angry and dissatisfied as their expectations were either wrong or too high. We were encouraged not to have our goals and expectations in life so high in areas such as education, employment, and marriage that we fail to wait on the Lord for His blessing, and will, and timing. Proverbs 3:5 says, "Trust in the Lord

with all thine heart; lean not unto thine own understanding."

Sis. Manuela Denes could return safely from a blessed time visiting her family and home church in Detroit, MI, over the holidays. Likewise, it was a joy to have the Klaus family with us for a Sunday and hear of their labors in Miyagi-Ken. The little girls were all smiles as they ran up the steps to attend Sunday School.

We are so thankful for our recent convert, Masako Yamanaka, who lives near the church and is the mother of adult children. Like all of us, she experienced struggles in life and sought relief in the true and living God. The Christian faith is very new to her, and we all pray that she can become attached to the Word and receive strength from it to walk in the ways of the Lord, our Creator and Redeemer.

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

Many in our congregation have experienced change this month, but we are ever thankful for the promise in Hebrews 1:12 that "...thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail." What an encouragement to us, especially as we are brought through changes in our own lives.

On January 4, Jaxon Daniel arrived to bless the home of Michael and Yalana Edelman. He is greatly loved by his sisters, Molly, Kendall and Brecken, and brother, Holden, as well as his grandparents, Bro. Wayne and Sis. Linda Edelman and Darrell and Sue Schuette.

Bro. Brandon Edelman (Bro. Earl and Sis. Donna) and Sis. Heidi Rufener (Bro. Leon and Sis. Lori, Rittman) were married on January 8 in Rittman. We wish them God's blessings as they take this special step in their lives and warmly welcome

Sis. Heidi to Bern!

We were blessed to have visiting ministers labor on our behalf. We appreciate Bro. Wayne Hartzler (Sis. Camille, Rittman), Bro. Jeff Bahler (Sis. Heidi, Wolcott), retired Elder Bro. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kansas City) and Bro. Klint Beyer (Sis. Kara, Sabetha) as they shared the Word with us this month.

Bro. Dan and Sis. Tamra Coughlin and family have moved back to our area as Bro. Dan has finished his schooling in Ohio. We extend a "welcome back" as they seek God's will in their lives. We also welcome Isabel Pacheco, a foreign exchange student from Germany, who will be staying with Bro. Faron and Sis. Jana, Jessalyn and Mariah Strahm for the remainder of the school year.

We were saddened to hear of the death of Benola Bieri on January 2, yet hopeful to hear that she had first desired to make peace with God. Our sympathy and prayers are with her two sons, Dr. Mark Anderson of Newport Beach, CA, and Thaine (Barbara) Anderson of Escondido, CA.

The annual business meeting was held on January 10. We appreciate the efforts of all those who have completed terms and pray for those who have been called to serve in some way.

Our prayers are also with the Elder body as they prepare to meet in Sabetha in the coming weeks.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT Martin Hohulin Teresa Bahr

On the Wednesday evening prior to Christmas, the Sunday School children presented their Christmas Program. As always, it was a blessed evening that was enjoyed by all in attendance. It is so rewarding to hear the children say their pieces and sing the songs about our Savior's birth. Afterwards they enjoyed snacks and

opened some gifts. We cannot express enough our appreciation for the teachers who lovingly give of their time and talents to teach the children about our Lord and the plan of salvation.

We were privileged to have Bro. Justin Moser (Sis. Robin, Altadena, CA) as a visiting minister on a Wednesday evening. They were visiting her parents, Bro. Rick and Sis. Karen Kellenberger.

On New Year's Eve, Bro. Don and Sis. Aleta Banwart hosted an all church get together. There was singing and fellowship to welcome in the New Year. May God bless and keep us in the coming year.

This will be my last writing for the Silver Lining for the Fort Scott congregation. When I was selected in 2007, I felt as though I was too old then and the years have continued to march on. I will be 83 years old in April and can no longer write as well as I used to. I do not type or have a computer, so my wife (Sis. Edith) has helped with the writing and our son, Bubs, has been sending it in on his computer. I have greatly appreciated the kind words of encouragement from believers across our nation. Fort Scott has capable Brothers and Sisters who will be able to take over the job. I hope they will meet with as much encouragement as was offered to me. God's blessings to all.

— *The above news was submitted by Bro. Martin Hohulin*

A daughter was born on January 19 to Bro. Tyler and Sis. Tina Banwart named Cecelia Rae. Her sisters are Talya and Nadia and her grandparents are Bro. Lon and Sis. Debbie Banwart and Bro. Roger and Sis. Darleta Gramm (Gridley, IL).

Our annual business meeting was held January 18 with the following elected: Bro. Bob Lemons – Trustee; Sis. Maria Bahr – Food Committee;

Bro. Gene Banwart and Bro. Jared Bahr – Usher/Sound System; Sis. Teresa Bahr – Silver Lining Reporter; Bro. Rick Kellenberger – Sabetha Home Rep.

We are prayerful for those suffering from illness. Our Bro. Lyle Fischer (Sis. Lillian) is currently in the hospital.

KANSAS, KIOWA Janice Bahr Jenny Stewart

Thus united and in concord,
Let us walk the path of life;
Hand in hand, O may love bind us
For each other's welfare strive.
Thus it is our Saviour's pleasure,
As His footsteps plainly show.
May God's love, our greatest treasure,

Richly ev'ry heart bestow.
With the love of God inspired,
There is joy for us on earth:
May the Spirit, we've acquired,
Grant us blessing, peace and mirth!
Zion's Harp #237

On January 22, the God they both love and serve united Sis. Tifani Bahr (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Janice) and Bro. Jake Leman (Elder Bro. Mike and Sis. Deb) of Denver, CO, to become one in Him. Bro. Jake and Sis. Tifani plan to make the Denver church and area their home as they both already live and work there. It is our fervent prayer that their home will be a place of welcome and joy, and that God will ever be the center of their home, their hearts, and all of their future plans!

We wish to extend our sincere gratitude to Bro. Ed and Sis. Ramona Strahm (Bern, KS) for lending themselves to share the Gospel of our Lord at the church here in Kiowa while so many of us were away for the wedding. May God richly bless them for their labor of love!

There have been quite a few of our loved ones away from church due to

sickness, and we pray they may soon be well and back in our midst again.

As the new year is underway, may the words of Hymns of Zion #150 be our fervent prayer:

Another year is dawning, Dear Master, let it be,
In working or in waiting, another year with Thee.

Another year of mercies, of faithfulness and grace.

Another year of gladness in the shining of Thy face.

Another year of progress, another year of praise,

Another year of proving Thy presence all the days.

Another year of service, of witness for Thy love,

Another year of training for holier work above.

Another year is dawning, Dear Master, let it be,

On earth, or else in Heaven, another year for Thee.

Amen.

KANSAS

LAMONT-GRIDLEY

Sarah Somerhalder

The annual business meeting was held Sunday afternoon, January 8. Our support and prayers are with those who have been elected to serve new terms.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Joann Luthi who passed from this life on January 22. We pray that the Lord will be near and comfort her husband, Bro. Lloyd, and their children, Jannette (Independence, KS), Sis. Jill (Topeka, KS), Elder Bro. Jay (Sis. Jane), and Sis. Jeri Knobloch (Bro. Tom).

Note of Thanks:

The family of Joann Luthi expresses appreciation for all the cards, calls, and other expressions of kindness at the time of their loss. Also, for

those who visited mom at the nursing home, though it is unknown what it meant to mother, your time and interest are appreciated. May God bless each one of you.

Bro. Lloyd, Jannette, Sis. Jill, Bro. Jay and Sis. Jane Luthi and family, Bro. Tom and Sis. Jeri Knobloch and family

KANSAS, SABETHA

Belinda Kellenberger

Sally Strahm

We rejoice with Bro. Keith and Sis. Andrea Grimm as they welcome little Alayna Joy into their family circle. Big sister, Sienna, is excited for a playmate. Grandparents are Bro. Doug and Sis. Jeryl Grimm and Bro. Randy and Sis. Shirley Koehl (Morris, MN).

We are thankful for grandparent Sis. Sharlyn Huber (late Bro. Gordon) as she welcomes a grandson, Graham Gordon, into her family. Graham's parents are Tyler and Whitney Huber of Winter Park, CO.

Our Sis. Dorothy Kellenberger passed away and was laid to rest. We extend our sympathy to Dorothy's niece, Sis. Jeryl Grimm (Bro. Doug), of our Sabetha, KS congregation. Visiting ministers here for Sis. Dorothy's funeral service were Bro. Myron Knobloch (Sis. Beth, Lester, IA), Bro. Wes Moser (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA) and Bro. Beirne Messner (Sis. Joyce, Morris, MN).

We extend our sympathy to our Sis. Shelli Hertzfel (Bro. Erik) in the passing of her grandmother, Sis. Dolores Grant (Bro. Tom), of Latty, OH.

Our New Year's Eve services were December 31. As a new year is upon us, may we strive to be more humble and faithful in His service.

Our annual business meeting was January 17. We thank those who have served their previous terms. May God be with those who will be filling new positions.

The Christian's robe and badge of love

It is the cross of Christ.

And he who knows the worth thereof

Will bear it without sighs.

Will bear it without sighs.

We take it meekly, bear it true,

And know it is our gain.

We bear it not upon our breast,

Oh, no, it is within.

Oh, no, it is within.

And should it pain, should it be sore,

We still remain in faith;

We know Whose Name we do adore,

What in His word He saith.

What in His word He saith.

We bear it but a little while,

A pledge of things to come,

Of garments glorious and white

In that eternal home.

In that eternal home.

Zion's Harp #252

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

The holiday spirit made a gentle exit and the reality of the new year has settled in. We continue to wait for moisture and we know that in due time the Lord will grant us the moisture we need.

We were blessed to have a visiting minister scheduled for January's small church project. Bro. David Zehr and his wife, Sis. Vicki, from Gridley, IL, filled that need.

The next Sunday, Elder Bro. Jim Plattner and Sis. Marlene (Princeville, IL) and Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont -Gridley) came to read the 2011 Memorandum. Because my daughter was unable to take me to church the week before, we were not aware of the change of plans. The Lamont families brought lunch goodies and shared them over the noon hour.

