

# *The Silver Lining*



*For thou hast been a strength to the poor,  
a strength to the needy in his distress,  
a refuge from the storm,  
a shadow from the heat,  
when the blast of the terrible ones  
is as a storm against the wall.*

*Isaiah 25:4*



*March 2012*

*Sermon by Bro. Curt Rassi, Tremont, IL*

## St. Mark 16:1-8, St. John 20:1-17 & St. Luke 24:13-35

There was a writer of a hymn who thought about Easter Sunday morning, I think. He wrote these words: Oh who among the sons of men, By word or song or deed or pen, Can ever fittingly convey The meaning of this blessed day. It gilds the holy sacred page, It brings to every clime and age, To every people tribe and race The story of redeeming grace. (Easter, Hymns of Zion #89) And don't we welcome Easter Day!

Easter morning - welcome everyone who's come to worship together. We are thankful that we can come together as a body, those that love the Word of God and that have this hope within our heart, that have anticipation because it is Easter Sunday. We pray that our prayers will be answered. It is a bit of a confession, but there is the thought upon the heart of the speaker that there ought to be some words, some message that is really going to captivate, that is really going to be right there for each one. And yet, oh who among the sons of men, by word or deed or pen can ever really convey the love of our great God and Father, can convey the love of Jesus Christ and His willingness to come, can convey the hope that lies within us! Can we really put words to hope, the hope of the dawning of a morning - when the tomb was empty? The dawning of hope within hearts to say, "Jesus lives, and I live with Him!" Just words beloved, they are just words.

This week, which Gospel did you appreciate the most as you read the account in this Gospel or that one? What did you enjoy the most - the Gospel that you went back to again and again? For it is recorded there, and it's beautiful that there is a bit of a different flavor from one to the other, but it is just words, beloved and so might our prayers be answered. For it is our prayer that our heart be opened to the Spirit of Almighty God, who knows exactly how Easter morning fits your heart and fits mine. The Holy Spirit and His presence is what we entreat this morning to speak to our heart and make it Easter Sunday morning.

We have different circumstances beloved: we have joy, we have new births among us, we have perhaps, dis-

eases and pain. It's supposed to be Easter Sunday beloved for those with the greatest of joy, perhaps; a new parent, a new mom with a new baby in her arms. And yet it is Easter Sunday morning for someone who lost their house Friday night in a tornado in St. Louis. It is still Easter Sunday morning. So however our circumstance is this morning, beloved, the Spirit of God wants to speak to your heart and to my heart and say, "It is Easter". Might our prayers be answered that He would speak to us and His Word would come alive. Welcome beloved! What a joy to be together.

I love the account here in St. Mark 16. It reminds me - Have you read a book lately to someone little on your lap? Have you had the opportunity to read a book, and especially if you ask them to choose, ask someone little if you can read a book to them. It's quite likely that they don't bring you a new book, right! They brought you the book that they had read yesterday and last week and the week before that. Read this one! I pray that's how the Word reaches our heart this morning, whichever Gospel we read from. We say, "That's my favorite, I love the Word." I love to think about what's been sustained, what's been kept for us.

There are a lot more words that could be used to describe the events in the hearts of those dear people at that time. But we have sufficient, we have the right words. We have the example that fits me just to a "T", beloved. Because sometimes I struggle with faith! Do you? Sometimes this issue of faith, believing without seeing, and obeying the word which God speaks to our heart, sometimes that is kind of hard to grasp hold of and keep. Here these dear women who loved Jesus - we were reminded Friday night, last at the cross, first to the tomb - came early in the morning. Do you wonder about the time - if it was in the dark of night, right before dawn? Was it light enough just so that they could see their way down? But they brought the spices; the things that they had prepared to anoint him. And on the way they said, "...Who shall roll us away the stone..?" St. Mark 16:3. But what

*Sermon continued on page 41*

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*"Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."  
Ephesians 4:3*

# Light From The Word



Writings based  
on God's Word

March 2012

## Implacability

The word implacability is not commonly used in our day, yet the very serious condition it describes is something we may struggle with from time to time. It is included in the Romans 1 description of the natural sinful state of man (Rom. 1:28-32) and indicates an unwillingness to be placated, pacified, or brought to a place of peace. In other words, living in an unsettled and contentious state and not willing to be reasoned with or to have our thinking tempered by others.

Being implacable is fundamentally different than being "steadfast and unmovable" (1 Cor. 15:58) as these terms apply to our personal faith and trust in God.

As believers, we are exhorted to put off the former things and do the things which make for peace (Eph. 4:22, Rom. 14:19). We are instructed to work (endeavor) to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. Displaying an unwillingness to be at rest or at peace is opposite this. There is no scriptural model for causing unrest or disturbing the peace in the church; though history is replete with examples of such behavior and the division, heartache and loss that accompany it.

The man Diotrephes demonstrated implacability in the early church which John confronted in his third epistle (3 John 9-10). His unworthy characteristics included a desire for preeminence (the approval of others) which begins in the heart and manifests itself in various ways depending on our position in life. It may be present even if we are not in a position of authority; perhaps alone in our heart or in secret among our confidants. It is important to note that Diotrephes refused counsel.

One of the most dangerous places we can be is to have made the determination that our personal understanding and interpretation of truth or a particular issue is absolute. An accompanying implacable spirit may insist that a different viewpoint would necessarily imply deception of the other party. This mindset leads to the rejection of counsel, often with elaborate justification, and an isolation that breeds error and blinding self-justification. The potential for hurt to others and damage to the Lord's work is great.

True accountability requires input from those who will speak the truth in

love and with grace and respect (Eph. 4:15; Col. 4:6), even (or especially) if it is opposite to our thinking. If we are not challenged in our thoughts and perspective, we are not being held accountable. (Prov. 27:17)

The individual with an unyielding and implacable spirit who arrives at this place of self-justification can soon develop the characteristics of a scorner. At this stage, he no longer hears rebuke (Prov. 13:1) and even despises those who would correct him. "*Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee*" (Prov. 9:8). Note that, in what should be a serious admonition for anyone approaching this state, others are even warned against attempting to engage them in rebuke as they are no longer open to it.

An honest self-examination should ask whether we have shut ourselves off from learning from others, perhaps by marginalizing or "writing off" those with whom we may disagree. Could it be that at least a part of our conflict with them is rooted in a defensive protecting of ourselves from needed rebuke? Remember that God typically uses fallible men to deliver the gospel message itself. Men are imperfect in their choice of words, tone, or even example, yet this does not free us to reject the truth of their message.

Jude lists three Old Testament examples where stubborn self-justification caused great harm (Jude 11). Each individual manifested this in different ways. Cain rose up in jealousy over his brother who had found favor with God by his sacrifice. Balaam is rebuked for greedily seeking the honor of men and earthly gain. Korah saw himself as justified in opposing Moses' leadership and was condemned for his gainsaying.

It is noteworthy that Jude used these examples to rebuke the implacability of individuals who were critical of things they did not understand (Jude 10). Probably everyone of us has had the experience of thinking or speaking negatively about someone or some situation only to find later that we had an inaccurate understanding of the facts and had reached a wrong conclusion. The harsh rebuke found in Jude, as well as the outcomes of Cain, Balaam and Korah, should cause us to reflect carefully on any strong opinions and assumptions we may hold. This is especially applicable if we find ourselves communicating negatively about

those who are in authority over us; whether in the family, workplace, or church.

What are some indications that we may be flirting with this grievous condition? Do we find ourselves easily excited and "worked up" over issues that arise? Are we quick to make a controversy of an issue when none need exist? Do we look for an argument just for argument's sake?

We should ask ourselves whether the charge of implacability could be made about us in other areas of our lives. If married, do we resist or "shut down" input from our spouse? At work, do we rationalize and self-justify when approached about a behavioral or performance issue? Do we find ourselves always needing to be right in a conversation? Is it possible there is a pattern of implacability that we have wrapped in spiritual language and justification, which may be especially tempting to do in a church context?

In contrast, the Scripture is clear about the state of the heart that can be reached and used by God. "*To this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word*" (Is. 66:2). We see this in the examples of Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Paul, and others who first humbled themselves before they were useful to God. Both their words and their actions reflected their broken and contrite heart.

Even Jesus "*...humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross*" (Phil 2:8). He learned obedience by the things He suffered (Heb. 5:8). When He was reviled, he did not retaliate (1 Pet. 2:23).

If we have a truly humble and obedient heart that follows after the things which make for peace, we will seek to edify (build up) others. We will guard our heart and the things on which our mind dwells, choosing to think on what is true, honest, just, pure, lovely, and of good report (Phil. 4:8). We will recognize that our perspective is limited and will humbly seek counsel of others who will lovingly challenge us in the light of God's Word. We will enjoy the blessings of a submissive and yielded spirit, established, strengthened, and settled by the God of all grace (1 Pet. 5:10).

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](mailto: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

### Magdalena Mexico

John 10:10 *"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."*

Praise be to our God and Father for the privilege of sharing the abundant life with those lives whom the Lord has entrusted to the staff at CVE. Thankfully the abundant life is not dependent on location on this earth or financial status. It is each individual's standing with our Lord and Savior.

### Casa Vida y Esperanza

Over the past year the census at Casa Vida y Esperanza (CVE) has increased to around fifty children. They range in age from newborns to almost eighteen, and include a six year old handicapped boy who cannot walk or talk.

It was not part of the original plan to care for babies or handicapped children, but the Lord has provided wonderful servants to care for each one. What a blessing each of the children have been to the staff and to those who visit. The children are living in family units that are spread across campus at CVE. Thanks be to God for the family environment to nurture their growth and set a pattern for their future.

### CVV school

The school, Colegio Verdad y Vida (Truth and Life School), continues to grow, and all but the youngest children, four and younger, are enrolled in school. Classes are offered for kindergarten through high school. Currently some students from the community who

do not live at CVE are also offered the opportunity for schooling at CVV. The goal and prayer of the staff is to offer a quality education to families who are in need of a stable environment for their children.

### Magdalena Church

The church at Magdalena has grown in membership and attendance as a number of souls were baptized over the last year. The annual VBS last August drew about 500 children eager to learn. The Lord provided extra help to plant a seed



in their young hearts. The church also witnessed its first wedding as a young church. What a witness a faith marriage can be to those who have never experienced what it means to live with a mother and father in the home. The first funeral held this past year was also an opportunity to share the love of Christ with those who are hurting.

### Work teams

Hundreds of brothers, sisters and friends have blessed CVE by sharing a week of work and worship in 2011. Lord willing, many more will visit the campus this year. Thankfully God has provided a safe place for church family visitors to share in the joys of getting to know our children and staff. Work team members often have opportunity to

share how God has worked in their lives along with providing countless hours of labor. Work teams have built the facilities at CVE, allowing staff to meet the physical and spiritual needs of children and adults. Thank you!

### Outside projects

2011 was the first full year that allowed CVE to partner with a couple of businesses outside of CVE that were started by brethren to bring hope and opportunity to the children, and to those in the community who need ways to support their families.

Café Sed is a coffee shop and Christian bookstore in the heart of the town, and is a quiet place for the community to spend time away from the noise of life. The coffee shop gave out over 1,000 Bibles in the past year to those who desire to read the Word.

Productos Carnicos (Meat Products) is a meat processing business that makes snack sticks, beef jerky, and other processed meat products. Brethren involved in the business pray they can provide long-term opportunities to those in need of stable employment.

The CVE staff wishes to thank you, the body of Christ, for all of your love, support, and most importantly your prayers. Without the blessing of our Lord, CVE and the Magdalena church would not exist as they do today! This is the Lord's work. Thanks be to Him for all things.

Further information, including ways to contact CVE, are available on the website. [www.cvemx.org](http://www.cvemx.org)



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

## Water of Life for Needy Haitians

In less than 60 seconds, 99.9% of us reading this article can have a drink of cold clean water. Now place yourself in Haiti. A sanitary well is miles away and walking is your transportation. If you had to walk a mile for water you would not return with one glass full but all the water you can carry.



Haitian women usually carry a five gallon bucket on top of their heads. We might be tempted to get the water from a nearby creek instead of walking to a well. However, upstream a short way, cattle are in the creek, and further upstream people are washing clothes and dishes. We can readily understand why diarrhea, typhoid, parasites, and other water borne illnesses plague large portions of Haitians.

*And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.*  
Matt 10:42

These words from Jesus take on new meaning. With World Relief's help, both financially and through the WR missionaries, Apostolic Water Aid (AWA) has installed over 500 public wells with hand pumps during the past 26 years.

### AWA Mission Statement

*The mission of AWA is to provide needy Haitians with good clean water within reasonable walking distance. Knowing the problems of unsafe drinking water, we desire to provide drilling equipment, supplies, and training for the Haitians to drill wells for themselves. We do this in the name of Jesus Christ.*

### How is this accomplished?

AWA has trained a Haitian well drilling crew of five men who drill the water wells. The drilling team has served us faithfully by operating the drilling equipment over the years. We have come to know them well and have become close friends. They are wonderful Christian examples in Haiti, and experts at drilling wells. The drillers and their families need your prayers and support as this is difficult work.