Luke, youngest son of Jerry and Pauline Carnaham, has moved back to the Junction City area. He went there to be with his brother and start a new job.

Bro. Charlie Grimm is losing strength. He needs our prayers, as does Bro. Phil Bowers.

MEXICO, IXTLAN
Matt Gerber

“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me... If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.”

John 15:4, 7-8

As we start a new year, it's good to reflect back on the past year and praise God for His faithfulness. Where do we begin to thank Him? Here are just a few things to praise God for in 2011:

Protecting us from harm and evil.
Liberty to share the Word without hindrance, both publically in church services and privately in homes.

One baptized convert, and others who are seeking.

Opportunity to perform medical clinics for the first time in Ixtlán and neighboring village.

Having provided teachers for this school year.

If we abide in Christ and His Word abides in us, we have reason to believe 2012 will be an even more fruitful year. Here are some ways you could pray for us in 2012:

Boldness to speak the Word without fear.

Continued protection, yet not counting our lives as dear unto ourselves.

Faithful living and love so the church can have a positive witness in the communities.

Sincerity and sound spiritual foundations for those who are seeking.

Three babies on the way in church families, due in spring.

Additional qualified teacher(s) for next school year that can be a good example to the children.

Direction for young group in a time of transition.

Fellowship and spiritual support for the believers in Barra Vieja, Morelia, and Querétaro.

Men in local drug-alcohol rehab center who are receptive to the Word and want to turn their lives around.

Spiritual renewal for those who are discouraged or straying.

Spiritual growth and humble hearts to serve within the church.

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Listyn Oesch
Melissa Blough

The crystal white snowflakes fall, the nipping wind bites through layer after layer, and the shining ice cakes around the trees, another season upon God's creation. For some this brings feelings of terror, others a beauty of happiness, this winter wonderland. No matter what we feel, I think we can all agree God's hand is in it. He is the artist. He presents the beauty we try to capture. How does this reflect into our spiritual walk? Do we fear the changes He brings into our hearts and lives or do we see it as a thing of beauty? For joy or sorrow it brings, God is still the Artist creating a masterpiece within. Let Him command each brush stroke because He sees the whole canvas. We only see His brush often times, and just as a painting doesn't know what it will be,

we too are awaiting that day when He puts down His brush and says “It is finished!”

With heavy hearts we express our concern for our dear loved ones. Sis. Helen Steffen is feeling the wait for physical pain and so we lift her and her family up in prayer. May God comfort her and make His presence known unto her. Also Elaine Wingeier (Stan) has been in prayer as she is having tests done. Our congregation experienced the loss of a dear soul Denny Koehl. We pray for his family and friends that deeply miss him. We know he is in the hands of God now but it is still difficult to say goodbye. We pray God will fill the holes Denny has left behind.

This month we were blessed with visiting ministers. Bro. Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Joe Sprunger (Indianapolis, IN) served in love before our congregation. We thank you for your willing hearts to do the will of God.

Recently our brethren gathered for our annual business meeting. We thank all those brothers and sisters who have served this year. Newly elected or re-elected brethren include: Bro. Jake Gerst as Secretary, Bro. Otto Schlatter as Trustee, Sis. Susan Steffen and Sis. Laurie Steffen on the Kitchen Committee, Bro. Loren Kaeb as Usher, and Sis. Listyn Oesch on World Relief. We thank each for the desire to serve. May God bless each effort according to His will.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Sarah Knochel
Janelle Ramseyer

My Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine;
For Thee all the follies of sin I resign;
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art Thou;
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis

now.

In mansions of glory and endless delight,
I'll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright;
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow,
If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.
Hymns of Zion, #153

Our retired ministering brother, Bro. James Ramseyer passed away on January 21. We are thankful he could be relieved of his suffering on this earth but know that his absence with still be felt amongst his family. We pray for his wife, Sis. Marlene Ramseyer, and their daughters, Beth (Scott) Kent, Sis. Deb (Bro. Ed Graf, Leo, IN), Wendy (Dave) Hoag and Natalie (Mark) Berg. Bro. Jim's siblings are Ruth Ann (Elmer) Getz, Bro. Joe (Sis. Dort), Sis. Carol (Bro. Bill) Waibel, Hack (Joan) Ramseyer, Sis. Sue (Bro. Derrell) Steffen, Sis. Vicki Ramseyer, and Sis. Edie (Bro. Rod) Laukhuf.

Many friends and family members from across the nation came to support the Ramseyer family during the visitation and funeral. We are thankful that the Lord provided traveling mercies for all, including Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS) and Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) as they both took part in the funeral service.

We appreciated having ministering Bro. Bob Knochel (Sis. Rhonda) and Bro. Kurt Munsel conduct worship services at Woodhaven this past month.

We want to remember Bro. Glenn Ruegsegger (Sis. Maria) and Sis. Illean Wackerle as they both spent time in the hospital recently. We trust that God will provide healing, all according to His will.

At our annual business meeting, Sis. Marilyn Meylan was elected to the kitchen committee, Bro. Bro.

Mike (Sis. Nancy) Ruegsegger was elected as trustee and Bro. Joe (Sis. Dort) Ramseyer was elected as treasurer. They replace Sis. Kay (Bro. Jim) Knochel, Bro. Ken (Sis. Pam) Schlatter and Bro. Neil Mosher. Bro. Derrell (Sis. Sue) Steffen was selected for the Distribution Center Board. We are thankful that there are brothers and sisters willing to be used to care for the physical needs of the church.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT Krista Wieland

“Many, O Lord my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward; they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.”

Psalm 40:5

We have had countless spiritual and physical blessings in this past year and we are so thankful. We recognize that even the pain, illness and heartache in our lives has a greater purpose that is not always seen by us but is always known by our Heavenly Father. It is during the toughest times in our lives that we have the opportunity to cling more tightly to Jesus. When the future looks scary and uncertain, we have a Savior that doesn't change and truly cares, as well as a loving church family. Let's start 2012 with a desire to serve others in humility, a gratitude for the redemption of sin through the blood of Jesus, and a willingness to share the gospel of salvation! The knowledge that we are only on this earth for a while helps put life in perspective!

We are praying for Bro. Jim Barton (Sis. Vi) who spent some time in the hospital but has since been released.

Bro. Joel and Sis. Amber, Liam

and Aiden Virkler will spend several months in Tampa as part of Bro. Joel's medical rotation. They will return in late April and we wish them a safe trip and stay.

Bro. Mike and Sis. Sherice, Erika and Caleb Reinhard are moving to Denver, CO, at the end of January. How we will miss them! Even though we are sad, we support them in the Lord's leading as they take this step. We want to congratulate Luke Knochel (Bro. Dana and Sis. Beth) who graduated in December 2011 with a Bachelors degree in Accounting from the University of Michigan. He is currently working for a Michigan accounting firm. He plans to take his CPA exam and then pursue further schooling following the tax season.

We enjoyed Sis. Manuela Denes's visit home over the holidays with her family, and prayers go with her as she returns to Japan.

We are very happy for Bro. Sasha Mojic whose engagement was announced to Sis. Marija Doric (Novi Sad, Serbia). Bro. Sasha is originally from Detroit and currently lives in Indianapolis, IN. Bro. Sasha's parents are Laza and Sis. Ranka (Detroit). Sis. Marija's parents are Zarko and Sis. Mirto. The couple are planning to be married in August, 2012.

Laza and Sis. Ranka Mojic have more exciting news this month! They are grandparents of a new baby girl. Her parents are Bro. Sam and Sis. Danielle Sutton (Phoenix, AZ) and her name is Milania Danijela. We rejoice with them!

We also were excited to hear that Bro. Jon and Sis. Alexis Stoller (Latty, OH) have a new daughter born January 13. Her name is Sophia Marie and she joins big sister Faith. Grandparents are Bro. Randy and Sis. Sue Gasser and Bro. Rod and Sis. Leann Stoller (Latty, OH).

**MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS
Tim McMillan**

We began January reading the eighth Psalm. Verse one states "O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!..." Verse nine ends the Psalm with "O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!" The beginning and the ending is the proclamation of the excellence of the Lord. Let it be that we always remember from the beginning of our life in Christ until the end of our life on earth and then beyond is to declare the excellence of the Lord!

The church guest house in Rochester is scheduled to be available as of February 1, 2012. If you have need of the house, please contact Sis. Sandy Stork, (507) 451-4869. Details of accommodations can be discussed with her.

We have announced the coming of a World Relief conference to be held, Lord willing, in Minneapolis in April. We look forward to the visiting of many of our brethren. If you plan to attend, please let us know as soon as possible so we can prepare for your visit.

It is with joy that we welcome Sis. Suzy Klotzle from Altadena, CA, to our congregation. Lord willing, her time in Minneapolis will be pleasant and prosperous. We also welcome Kyle Wewetzer from Elgin, IL, as he comes to study at the university.

To Him the Lamb our sacrifice,
who gave His life the ransomed
price.

To Him who died that we might die,
to sin and live with Him on high.

To Him that rose that we might
rise,
and reign with Him beyond the
skies.

To Him be glory ever more!

Ye heavenly host, your Lord adore.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah to

His name.

Gospel Hymns #251, vs. 2,3,4,7

**MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Kim Feuchtenberger
Susie Wulf**

We rejoice with Shayla Schmidgall (Bro. Paul and Sis. Shawn) and Kaitlin Koehl (Bro. Chris and Sis. Shelly) as they have turned unto our Lord in repentance. May God grant them much grace and understanding as they seek upon the pathway of the Lord. Angela Fehr (Bro. Gary and Sis. Sandy) has found peace with God and man and is ready for baptism. This month we had three wedding engagements: Bro. Ryan Grimm (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Nita of Sabetha, KS) to Sis. Paula Mogler (Bro. Charles and Sis. Beth) of West Bend, IA; Bro. David Nohl to Sis. Cheryl Koehl, both of Morris; and Sis. Jilaine Furrer (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jill) to Bro. Travis Strahm (son of the late Bro. Carl and Sis. Sharon of Sabetha, KS) of Morris North, MN. May each one continue in the grace of our Lord as He has led them together. Experiencing time in the hospital this month includes our Bro. Kenny Feuchtenberger, Bro. Cork Fehr, and Sis. Lillie Luthi. We are thankful for the Lord's healing hand upon each one.