World Relief provides the funds to purchase drilling equipment and to send sea containers with needed supplies. As you can imagine, well drilling equipment is expensive to operate and maintain. Special heavy duty hand pumps are manufactured by AWA-FRW (Francesville, Remington and Wolcott) brethren and are installed on the wells. On the cover of each pump is engraved the words "In the name of Jesus Christ." The community served by

the new well is asked to share in its cost and help to maintain the well.

### History of this mission

This mission was started when brothers from Bluffton, IN sent a small trailer mounted drilling rig to Haiti in 1985. Many wells were drilled with that first rig. As time passed, the responsibility for AWA was transferred to Tremont, IL where it is today.

For many years, trailer mounted drilling rigs were used. In 2004, a modern truck mounted drill rig was reconditioned and sent to Haiti. Two of the drillers came to the U.S. for training and lived with the Tremont congregation for a month. It was a blessing to host them. Production increased considerably with the use of this rig and they now drill about one well every week.

### How you can help

The past 26 years of well drilling would not have been possible without your prayers and support and we thank you. Looking ahead, we see a continued need, and ask on behalf of the Haitian people, for your continued prayers and support to keep the AWA mission going.

We send three teams each year to give support and training for the drill team, visit completed wells, and assist them in well drilling and equipment repair/maintenance. We are always in need of volunteers for these trips. While mechanical repair experience is helpful, anyone with an interest in the project is welcome to go on an AWA team. Trip schedules can be found in the Silver Lining or at [www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean](http://www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean) or contact Bro. Maurie Schaefer at 309-253-9003 or [schaefs2@gmail.com](mailto:schaefs2@gmail.com).

## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

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

Because of our human nature, most of us do not like change. We tend to live for the day when our lives will be settled. It appears that is like waiting for our ship to come in. Neither is likely and neither is promised in scripture. If we look closer at scripture, what is promised is God's presence during our times of need and change. Matthew 28:20, "... lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

In his wandering and despair, God promised Jacob "And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of." (Genesis 28:15) We need to assure ourselves that God's love and care for us still endures and He will be with us in need and in change.

If we can settle this in our minds and in our hearts, then we are more ready to face change. If we don't, then we will be continually challenged because change will come.

We reviewed our history and there is no ten year period that we have not gone through significant change. As we reviewed our history of change, we also reviewed what has not changed.

ACHH has held to its core services and mission from the beginning in 1971, but has gone through a continuing process of change and growth. Services began in 1971, and were doubled in 1978; they were expanded to include 16 bed services in 1988, and added CILAs or small group homes in the early 90s. Another 16 bed home was opened in 1994. Small group homes grew to 5 by 2002. In 2008 the agency entered into a right size agreement with the State of Illi-

nois and increased the number of group homes to 10, while downsizing Timber Ridge to 74 residents.

Once again we face change as the State of Illinois settles a lawsuit that was brought against it. The State lost and is required to provide more choice and more small settings in the community. We don't know just how this will affect us, but we are confident of God's promise and our commitment to the mission He called us to. It appears there will be flexibility in the plan and no one will be forced to move or change services, but we covet your prayers as we make plans to meet our residents' needs in the best way possible.

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### GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME Ross Feller

#### *God's Epic Tale*

*Enemy:* Satan and the curse of sin

*Setting:* God's creation was very good

*Conflict:* Sin separated man from God and made him its captive

*Hero:* King Jesus will come to earth and rescue His people

*Climax:* Christ defeats death by rising from the grave!

*Resolution:* Christ will return for His bride, the Church and judge Satan

I saw these words while passing through Gateway Woods School several weeks ago and it just jumped out to me. This, the story that God is writing, His truly epic tale involving us, His Son, salvation, truth, freedom and love is being talked about in a school! This is what makes Gateway Woods so different! One message is taught to the children that we work with, Christ is above, in, and through all! Seeing this message posted on a bulletin board in our School set some-

thing off in my mind.

There is a beautiful integration between Gateway Woods Programs that I did not realize existed until I had worked here for some time. This integration allows for us to maintain contact with, and thus continue conveying our important message to, our clients for a significant amount more time than one might think.

For example, Henna was a resident at Gateway Woods for nearly 18 months. She spent that time being taught many truths by her Houseparents, Counselors and Teachers. Upon graduating our program, she moved into a Christ-centered Gateway Woods foster home. Once she turned 18, she moved out and began life on her own, while still maintaining a solid relationship with her foster parents. She gave birth to her son three years later. Henna began to see her son struggle with many of the same issues that she wrestled with as a child. So, in order to save her son much of the pain that she dealt with, she contacted the place that had provided a consistent rock in her life, Gateway Woods. She was placed into our Home-Based program where the same consistent message is still being conveyed to her to this day.

We are often given a small window to work with our residents. However, God has given us the awesome opportunity to keep contact with some of them for many years beyond the 12-18 months they actually live on our campus. We are so thankful that God allows us to be part of the story He is writing about the children and families that we serve and we are excited to see how He will continue to use us. Thank you for supporting us and allowing us to share the message, the epic tale, that God has given to us.

#### *News:*

- Our Gateway Woods Representatives' Meeting was held on our

campus on March 10. We would like to thank all those that were able to attend and we pray that it was a blessing to you. It is thrilling for us to be able to tell others how God is moving within our work.

- Looking forward to summer already? Consider one of two remaining summer positions at Gateway Woods. We have begun our annual search for 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](mailto:adam.mcafee@gatewaywoods.org) for more information.

- Gateway Woods welcomed seven 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 Houseparent. Sis. Amanda has volunteered for several summers at Gateway Woods and is a welcome addition to our team. Please keep her in your prayers as she becomes accustomed to her new role at Gateway Woods.

- Please mark your calendar for our 2012 Annual Benefit Auction on Saturday, August 4.

- We are grateful to God for providing us with a wonderful Staff. We currently have one career position available. We have an opening for a Teacher at Gateway Woods School. For more information please see the notice 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](http://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](http://www.gatewaywoods.org) and our Facebook page at [facebook.com/gatewaywoods](http://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](mailto:mail@gatewaywoods.org)

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**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
PRESCHOOL  
Athens, AL  
Susan Koch**

Our themes for February were the Five Senses and Eric Carle. We studied the letters R through T. We took one week off from the ABC curriculum so we could create more Valentine's Day centered activities and talk about love. We had a Valentine's Day party on the 14th. The kids did an excellent job passing out their cards and candy. It was funny watching the youngest students receive their Valentines because, being only interested in the candy, they would throw down the cards. Eventually they caught on that the cards were special too. The end of February brought some crazy weather which resulted in a day of tornados on March 2. Being from IL, I am used to tornados but I have never experienced a storm with tornado after tornado coming through. Knowing there was a great possibility of storms that day, we did a tornado drill that morning at 8:45 to show the new students what to do. We had snack as usual at 9 and then the power went out. The kids were already on edge because of the thunder and grew increasingly nervous when the lights cut off. We heard the sirens and immediately went downstairs to the "tornado shelter" (which is the 2

year old classroom). At 10:00 two tornados went by us about ¼ mile down the road. There was no damage to the church and no one was hurt. There were some preschool families affected by the tornados so please keep them in your prayers. Thank you for all the support you give us through prayer, volunteering, and donations. We greatly appreciate it!

If you would like to volunteer at the preschool, please contact Sis. Susan Koch at 309-202-4897 or [susankoch2@yahoo.com](mailto:susankoch2@yahoo.com). Any donations can be made to the Apostolic Christian Preschool and sent to 15284 Hastings Rd. Athens, AL 35613.

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**ALABAMA, ATHENS  
Roger and Becky Roberts**

We were blessed again this month with visiting ministers. Bro. Byron Stoller and his wife, Sis. Carol (Gridley, IL) spent a weekend with us. Also, spending several weeks with us was Bro. Sam and Sis. Linda Schlatter (Junction, OH). We are thankful for their willingness to share this labor of love.

We extend sympathy to Bro. Ed Haggemaker, Bro. Doug (Sis. Mae) Haggemaker, Sis. Joyce (Bro. Milton) Ray, and Sis. Clara Ann (Bro. Buddy) Lynn in the loss of their brother, Bro. William Haggemaker. We also are praying for Bro. Mike and Sis. Pam Moore in the loss of her mother, Sis. Arlene Hinrichsen (Goodfield, IL).

Our Athens church has been filled the last few months with willing workers from the Cullman, AL, work team. Please continue to pray as the teams finish their projects. Also, pray for the seeds that have been planted in the hearts of families that received our help.

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## ARIZONA, PHOENIX

The annual pancake breakfast hosted by our Sunday School was held on January 28.

Donations were accepted for various upcoming Sunday School activities. Thank you to all the young people (and teachers) who worked hard to make this happen!

Jeni Severa (Bro. Carl and Sis. Donna Richardson) recently had successful neuro surgery to remove a benign tumor. They are so thankful for the prayers for Jeni, her husband and children!

Visiting ministers this month have been: Bro. Wes Moser (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA), Bro. Brad Bauer (Sis. Sandy, Tucson), Bro. John Hartman (Sis. Rosemary, Fairbury) and Bro. Ron Joos (Sis. Christy, Bloomfield) Thanks to each one for your service to us!

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

*Psalm 127:3*

Bro. Jim and Sis. Lois Beres are happy to have a new grandson and great-granddaughter!

Brox Adam was born to Lex and Kim Beres and Adeline Faith is the new daughter of Tara and Ryan Eland.

Bro. Sam and Sis. Danielle Sutton are first-time parents to Milania Danijela born just in time for Christmas on December 23, 2011! Her grateful grandparents are Bro. Tim and Sis. Verene Sutton and Laza and Sis. Ranka Mojic. What a joy new babies are!

Dear Sis. Helen Steffen (Alto, MI) passed on to Heaven on February 10. She has spent the past few winters here with family. She is survived by so many but we are especially prayerful for her loved ones here in Phoenix: Sis. Kathy Knochel (Bro. Nate)

and Carl Steffen (Sue), and grandchildren, Bro. Mark Steffen (Sis. Stacey), Sis. Amanda Knochel and Bro. Derek Knochel.

Our sympathy is also with the Hinrichsen family since the passing of Sis. Arlene Hinrichsen (Goodfield, IL). She is the mother of Bro. Keith Hinrichsen (Sis. Tammy) and grandmother to Bro. Joe, Sis. Kelly and Bro. Todd (Sis. Heather) Hinrichsen. May the Lord comfort each of these dear ones in the days ahead!

## ARIZONA, PRESCOTT Denise Steidinger

We are thankful for the many visitors that have come to Prescott during the past month. Those who came to preach God’s Word were Bros. John Reinhard (Sis. Pam, Bluffton), Wes Moser (Sis. Esther, Lester), Keith Hinrichsen (Sis. Tammy, Phoenix), John Lehman (Sis. Ruth Ann, Wolcott) and John Hartman (Sis. Rosemary, Fairbury).

## ARIZONA, TUCSON Lisa Knapp

One of the blessings of living in Arizona is our beautiful weather, and as a result of that beautiful weather, we are blessed with visiting ministers passing through town enjoying our sunshine. Bro. Ron Joos (Bloomfield, IA) was with us Sunday, February 19. We thank him for serving us on the pulpit, and we appreciated his visit.

Our Sis. Carole Haas is still recovering from surgery on her shoulder; we miss her and hope she is able to worship with us again very soon. We pray for patience for her and Bro. Bob as they experience the healing process.

Our Sunday School Bible class was able to travel to Phoenix over the President’s Day weekend for some

fun and fellowship. We would like to thank the Phoenix church for the love and hospitality shown to our students.

We are enjoying having our winter visitors here and they are enjoying warm temperatures in the 70’s and sunshine – although they have had to endure a few cool, rainy days “sprinkled” in between!

## CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

The past month has brought us beautiful, spring-like weather and the return of a contingent of Altadena alumni. We were grateful to have Sis. Mary Witzig; Bro. Reuben and Sis. Crystol Luthi; and Sis. Shirley Cox (Bro. Jon Cox) return to fellowship with us. Being smaller in size, we were able to enjoy an impromptu church dinner following regular Sunday services and spent the afternoon sharing fellowship and the feeling of family returned to the fold.

We have had a number of members struggling with health issues this past month. Among them, Bro. Robert Crockett was hospitalized but has now returned home. Bro. David Art has been hospitalized. And, Bro. Clarence Graf also remains in our prayers as he navigates life in an assisted living facility. We also pray for those who struggle to attend due to health issues and the commute between our homes and Altadena.

This month has also been dedicated to praying for our Elder Body as our Elder, Bro. Tom Klotzle (Sis. Jody), has met with the Elder Body on two separate occasions this month. We pray for the wisdom and continued grace for our Elders as they contemplate important issues on behalf of our church.

The weather has turned cold and wintry – at least by our standards –



and there is snow on the peaks above Altadena. It is now "jacket weather" but we welcome all who care to come and brave our 70 degree weather.

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**CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO**  
**Yasmin Koehl**

Greetings be to you, our brethren,  
To our sisters in the Lord,  
Here from far and near assembled,  
Gathered here in one accord.  
Welcome, welcome, All ye loved  
ones:  
Greetings in the Saviour's name.  
*Hymns of Zion # 7*

Our congregation has experienced abundant blessings with the many visitors in the past few weeks.

We were thankful for the services of Elder Bros. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL), Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), David Graf (Akron, OH), Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL), and ministering Bro. Mike Rieker (Peoria, IL). Many of these brothers along with their wives, gathered with us as we hosted the European board meeting. We wish them God's nearness and blessings as they labor on the behalf of others, either far or near.

Bro. Joe and Sis. Rose Kaplar were hospitalized this month for separate health issues. We are thankful both are now recuperating. Our prayers will surely continue on their behalves.

The engagement of Sis. Linda Fulop (Bro. Denes and Sis. Joy) was announced to Nazarean brother, Nick Cikos from the San Diego Apostolic Christian Church of the Nazareans. We lift each one of them and their families unto our heavenly Father as they prepare for holy matrimony. Our wishes echo the third verse in #196 from our Hymns of Zion - "Be present, holy Spirit, To bless them as they kneel, As thou, for Christ the Bridegroom, The heav-

enly bride dost seal. Oh spread thy pure wing o'er them; Let no ill pow'r find place, While on-ward to thy presence, Their hollowed path they trace."

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**KITCHENER, ONTARIO**  
**CANADA**  
**Kim Leman**

"I will praise the LORD according to his righteousness: and will sing praise to the name of the LORD most high."

*Psalms 7:17*

We have been blessed with many visitors who have faithfully served us God's Word. We thank ministering Bros. Howard Plattner (Sis. Kristen, Alto, MI), Mark Rufener (Sis. Julie, Mansfield, OH), Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI), Steve Pamer (Sis. Arliss, Akron, OH), and Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Lisa, Eureka, IL) for their service in the Lord's vineyard.

We appreciated the counsel of our Elder Bros. Rod Bajema (Lester, IA) and Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) as they shared the Memorandum with our local church. May we ever lift our dear shepherds up in prayer as they lead and feed the church.

Our congregation was also blessed to hear a topical presentation on Spiritual Gifts by Bro. Bill Schmidgall (Sis. Anna, Fairbury, IL) from ACCFS. May God bless all these Brothers for their labors on our behalf.

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**REGINA, SK**  
**CANADA**  
**Myrna Shipley**

Christoph Kaiser received a one year American working visa and is going to work on a ranch in Starbucks, MN. His parents, Bro. Hermann and Sis. Hilda, will miss him on their farm but they trust

Christoph will have a good learning experience working for Bro. Jim Wulf from the Morris church. We all hope he will enjoy the year in Minnesota. God be with you, Christoph.

These are the days we anticipate having a minister here: March 18 - Morris; April 8 - West Bend; April 15 - Morton; May 6 - Rittman; May 20 - Elgin, Iowa; June 3 - Detroit; June 17 - Bern; July 1 - Princeville; July 15 - Forrest; Aug. 5 - Congerville; Sept. 2 - Lester; Sept. 16 - Sabetha; Oct. 7 - Silvertown; Oct. 21 - Bloomington/Normal; Nov. 11 - Morris.

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**COLORADO, DENVER**  
**Lily Zarkovacki**

"He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusteth in the Lord, happy is he."

*Proverbs 16:20*

Recently we held our annual church meeting; we are thankful for each who carry out additional duties throughout the year. Bro. Mike Zarkovacki was asked to serve a second term as trustee and Sis. Tifani Leman was asked to serve a second term in Sunday School.

We thank Bro. Ed Sauder (Sis. Bonnie, Roanoke, IL) for ministering to us this past month. It's a blessing to have visitors worship with us!

We'd also like to wish Bro. Ernie Wiegand God's blessings as he is relocating back to Illinois.

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**CONNECTICUT**  
**ROCKVILLE**  
**Lauren Goric**  
**Sheila Gerber**

We wish to extend our sympathy to families whose lives were touched with the sorrow of losing a family member. Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Diane) lost his mother, Sis. Ione

Stoller-Rowell (Oakville, IA), as she went to be with her Lord on January 30. Also mourning the loss of their sister, Flora Batz, on February 11 is Sis. Millie Gerber (Bro. Melvin) and Hilda Kayan. We keep Sandy Conner in our thoughts and prayers in the loss of her mother, Linda Ellis.

“One generation passeth away and another generation cometh: but the earth abideth forever.”

*Ecclesiastes 1:4*

Our congregation was blessed with three new babies this month. A third son was born to Bro. Scott and Sis. Tecca Virkler on February 13. Silas Ray joins his brothers, James and David. Grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Dorothy Virkler and Clair and Sis. Bev Keever (Mansfield, OH). Also welcoming a new son on February 15 were Shawn and Heather McKeon. Grandparents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Linda Lanz and James McKeon and Linda Smith. Lydia and Rustin are excited for the addition of Sawyer Gregory to their family. Precious Clint Douglas was born to Kurt and Jessica Bahler on February 21 joining his older brother Eli. Grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Carole Bahler and Robert and Tammy Townsend. We pray for God's guidance as these couples are entrusted to raise these precious souls.

This union of our hearts,  
shall stand through grace in Jesus;  
we walk the path of life,  
while cheer and trust increases.  
Where God in truth abides,  
where two join hand and heart,  
we find a three-fold cord,  
not lightly rent apart.

*Zion's Harp #79*

Bro. Nathan Luginbuhl (Bro. Rick and Sis. Sue) and Sis. Lydia Schnei-

der (Bro. Tim and Sis. Dana) were united in marriage on February 12. We were thankful to have visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA) and Bro. Todd Sinn (Sis. Janet, Latty, OH) with us for the weekend, and were reminded that every one of us is invited to the wedding feast. Then two weeks later on February 26, we were blessed to witness the union of Bro. Patrick McMann (Rose McMann) and Sis. Rebecca Schaefer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Pam, Morris, MN). We wish both of these couples God's blessings and direction.

“No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.”

*II Timothy 2:4*

Our hearts rejoice with Ben Luginbuhl (Bro. Scott and Sis. JoAnn) as he turns his life over to our Heavenly Father. We wish him much grace and our prayers and support as he begins this new walk.

There's a peace in my heart that the world never gave,  
a peace it cannot take away;  
Tho' the trials of life may surround like a cloud,  
I've a peace that has come there to stay!

*Gospel Hymns #40*

Three dear souls were announced for peace, and Lord willing, provings and baptisms are planned for the weekend of March 24 - 25. They are JaNae Bahler (Bro. Steve and Sis. Lori), Leah Gerber (Bro. Ron and Sis. Sheila), and Amanda Bahler (Bro. Phil and Sis. Michelle).

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WASHINGTON Henrietta Meyer

Our caretakers for the first part of February were Bro. Dave and Sis. Ethel Wiegand (Champaign, IL). The caretaker calendar for 2012 is filled except for the last two weeks of December. 2013 is starting to fill, so if this is something you are considering, please contact Sis. Doreen Steffen at 302-540-6574 or [dkgsteffen@gmail.com](mailto: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. James Fehr (Sis. Brenda, Tremont, IL), Bro. Nelson Beer (Sis. Minnie, Milford, IN), Elder Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane, Silverton, OR), and Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH).

The Wiegand families were in the area for their son/brother Bob's wedding to Chiu Ping Yeung.

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](mailto:jbohart@gmail.com) or Sis. Henrietta Meyer at (703) 904-8301 for assistance and to let us know how many to expect for Sunday services.

## FLORIDA FORT LAUDERDALE

**Renee Mangold**

We are enjoying our winter visitors and the fellowship we have with many gathering to worship with us.

We remembered the dying and shedding of our Saviour's blood with Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley IL) serving us Communion, with the help of Retired Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton, IL). Bro. Earl also read the Memorandum on a Wednesday evening.

We are thankful for ministering Bro. Stephen Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley, IL); Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Morton, IL); Bro. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam, Latty, OH); Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North, IN); Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris North, MN).

We invite visitors to include Ft. Lauderdale in your travel plans and ask you to remember us in your prayers.

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## FLORIDA NORTH FORT MYERS

**Victor Beer**

We've been greatly encouraged lately to be thinking of our future in these words, "There is a land exceeding fair, Where joy and peace remain, for strife and hate are not found there, And love alone doth reign". However, such love seems to reign when our brothers and sisters of the faith get together, after not seeing each other for some time. It even comes to light in the hymn singing, and really stirs our hearts.

Our church was greatly blessed last month by visiting ministers, Bro. Jon Zeller (Sis. Christine, Morton, IL) and Bro. Fred Domka (Sis. Connie, Mansfield, OH). We thank them and wish God's rich blessings on them.

A rich blessing was had by all at

the Valentine's Day potluck supper that was held at the community room of Stan and Nate Vogel's condominium development.

Brooks and Angelica are our newest residents at the New Beginnings, a program for single moms and their children, located in Cape Coral, FL. Angelica is mom to 2 year-old Maleke and 5 month-old Ja'zyiah. She is registered to attend Edison college when the term begins.

Brooke is mother to almost 2 year-old Conner and is expecting a second son in the summer. Brooke is attending school in Fort Myers and will be graduating with her high school diploma in May.

Our New Beginnings "family" went to Sarasota Sunday School auction on Saturday, February 25. This is the first auction that most of our girls had ever attended. We had a very good time and came away with some delicious baked goods and chili. We enjoyed the fellowship and hospitality of many from the Sarasota congregation.

We have been having Sunday suppers together for quite some time now. During this season, our dear Sis. Jeannie Haerr has been arranging for these suppers to be served by three volunteer couples from our congregation. It has been a very positive experience for all involved and has allowed opportunity for our girls to get to know personally many from our congregation. We would like to extend to Sis. Jeannie our sincerest thanks and appreciation.

Our young moms have been enjoying being taught in an adult Sunday School class on Sunday mornings by Sis. Mary Gramm. We would also like to extend our deepest appreciation to her.

## FLORIDA, SARASOTA

**Kim Ott**

"Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord thy God which he hath given thee."

*Deuteronomy 16:17*

Our congregation held it's annual Sunday School auction again this February and we were thankful to have a very large group in attendance. The proceeds of this auction will benefit numerous Sunday School endeavors throughout the year that help keep our students close to the Word and the fellowship of the church as well as support for several charitable opportunities. Thank you to all who made this day a wonderful success.

We were blessed to have many visiting ministers this month including:

Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL), Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL), Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North, IN), Bro. Ken Schneider (Sis. Bernice, Remington, IN), Bro. Nelson Beer (Sis. Minnie, Milford, IN), Bro. Bill Masters (Sis. Mary, North Fort Myers, FL), Bro. Vic Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville, OH), and Bro. James Knapp (Sis. Lisa, Congerville, IL).

One Sunday after the worship services were completed, Bro. Bill Masters shared with us the ministry he and his wife have started which is called New Beginnings. New Beginnings has been organized to help young mothers by giving them a place to stay while they earn their education to obtain jobs for themselves and their children. The young women are taught life skills as well as teachings from the Bible. We were also blessed by having several of the mothers and their children worship with us and pray that the Lord will

continue to bless their lives.

Several members of our congregation have been hospitalized this month. Bro. Larry Bauman (Sis. Betty, Goodfield, IL), Bro. Gordon and Sis. Marilyn Bryant, and Sis. Betty Siladie (Bro. George) remain in our prayers as they continue to strengthen in their recovery.

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### **ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE**

**Shayla Steffen  
Doreen Moser**

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever.”

*1 Peter 4:11*

We pray that God was glorified as our home brothers and visiting brothers ministered the Word of God. We thank visiting ministers Bro. Jeff Grimm and Jedd Rocke (Goodfield, IL) for their giving.

“Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;”

*Ephesians 5:19*

We gathered together at a local rest home after church to sing to the residents. It is wonderful to experience the joy of knowing we put melodies in their hearts for a time.

“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”

*Colosians 3:17*

Care packages for kids at hospitals, pre-natal kits for Haiti, and

blankets were some of the items we worked on at our monthly World Relief. It is important as we do these deeds to keep our focus on the Lord.

“And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:”

*Hebrews 10:24*

February 18-19 was our church invite-a-guest. We were able to provoke each other unto love and good works as we sang praises unto God at a singing Saturday night and then again on Sunday for church and a supper following. We thank those who were willing to join us for that weekend of Christian fellowship.

We encourage you to be consistent and persistent in your walk with Him.

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### **ILLINOIS BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL**

**Heidi Rinkenberger  
Shelley Steffen**

Ready to go, ready to stay,  
Ready my place to fill;  
Ready for service, lowly or great,  
Ready to do His will.

*Hymns of Zion #124*

A “Passion to Serve Others” was the theme for our first church Missions Night. Following an ethnic dinner, families were free to browse the interactive booths from different outreach organizations that our church supports. It was both fun and educational. Missions Night was a special way to visualize the different opportunities available to us and pray about where we can serve.

Several ministers were here for that weekend. A special thank you to Bro. Matt Gerber (Ixtlan, Mexico), Bro. Seth Gerber (Magdalena, Mexico), and Bro. Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN).