Dear Loved Ones,

We wish to express our sincere gratitude to all who have thought of us and helped us out in any way during Ken's cancer treatment and recovery and also Ryan's illness and hospitalizations. Your sincere prayers have certainly been what has carried us through this time in our lives. We truly are humbled by all the love and concern you have shown to us. The Lord has been so good to us and blessed us in so many ways.

In His love,

Bro. Kenny, Sis. Sally, Ryan, Bro. Kyle and Sis. Rachel, Wade and

Kamie Feuchtenberger

**MINNESOTA
MORRIS NORTH
Wanda Gramm
Lois Schmidgall**

Welcome year 2012! I heard once that the future is like a blanket of pure white snow, and that we need to be careful for every step will show. We look for God's direction and pray that God will guide us as we take one step at a time. Who knows...this may be the year we will meet Jesus!

We have enjoyed a brown winter up until this past week. Minnesota doesn't see it very often, so it is much appreciated when we can travel about and not be concerned about the roads.

Our church family is rejoicing over our first engagement. Bro. Travis Strahm of Morris North was announced to Sis. Jiliane Furrer of the Morris congregation. They are planning a March 11 wedding. Parents of the couple are the late Bro. Carl and Sis. Sharon Strahm (Sabetha, KS), and Bro. Tom and Sis. Jill Furrer of the Morris congregation. We just wish them God's richest blessings as they start their new life together. Our church family welcomes Sis. Jiliane to Morris North.

Sis. Joan Schmidgall shared her experience of the medical trip to Haiti that she was on. We certainly are a fortunate people.

We appreciated having Bro. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend, IA) along with other couples who came to spend the weekend with us. Thank you, Bro. Darren, for sharing the Word of God to us and for giving of yourself. A church singing was enjoyed by many on Saturday night at Bro. Adam Zeltwanger's home.

Our prayers are with those who have been hospitalized during this month. Among them is our Elder Bro. Paul Messner, Sis. Pearl Moser and our friend Deb Gunderson. We pray

for the healing power of our loving God.

Morris North has been blessed with the birth of three new babies this month. Little Renly Marie Quiram was born on December 22 to Heather and David Quiram. Her big sister Mona welcomes her home. Renly's grandparents are Bro. Todd and Sis. Kim Moser. Cali Bree Fehr was born December 26 to Tyler and Brittany Fehr. Cali has a big sister Chloe who is excited to have a new baby sister. Cali's grandparents Bro. Randy and Sis. Lori Fehr. Brodyn Alpai Schmidgall was born January 13 to Jeremy and Hannah Schmidgall. Tayden and Porter welcome Brodyn to their home. His grandparents are Bro. Keith and Sis. Lois Schmidgall. The birth of a little one is such a miracle and the scripture reminds us that unless we become as the little child we are not one of His.

We are still meeting at the WROC and would welcome any of you to join us in the fellowship of our Lord Jesus.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Lindsay Schmidt
Heather Steiner

Another year is dawning,
 Dear Master, let it be,
 On earth, or else in heaven
 Another year for Thee.

Hymns of Zion #150 vs. 5

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

Read of Bethlehem, and see
 Him whose birth the children sing;
 Come, adore on bended knee,

Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
 Gloria in excelsis Deo,
 Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Hymns of Christmas #2 vs. 3

Gloria in excelsis in Latin means Glory to God in the Highest! God was truly glorified through our beautiful Christmas Program. Many thanks to the Sunday School children and teachers for working hard to share the wondrous story of Christ's coming to this earth to be our Savior.

Thanks we give, and adoration,
 For Thy gospel's joyful sound;
 May the fruits of thy salvation
 In our hearts and lives abound:
 Ever faithful, Ever faithful,
 To the truth may we be found.

Hymns of Zion #17 vs. 2

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

Have Thine own way, Lord!
 Have Thine own way!
 Wounded and weary, Help me, I pray!
 Power – all power - Surely is Thine!
 Touch me and heal me, Savior divine!

Hymns of Zion #113 vs. 3

Our prayers are with our hospital and surgical patients as they experience afflictions of the body: Sis. Julia Messner and Sis. Marcelle Dapper (Bro. Ernie). We pray for God's healing hand to be upon them. We are also thankful to report that Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan) has been healing very well from the major back surgery he underwent recently. It is good to have him gathering with us again.

The Lord bless thee, and keep thee;
 The Lord make His face shine upon thee,

And be gracious unto thee,
 And be gracious unto thee,
 The Lord life up His countenance upon thee,
 And give thee peace. Amen.

Hymns of Zion # 23

We have been thankful for the many visitors that have blessed us with their presence in the past month. We hope that God will bless each one! Our church always appreciates when loved ones make the effort to visit our congregation. We extend the invitation to come and visit any time!

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY
Brittany Fehr

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

II Timothy 4:2

May God bless the ministers who have recently visited our congregation, including Bro. Jeff Bahr (Sis. Janice, Kiowa, KS), Bro. Marvin Zollinger (Sis. Pam, Smithville, OH), and Bro. Brad Strahm (Sis. Michelle, Bern, KS). We certainly appreciate their labors.

MISSOURI, LAMAR
Lisa Stoller
Venetta Banwart

We would like to thank our visiting minister this month, Bro. Bob Dotterer (Sardis, OH), for his willingness to serve and feed us from God's Holy Word.

We recently had our annual business meeting. We would like to thank those that have served in the many elected positions of the church in the past year. We would also like to wish God's rich blessings on those that were elected to serve in the coming

year.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Kary Mangers

We would like to welcome Bro. Cameron Steffen from Goodfield to our congregation while he attends school in the St. Louis area.

Our congregation was grateful for the visit from Elder Bro. Rick and Sis. Mary Ann Plattner from Fairbury during the month of December.

With the start of the New Year, we encourage each of you to look for ways to serve the Lord with gladness and to come before His presence with singing!

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Melissa Reiman

We rejoice at the engagement of Sis. Diana Wagenbach to Bro. Greg Eisenmann (Bro. Brad and Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL). We pray that God will be with them in their upcoming marriage and the many years to come. May God richly bless both of you!

As a church, we were blest to have Bro. Ken Hoerr (Sis. Darlene, Peoria, IL), come on a Wednesday night and have our monthly Bible study.

We had three people in the hospital this month: Sis. Janet Schaer, Bro. Josh Sutter, and Mac Hoerr (son of Doug and Amy Hoerr). We are thankful that they are all home now and recovering.

The angels are rejoicing as Hattie Hoerr (Bro. Shannon and Sis. Susan) started repenting! We pray that she finds peace and comfort in the Lord's hands and that the church will be there to encourage her in her daily walk with Christ.

The church family gathered together on Saturday evening, January 21, and listened to the reading of the Memorandum. What a blessing to have Elder Bros. Doug Schock (Sis.

Clara, Bloomfield, IA) and Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra, Bluffton North, IN) help Bro. Kent. The weekend was an encouragement to all.

NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG

Hope Graves

We started out the New Year with a potluck and singing on New Year's Eve. This is always a blessed time for us to reflect on what is truly important and how we want to start the next year the Lord has blessed us with.

O, hold us fast while we are here,
upon our pilgrim way.
Until our journey we complete,
with Thee forever stay!

Hymns of Zion #265, vs. 5

Our Elder Bro. Duane Farney and Paul Virkler were able to join a work team traveling to Haiti in early January. We are thankful that our World Relief provides us with opportunities to help spiritually and physically around the world. The team was able to work on both building new school roofs and bringing the Word of God to Haiti. May we each be willing to do what we can to influence those around us locally and globally when God gives us the opportunity.

“And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”

Mark 16:15

OHIO, AKRON

Erika Gal

It is a joy to announce the arrival of a precious little newborn. Bro. Nathan and Sis. Cheryl Wiegand were blessed with a healthy baby on January 13. Benedikt Wayne will be loved by his siblings, Reuben, Trina, Franz, and Miriam. His grandparents are

Bro. Stan and Sis. Lola Stoller and Dale and Sis. Freidora Wiegand (all from Eureka).

We are so thankful for the many brothers and sisters who are willing to serve the church in various positions. Our new Sunday School Superintendent is Bro. Bryon (Sis. Lisa) Palitto. The new teachers are Bro. Tim (Sis. Angie) Zarkovacki, Bro. Jeran (Sis. Esther) Stoller and Sis. Rachael Indermuhle. Sis. Tammy (Bro. Victor) Botosan will now be helping on the kitchen committee. Our new usher is Bro. Arthur Greenbank. Sis. Joan (Bro. Glen) Greenbank is willing to assist on the nursing home auxiliary. Bro. Eric (Sis. Erika) Graf and Bro. Brad (Sis. Amanda) Gasser will be working on our recording services.

Our prayers are with little Brennan Pamer (Bro. Daniel and Sis. Rachel) who had surgery and our dear Sis. Barb Graf (Elder Bro. Dave) who was hospitalized. We pray for God's strength and provision for each day.

The Lord blessed us this month with several visiting ministers. We wish to sincerely thank Bro. Tim Ramsier (Rittman), Bro. Gary Maibach, Bro. Marvin Zollinger, and Bro. Ted Luginbuhl (all from Smithville).

OHIO, COLUMBUS

Esther Saurer

We would like to welcome baby Jaylynn to the Columbus church. Jaylynn is the daughter of Jonathon and Jenny Curry and the granddaughter of Bro. Larry and Sis. Nancy Banks. May God continue to bless the Curry family as they grow.

This past month we were thankful to have Bro. Jesse and Sis. Bonnie Bedolla (Detroit, MI) and Bro. Todd and Sis. Janet Sinn (Latty, OH) to worship with us. We also were blessed to listen to the reading of the Memorandum with Elder Bro. David

and Sis. Linda Steffen (Elgin, IL) and Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Jeannine Masters (Mansfield, OH).

The results from our annual business meeting are as follows: Sis. Audrey Schlatter as Sunday School teacher, Sis. Lynn Hartzler and Sis. Julie Grimm to be substitutes, Bro. Tom Hill as Sunday School Superintendent, Bro. Larry Banks as Gateway Woods Representative, Sis. Lauren Rufener as Silver Lining Reporter, Bro. Corbin Schlatter as Trustee and Sis. Jill Amos as Kitchen Committee. May God bless each of these brothers and sisters for their willingness to serve.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Vicki Boroff

We are thankful to add Sis. April Manz to our congregation. She was baptized January 8. As part of that blessed weekend, we were thankful to have visiting Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary Ann, Fairbury), and Bro. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville) minister to us.