We rejoice with our new Brothers in Faith, Wyatt Knobloch (Bro. Denis and Sis. Jackie, Lester, IA) and Josh Robinson (Bro. Mike and Sis. Liz) who gave their testimonies and were baptized in January. We are thankful for our visiting ministers who were here for the weekend: Bro. Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL), Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN), and Bro. Jedd Rocke (Goodfield, IL). We appreciate their encouragement and instruction.

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### **ILLINOIS, BRADFORD**

**Roseann Stahl  
Sandi Joos**

Our prayers have been with Bro. Lucas Young (Sis. Bethany) as he has undergone heart surgery and is now recovering at home. Sis. Delores Nelson also was a surgery patient this month. May the Lord grant His healing powers according to His will not only with these two, but to all who may call upon Him.

When pure and upright hearts,  
by flames of love ignited,  
are by the bond of faith  
more firmly yet united,  
the light of hope beams forth  
in radiance far and nigh,  
invites us to partake  
the blessings from on high.

*Zion's Harp #79*

February 5 was the wedding day of Bro. Loren Stoller (Bro. Nate and Sis. Sherrill) and Sis. Lena Christ (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Connie, Princeville). We welcome Sis. Lena to our congregation and hope she can feel at home here in Bradford.

Bro. Cory Joos (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Jenny) and Sis. Heidi Ehnle (Bro. Donn and Sis. Tracy) became one in the Lord on February 19. We thank Bro. Glen Braker (Sis. Audrey, Princeville) for being with us and lending himself for the service of the

Lord.

*Silver Lining Issues:  
From July, 1974 to present*

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

### **ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN** **Sarah Drake**

February 11 and 12 was the annual Parent and Church Appreciation weekend hosted by the young group. Saturday evening consisted of supper, singing, and a slideshow. As a congregation, we always appreciate the many out-of-town parents who make the trip down to Champaign to visit their college students, and as a young group, we are grateful for the local church family that always gives us so much support.

Visiting ministers this month included Bro. Ron Heiniger (Sis. Kayleen, Bloomington), Bro. Ned Bahler (Sis. Anna, Fairbury), Bro. Chad Gerber (Sis. Jami, Bluffton), and Bro. David Obergfel (Sis. Kathleen, Peoria). May God bless you for all your efforts!

On February 26, a housewarming was held at the home of Bro. Walt and Sis. Janelle Edelman. The Edelmanns have been a blessing to our congregation, and we are delighted to have them with us in Champaign.

After much prayerful consideration, we have elected to remodel our church building. The Champaign church is a special place, and we strive to be good stewards of the beloved facility God has given us. We pray that this remodeling project will ultimately bring glory to our Heavenly Father.

### **ILLINOIS, CHICAGO**

#### **Rachel Meyer**

Greetings from Chicago. We are prayerful this month for Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Sis. Judy) as he has begun radiation treatments. Our prayers also continue for Bro. Lucas Young (Sis. Bethany Rassi Young) from Bradford, IL, as he recovers from open heart surgery. We have the opportunity to pray as treatments continue for Bro. Dan Plattner (Sis. Deanne), and Chicago native Bro. Steve Hofstetter (Sis. Tamara, Washington, IL). Our hope is in Christ.

Our Bro. George Foxe (Sis. Velda) lost his brother, Charles Foxe, from Connecticut. Sis. LaVirra Lehman was laid to rest recently and we rejoice in her victory over death. She attended Chicago church since the 1930's. May God be near both of these families.

Two in our congregation also lost grandparents. Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Ryan Graf (Sis. Leah) upon the passing of his grandfather, Bro. Jim Ramseyer from Bay City, MI. Also, Sis. Andrea Luthi lost her grandmother, Sis. Joann Luthi (Bro. Lloyd), from Kansas. Our love and prayers are with these family circles, as well.

We rejoice with Sis. Brittany Kiefer as her engagement to Bro. Dustin Huber from Bloomington was announced on Christmas Day. May God bless them as they plan their wedding.

We thank God for the safe arrival of baby Owen Russell Plattner on February 2. Thankful parents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Deanne Plattner. We rejoice that Bro. Dan was able to be at the hospital for the delivery. God is faithful.

We welcome Sis. Christy Stoller to Chicago as she completes an eight-week internship at Northwestern University. Sis. Christy is a sib-

ling of our Sis. Carrie Blunier.

We were happy to hear that Nelson Eisenmann (Elder Bro. Brad and Sis. Cindy) is at peace and awaits baptism in March. May God continue to be near him as he grows in Christ.

On February 8 a singing shower was held for Bro. Ryan and Sis. Leah Graf. We are thrilled to have them with us and pray they settle into married life with joy.

### **ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK** **Marilyn Maul** **Tina Walder**

Rejoicing in the birth of a new granddaughter is Bro. Arlyn and Sis. Lanae Rudin. Siana was born January 20 and is the daughter of Brian and Bree Rudin. She has a big sister, Willow.

We are thankful for visiting ministers who shared the Word with us so willingly this past month. Bro. Merlin Meyer (Lester) and Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington) labored on our behalf and it was greatly appreciated.

Bro. Marvin Hari, a resident at the Knights Templar home, spent some time in the hospital this past month. We pray for God's healing hand on him.

February 18 was the special wedding day for Jacob Johnson (Curt and Sis. Bev Knapp) and Gabrielle Bell (Brady and April). We pray God will be with them in their married life together.

### **ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE** **Rachel Currier**

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

*Matthew 11:28*

We are thankful that the Lord has called more souls to repentance re-

cently. They include Miriam Hoerr (Bro. Max and Sis. Suzanne), Lynn Walder (Elder Bro. Ben and Sis. Juanita), and Hannah Lutz (Bro. Jack and Sis. Elisabeth). May they each one feel the Lord's nearness and grace at this time in their lives.

Doug and Michelle Schmidgall have welcomed a new daughter, Cheyenne Marie, into their home. Grandparents of Cheyenne are Bro. Mike and Sis. Dianne Schmidgall (Eureka) and Bro. Fred and Sis. Maryellen Zimmerman. We also rejoice with Bro. Chet and Sis. Rachel Rinkenberger with the birth of their daughter, Faith Olivia. Her grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Pat Rinkenberger and Art and Sis. Mary Currier.

We appreciate those who have labored in the Word this past month. Visiting ministers include Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis), Bro. Ron Isch (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley), Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North), Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jackie, Francesville), Bro. John Rassi (Sis. Heather, Tremont), and Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Lisa, Eureka).

Our annual business meeting was held recently. New Sunday School teachers are Bro. Fred Wiegand, Bro. Zach Anderson, Sis. Melinda Maul, and Sis. Melinda Steffen. Bro. Matt Zimmerman was selected for usher. We are thankful for their willingness and may the Lord provide for them in their new duties.

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### ILLINOIS, ELGIN

**Amy Gasser  
Miriam Gasser**

We appreciated the services of Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA) and Bros. Earl Beery (Rittman, OH), Steve Stieglitz (Leo, IN), and Todd Stoller (Latty, OH) who lent themselves in the reading and medi-

tation of God's Word.

At our annual business meeting on January 18, we heard many accounts of stewardship involving funds, maintenance, or various support and mission activities. In addition, the results of three elections were announced. Bro. David Kellenberger replaced Bro. Eric Weiss as Church Trustee; Bro. Bill Kinsinger replaced Bro. Bill Schambach as Cemetery Trustee; and Bro. Tim Kellenberger replaced Bro. Jeff Kellenberger as Resthaven Director. Bro. David Steffen thanked everyone for their special contributions, including the three brothers who completed their terms.

Those who underwent surgery and are now in various stages of recovery are Bro. Jerry Cargill (Sis. Kay), Bro. Tom Rhodes (Sis. Gail), and Bro. Paul Weiss. We are thankful for answered prayers on their behalf.

The loss of three brothers from central Illinois has been felt in our congregation. Bro. Perry Zimmerman, the retired Elder of Forrest, went to his rest February 3. Bro. Perry's wife, Sis. Dorothy, is a sister of Bro. Bill Gudeman.

Bro. John Feucht, the father of Chuck, died February 7 in Morton. Fond memories linger of Bro. John, who raised his family in the Elgin area and was baptized here 30 years ago. On February 11, there was a second visitation at our Fellowship Center, followed by a graveside service at Bluff City Cemetery.

Bro. Ralph Schlipf of Gridley, an uncle of Bro. Tom Schifferer, passed away February 15. Bro. Tom spent many summers with his dear uncle.

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### ILLINOIS, EUREKA

**Dee Baer  
Jodi Blunier**

Julia Rose was welcomed to the

family of Bro. Alan and Sis. Angie, Kevin, Erica, Lanae and Darren Huber. Grandparents are Bro. Gary Huber and Karen Huber and Bro. Paul and Sis. Kris Schmidgall.

Bro. Kent Kraft (Bro. Doug and Sis. Judy, Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Sis. Marissa Hoerr (Bro. Norman and Sis. Connie) were united in Holy Matrimony. They are blessed to be able to trust in God's grace to fulfill the Scripture in their life together.

Bro. Harold Hodel (Sis. Mick), Sis. Norma Hangartner (Bro. Roy) and Sis. Janet Zimmerman (Bro. Tom) have experienced prayers for healing.

Visiting on our pulpit were Bro. Dan Moser (Elgin, IL), Bro. Dave Hartter (Sabetha, KS), Bro. Todd Sinn (Latty, OH) and Bro. Tim Zimmerman (Lamont-Gridley, KS). Bro. Ron Isch (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Bro. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) visited in Sunday School.

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### ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

**Angela Herr  
Kay Steffen**

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

*Acts 3:19*

We are thankful Nathan Mashburn (Bro. Billy and Sis. Barb) is repenting. Our prayers are with him as he seeks the Lord in repentance and as God performs this great miracle of conversion in his heart.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Merle and Sis. Marge Kaisner in the loss of her brother, Bro. Perry Zimmerman (Sis. Dorothy, Forrest, IL), who passed away on February 3. May God's comforting Spirit be upon each one who is mourning the loss of a loved one.

On February 4, we gathered with

the Forrest brethren to hear the reading of the Memorandum. We thank Elder Bro. Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL) for assisting Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) and our Elder Bro. Rick Plattner in this work. May God continue to be with our dear Elder brothers as they labor for Him and for our precious brotherhood.

February 5 was the wedding day of Bro. Tyson Fehr and Sis. Mandy Payne. Parents of the happy couple are Bro. Ivan and Sis. Cinda Fehr and John (late Sharon) Payne. May God continue to bless and guide them as they walk together with the Lord.

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

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

*Psalms 127:3*

Bro. Mike and Sis. Jen Feuchtenberger welcomed little Clori Marie into their hearts and home on February 16. Older brother Evan is excited to have a playmate. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Leona Kaisner and Bro. Gerald and Sis. Karen Feuchtenberger (Morris, MN).

Our thoughts and prayers have been with those recovering from recent accidents and other health issues, including Bro. Justin Kilgus (Bro. Paul and Sis. Carmen), Deann Steidinger (Dave), Sis. Karen Steffen (Bro. Albert), Bro. Tom Steidinger (Sis. Dianne), and Sis. Rosemary Hartman (Bro. John). We are thankful for the Lord's mercy and for His healing hand.

## ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Lynn Dotterer**

**Lisa Aberle**

Elder Bros. Rod Bajema (Lester, IA) and Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL) helped our Elder Bro. Marvin with the provings and baptisms of four young souls. Our new brothers and sisters are Sis. Kyla Kupferschmid (Bro. Todd and Kim), Sis. Allison Mueller and Bro. Lincoln Mueller (Bro. Stan and Sis. Kristen), and Bro. Clayton Teubel (Bro. John and Sis. Lavonne).

Elder Bros. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL) and Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL) assisted Bro. Marvin with bringing the Memorandum to us.

In addition to the Elder Brothers just mentioned, our visiting ministers this month were Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Bro. Ned Bahler (Fairbury, IL), Bro. Kerwin Edelman (Athens, AL), Bro. Trent Meiss (Eureka, IL), Bro. Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL), Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL), Bro. Nathan Walder (Cissna Park, IL), and Bro. Dale Wulf (Lester, IA). We thank them all for their work on our behalf.

Our Sis. Jean Martin passed away. We extend our sympathy to her daughter, Jean Ann Honegger (Gordon).

Our retired Elder Bro. Perry Zimmerman passed away on February 3. He had many family members in our congregation, including his wife, Sis. Dorothy; his children, Sis. Sharon Adams, Bro. Mike (Sis. Jeanette), Bro. Paul (Sis. Loretta), Bro. Wayne (Sis. Nancy), and Sis. Donna Bachman (Bro. Larry); and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. We also think of his siblings: Bro. Glen Zimmerman (Sis. Mildred), and Bro. Al Zimmerman (Sis. Melba) of our congregation; Sis. Marge Kaisner (Bro. Merle) of

Fairbury, IL; Sis. Betty Hodel (Bro. Bill) of Roanoke, IL; and Bob Zimmerman (Judy) of Normal, IL.

McKenna Lavonne was born to Bro. Mike and Sis. Marsha Lanz. McKenna's siblings are Marissa, Mikayla, Micah, and Mariah. Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary Bachtold and Bro. Elmer (and the late Sis. Lavonne) Lanz are her grandparents.

Ashley Koehl (Bro. Jim and Sis. Diane) and Brad Haab (Rob and Kathy) are engaged to be married. We wish them God's blessings.

Sis. Abby Eisenmann (Bro. Dan) and Sis. Velma Jean Ifft have been hospitalized and face ongoing health concerns. We pray that they will feel God's nearness.

### *Note of Thanks:*

We would like to thank all for the many prayers and deeds of love that have been shown to our family. There were so many kind words expressed and we feel so blessed to have had our Dad and husband for so many years. He truly loved his church family. May God bless each of you.

### *The Perry Zimmerman Family*

*Sis. Dorothy Zimmerman, Sis. Sharon Adams, Bro. Mike and Sis. Jeannette Zimmerman, Bro. Paul and Sis. Loretta Zimmerman, Bro. Wayne and Sis. Nancy Zimmerman, and Bro. Larry and Sis. Donna Bachman*

## ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

**Kayla Wiegand**

**Melissa Rokey**

"Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice: and let men say among the nations, The LORD reigneth."

*I Chronicles 16:31*

We have thankful hearts as we

share the good news of souls who are turning to the Lord. They are Zach Wiegand (Bro. Brad and Sis. Karen), Ty Taufer (Bro. Ted and Sis. Kenda), Maria Berardi (Bro. Randy and Sis. Elli) and Paula Hartman (Bro. Mike).

“Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;”

*II Corinthians 1:3*

We wish to offer our love and support as we share in times of sorrow. Bro. Delton (Sis. Nancy) Whitaker feels the loss of his father, Vernon Whitaker, who passed away January 28.

Sis. Amber (Bro. Mike) Grimm’s grandfather, Bro. Perry Zimmerman (Sis. Dorothy, Forrest, IL) passed away on February 3.

Our dear loved one, Steve (Karen) Reeser, 59, son of the late Bro. Harold and Sis. Vi Reeser, passed away on February 6.

Our prayers of compassion are offered to Sis. Molly (Bro. Noel) Davis, Bro. Chuck (Sis. Brenda) Hinrichsen, Bro. Mike (Sis. Gerri) Hinrichsen, and Sis. Joanne (Bro. Alan) Roth at the loss of their dear mother, Sis. Arlene Hinrichsen (the late Bro. Hans), who went to be with the Lord on February 16. Let’s remember to ask God to comfort all of these families who have suffered grief.

Our convert BJ Hinrichsen has spent several days in the hospital this past week. Sis. Becky (Dave) Knapp is in Florida and has recently spent quite a bit of time in the hospital with blood clots in her lungs and one leg. Bro. Larry Bauman (Sis. Betty) is also in the hospital in Florida and has undergone multiple back surgeries. Please pray for these loved ones as they continue healing.

*Note of Thanks:*

It was truly heartwarming to receive so many beautiful cards for our 50th anniversary. Thank You!

*Love, Bro. Morrie and Sis. Kathy Zimmerman*

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### **ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry Klopfenstein**

We are glad to report that Sis. Lucille Romersberger is home from a hospital stay. Also, Bro. Paul Klopfenstein is home from extended treatment for health issues. Henry Finck was in the hospital and is recovering. Sis. Eloise Howell was in the hospital for surgery. We are thankful that God helps where the hand of man cannot reach.

Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Peoria) was here to help with the reading of the Memorandum.

Sis. Bertha Funk, 84, passed away on February 10. She had lived at the Eureka home for several years. She was a native of Elgin, IA. She married Bro. S. Roy Funk on February 21, 1954, in Gridley. He survives. She is also survived by three sons, Bro. John Funk, Gridley, Randall Funk, Gridley, and Jerry Funk, Bloomington; and four daughters, Rhonda Baurer, Lithia, FL, Sis. Charlene Wagenbach, Burlington, IA, Lori Funk, Bloomington, and Karen Funk, Normal. Also surviving are two brothers, Bro. Leslie Pulfer, Pekin, and Bro. John Pulfer, Phoenix, AZ, and four sisters, Sisters Ruth Rinkenberger and Norma Butikofer, Gridley, Helen Jacobs, Remsen, IA, and Lois Winter, Oelwein, IA, and three grandchildren.

Sis. Bertha had a busy family life. In church, she was always eager to visit, and took an interest in how others were doing.

Bro. Ralph S. Schlipf, 87, died on February 15. His wife, Sis. Winifred,

had passed away on January 1, 2009. He is survived by two sons, Bro. John M. Schlipf, Gridley, and Mike A. Schlipf, Peoria. One sister, Sis. Helen Hodel, also survives. Four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren also survive him.

Bro. Ralph was full of energy in all he did. He was very active in World Relief, and a good share of his life was spent in dedicating himself to helping others.

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### **ILLINOIS, MORTON Annette Tanner Julie Bahr**

Ministering Brothers serving our congregation with the Gospel message this month were Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley) and Bro. Matthew Kaufmann (Sis. Rebekah, Bloomington) who brought us our Wednesday Evening Family Worship topic, “The Potter and The Clay”. Search us oh God, and keep our hearts soft and moldable to Thy precious will and help us to give even our tiniest needs up to Thee in prayer!

We are excited for the engagement announcement of Sis. Courtney Kaiser to Bro. Colin Hodel of Roanoke. Sis. Courtney is the daughter of Bro. Allen and Sis. Brenda Kaiser. Bro. Colin is the son of Bro. Curt and Sis. Jenell Hodel (Roanoke).

On February 10, Bro. Joe and Sis. Barb Zimmerman celebrated the safe arrival of their first grandchild, Jude Benjamin, born to parents, Tracy and Ben Bucher. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Tim and Sis. Julie Bucher (Valparaiso).

Our prayerful sympathy is shared with the family of our Bro. John Feucht who peacefully passed from this life February 7. Surviving sons are Bro. Dennis Feucht (Sis. Beth) of Morton and Charles Feucht of Elgin.



Our sympathy also is extended to the family of our Sis. Margaret Huthman who passed away February 9.

Prayers are coveted, once again for another of our work teams; as they give unselfishly of their time and energy to go support the people of Les Cayes, Haiti. Many projects are being completed for the purpose of obtaining a prosperous Hospital Lumiere. We pray for their safe health, energy and God's Holy Spirit to guide them.

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**ILLINOIS, PEORIA**  
**Pam Fritzenmeier**

We are happy to report that Sis. Rebekah Davidovics was announced January 22 to Bro. Brian Schwind, Roanoke. Bro. Brian's parents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Donna, also from Roanoke, and Sis. Rebekah's parents are Bro. Fedi and Sis. Ruth.

Our congregation heard the reading of the Memorandum on Wednesday evening, January 18. Our thanks to Elder Bro. Steve Sauder (Sis. Mary, Tremont) for assisting in this.

Saturday, January 21, was the annual Bible Class Pancake and Sausage Supper. Thank you for your generous support for the many activities and outreaches of our youth.

Another precious lamb has come in repentance. Shelby Vaughn has begun her walk with our Lord, the One who will never let us down.

We wish to acknowledge some major milestones reached by several in our congregation. Bro. John and Sis. Dot Hoerr celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary January 27. On February 3, Bro. Melvin and Sis. Margaret Getz also celebrated 60 years of marriage. Bro. Dan and Sis. Miriam Messerli celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary February 9. Sis. Lillian Elsasser turned 90 years old on January 31. God's bless-

ings to each of these dear ones!

Our sympathy and prayers are with the family of Kathryn (George) Hoerr, who passed into eternity January 27.

Abigail Stickling (Chris and Sis. Marsha) had back surgery January 20. Brock Streitmatter (Bro. Ron and Sis. Lori) spent time in the hospital, undergoing several surgical procedures for removal of a blood clot. Sis. Barb Schafer remains homebound, suffering from cancer. Bro. Dave Oberghel (Sis. Kathy) just returned to the pulpit after heart surgery. Sis. Lois (Bro. Willis) Ehnle had surgery February 17. Please pray for healing and grace to endure.

Sis. Edith Traub is moving to Tennessee to be with her sister. Please pray for her in this transition.

We ask for continued prayers for our local missionaries far from home. These include Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Bere Aupperle and Bro. Zach Knobloch, Magdalena, MX; and Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard and family and Sis. Janelle Grassi in Haiti. The Reinhardts report that this is the busy work team season and ask for prayers for health and safety.

*Note of Thanks:*

We want to thank everyone for their prayers and deeds of kindness during David's hospitalization and recovery! May God bless you richly!

*The Oberghel family*

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

Elder Bro. Bruce Endress (Bradford, IL), Bro. Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL), Bro. John Grimm (Columbus, OH), Bro. John Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Bro. Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN), and Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) ministered to us this past month. May God bless

their efforts and faithfulness in speaking His Word.

Our prayers have been with Harvey Stahl who has been in the hospital. May he feel God's nearness as he recovers.

Sis. Kathy (and Bro. Jordan) Feucht experienced the loss of her dear mother, Sis. Arlene Hinrichsen (Goodfield, IL). Our prayers are with them. A precious God-fearing mother is such a blessing. May you feel God's comfort in future days.

We laid to rest a dear friend, Paul Streitmatter, on February 7. We extend our sympathy to his three children: Steven and Michael in California, and Joy (and Kirk) Stuaan of Peoria, IL. His sisters here are Sis. Geraldine Streitmatter and Sis. Shirley (late Bro. David) Kieser, and his sister-in-laws here are Sis. Mary Lou (late Bro. Don) Streitmatter and Sis. Virginia (late Bro. Alfred) Streitmatter. May God grant His comfort to his family who will miss him. Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL), a nephew to Paul, helped in the ministry at his uncle's funeral.

Sis. Brooke Streitmatter (Bro. David and Sis. Crystal) and Bro. Kory Wagenbach (Oakville, IA, Bro. Gerald and Sis. Bonnie) announced their engagement on January 29. May God be with them as they are led and directed by Him.

We rejoiced with Sis. Lena Christ (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Connie) and Bro. Loren Stoller (Bradford, IL, Bro. Nathan and Sis. Sherrill) as they became one in Holy Matrimony on February 5. A marriage in faith, led by God, is strengthening to the church. We will miss Sis. Lena here, but we do wish them joy and blessings as they establish their home near Bradford.

Thankful first-time grandparents are Bro. Rick and Sis. Joyce Rumbold as they welcome little Klaire Linnell,

born January 26. Grateful parents are Zach and Lillie Rumbold. Raymond and Joan Rumbold are great-grandparents. May God bless their family.

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## ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

**Jamie Hodel**

**Judy Sauder**

“Grace be to you and peace from God and the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ. Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father: To whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”

*Galatians 1:3-5*

Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor) joined our Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman in the reading of the Memorandum on January 25. We thank these Brothers for their timely exhortations to us.

“... but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised.”

*Proverbs 31:30*

Our dear Sis. Mabel Getz went to be with the Lord on January 26. Her survivors include three daughters, Sis. Ann (Bro. Bob) Knepp, Sis. Shirley (Bro. Steve) Leman, and Sis. Joyce Hodel; a son, Bro. John (Sis. Lynn) Getz; a brother, Bro. John (Sis. Esther) Sauder; and a sister-in-law, Sis. Dorothy Sauder; 9 grandchildren and 16 great – grandchildren, all of Roanoke. Bro. Steve Baner (Gridley) offered the prayer for the funeral meal.

Retired Elder Bro. Perry (Sis. Dorothy) Zimmerman (Forrest, IL) went to his heavenly rest on February 3. He was a brother to Sis. Betty (Bro. Bill) Hodel. Also, Paul Streitmatter (Princeville) passed

away on February 3. He was a brother-in-law to Bro. Wilmer Blunier. Sis. Arlene Hinrichsen (Goodfield) went to be with the Lord on February 16. She was the mother of Bro. Mark (Sis. Sue) Hinrichsen and a sister to Bro. Gene (Sis. Marge) Fehr. We offer our love and deepest sympathy to these dear families and pray for our Lord’s comfort on them.

“Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord ... Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;” (Eph. 5:22,25). Many couples from our congregation attended a Marriage Seminar on January 27-28. We thank all those who made it a blessed weekend of instruction and encouragement.

On January 29, the marriage engagement of Bro. Colin Hodel (Bro. Curt and Sis. Jenell) and Sis. Courtney Kaiser (Bro. Alan and Sis. Brenda) of Morton was announced. We ask for God’s blessings on this dear couple as they take this step of faith.

“... How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!” (Romans 10:15). Bro. Matt (Sis. Jennifer) Feucht was installed as our new minister on January 29. We pray for God’s wisdom and blessings for this dear family as they assume these responsibilities, knowing God provides for our every need. Elder Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton) and Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Peoria) assisted Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman in this work.

We heartily welcome Sis. Tina Leman back home to our congregation. We pray for God’s continued nearness for Sis. Tina.