Eleanor Gerber was hospitalized this month. We pray for our hospital patients and those that have need of a healing hand.

Bro. Larry Manz (Sis. Cheree) was appointed Assistant Cemetery Clerk, and Bro. Bud Manz was appointed Song Leader in Charge. We wish both of them God's grace as they serve.

We are excited to announce the engagement of Bro. Alan Manz (Bro. Paul and Sis. Sandra) to Sis. Minnie Baltic of Rittman (Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty). We look forward to having Sis. Minnie join us in Junction.

OHIO, LATTY

Carmen Stoller

Mindy Stoller

Our congregation is rejoicing at the announcement that our friend Martin Stoller (Bro. Craig and Sis.

Ruth) has found peace with God and man. We look forward to his baptism soon and are so thankful for God's work in him.

Likewise we are rejoicing at the announcement of the engagement of Sis. Holly Stoller (Bro. Todd and Sis. Pam) to Bro. Clint Blume (Bro. Larry and Sis. Lynell, Wolcott, IN). We are thankful to see God's hand at work in drawing them together. We wish them God's richest blessings!

With joyful hearts, Bro. Jonathon and Sis. Alexis Stoller welcomed Sophia Marie into their family on January 13. She is welcomed also by an older sister, Faith. Thrilled grandparents are Bro. Rod and Sis. LeAnn Stoller, and Bro. Randy and Sis. Sue Gasser (Detroit, MI). We pray God will lead, guide, and bless them as their family circle broadens.

We want to sincerely thank Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI), Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL); Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IN), and Bro. Tony Manz (Sis. Denise, Junction, OH) for their assistance in the ministry this past month. We pray they felt our thanks and support.

We tearfully said goodbye to our dear Sis. Delores Grant (Bro. Tom) as she passed away suddenly. Our hearts go out to the family, including her son, Bro. Phil, and his wife, Sis. Gloria Grant. May God fill the void in their lives and give them grace for each new day.

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

Matthew 5:16

We have been rejuvenated with a blessed Christmas season, and look forward to a New Year with our Lord and Savior!

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Tami Griffey

We thank Bro. Matthew Manz (Sis. Deanna, Toledo, OH) for sharing God's Word with us on Christmas morning.

Prayers are with Sis. Marcella Sauder, Sis. Sarah Rice, and Sis. Katherine Oesch as they were recently hospitalized. May God continue to heal according to His will.

The junior and senior Sunday School class hosted a benefit dinner on Friday, January 13, for the Jamaican work trip planned in the summer of 2012. May God bless all those who generously supported this project.

Sis. Miriam Bird, Bro. Charles Sauder, Eugene Sauder and Marion Sauder have our prayers and sympathy at the passing of their sibling, Sis. Wilma McCutchan. We are thankful Sis. Wilma can enter into her eternal rest, after residing in a nursing home for many years. Though unable to assemble with us during that time, we certainly remember and have missed her cheerful countenance.

On January 20, a precious daughter, Mallory Ann, was born to first-time parents, Kimberly and Geoff Gilbert. Our prayers are with little Mallory as she was hospitalized in Akron; her condition is stable. Bro. Mick and Sis. Delores Hill, Chris and Ken Dudte, and Geoff and Mary Gilbert are grandparents to this little bundle of joy.

Spring Cleaning, written by a sister in faith: A leper came to Jesus, and got down on his knees...He said, "Lord, you can make me clean and if you would, then please..." The Lord said "I am willing," and healed him then to show... His purpose is to make us clean that healing we could know. We wash our clothes and wash our cars, our houses and our dishes...But think about a clean heart as among some lofty wishes...The things we

know we need to change we often push away... Thinking, well I ought to change, but I am just that way. No time to change our goals...to more eternal view...Too busy doing all the things we think we need to do...No time to clean out corners of a heart where pride has crept...No time for dealing with a mind that's needing to be swept. For sometimes when the job looks big, we forget it's true...The cleaning is not yours or mine, but Jesus' work to do...And if we pray He'd enter in and on His mercy lean...He surely will be willing...to speak and make us clean.

OHIO, RITTMAN

**Jenny Pertee
Anna Bauman**

We wish God's blessings on Bro. Adam Gasser and Sis. Jackie Hartzler as they have announced their engagement. Their parents are Bro. Neil and Sis. Donna Gasser and Dwight and Bev Hartzler. May God be with them as they take this step in faith.

Our prayers have been with those of our congregation who have been in the hospital this month. They include Casey Shane (grandson of Bill and Sis. Kathleen Shane), Sis. Marie Bauman, and Sis. Marion Hartzler. May God be with them and grant them a quick recovery.

On January 8, Bro. Brandon Edelman (Bern, KS) and Sis. Heidi Rufener were united in marriage. Their parents are Bro. Earl and Sis. Donna Edelman (Bern, KS) and Bro. Leon and Sis. Lori Rufener. We wish them God's richest blessings as they are now one in the Lord. We will miss Sis. Heidi, but trust that she will be a blessing to the Bern congregation.

We are thankful to report many babies born this month. On December 19, Silas Ezra was born to Bro. Aaron and Sis. Holly Steiner. Also welcoming him are big sister,

Rebecca, and grandparents, Bro. Matthew and Sis. Gail Steiner and Bro. Ed and Sis. Verla Stoller (Smithville, OH). Lamin and Amy Drammeh were thankful for the safe arrival of Landon Elijah on December 19. Big brother Brayden and grandparents, Bro. Ken and Sis. Martha Steele, welcome him as well. Bro. Brently, Sis. Mollie, and Sophie Schambach of Elgin, IL, welcomed Oliver Jon on December 23. Thankful grandparents are Sis. Leann Schambach (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Earl and Sis. Susie Beery. Also on December 23, Trevor Dean was born to Lonnie and Lisa Tanner. Older siblings are Hayden, Dylan, and Drew. Grandparents are Joe and Sis. Karen Riegenbach. Tyson and Sara Hartzler became parents for the first time with the birth of Ty Joseph on December 24. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Diane Hartzler. We are very thankful for the new babies and wish them and their families' God's blessings.

We were also blessed to have many visiting ministers. They included Bro. Steve Pamer (Akron, OH), Bro. Matthew Rassi (Chicago, IL), Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS), Bro. Bradley Strahm (Bern, KS), Bro. Edwin Strahm (Bern, KS), Bro. Kurt Walter (Mansfield, OH), Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT), Bro. Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI), and Bro. Tim Gerber (Mansfield, OH). We want to thank these brothers for being willing to be used to bring forth the Word.

OHIO, SARDIS Faith Beard

With the beginning of the New Year comes our annual business meeting and election of officers. Those who have served their positions and have completed their terms are Bro. Milan Indermuhle (Sunday School Superintendent), Bro. Allen

Indermuhle (Trustee), Bro. Garth Maibach (Secretary), Bro. Dave Fisher (Usher), and Sis. Brenda Nenadov (Kitchen Committee). Those elected to fulfill these positions are, respectively, Bro. Mark Nenadov, Bro. Dave Fisher, Bro. Rob Figel, Bro. Josh Ramsier, and Sis. Dee Beard. We each have a ministry to fulfill, some more obvious and public than others, and those who work diligently "behind the scenes" are certainly just as necessary as those whose works are more seen by more people. God certainly is pleased with a cheerful giver - giver of your time and talents, giver of your resources and finances, and also the wives and the young children who give up hours of their husband's and daddy's time while he attends to church matters.

The only treacherous roads we've had so far this mild winter here in southern Ohio happened one weekend in mid January with a beautiful ice storm. We were rewarded for our efforts to navigate the curves on the way to church Sunday morning by a sheen of glass covering every twig and blade of grass. It comforts us to remember God's promise of His power over the seasons, and to be assured that any of man's efforts to control nature will only succeed as far as God wills.

His hoary frost, His fleecy snow;
Descend and clothe the ground;
The liquid streams forbear to flow,
In icy fetters bound.

He sends His word, and melts the
snow;
The fields no longer mourn;
He calls the warmer gales to blow,
And bids the spring return.

Hymns of Zion #283

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Lydia Dotterer
Gina Brake**

Several families in our congregation have been blessed with new babies. December 19 was the birth date of Silas Ezra Steiner, son of Bro. Aaron and Sis. Holly (Rittman). Silas has an older sister, Rebecca, and his grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Verla Stoller and Bro. Matt and Sis. Gail Steiner (Rittman). Elyce Jean was born to Ryan and Missy Klotzle on December 20. Her grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley Klotzle and Tom and Laura Gerber. Bro. Kyle and Sis. Diane and Kalen Indermuhle welcomed another little boy, Chance Tucker, on December 27. Bro. Dave and Sis. Connie Maletich and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Shari Indermuhle are Chance's grandparents. In November, Ayana Terefech joined the family of Bro. Aaron, Sis. Kim, and China Ott (Sarasota, FL). She was born December 29, 2010. Bro. Vic and Sis. Brenda Bauman are her grandparents.

Our prayers are with Bro. Max and Sis. Diane Miller and Bro. Jeff and Sis. Deb Gasser and their families, after the recent death of the father of Sis. Diane and Sis. Deb (Bro. Leroy Koehl, Forrest, IL).

Jim Gasser and Bro. Mark Steiner (Sis. Sue) both spent time in the hospital this month. We pray that God will be with them and grant healing according to His will.

January 15 was the wedding date of Bro. Craig and Sis. Lynelle Stoller. Bro. Craig's parents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Verla Stoller, and Sis. Lynelle's parents are Bro. Scott and Sis. Charlene Stoller. Also on that Sunday, the engagement of Bro. Adam Gasser and Sis. Jackie Hartzler was announced. Their parents are Bro. Neil and Sis. Donna Gasser (Rittman) and Dwight and Beverly Hartzler. We are thankful to see the working of God in the lives of

His children, and we wish these couples God's blessings. Visiting ministers for the wedding were Bro. Mike Ursu (Sis. Barb, Kitchener, Ontario) and Bro. Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynell, Akron).

Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. Dana Nieman (Sis. Lea, Remington, IN), Bro. Lucas Frank (Sis. Crystal, Detroit, MI), Bro. Bill Brake (Sis. Mim, Sardis), Bro. Joe Dotterer (Sis. Rose, Bloomfield, IA), Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL), Bro. Tim Ramsier (Sis. Joni, Rittman), and Bro. Larry Wenninger (Sis. Joyce, Latty).

We want to extend a welcome to Bro. Chris and Sis. Nancy Williams, who have recently moved to our area from Chicago, IL. We hope they will feel welcome here.

OHIO, TOLEDO
**Deanna Manz
Teresa Rywalski**

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."

Psalms 23:1

This is the scripture that Bro. Mark Ramsier (Sis. Alice, Sardis) brought to us on New Year's Day. What a comfort to know that our Almighty Father is always there and willing to take care of us. As we look forward to this new year, let us continue to strive for our Heavenly Home.

Congratulations to Sis. Rachel Gerber (Bro. Austin) as she has completed her graduate degree at The University of Toledo.

OREGON, PORTLAND
Rebekah Jones

In this past month, we were able to gather on two very special Sundays. Christmas Day, when we remem-

bered the humble birth of our Savior, and His walk here on earth amongst men. We also gathered on New Year's Day, and were able to reflect on the past, and look forward to another year of serving the Lord, if He tarries yet a while longer.

We rejoice with Bro. Lee Jones (Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz) and Sis. Chelsie Bahr (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Janice) of Kiowa, KS, as their engagement has been made known to the church. Our prayers are with them and their families as they prepare for a spring wedding.

Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz Jones are also thankful first-time grandparents. Dakota Elizabeth was born to Bro. Duane and Sis. Adriana Sinn (Silverton, OR).

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane) and Bro. Todd Zollinger (Sis. Michelle, Silverton, OR). We are always appreciative of the labors of our fellow brethren.

Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy Fehr departed for Texas for the winter. Though not close in body, we can keep them close to our hearts in prayer, and we trust that they will be blessed on their travels.

OREGON, SILVERTON
**Deb Roth
Kris Luthi**

Another Year Is Dawning
Another year of service, Of witness
for Thy love;
Another year of training for holier
work above.
Another year is dawning, Dear Master,
let it be,
On earth, or else in heaven, another
year for Thee.

Hymns of Zion #150

Our congregation rejoices as we reflect on our statistics for the past year. God blessed us with twelve

births, eleven baptisms and two weddings.

Bro. Tyler and Sis. Amy Kuenzi are thankful for the safe arrival of baby Grant Aden on December 25. His brothers at home are Mitchell and Jonas. Grandparents are Bro. Terry and Sis. Ann Kuenzi (Silverton) and Bro. Dean and Sis. Jackie Knobloch (Goodfield, IL). Bro. Duane and Sis. Adriana Sinn are thrilled to welcome little Dakota Elizabeth into their family on December 27. Dakota's grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Linda Sinn and Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz Jones (Portland). Babies are truly a gift from God and we are thankful for each one.

We miss Tristan and Chalsea Kuenzi as they relocated to Sioux Falls, SD, recently. They are gathering with our Lester, IA, congregation and we wish them God's blessings as they transition. Jaclyn (Bro. Jack and Sis. Janet) Kuenzi has moved to Seattle, WA, for a nursing position there. We miss having her nearby and pray for God's protection.

Never Alone

How many times, discouraged,
We sink beside the way.
About us all is darkness,
We hardly dare to pray.
Then, thro the mists and shadows,
The sweetest voice e'er known
Says, "Child, am I not with thee,
Never to leave thee alone?"

Hymns of Zion #127

Our sympathy goes to Chad and Sis. Cathy Stadel and their children, Jens, Annika and Trey, as they grieve the loss of Cathy's father, Cleason Helms. This past month several brethren needed medical attention. Andrea (Lyle) Kuenzi, Bro. Bob (Sis. Linda) Kuenzi, Ron (Ginger) Lichty, Bro. Ed (Sis. Shirley) Zollinger and Sis. Carol (Bro. Greg) Wackerle and their families were all in our thoughts and prayers as they underwent sur-

gery or were hospitalized seriously ill. We are thankful for God's healing hand on each of them. There are others who have ongoing health concerns, struggles emotionally or spiritually or who are growing tired in their long pilgrim journey. We remember them to our Father also. We ask Him to continue to offer grace to the humble and to lift up the discouraged.

Sis. Abigail (Bro. Mark and Sis. Elsie) Sinn was united in Holy Matrimony to Bro. Joel (Bro. Tom and Sis. JoAnn) Steiner on January 15 from our congregation in Oakville, IA. We rejoice with them. Their vows of love and fidelity to each other remind us of our vows as a church to our bridegroom the Lord Jesus Christ. May we stay true and faithful to our Saviour and gladly serve Him. Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie), Bro. John Steiner (Sis. Carol) and Bro. Dale Frank (Sis. Christine), all from Oakville, IA, ministered to us the weekend of the wedding. We are thankful for them and the many other visiting brethren that made the effort to be here.

Jason and Sis. Lynn Rees and children, Jacob, David, Michael and Emily, have a new address since recently moving from the military base in Anchorage, AK, to a home of their own. They would appreciate your prayers and correspondence, as they are so isolated from the brethren.

Jason and Lynn Rees
18937 Sarichef Loop
Eagle River, AK 99577

PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

"Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful."

Luke 6:36

We were recently reminded in a

sermon of God's great love and forgiveness toward us. We were also reminded that this is how we should respond to others. Where would we be if God had decided we were not good enough to "deserve" His love and forgiveness? Do we have the right to decide whether our neighbor deserves to be loved when God has been so good to us? May we always keep in mind what God has done for us and respond in love and compassion to every one we meet.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE Mike and Monica Fritz

We have been greatly blessed by God's Living Word, brought to us so capably by our recent visiting ministering brothers: Bros. Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane; Bluffton North, IN); Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy; Tremont, IL); Randy Gudeman (Sis. Becky; Francesville, IN); and Byron Stoller (Sis. Carol; Gridley, IL). We have also appreciated the fellowship of brethren and friends visiting from Gridley, Princeville, Roanoke, and Tremont, IL; Bluffton North and Francesville, IN; and Bloomfield, IA.

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: Phoenix, AZ (2/26); Morton, IL (3/4); Elgin, IL (3/11); Fairbury, IL (3/18); Cissna Park, IL (3/25). 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. Also, we typically meet on Wednesday evenings at 7:15 p.m. for call-in services and would welcome any midweek visitors. Contacts are Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz, (615)866-5543 (fritzmb.family@gmail.com); and Sis. Gwen Leuthold, (615) 356-5755.

TEXAS, AUSTIN**Serenity and Jasmine Ringger**

Lane Hartzler (Sis. Karen Hartzler, Rittman, OH; and Richard Hartzler) and Lanae Sauder (Bro. Dan and Sis. Pam Sauder, Mansfield, OH) have announced their engagement. The wedding date is set for April 21. Our prayers are with them as they make their plans.

The World Relief project here in the Bastrop area started at the beginning of January and we have been blessed with willing hearts and hands that have come to be a part of the work. We appreciate the extra fellowship and hope that all have a safe and pleasant time here.

Ministers who came to preach the Word were Bros. Lucas Frank (Sis. Crystal, Detroit, MI), James Knapp (Congerville, IL), Chris Laukhuf (Latty, OH), Randy Beer (Milford, IN), and Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX).

The following is the minister schedule for March: (4) Champaign, IL; (11) Sabetha, KS; and (25) West Bend, IA.

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

TEXAS, McALLEN**Gloria Walder**

We appreciate so much our visiting ministers who give of their God-given time and talents to bring us the Word of Life. Truly our hearts are stirred up by way of remembrance as we hear again of Job and others.

May God bless Bro. Ned Bahler (Sis. Anna, Fairbury IL), Bro. Ken Schneider (Sis. Bernice, Remington, IN) and Bro. Craig Stickling (Sis. Jacki, Peoria, IL). We also enjoyed other visitors from Congerville and Peoria.

Services are scheduled for March 4 – Washington, IL; March 11 – Eureka, IL; March 18 – Latty, OH; April 1 – Taylor, MO. We also meet on

Wednesday evenings at the home of Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Joyce Nohl.

Please call them if you can join us.

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

TEXAS, ZAPATA**Mary Plattner**

Our Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy) traveled to Zapata to share the Memorandum with us. We appreciate the time he and his wife were able to spend with us and anticipate their return next month.

Our visiting ministers this past month have been Bro. Tim Zimmerman (Sis. Barbara, Lamont-Gridley) and Bro. Ken Schneider (Sis. Bernice, Remington). We certainly appreciate their labors of love.

We are happy to hear that our convert, Alisha Ramirez, has found peace. May she continue to feel this peace as she grows in the Lord. We are happy to have her and little Juana assemble with us each weekend. She currently lives in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico and travels to Zapata for services. We look forward to the day when her husband Endi is able to assemble with us as well.

VERMONT**NORTH CLARENDON****Nathan and Miriam Reutter**

We are so thankful for the visiting ministers and their dear wives who came to serve us this month. They were our Elder Bro. Kevin (Sis.

Cheryl) Ryan, Bro. Duane (Sis. Kay) Reutter, and Bro. Warren (Sis. Bonnie) Zahner. We are thankful for the Gospel message being spread to Northern New England, a dry and thirsty land. May God continue to work here.

“But I say, Have they not heard? Yes, verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.”

Romans 10:18

If you are interested in fellowship with us here in Vermont, and would like information about dates of services, please contact Bro. Chad & Sis. Jenny Virkler (802-293-2724). We love to fellowship with believers whether it is during the week or on the weekend. Please let us know if you are planning on being in our area so we can accommodate you.

Service times are as follows:

Mid-week services

(Contact local brethren)

Sunday Morning Service

10:10 AM

Sunday Afternoon Service

12:15 PM

Sunday school is held during the morning service.



2012 Athens/Tennessee Memorial Day Weekend planned for May 26-27

Plan to come and invite your family and friends

Planning is currently underway for the 2012 Athens/Tennessee Memorial Day Weekend scheduled on May 26-27. Everyone is invited and welcome to come for a wonderful weekend of fellowship, singing and worship. An auction is again being planned for Saturday afternoon beginning at 2:00 p.m. See additional weekend schedule details below. Save the date, plan to come and feel free to invite your friends and family.