Our annual church supper and singing was held on February 12. Bro. Dave Zehr (Gridley) was our guest minister for the day. We thank all those who helped make it a blessed

time of worship and fellowship.

“Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administration, but the same Lord.” (I Cor. 12:4-5). On February 17, Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington) led our monthly topical Bible Study on Identifying our Spiritual Gifts. We thank him for sharing Biblical, thought-provoking insights that will help us use our gifts for God’s glory and to advance the Kingdom.

“Lo, children are a heritage of the Lord;” (Psalm 127:3). Bro. Russ and Sis. Marge Plattner became grandparents again when Owen Russell arrived to bless the home of Bro. Dan and Sis. Deanne Plattner (Chicago) on February 2. Big sister, Olivia, and maternal grandparents, Dean Stahl and Sis. Charlotte Stahl (Bradford), are also thrilled with Owen’s arrival. May God bless this dear family as they raise their children in the ways of the Lord.

Our church trustees have been coordinating efforts to renovate the church building hallways. We thank all those who willingly give of their time and resources to address the needs of our congregation.

We continue to lift up in prayer Bro. Rich (Sis. Janet) Knepp, Sis. Pearl Leman, Danielle Getz (Bro. Chad and Sis. Crystal), Sis. Madlyn Fehr, Sis. Ann Hodel, Bro. Gene and Sis. Marge Fehr, Bro. Steve (Sis. Tammy) Hofstetter (Washington), and Bro. Dan (Sis. Deanne) Plattner (Chicago) who are dealing with health issues. We pray for God’s continuing healing mercies, His strength and nearness for these loved ones and their beloved families.

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## ILLINOIS, TREMONT

**Janice Sauder**

**Teresa Rowell**

It was such a blessing to be able to

listen to all of the churches sing at the ACYF that was held in Tremont this past month. It certainly brought back memories of the good times we had as high school students getting to know others and learning to sing songs of praise. Maybe at the time we didn't really think it was the "coolest" thing to do, but as I look back on my childhood, I am so thankful for those times of fellowship and the lasting friendships that developed from them. We are thankful for the teachers who put so much effort and time into caring for our young people and give them these wonderful opportunities.

We are thankful for Bro. Les Kaeb (Sis. Christine, Francesville, IN) who visited us one Wednesday night and preached the Word to us.

There are two sets of grandparents in our congregation that have new babies to love and to hold. Bro. Dean and Sis. Karen Beutel welcome Lincoln David Beutel, son of Tim and Melissa (Withers) Beutel, into their hearts and lives. Also, Bro. Larry and Sis. Barb Reinbeck welcome Wade Allen Nickles, son of Mark and Amanda Nickles, into their hearts and lives. We wish these couples God's wisdom as they raise these two precious gifts that He has given them.

Bro. Pete Aberle (Sis. Debbie) and Bro. Derek Sauder (Sis. Leann) are still dealing with illness, and we pray for God's healing hand on them. Bro. Pete has had some complications from his surgery and Bro. Derek has had surgery and is starting radiation for his cancer.

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Les Pulfer (Sis. Wilma) in the death of his sister, Sis. Bertha Funk (Gridley, IL). Also, Sis. Arlene Hinrichsen (Goodfield, IL) has passed away and we pray for God's comfort for her family. Our Sis. Carol Beutel (Bro. Alvin) and Sis. Eunice

Beutel (Bro. Dave) are Sis. Arlene's sisters, and Sis. Kari Beutel (Bro. Steven) is her granddaughter. She also has several nieces and nephews in our Tremont congregation.

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**ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON**  
**Nancy Leman**  
**Linda Folkerts**

"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 continue to pray for the members of our body that are struggling with serious health concerns: Sis. Barb Johnson as she restarts chemo treatments, Bro. Steve (Sis. Tamara) Hofstetter as he continues chemo treatments, and Sis. Sue Ruppert as she continues to experience health challenges. May each of these individuals and their families be filled with the strength of the Spirit and be upheld by His righteousness!

We extend our sympathies to Bro. John (Sis. Shirley) Cox and family following the loss of John's father-in-law, Bro. Marvin Woodward.

It was a blessing to have Bro. Jim Meiss (Sis. Candy, Phoenix, AZ) come for a visit. We too were thankful for a group of Sisters from Goodfield, IL, who came to share in our monthly hymn sing.

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**INDIANA, BLUFFTON**  
**Suzie Fiechter**  
**Kim Meyer**

We are blessed. Do you take the time to specifically think how truly blessed we are? The Bluffton congregation was clearly reminded in a recent sermon of the rich heritage we have. The point was made that we can grow discontent and forget how

blessed we truly are. Too often the day to day things, whether big or small, can distract us just enough that we forget about those who have no hope, no trust, no family or no church. When we take the time to look outside ourselves, we can see more clearly all that God has given us inside ourselves.

Aren't we thankful for the Silver Lining? How wonderful it is to share with one another our high's and low's as a church body and connect through thoughts and prayers.

Bro. Adam and Sis. April McAfee are rejoicing over the birth of their daughter, Allison Joy. She's a precious first granddaughter to both grandparents, Bro. Jeff and Sis. Linda McAfee and Elder Bro. Lynn and Sis. Ronda Fiechter. Bro. Matt and Sis. Tiffany Drayer brought home another little girl, Tabitha Lois. With Hannah, Naomi, Stacy, and Tabitha they now have their own quartet. Bro. Jerry and Sis. Lois Drayer and Bro. Derryl and Sis. Peggy Aschliman are the thankful grandparents. Bro. Dan and Sis. Abby Moser gave birth to a healthy little girl on January 23. They named her Lucy Fae and her grandparents would be Bro. Doug and Sis. Ruby Gerber and Sis. Dina Fae Moser (Bro. Glen, dec.). Bro. Tim and Sis. Angela Pfister are excited to love their new granddaughter, Piper Grace. She was born to their daughter Megan and Adam Johnson. Babies always have a way of working into the hearts of all that come in contact with them. The Bluffton congregation had one of these babies that melted the hearts of all that heard the name Lahna Roxanne Tonner. Bro. Trevor and Sis. Rachel Tonner waited with such joy and anticipation the arrival of their baby girl. But just two weeks shy of her due date, little Lahna's heartbeat couldn't be found. She was stillborn. Deeply saddened but com-

pletely peaceful, Bro. Trevor and Sis. Rachel laid their baby girl in the ground. Her grandparents would be Bro. Dean and Sis. Julie Tonner and Anthony Tungate and Shelly and Randy James. May Lahna Roxanne's story touch more hearts and bring more glory to God than what her hands and feet would have taken her here on earth.

We also grieve for the family of Bro. Luster Heyerly (Sis. Martha) who recently passed away. His children would be Herb and Janet Heyerly and Sue and John Lantz. Bro. Rob Parker (Sis. Sierra) also said goodbye to their father, Rob Parker, Sr. Death is never easy no matter how you look at it, but may our dear loved ones whom we lay in the ground remind us to focus more on heaven and less on the earthly things that will pass away.

The Bluffton congregation had the opportunity to rejoice with five young converts who joyfully laid to rest their old bodies and arose to the newness of life in Jesus Christ through the baptismal waters. We embrace Bro. Ryan Isch (Bro. Doug and Sis. Tonia), Sis. Adrienne Kaehr (Bro. Keith and Sis. LouAnn), Sis. Elise Vanhorn (Bro. Dean and Sis. Marlene), and Bro. Jay and Bro. Jeff Fiechter (Bro. Mike and Sis. Shari) as they made a public commitment to live in the fullness of Jesus Christ. Bro. Dan Beer (Sis. Deb) from Milford came for baptisms and also preached the morning service.

We are thankful for two young ladies who have decided to turn their hearts to Jesus Christ in repentance. Whitney Isch (Bro. Jim and Sis. Rachel) and Kaylee Prichard (Karry and Ronda). We pray for all our young converts as they seek the Lord.

Bro. Oscar and Sis. Sylvia Bertsch had a very special Valentine's Day this year as they celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary! What a

celebration and testimony to us all!

The young group had a special celebration this month for all their parents. They treated their parents to a plated meal, singing and even a rose for the moms. The parents felt very much appreciated and were humbled by all the efforts that went into the special evening. We also had a post-celebration for Bro. Vince and Sis. Breana Fiechter's wedding that took place in January. It was a blessing to have at least seventeen churches represented from near and far come for their reception. We were blessed to hear from Bro. Doug Wagenbach (Sis. Lillian, San Diego), Bro. Doug Harmon (Sis. Lanna, Toledo) and Bro. Craig Stickling (Sis. Jacki, Peoria) on that weekend as well.

We are thankful for the ever faithful Elders that serve our congregations. May we continue to uplift each brother and their families all throughout the year and not just for the Conferences. Thanks to the Sabetha, KS, congregation who hosted this last Conference. Most importantly, we must offer prayers of thanksgiving for the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.

Our hospital patients are Bro. Craig Steffen (Sis. Jean) who is now at home after nine weeks in the hospital. Bro. Bob Herring (Sis. Janet), Sis. Sally Schwartz (Bro. Lester), Sally Meyer (Dale), and Sis. Evie Gerber (Bro. Bob) are our other patients. We also uplift Brandon Snodgrass, the son of Walt and Sis. Sherry Snodgrass, who is experiencing some health complications.

We don't know what the future holds for each of us, but God supplies all our needs according to Christ Jesus. May we be able to think on things that are true, just, honest, lovely, pure, and praiseworthy and then be able to DO the things that we have learned, heard, and received. (Phil.

4:19, 8, 9). God bless you all in the coming month!

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**INDIANA  
BLUFFTON NORTH  
Jessie Longenberger  
Amy Moser**

Lord Jesus, I long to be perfectly whole;  
I want Thee forever to live in my soul;  
Break down every idol, cast out every foe;  
Now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.  
Whiter than snow, yes, whiter than snow;  
Now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.  
*Hymns of Zion #210*

Our congregation rejoiced with Holly Hopkins, Livia Frauhiger (Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Sally), and Damon Gerber (Bro. Todd and Sis. Michelle) as they shared their testimonies of faith and were baptized the second weekend of January.

Sis. Sally Meyer (Bro. Dale), Bro. Wendell Gerber (Sis. Wanda), and Bro. Mark Steffen (Sis. Lori) were hospitalized this month. We are thankful for God's healing hand.

We rejoice with Bro. Lyndon Kaehr (Bro. Keith and Sis. Lou Ann, Bluffton) as he has recently announced his engagement to Sis. Kinsey Kershner (Bro. Dan and Sis. Jacki). We wish them God's richest blessings as they prepare to become one in Christ.

Although Matt Schwalbach has a strong testimony of faith, he feels that he has been called to become a member of our fellowship. Matt is the son of Jim and Dawn Schwalbach.

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**INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE**  
**Mildred Clauss**  
**Jacki Huber**

“Friendship improves happiness and abates misery, by the doubling of our joy and the dividing of our grief”  
*Cicero*

When I read this quotation, I realized that perhaps we sometimes fail to fully appreciate those whom God has provided to share our joys and our sorrows. In Proverbs 17:18 we read “a friend loveth at all times”! These are the true Christian friends who are such a blessing to our lives and we need to be truly thankful for them!

On February 4-5 our church hosted Invite-A-Friend weekend and it was most enjoyable. We thank our visiting ministers, Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Morton, IL) and Bro. Chris Wuethrich (Sis. Carla, St. Louis, MO) who shared the Word with us and we were blessed.

Emily Gutwein (Bro. Steve and Sis. Linda) and Devin Wieland (Blaine and Kathy, Spencerville, IN) recently exchanged wedding vows and are now at home in Ft. Wayne, IN. We pray the Lord will bless their marriage and their lives with His love and His grace.

On Saturday, February 18, Bro. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) gave a presentation on the Haiti SEED project for World Relief at the Fellowship Center. It was very informative and we thank Bro. Dale for coming.

Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL) was our visiting minister on February 18 and we thank him for sharing with us the inspiring Word.

Sis. Wilma Clauss (Bro. Paul) was hospitalized recently and is now receiving therapy in a Lafayette facility. We pray the Lord will be very near to them during this time of re-

covery.

The following Brothers & Sisters have been chosen to serve for the coming year:

Assistant Sunday School

Superintendent: *Brian Putt*

Sunday School Elementary Song

Leader: *Stephanie Huber*

Sunday School Teaching Brothers:

*Dan Nuest, Dave Zeltwanger*

Sunday School Teaching Sisters:

*Erica Gutwein, Sherri Huber,*

*Melissa Tanner*

Church Trustee: *Doug Leman*

Fellowship Center Trustee: *Earl*

*Johns*

Ushers: *AJ Gutwein, John Murray,*

*Joel Putt*

Missionary Committee: *Mike Putt*

Parkview Haven Board: *Harv*

*Gutwein*

Gateway Woods Representative:

*Gene A. Huber*

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**INDIANA**  
**INDIANAPOLIS**  
**Katy Frantz**  
**Sandy Lichtle**

On February 11, many couples gathered for a Valentine's dinner. It was a blessed time to fellowship and encourage one another in our relationships with the Lord and each other. We extend a special thanks to those who served on the dinner committee for their time and labors of love.

We rejoice with first-time parents, Bro. Ben and Sis. Karla Aberle, on the birth of their daughter, Maelle LaNae, born on February 11. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Richard and Sis. LaNae Aberle (Atlanta, GA) and Bro. Carl and Sis. Becky Kieser (Fairbury, IL).

Bro. Neil and Sis. Leann Banwart were blessed with a daughter, Stelle Morgan, born on February 15. Stelle is welcomed home by her big sister, Letty, and grandparents, Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Charlen Banwart (Champaign, IL) and Elder Bro. John

and Sis. Connie Lehman (Bern, KS).

February 17 was a special day for first-time parents, Bro. Makoto and Sis. Anna Inoue, as their daughter, Ayana Marie, was born. Happy grandparents are Elder Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie Inoue (Tokyo, Japan) and Bro. Ron and Sis. Edie Bollier.

We want to thank Elder Bro. Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra, Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Washington, IL) for their willingness to be used in the Lord's service by sharing the Word with us this month.

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**INDIANA, LACROSSE**  
**Meagan Frank**  
**Julie Rocke**

Our annual business meeting was held January 23. A sincere thank you to the brothers and sisters who have finished their terms and prayers to those who have been chosen to take their places of duty.

We were blessed with a wonderful evening on January 28 with the presence of Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Sis. Julie, Oakville, IA) to assist our Elder Bro. Curt Frank with the reading of the Memorandum. There were many topics covered and a lot of good reminders and instructions given. Many prayers were offered on behalf of our Elder brethren as they met this month in Sabetha, KS. May God continue to direct and bless them as they serve Him.

Bros. Randy Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford, IN) and Dana Neiman (Sis. Lea, Remington, IN) visited us this month. We truly appreciate their service on our behalf and ask that God would bless and keep each of them.

Bro. Eric Heinold (Sis. Bobbi Ann) spent some time in the hospital. We are thankful to hear that he is now recovering and feeling much better. Our Sis. Connie Knobloch also went through surgery this month; we pray

for the Great Physician's healing on each of our loved ones whether they have been in the hospital or are enduring the flu season.

May God be with each of you as we walk this path of life together serving Him each day.

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### **INDIANA, LEO Kirby Reutter**

Between births, deaths, weddings, and church offices, the Spirit continues to work within the Body. "And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all" (I Corinthians 12:6).

The Graf family is one case in point. On January 24, Sis. Deb Graf laid her father, Bro. Jim Ramseyer, to rest in Bay City, MI. On January 22, Bro. Ed Graf was asked to serve another term as a Trustee. On January 29, Bro. Ryan Graf made the following expression of gratitude to the Leo congregation: "Thanks for the kind gift and efforts in putting together the singing shower for us. We appreciated it greatly and enjoyed spending the evening together. Your generosity was quite humbling, and we are thankful for the many good friendships we have in Leo. We look forward to many visits in the future and hope to be back soon." Thus, the theme verse for the Graf family this month might very well be: "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

Our Bro. Ross Feller made a similar expression of gratitude: "Thank you so much for the welcoming singing-shower you hosted for us and for the generous gift for our wedding. It was a really special evening and we so appreciated the thought-out creativity many of you poured into the night to honor us. We feel very thankful to be a part of the Leo faith family."

As a result of our recent Business Meeting, many other gifted and giving servants were asked to serve in various capacities. For example, Sis. Lisa Laukhuf joined the Kitchen Committee; Bro. Kent Rager accepted office as Treasurer; Bro. Paul Fischer became our new World Relief Representative; and the following brothers have been asked to usher the Leo flock: Bro. Tyler Stieglitz, Bro. Tim Stoller, and Bro. Nate Young. We so much appreciate the time, effort, and sacrifice of all those who previously served and continue to serve in these capacities. "But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him" (I Corinthians 12:18).

The good Lord also continues to bless the little flock with healthy progeny. Three births in particular especially touched the Leo church this month. First, Bro. Andrew and Sis. Natalie Gerber celebrated the arrival of Clara Rose Glory (6 pounds, 14 ounces, 19.5 inches). Incidentally, Bro. Andrew serves as our Development Director here at Gateway Woods. Secondly, the Oak House welcomed little Hunter (actually, big Hunter, at 9 pounds, 3 ounces, and 21 inches). Thirdly, Bro. Adam and Sis. April McAfee announced the arrival of Allison Joy (7 pounds, 18.5 inches). Bro. Adam serves as our Director of Education here at Gateway Woods, and attends our beloved congregation in Bluffton. "Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise" (Matthew 21:16). How true are the words of the Savior!

Finally, it has been said that the angels rejoice over one sinner that repenteth (see Luke 15:10). It could also be said that the Gateway House Parents rejoice over one assistant that is hired. We are so thankful that Sis. Amanda Winn (Gridley, IL) has answered the call to serve at the Hickory House. Several reports addi-

tionally indicate that Sis. Maria Steffen (Elgin, IL) will soon resume her post at the Cypress House. Both of these programs have been chronically understaffed over the past year. Thus, with a recent spike in referrals, the timing could not be better for the Lord to take control. "Even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body" (Ephesians 5:23).

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

"Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering: (for he is faithful that promised;)"

*Hebrews 10:23*

Bro. Fred Beer was hospitalized once again this past month. Sis. Edna Lehman's sister, Helen Roberts, passed away. In times like these, we certainly need to hold fast to our relationship with our God and know that He is faithful. The following verse 24 in Hebrews 10 – "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:" was discussed in our Bible study which our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter so willingly shares with us. Our hearts were moved to take the initiative to set in place a desire to share the unspeakable joy we find in our Saviour's love with those we come in contact with each day.

Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Sis. Erica, Wolcott) and Bro. Chris Laukhuf (Sis. Rachel, Latty) was willing to come and share God's teaching with us. We were blest to have them visit our congregation. Our hearts are filled with thankfulness as we ponder the many blessings our Heavenly Father has in store for us.

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**INDIANA, REMINGTON**

**Jenni Honegger  
Marcella Tyler**

We are thankful for our visiting ministers this month. Bro. Ed Fritz (Sis. Sally) from Washington was with us for a Sunday and Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam) gave a thoughtful presentation about the Home for the Handicapped one Wednesday evening. May the Lord bless each one for his efforts.

We ask for your prayers for Sis. Marge Pitman. She had a stay in the hospital recently after a fall. She is now at home recuperating, and we hope to see her in church again soon.

We neglected to mention last month that our prayers were with the Elder body as they met for the recent Elder Conference. We are surely thankful for each one's willingness to serve, and we as the sheep can rest easily in the fold feeling confident that each shepherd has the flock's best interests at heart.

**INDIANA, SOUTH BEND**

**Joshua Martinez**

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

*James 1:17*

Bro. Marty and Sis. Lavilla Langhofer are thankful to add another grandchild to their family. Arwen Elise Woollet was born on January 26 to Benji and Ila Woollet and joyful big sisters, Chloe and Layla. May all honor and glory be given to our Heavenly Father for every new precious addition to our families.

We welcomed back Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue Beebe from a recent mission trip to Haiti. A few weeks later, we

bid farewell to them as they returned to that suffering nation to continue their work at Hospital Lumiere. For more information on the relief and recovery efforts that carry on two years after the devastating earthquake please visit: [www.godisinhaiti.com](http://www.godisinhaiti.com)

"The Lord is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him."

*Exodus 15:2*

Sis. Helen Steffen, grandmother of Bro. Otto Schlatter, passed away on February 10 in Phoenix, AZ. We extend our deepest sympathy to Bro. Otto and Sis. DeAnn. We are thankful that Sis. Helen rests in the arms of her Lord and Savior and look forward to the joyous reunion when we meet again.

On February 19, visiting ministering Bro. Gary Sinn (Latty, OH) shared the Good News with us. May the Lord bless him, his wife, Sis. Paulette, and their family for their loving service and fellowship.

"The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace."

*Numbers 6:24-26*

**INDIANA, VALPARAISO**

**Marguerite Hoerr**

Our winter, except for one snow, has been relatively mild for SW Michigan and Northern IN thus far this year. Bob and I pay attention to weather forecasts because of the distance we drive to church. Lake effect snow is something we didn't experience often before we moved to New Buffalo. It's something we re-

spect because of its beauty and often, for its depth. This year the Lake hasn't frozen at this point, so when arctic winds blow across it, there is the potential for lots of snow. However the temperatures have been milder than usual this winter, so we have had mostly good driving weather to get to church, for which we are so grateful.

Bro. Tim and Sis Julie Bucher have been happy to share family news with us recently. Their oldest son, Andy, announced his engagement to Brigitte Anderson on Thanksgiving Day. Brigitte's parents are David and Cindy Anderson of Palm Springs, CA. They plan to be married on June 22. May God bless their wedding plans.

More happiness came to them on February 10, which just happened to be Tim's birthday, when a new grandson, Jude Benjamin, arrived to be part of the family. He was born to Tracy and Benjamin Bucher of Valparaiso. His arrival has made many grandparents happy. Besides Bro. Tim and Sis. Julie on the paternal side, he was welcomed by his maternal grandparents, Bro. Joe and Sis. Barb Zimmerman of Morton, and by his great-grandmother, Sis. Millie Zimmerman of Morton. His paternal great-grandparents are Norman and Marge Jacobs of Valparaiso. We ask for God's richest blessings on little Jude and all of his family.

We were blessed by the visit and ministry of Bro. Tom Troxel (Lacrosse) on January 29. We feel such a welcome for him and Sis. Luann whenever they visit us and they bring so much love with them. Thank you both for spending a Sunday with us. Josh, we enjoyed your visit to us also.

This morning in my devotions I turned to a book that Bro. Lyle and Sis. Marilyn Zeltwanger gave me. It's a gentle reminder to me that always "Jesus is Calling" (Sarah

Young). I am struck by the following reminder: “Keeping your eyes on Me is the same thing as trusting Me. It is a free choice that you must make thousands of times daily. The more you choose to trust Me, the easier it becomes. Thought patterns of trust become etched in your brain. Relegate troubles to the periphery of your mind, so that I can be central in your thoughts, that you focus on Me, entrusting your concerns into my care.” Scripture references are:

“As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord; so walk ye in him. Rooted and built up in Him and stablished in the faith; as ye have been taught, abounding therein with Thanksgiving.”

*Colossians 2:6-7*

“But my eyes are unto thee, O God the Lord; in Thee is my trust; leave not my soul destitute.”

*Psalms 141:8*

“Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you.”

*Peter 5:7*

I have found that whenever I have a care or concern that I can't overcome on my own, I find these verses comforting, and they take away my worries. I am thankful for the comfort of our Bible.

I love to remind anyone who is traveling in this area that our church home is just 2 3/4 miles S. of U.S. 30 on State Road 49. You are always welcome.

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**INDIANA  
WEST LAFAYETTE  
Katie Widmer  
Ben Stoller**

Congratulations to Josh and Jonell Cook on the birth of their little baby girl: Kiera Elizabeth! Kiera was

born February 15 and was the perfect post-Valentine's day gift for big sister and brother Zoe and Micah.

We will miss Bro. Rusty Gann as he moves to the Fort Wayne area for work.

We are happy for Sis. Tianna Stieglitz (Leo) and Bro. Todd Drayer (Bluffton) in their engagement. We wish them God's many blessings on their future road together; though the PYG and West Lafayette church will miss Tianna's smiling face and I will miss her as a roommate!

The PYG and our church congregation have had many opportunities to package soap up in Wolcott and our prayers are with the mission, that the soap may bless all who receive in the name of Jesus Christ.

Next month we will see a shake-up in the Silver Lining as I welcome my cousin, Ben Stoller, to join me in reporting the exciting happenings of our West Lafayette church!

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**IOWA, AMES  
Jacob Schulz**

We had a visiting minister one Wednesday night this month. We would like to thank Bro. Joe Gerst (Sis. Connie, Iowa City, IA) for lending himself to our service. May God richly bless the labors of all who bring forth the Word.

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**IOWA, BLOOMFIELD  
Rachel Stoller**

“Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.”

*Psalms 116:15*

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Roy Metzger (Sis. Evelyn) upon the death of his sister, Sis. Freida Mogler (Lester, IA). She also was Bro. Russell Wuthrich's (late Sis. Karoline) sister-in-law and Sis. Shirley

Wuthrich's (Bro. Joel) aunt; so many lives were touched. May we each strive daily to be ready for our Heavenly Home.

An important part of a believer's life is service to others. We had our annual business meeting, and are thankful for willing brethren to serve in various offices. We also gathered for World Relief activities this month, which included soup packing and sewing.

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**IOWA, BURLINGTON  
Marilyn Anderson  
Monica Eisenmann**

We were blessed with many visitors this past month and we appreciate those who travel to worship with us and the labors of our visiting ministers. Bro. Dave Marquart (Taylor, MO), Bro. Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA), and Bro. Joe Dotterer (Bloomfield, IA) have brought forth the Word to our congregation this past month.

We pray that God's Spirit will always be with the ministers so that they can teach us the way of truth and righteousness.