Saturday, May 26 — All activities at the Tennessee Fellowship Area located in Pulaski, Tenn.

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

Sunday, May 27

- 10:00 a.m. — Church services at Athens Apostolic Christian Church in Athens, Ala.
- 3:30 p.m. — Fellowship begins at Tennessee Fellowship Area
- 4:00 p.m. — Singing
- 5:00 p.m. — Minister speaks
- 5:30 p.m. — Supper
- 7:00 p.m. — Singing

Bus from Central Illinois: A bus will again be chartered from Morton, Ill. If you are interesting in riding it to the Tennessee Fellowship Area, please contact Andy or Jayne Sauder at (309)263-9965 or e-mail them at jayne.sauder@gmail.com.

Look for more communication on weekend details in upcoming issues of The Silver Lining, through your local church and via the AC e-mail list. If you have additional questions, please contact:

- Sis. Gwen Leuthold — 615-969-0958 or leutholdg@aol.com
- Bro. Don Sauder — 615-373-8928 or don.sauder@juno.com
- Bro. Kerwin Edelman — 256-777-1107 or 256-230-2151 or edelmanteam100@gmail.com
- Bro. Andy Stoller — 330-682-8171 or andrew.stoller@juno.com

Director of Nursing Needed

Country Inn Enhanced Living Center, near Latty, Ohio is seeking a Director of Nursing for its 40 bed assisted living facility. DON would assist current administration and medical director to ensure that excellent care be maintained for residents. Candidate must be currently licensed as LPN or RN and able to obtain Ohio licensure. Please contact Paula Nuest, Administrator at 260-348-8001 or countryinn@live.com for complete job description.

*Country Inn Enhanced Living Center is committed to providing loving care
and a tranquil environment in harmony with Biblical principles*



Education Intern

Gateway Woods is in need of a Education Intern for the summer of 2012. The Education Intern position offers the opportunity to grow deep relationships with Gateway Woods Staff, as well as the chance to grow as a teacher and spend a significant amount of one-on-one time with residents. If you feel the call to explore the possibilities and to have a positive impact in the lives of residents this summer, please call one of the brothers listed below.

Summer Volunteer Coordinator

Gateway Woods is currently searching for a Summer Volunteer Coordinator. The Summer Volunteer Coordinator position offers the opportunity to grow deep relationships with fellow volunteers as well as Gateway Woods Staff and residents. If you feel the call to explore the possibilities, please call one of the brothers listed below.

Top Quality Coordinator

Gateway Woods is in need of a Top Quality Coordinator for the summer of 2012. The Top Quality Coordinator position offers the opportunity to grow deep relationships with Gateway Woods Staff and summer volunteers, as well as the chance to spend a significant amount of one-on-one time with residents. If you feel the call to explore the possibilities and to have play a role in a group of residents lives this summer, please call one of the brothers listed below:

Adam McAfee
 School Administrator
 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
 260-657-1033

Light From The Word

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

After entering the web site, click on the item located in the left hand frame entitled, "Light from the Word Reprints". The entire set of editorials are available in a complete download (*June 1987 through February 2012*).

Sermon continued from page 2

times that we don't and then there is correction.

"...for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition:" v.3. I don't know when that is going to occur. There are many guesses. But why do you and I want to fear? We don't. What do we depend upon? You and I, as individuals in Christ, are filled with hope; hope that doesn't make us ashamed, but hope that builds a promise, because our faith is built upon the promise of Christ. If we believe in Him, then what? We are the children of God.

"Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God." v.4 We can go to many expositors, many individuals who have written on this, and there are a lot of different ideas. But we can go to Jerusalem today and there is not a temple there - the remnants of Solomon's temple, yes. But there is not a temple. Yet, I can tell you today from the reading that I've done, they have the materials for a temple. They are all warehoused. They have everything that is to go in there, the priestly robes, all of the utensils; they have everything to do it. How long does it take you, for some builder out here to put up a metal building? Not very long. In just a matter of days or months they can have a temple. Is it the temple that is going to be used? I don't know. Is it the temple that Christ the Redeemer is going to occupy when He comes to set up His kingdom upon this earth? I don't know. But there will be one done.

Jesus said, "Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way."

v. 5-7. Again that is a portion of Scripture that many individuals have different opinions on. I can tell you what I think and that's all. But there will come a time when upon this earth iniquity will be so great, that it seems that all mankind is following after the way of Satan. But what is going to take place before then? I believe that the Church will be taken out. This is the term that we get from the Latin, that is called the rapture, the catching away. Perhaps this is what it is, because when the Church is taken out, as a body, when the believers in Christ are caught up, as I Thessalonians 4 tells us, who is going to be here to oppose the unrighteous? Who is going to stand up and say, abortion is wrong? Who is going to say, thou shalt not steal? Who is going to say, you shouldn't embezzle? Who is going to stand for the things that are right? Because we know from the Book of Revelation that those who do oppose, those who in that time will confess Christ as the Lord and Savior will probably be martyrs upon this land. They will lose their life. To me, this is the way I have been directed to interpret this and I may be wrong. But I think the Holy Spirit - as He has promised to each and every one who confesses the Lord Jesus Christ, is given to that individual to guide, direct and lead - will be taken out of the way. It will be back as in the Old Testament, he will fall upon those who God directs it to.

"And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth..." v.10. Wickedness will abound. It is kind of a downer for a message for this evening, isn't it? What is there for you and I? What is there for the believer in Christ? "But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:" v.13. He ends this chapter by telling us the promise. He

ends this chapter by giving us that little word called hope; the promise of eternal life, the promise of being lead - not on a rose petaled path - but sometimes through tribulations. Aren't we reminded that tribulation works patience and extends on down to love (Romans 5:3-5)?

Whereunto were you called, by the call of man? No, but you are called by our Gospel. (II Thessalonians 2:14) As servants we have to speak the Word, the Word as it is here. I can't speak anything else. So we are called by the Word, by the Gospel, by salvation through one and one only; the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore brethren He tells us what to do. Stand fast (v. 15)! Stand fast! Sometimes we have not, we've yielded. But he tells us, stand fast! In Ephesians 6 he tells us to put on the armor of God, put on the helmet of salvation, gird yourself with the Word, take on the sword of the Spirit, put on the shoes and you will stand fast.

"...hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle. Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work." II Thessalonians 2:15-17. I love that word grace, because you know what it is? Grace is a gift that has been given to you and to me that we did not deserve. It's a gift that God through the Lord Jesus Christ gives each and every one of us, not corporately, but individually, and we did not deserve it. But He asks us to do one thing. He asks us there, comfort your hearts, and stablish you, conduct your life in what you do and what you say.

For many years I've been wanting to visit Gateway Woods. I got to visit there today. Thank you for a wonderful place. Yes, it is by the effort of man, but it is by the grace of God.

Important Notice to Americans Crossing the Canadian Border by Land.

All adults will need just one of the following documents:

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

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

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

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

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

We currently have outlets for Bibles, Bible Story Books, Hymns of Zion, Gospel Hymns, and Tabernacles. There is presently no outlet for Zions Harps.

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

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

BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

Sharing The Word In Love

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

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

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

To order, contact,

Apostolic Christian Church

Bible Distribution

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

Rochester, MN Christian Guesthouse & Worship Services

Accommodations for Mayo Clinic outpatients and families
 3 bedrooms with private baths, laundry, kitchen and family room area.

Sunday services (10:00 am & 12:30pm) are held monthly @ guesthouse residence.

For schedule see: www.acmission.org/minister-rotation

For information and reservations, please call

Caretakers: Bro. Mark & Sis. Sandy Stork - (507)288-0072

Address: 4733 Birdie Lane NW, Rochester, MN 55901

Mid-week services in the Rochester area on the 3rd Wednesday

Contacts: Bro. Jim & Sis. Deb Tilbury - (507)281-2875



Assistant Houseparent Needed

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

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

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

Director of Culinary Services

Apostolic Christian Skylines is looking for a professional who is highly motivated and interested in creating a superior restaurant dining experience for the elderly of our long term care community. An individual with hotel or restaurant culinary skills is preferred. Responsibilities would include:

- Plan, organize and supervise daily operations.
- Direct and coordinate the work production for our kitchen, dining room and café.
- Maintain proper production, safety and sanitation standards.
- Direct and participate in the daily preparation of standard and gourmet food items.
- Maintain proper inventory controls for food, supplies and equipment.
- Control revenue and expenses to ensure financial goals.
- Have a passion for customer relations and creating a superior dining experience for the elderly.

We offer very competitive wages and benefits. This is an excellent opportunity to make a profound difference in the lives of the elderly within a ministry of the Apostolic Christian Church.

Please contact Matt Feucht at 309-683-2512 if you are interested.

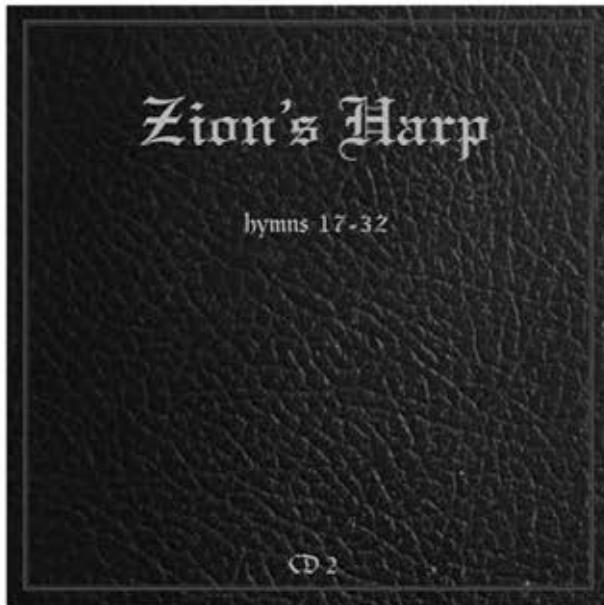


805 W. Cuzer Street, Box 52
Eureka, IL 61530
Ph. 309-467-3611
Hours: Mon.—Fri. 8:30 to
11:30 CST/CDT

Online ordering available at
www.acpublications.org

Newly Released.

Zion's Harp - CD2 Hymns 17-32



The **Zion's Harp** is the official and cherished hymnal of the Apostolic Christian Church. It has been a part of the church since the denomination was established. It contains hymns written as far back as the 15th century, and hymn tunes written as late as the 1990's. Powerful, vivid, and meaningful lyrics combine with beautiful four-part harmony written for men and women to form a hymn book that is loved and deeply appreciated.
Price — \$15

This CD is the second in a series of recordings with the singing done in "a capella" fashion.

Includes a 24-page booklet describing the history of the hymnal, songs, authors, and composers.

How to Order:

Online at www.acpublications.org During Business Hours: call 309-467-3611
After Hours: Call 309-467-3611 leave a message, or fax to the same number.

~*****~

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



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN

Counseling and Family Services

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

Parenting - Part 1

This is the first of a six article series covering the following parenting topics: 1) Relationships, 2) Seasons, 3) Communication, 4) Instruction, 5) Discipleship, and 6) Problem Solving for Challenges. These six topics are covered in greater detail on ACCFS' website, located in the parenting section as part of the "Parenting with a Purpose" material. Every Christian parent's heart echoes *3 John 4* where it says, "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth." As parents, we are given many principles that we might "bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." The "Parenting with a Purpose" material brings together biblical principles on parenting in an effort to help provide structure and guidance to the journey of parenting. When Daniel "purposed in his heart," he was choosing to be directed by a commitment to God rather than his circumstances. To parent with a purpose means to understand the importance and urgency of your interactions with your children. Knowing the impact of your actions helps you keep an eternal perspective based on biblical principles, rather than parenting in a reactionary, incident by incident manner. May God bless your desire to point your child toward Christ.

RELATIONSHIPS

Spoke 1 of 6 from the Parenting with a Purpose Parenting Wheel

What purpose does this concept have in the parenting wheel?

Parenting must be built on the foundation of relationship.

Without a relationship built on biblical principles and motivated by biblical goals, parents will not be able to positively impact their children spiritually despite having good motives, intentions, and instructions.

The relationship you have with your child will impact how he views all of his future relationships, including his relationship with God and His creation.

What does this concept look like in "real life" mode?

Building Trust: Healthy relationships are built through experiences. Consider *John 10:3-4*, where the sheep follow the Shepherd because they know His voice. This would lead us to believe the sheep had heard the Shepherd's voice before and had experiences that lead them to trust that He had their best interests in mind. How you interact with your children will affect your relationship

with them and whether or not they believe you to be trustworthy. Knowing this, you can use your interactions, whether positive or negative, as opportunities to build your relationship with them. While positive times together are certainly more pleasant, a parent who offers an apology and asks for forgiveness after negative interaction provides a powerful model of humility, repentance, and confession. This also demonstrates that parents are often learning just as much as their children through this process!

Knowing Your Child: A core aspect of relationships is *knowing and being known* by someone. This takes time, effort, sacrifice, and shared experiences. Consider how this applies to your relationship with your child. How well would your child say that you know her interests, struggles, peers, etc.?

Acknowledging God as Creator: Your child has been uniquely fashioned by God (*Psalms 139*). However, your child's talents and gifts are also coupled with natural weaknesses. One of a parent's most important parenting tasks is encouraging each child to draw on their strengths while identifying and working to either overcome or accept their weaknesses, depending on what they are. By helping a child understand and accept both their God-given talents and their natural weaknesses, the child will be more free to develop a healthy sense of who God created them to be.

Shaping Your Child's View of God: The parent-child bond provides the foundation for a child's concept of God. This very humbling and weighty responsibility is also a wonderful privilege. Just think, you get to help your child grow in understanding and relating to God! Your primary goal in the parent-child relationship is to lead them to an "Abba father" relationship with God (*Galatians 4:6-7*, "And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ"). By building a healthy relationship with your child, you are beginning to develop in them a healthy view of God and the world around them.

Recognizing that Growth Takes Time, Persistence, and Patience: Maturing and growing takes time for all of us. Parents must understand that children do not mature overnight; many lessons will need to

be taught repeatedly. It can be very frustrating for parents to have to deal with certain problems (e.g., sharing, minding, etc.) over and over.

Building Connected Relationships:

Begin building relationships by turning your heart first to the Lord, then to your spouse, and finally to your children. Your relationships with your children will be hindered if your relationships with God and your spouse aren't good. Your relationship with your spouse will affect your child. To teach biblical principles to your children but not follow them in your marital relationship is in effect the double-mindedness warned against in the book of *James (1:8)*.

How does this concept benefit children?

Relationships Have a Lasting Impact:

Relationships are interconnected; they do not exist in a vacuum. Who you are and how you interact with your child will shape who they become. If your child feels safe and secure in their relationship with you, they will recognize and understand what a healthy relationship looks like. Understand that God is at work in both you and your child's lives. Trials, including trials in relationships, will expose sin, brokenness, and the need for forgiveness. God uses your parenting to help mold and shape your child. Likewise, God uses children to mold and shape parents. Through the challenges of the parent-child relationship, God can expose the need for what only He can do in their lives. The wise parent understands the dependence and reliance we have on Him.

Personal REFLECTION: (How am I doing in this area?)

How is your relationship with Christ? Are you growing your attachment with Him?

How is your relationship with your spouse? In what ways is it modeling the type of relationship that reflects God's design? In what areas could your marital relationship better reflect God's design for marriage?

How is your relationship with your children? Would they say with confidence that they feel your love? Do they know you have clear expectations and standards for their behavior?

Identify at least two action items as to how you could build a healthier relationship with your child.

Interested in Houseparenting?



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

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

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

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

Director of Operations Job Opening at Hospital Lumiere

As the Lord opens the hearts, we are searching for a Director of Operations who will be acting as the Chief Operating officer for Hospital Lumiere at Bonne Fin, Haiti. Under the direction of the hospital board, the director is to enable the hospital to provide, in a Godly way, the best care possible within the Haiti environment.

Some responsibilities will include overseeing: staffing, training, recordkeeping, hospital team building, efficient operations and maintenance of facilities, monitor community needs, excellent communication through all facets of the hospital operations and management, and chair various hospital committees.

As the Lord lays this opportunity to serve on your heart, please contact:

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



 APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
World Relief
www.acworldrelief.org

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

Apostolic Christian Medical Fellowship

Greeting brothers and sisters,

On April 28th, 2012, the Apostolic Christian Medical Fellowship (ACMF) will be meeting in Princeville IL. This is a forum within the Apostolic Christian Church for sharing information and encouraging the healthcare providers with an advanced degree: MD, DO, DC, DDS, PA, APN, & CRNA, as well as students in those respective fields. Registration begins at 12:30pm with the meeting starting at 1pm. This will be the 4th meeting of this fellowship which meets biennially. A program agenda will be sent once it has been finalized.

If you are not currently on the ACMF list of health care providers or need to change your contact information, please email Bro. Todd Stoller at tstoller@grics.net. Questions about ACMF can be directed to Bro. Lee Klopfenstein at ldklopf@live.com or Sis. Cheryl Herrmann at cherrmann@frontier.com

Give a Child Hope

Child Sponsorships

Those in the child sponsorship program have several things in common. They are very poor, desire to learn and they have an undying soul.



The goal of this program is to provide an education to help these children

learn life skills to improve their standard of living, and also to provide spiritual training to address the true need...the need for a knowledge of and a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children. Isaiah 54:13

To sponsor a child

To sponsor a student fill out this form and send to the office. A student will be assigned to you and you will be sent further information.

Name _____

Mr. Mrs. Miss

Spouse _____

Address _____

City _____ St ____ Zip _____

Home Ph _____

Cell Ph _____

Email _____

Please check preference:

- Haiti Guatemala
 Mexico Jamaica
 Zambia Wherever needed

If possible I would prefer:

Boy – Age _____

Girl – Age _____

No Preference

Cost: \$25.00/month

For details: www.acworldrelief.org

Send to:

ACWR Child Sponsorship

PO Box 36

Morton, IL 61550

Phone: 309-266-6080

Fax: 309-266-5281

E-mail: childsponsorship@acwr.org



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
World Relief

www.acworldrelief.org

CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 2012

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

HAITI

Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of February 11th, 2012 -www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/

Project	Year 2012	Coordinator	Capacity				
Les Cayes MEBSH Construction	Mar 2-9	Rodney Menold rminpeoria@hotmail.com	12	Les Cayes MEBSH Haiti Support	Apr 13-16	Rich Bertschi 309-467-2351 lemangm@mtco.com	WR-CC
Puits Sales Palm Grove Construction	Mar 5-13	John Aberle 785-459-2423 jraberle@hotmail.com	12	Bonne Fin, Haiti Hospital Lumiere Facility Renovation	Apr 21-28	Daryl Luginbuhl 484-433-1205 daryluginbuhl@gmail.com	12
Les Cayes MEBSH Maintenance	Mar 9-16	Jon Zeller 309-266-9009 jzeller@mtco.com	12	Bonne Fin, Haiti Hospital Lumiere Facility Renovation	May 5-12	Daryl Luginbuhl 484-433-1205 daryluginbuhl@gmail.com	12
Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Mar 9-16	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 rick@wuethrichfarms.com	4	Bonne Fin, Haiti Hospital Lumiere Facility Renovation	Jun 2-9	Daryl Luginbuhl 484-433-1205 daryluginbuhl@gmail.com	12
Les Cayes MEBSH Construction	Mar 16-23	Rich Bertschi 309-467-2351 lemangm@mtco.com	12	Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Jun 8-15	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 rick@wuethrichfarms.com	4
Les Cayes SEED Agricultural Aid	Mar 23-30	Larry Kaufmann 815-716-6018 ljkaufmann@juno.com	12	Bonne Fin, Haiti Hospital Lumiere Facility Renovation	Jul 14-21	Daryl Luginbuhl 484-433-1205 daryluginbuhl@gmail.com	12
Les Cayes AWA Water Aid	Apr 6-13	Maurice Schaefer 309-925-3740 schaefs2@gmail.com	4	Bonne Fin, Haiti Hospital Lumiere Facility Renovation	Aug 4-11	Daryl Luginbuhl 484-433-1205 daryluginbuhl@gmail.com	12

HAITI - MEDICAL WORK TEAMS

Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of February 11th, 2012 -www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/

Project	Year 2012	Coordinator	Capacity				
Hospital Lumiere at Bonne Fin, Haiti Haiti Medical Team	Mar 9-17	Alice Widmer 330-939-0083 alice.widmer@jmsmucker.com	8-10	Hospital Lumiere at Bonne Fin, Haiti Haiti Medical Team	May 18-26	Alice Widmer 330-939-0083 alice.widmer@jmsmucker.com	8-10
Hospital Lumiere at Bonne Fin, Haiti Haiti Medical Team	Apr 27-May 5	Alice Widmer 330-939-0083 alice.widmer@jmsmucker.com	8-10				

Haiti and Jamaica Work Team Code Definitions

CCCD = Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf
MEBSH = Missions of Evangelical Baptists of South Haiti
Palm Grove = Mission of Haiti
S.E.E.D. = An Agricultural School & Extension Service
TBA = To Be Announced
Palm Grove = Mission of Haiti

A.W.A. - B. = Apostolic Water Aid/Bluffton
A.W.A. - FRW = Apostolic Water Aid/Francesville, Remington,
 Wolcott
A.W.A. - T = Apostolic Water Aid/Tremont
(*) = Changes or additions since last issue
()** = Spring Break Timeframe

MEXICO

If anyone is interested in leading a team to Mexico, contact Bro. Mike Fiechter at 260-597-7330 or mfiechter@onlyinternet.net
 Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of February 11th, 2012 -www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-mexico/

Location	Year 2012	Coordinator			
Reynosa Medical	Mar 7-14	Todd Drayer 260-273-3112 todd.drayer@gmail.com		Magdalena Construction	Jun 9-16 Steve Leuthold Peoria Bible Class 309-249-2141 sleuth@speerbank.com
Magdalena Construction	Mar 10-17	Lance Martin Illinois State University isuyounggroup@gmail.com		Magdalena Construction	Jun 16-23 Andy Sauder Morton Bible Class 309-263-9965 andy.sauder@gmail.com
Magdalena Construction	Mar 24-31	Jeff Leman Bluffton Senior Class 260-565-3815 jeffleman62@gmail.com		Magdalena Construction	Jun 23-30 Jeff Rocke Taylor Bible Class 573-231-5849 jeff@rocksolidcustombuilders.com
Magdalena Construction	Mar 31-Apr 7	Curt Hodel Roanoke Bible Class 309-923-8091 cjhodel@gmail.com		Magdalena Construction	Jul 21-28 Rick Kaisner Chicago Bible Class 847-942-1174 rick@kaisner.org

JAMAICA

Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of February 11th, 2012 -www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/

Project	Year 2012	Coordinator	Capacity				
Montego Bay CCCD	Mar 31-Apr 7	Tim Wiegand 260-627-8019 twiegand@blackhawkchristian.org	Leo SS	Knockpatrick CCCD	Jun 23-30	Peter Webel 419-564-5691 Wpw47@aol.com	Ohio SS
Knockpatrick CCCD	Jun 6-9	Keith Herrmann 309-639-4349 kgreetings@winco.net	Princeville SS	Montego Bay CCCD	Jun 23-30	Steve Gerber 260-437-1670 srgerber@live.com	Bluffton SS
Deaf Village CCCD	Jun 8-16	Ted Hirstein 309-266-8769 hirstein@mtco.com	40	Knockpatrick CCCD	Jul 7-14	Calvin Teubel 217-552-6515 cbteubel@hotmail.com	Champaign SS



The biography of Elder Earnest Graf continues. He served for many years as an Elder at the Akron, Ohio congregation.

Working As A Farmhand

The farm on which the Hiltys lived and which consisted of 40 acres was very stony, so I was set to work to pick up stones and carry them in a wooden bucket on piles, from whence they were later hauled with team and wagon and dumped into a creek bed.

Each field, after plowing, and while it was being prepared for planting or sewing, was gone over for stones which were good and plentiful. Then came cornhoeing time, in which task Mr. Hilty gave me very minute instructions, even to the breaking off or pulling out suckers. After haying and harvest, the corn received another hoeing. Mr. Hilty started me out on this work one morning, saying he would come out later. I asked whether I should break off the suckers again, to which he replied yes.

I had never seen any corn grow till that year. The ears were just starting to grow out of the stalks. I supposed these were a kind of sucker, so I pulled off every one as far as I got that forenoon. Luckily I got only about 4 rows hoed. After dinner, Mr. Hilty took another hoe and went to the field with me. On the way out I explained that the stalks were full of suckers again, only these were coming out higher. He could not understand this, but it became plain enough when we got to the field.

He hardly knew whether to laugh

or frown, but with great patience explained to me what the supposed suckers were. He asked me, "Where did you suppose the ears came from?" I answered that I expected they would grow out of the top of the grain stock, of course.

One of my last jobs for this good man was picking up about 10 bushels of acorns which he fed to the hogs, saying it improved the taste of the pork. As an incentive not to grow weary he paid me 5 cents a bushel.

Family Togetherness

About this time, the great muck swamp near Lodi was being cleared. My father, after Mr. Graber did not need him anymore, heard of this through a relative, Melchoir Schaad, who lived near Lodi. So he obtained employment there, and determined, with the two youngest girls to start housekeeping, and to take me home.

So one day I took leave of the Hilty farm to which I had become quite attached, and was taken to a place some distance west of Creston where my father had rented an old log house and 1 acre of land at \$ 3.00 per month. Here my sisters, Rosa and Louise, were already established as housekeepers. The work in the Lodi swamp having been discontinued for the winter, my father busied himself cutting wood and toward spring he trimmed grape vines and orchards for the farmers. This often took him miles from home so that he would often be gone several days or a week at a time. We three children were therefore left alone a great part

of the time.

Our Rented Home

Louise and I walked a mile and a half to school while Rosa, who was then 15, kept house. The house was at the end of a long lane with no other dwellings near. It was also infested with rats. I slept in a trundle bed, which is a bed without legs and can be pushed under another ordinary bed during daytime. Often, the rats climbed up and ran across this low bed. I kept a large feather duster handy (which I found in the attic) and with that I would strike at them to keep them off of my person.

As father earned only 75 cents to \$ 1.00 a day, we felt the pinch of poverty that winter. Sometimes we would run out of wood before father came home. At such times I would go up and down the Wheeling and Lake Erie Railroad track and pick up lumps of coal which sometimes fell off as the coal trains went around a curve.

I learned to pull one end of a cross-cut saw, and when father was home a day or two we would saw up trees which were dead in Mr. McKelvey's woods and haul this wood home. I would split it up evenings and Saturdays.

*Edited by
Bro. Perry Klopfenstein
(Gridley, IL)*

Next Issue:

This series will be continued

The Light Of Hope

“A Peculiar People”

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

Are God’s people still a peculiar people or are many professing Christians now convinced that they must be more like the world in order to win the world to Christ? It is a question worth considering in light of God’s Word.

The term “peculiar people” is used twice in the New Testament, in Titus 2:14 and in I Peter 2:9. Titus reads, “Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.” Peter reads, “But ye are a chosen priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”

The above translations are from the King James Bible which is highly respected as a very spiritually accurate translation. Another possible translation for the word “peculiar” is “a people belonging to God.” The Japanese translators favored the latter translation. Either way, it means a people different from the norm. The question is, “have we lost that?” Do we secretly want to be like the world?

In what ways are we to be peculiar or are we to show that we belong to God? Is it not that we conduct our worship services in a manner whereby we can concentrate on God’s Word which is being spoken? Isn’t it that our adorning be the hidden man of the heart and not the outward adorning? Isn’t it that we try to not love the things of this world, the lust of flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life? Isn’t that we should come out from among the people of the world and touch not the unclean thing? What has happened to all these teach-

ings?

I know that the temptation and the teaching is out there, that it is the condition of the heart that counts and that being very different from the world is an attempt to earn our salvation and it makes the grace of God of no effect. Yet the Lord Jesus Christ said, “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.” Matthew 7:21. It seems to me that we better be searching the Word to see what is the Father’s will and then we better be doing it. That is not to earn our salvation but to show that our faith is genuine. “The devils also believe and tremble.” (Written by the Lord’s brother, James 2:19.)

Some sincere brethren now believe that, if we are married, we should be wearing wedding rings. Otherwise some man might ask a married sister for a date. What about the unmarried sisters, are they supposed to wear wedding rings, too, in order to avoid being asked for a date? Isn’t being asked for a date a wonderful opportunity to witness for the Lord? Or are we trying to get by without anyone finding out that we are children of God? What has happened to Peter’s exhortation, “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear?” I Peter 3:15

What’s the purpose of some sisters painting their toe nails or finger nails? Is that an indication of humility and the inward adorning of the heart? Have we entered a mode where we are always trying to figure out how we can avoid the

guidelines of our church and thereby be more like the world? Surely we should all go the second mile in being more and more like the Bible teaches us to be, as taught by our church. Our church guidelines were not just dreamed up out of the blue, they are really helpful in living a humble, modest, spiritual life.

Another aspect of being peculiar or a people belonging to God, is that we should share the Gospel with others and do what we can to help others. It is amazing what the brothers and sisters in our church will do and are doing on a volunteer basis. When it comes to giving money, time, and effort, our church denomination probably gives more and does more per capita than any other Christian Denomination in America. I have been told that our church’s Servant Fund now supports 36 brothers and sisters who have gone out in the Lord’s work.

We must face the facts. When we go to the jails, and teach God’s Word in other cultures, we have more contact with other Christians who do not have the same guidelines as we have. Then some of our brothers and sisters may think, “Why they are very spiritual and they don’t wear head coverings and they don’t greet with a holy kiss, so let’s be like they are.” Isn’t it true then that we must put forth double effort to be obedient to the Bible in many things that others may think are not important.

We do not want to be peculiar to attract attention to ourselves, as if we were somebody. We want to be peculiar in the sense that we follow the teachings of the Bible and enjoy doing so.

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

*Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not,
nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them:
While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain...
Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken,
or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern.
Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.*

*Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher; all is vanity...
Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God,
and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.
For God shall bring every work into judgment,
with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.*

Ecclesiastes 12:1-2, 6-8, 13-14