Behold how good and how pleasant it is  
For brethren to dwell together in unity.

*Hymns of Zion #188*

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**IOWA, ELGIN  
Maria Roche  
Brianna Strahm**

Our congregation was blessed with several visiting ministers this past month: Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL), Bro. Kenny Dietz (Sis. Mardell, Bradford, IL), Bro. Barry Dietz (Sis. Rachel, Bradford, IL) and Bro. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend, IA). Also with us to share the Memorandum letter was Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West



Bend, IA) and Elder Bro. Steve Martin (Sis. Vicki, Eureka, IL). We thank all of these Brothers and their families for being with us and their willingness to serve our small congregation.

We're thankful Bro. Dale Moore is doing well following a procedure and short hospital stay.

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**IOWA, GARDEN GROVE  
Laura Funk**

Our congregation held our annual business meeting. I had to think how different to attend a meeting in our church building, opening the meeting with a prayer and closing with a prayer. The discussions held with respect for the congregation and those leading the meeting. No derogatory remarks or name calling. So different than a public meeting. Thanks be to God.

Those delivering the Word to our congregation this month include Bro. Greg Braker (Lamar, MO) and Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS). God bless you for your efforts.

Joseph Parmer and Stephanie Reasoner announced their engagement. A July wedding is planned. Joseph is the son of James and Sis. April Parmer.

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**IOWA, IOWA CITY  
Diana Butikofer**

"And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. And they remembered his words, and returned from

the sepulchre, and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest"

*Luke 24:5-9*

What a wonderful story to focus on even more this time of year and to tell others about.

Sis. Eunice Feller passed on to her reward in December. She is survived by her son, Bill, daughters, Bonnie Ponicki and Sue (Larry) Emmert, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Although she was not able to assemble with us for some time due to failing health in her later years, her desire to do so over the years was quite evident and we enjoyed her fellowship when she was able to come. We pray the Lord will comfort her family and remind us of her love for God and the families He blesses us with.

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**IOWA, LESTER  
Gloria Moser  
Polly Metzger**

Be present, gracious Father,  
To give away this bride,  
As Eve thou, gav'st to Adam  
Out of his own pierced side:  
Be present, blessed Jesus,  
To join their loving hands,  
As thou didst bind two natures  
In thine eternal bands.

*Hymns of Zion #196*

February 5 was the wedding day of Bro. Ross Mogler (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Lois), and Sis. Abby Kellenberger (Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa, Sabetha). We welcome Sis. Abby to our congregation and pray God will bless them as they begin their life as one and establish their home.

Far away in the depths of my spirit  
tonight  
Rolls a melody sweeter than psalm;

In celestial-like strains it unceasingly falls

O'er my soul like an infinite calm.  
Peace! peace! Wonderful peace,  
Coming down from the Father  
above;

Sweep over my spirit forever, I pray,  
In fathomless billows of love.

*Tabernacle Hymns #149*

We rejoice with Tim and Carla Feucht, as they have sought their salvation and have found peace with God and man. May God continue to bless them as they walk this precious path of life.

"My God is the Rock of my refuge."

*Psalms 94:22*

We always want to remember, in prayer, the many in our church family and community who suffer in hardships of one kind or another. Those that have spent time in the hospital this past month are: Sis. Marie Knobloch (Bro. Ezra), Bro. Howard Mogler (Sis. Lillian), Sis. Paulina Knobloch, little Avery Metzger (Bro. Drew and Sis. Maria), Mallory Gramstad (Bro. Kjert and Sis. Michelle), Bro. Willy Knobloch (Sis. Helen), little Zane Metzger (Aaron and Robyn) and Olivia Metzger (Bro. Justin and Sis. Jodie). We pray for God's healing mercy and may we always remember He is "A shelter in the time of storm."

\*\*\**Just a reminder*, the annual summer church service at Clyde Park, MT, will be held the weekend of June 23-24, 2012. Please contact Bro. Gene Metzger (712)472-2187 or Bro. Wes Moser (712)478-4622, with any questions.

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**IOWA, OAKVILLE  
Sharla Wiegand**

We bid farewell to two dear sisters

who passed from this life into eternity. On January 21, Sis. Cleo Gerst took her last breath on this earth. Our sympathy is extended to her children, Sally and Ed Schrock; Dick Gerst; Connie and Mike Bender; Randy and Juanita Gerst; Annette Brown; Jim and Diane Gerst.

Sis. Ione Stoller-Rowell passed away January 30 and we trust God will comfort her family: Earl and Vicky Stoller; Bro. Dan and Sis. Diane Stoller; Bro. Ed and Sis. Patty Stoller; Steve and Paula Stoller; Sis. Barb and Bro. Bob Moser; Linda Gerst; Bro. John and Sis. Nelda Rowell and Phyllis and Dave Walk.

Visiting ministers this month included Bro. Klint Beyer (Sabetha, KS); Elder Bro. Rod Bajema (Lester, IA); Bro. Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA) and Bro. Scott Wegman (Taylor, MO). May the Lord reward them for their service.

On January 29, the engagement of Bro. Kory Wagenbach and Sis. Brooke Streitmatter was made known. Their parents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Bonnie Wagenbach, Jr. and Bro. David and Sis. Crystal Streitmatter (Princeville, IL).

At our annual business meeting, appreciation was expressed to those who have completed their terms on the following committees: Trustee – Bro. Curt Frank; Cemetery Committee – Bro. Jeremy Steiner; Fellowship Center trustee – Bro. Dave Lanz; Kitchen Committee – Sis. Linda Gerst and Sis. Charlene Wagenbach; Usher – Bro. Troy Massner and World Relief – Sis. Luann Schmidgall. We also appreciate the many years of service Bro. Ed Stoller put in as church secretary and we give our support to Bro. Kyle Wagenbach to take on this role.

Newly elected offices include: Trustee – Bro. Ryan Frank; Cemetery Committee – Bro. Orrin Lanz; Fellowship Center Trustee – Bro. Mitch

Schulz; Kitchen Committee – Sis. Kelly Lanz and Sis. Barb Wagenbach; Usher – Bro. Joel Steiner and World Relief – Sis. Kathy Frank. We pray that they will fulfill their duties with love and cheerfulness.

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## IOWA, WEST BEND

### Janet Fehr Leona Fehr

With joyful hearts we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of three dear souls on January 22. Colleen Fehr (Bro. Byron and Sis. Anita), Jessica Fehr (Bro. Mark and Sis. Janet) and Jordan Knobloch (Bro. Jim and Sis. Sandy) have all been truly converted. May God guide and bless each one. We appreciated having Elder Bro. Steve Sauder (Sis. Mary, Tremont, IL) with us, as well as Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, Portland, OR), Bro. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA), Bro. Dale Moore (Sis. Cheryl, Elgin, IA) and Bro. Kent Getz (Elgin, IA).

The last weekend in January, Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH) assembled with us to assist our Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm with the reading of the Memorandum and to break the Word with us. We are so thankful for the exhortations and reminders that in our walk with Christ we must forsake the world and live a sanctified life if we hope to receive a Heavenly reward. Also on February 5, Bro. Virgil Metzger (Sis. Mary, Chicago, IL) visited our congregation and gave of himself in service to the Lord on our behalf. We humbly thank each one.

Bro. Darin and Sis. Amanda Banwart are thankful for the safe arrival of their firstborn child, Jarrett Michael, on January 18. Grandparents are Bro. Kent and Sis. Beth Banwart and Bro. Cameron and Sis. Tammy Knobloch.

“We are going down the valley one by one...” We extend our sympathy to Bro. Art Mogler (Sis. Eula) in the passing of his sister, Berniece Erickson. May the Lord comfort the heart of each one in their grief.

After having a few months when everyone was healthy, we have had several of our loved ones hospitalized for various reasons. Undergoing surgery this month were Roy (Angie) Metzger, Bro. Bruce (Sis. Audrey) Messner, Bro. James (Sis. Sarah) Montag, and Jed Knobloch (Bro. Jim and Sis. Sandy). All of these surgery patients have returned home to recuperate with the helping hands of their family. Also hospitalized for injury or illness were Bro. Cameron (Sis. Tammy) Knobloch, Bro. Albert Banwart, and Sis. Matilda (Bro. Elmer) Fehr. One of the families mentioned that they were sharing each other’s company. It truly is a blessing when we can visit those who are in the hospital. As we see health and a measure of strength return to each of these souls, we thank the Lord for His healing hand. Our prayers are with Bro. Albert Banwart as he has since moved into the care center.

A double blessing was in store for West Bend with the weddings of two sisters on the same day. On February 12, Bro. Ryan Grimm (Morris, MN) was united in marriage to Sis. Paula Mogler, and Bro. Andy Bruellman was betrothed to Sis. Betsy Mogler. Parents of the couples are Bro. Kevin and Sis. Nita Grimm (Sabetha, KS), Bro. Chuck and Sis. Beth Mogler, and Bro. Larry and Sis. Teresa Bruellman (North Fort Myers, FL).

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## JAPAN, SHIODA

### Carrie Ito

We have wonderful news to report! There is an elderly man who is repenting, Hirose-san. His wife was

a former member of our church, Kiyoko Hirose. Mr. Hirose was diagnosed recently with terminal cancer and wanted to die with a sincere belief in Jesus as Savior and a real hope of heaven. He was able to come to church one time, but due to weakness and pain was hospitalized soon after that. Bro. Akito and Bro. Akihiro have visited him and been impressed with his simple, but determined faith. Bro. Akito baptized him in the hospital just recently and Hirose-san was so peaceful. Hirose-san has desired a Christian funeral, which goes in the face of the Japanese culture. He very bravely has talked to his siblings and neighborhood group to tell them of his Christian belief and desire for Christian (versus Buddhist) funeral. Please pray for their entire family. The Hirose's children attended our Sunday school and know the truth. May their parents' faith and testimony encourage them to seek their soul's salvation! We praise the Lord for the seeds of faith that were planted by many of the former Kindergarten teachers, Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois, and many others, have sprouted and are bringing forth fruit! Oh, that so many more of those "seeds" would spring up!

We were also blessed by a visit from three young brothers, Bro. Derek Chang (Fairbury), Bro. Curt Dotterer (Bloomfield), and Bro. Joshua Gutwein (Forrest). as they stopped in Japan on their way back from visiting Taiwan.

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## **JAPAN, TOKYO**

**Marie Inoue  
Manuela Denes**

A few days ago, I received a message from a friend from home asking me how things were going in the "Land of the Rising Sun". So many times in the morning, I find myself rushing to get to the train station

early enough so that I can beat the morning crowd. The morning after having read that message I found myself up early enough to enjoy a beautiful sunrise. Standing on the platform I breathed in the cold morning air and saw the biggest, brightest sun as it came up from behind the buildings! The bright orange glow filled me with warmth and made me remember that "This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." Psalm 118:24 Let's all try to remember to slow things down a bit and enjoy these moments!

It is always such a blessing to have visiting ministers on a Sunday. We were thankful for the message that was brought forth from both Bro. Galen Rokey (Bern, KS) who was passing through on a business trip, and Bro. Akihiro Ito (Sis. Carrie) from Shioda. May the Lord bless them for sharing His words with those who were gathered together.

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

*Psalm 127:3*

What joyous news to be able to share! A first grandchild has been welcomed by Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie Inoue. A beautiful baby girl, Ayana Marie, was born to first-time parents, Bro. Makoto and Sis. Anna Inoue of Indianapolis, IN. Bro. Ron and Sis. Edie Bollier are her other dear grandparents. Sis. Marie will soon be traveling to meet her granddaughter and we look forward to her having a safe and blessed visit with them.

We pray for a quick return to health for Bro. Teruo Sanada who spent several days in the hospital. Thankfully, his heart was fine but he had the start of pneumonia. There have also been several adults and dear children who have been suffer-

ing with influenza. We're happy and thankful that all seem to be recovering and I know that we are all looking forward to welcoming the warmer weather of spring!

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## **KANSAS, BERN** **Sheri Edelman Rita Menold**

The Sabetha congregation joined ours for the reading of the Memorandum. We appreciated Elder Bro. John Jackson (Sis. Peggy, Bay City, MI) sharing with us as well as Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sabetha).

There were two babies born on the same day, January 25, to become the grandchildren of couples in our Bern congregation. Bro. Galen and Sis. Nancy Rokey are thankful grandparents of Abram James W. Beyer. His parents are Kortland and Sis. Rebekah Beyer of the Sabetha congregation.

Bro. Steve and Sis. Kaye Meyer are thankful grandparents at the birth of Brielle Grace Hertzell. Her parents are Mark and Kari Hertzell of the Sabetha congregation.

Another set of proud grandparents are Elder Bro. John and Sis. Connie Lehman. Stelle Morgan was born February 14 to Bro. Neil and Sis. Leann Banwart (Indianapolis, IN).

On January 31, Bro. Joe Marti was laid in his final resting place. We extend our sympathy to his entire family, especially Joe's nephew and wife, Bro. Steve and Sis. Lois Hartter, from our congregation.

During the winter Elder Conference held in Sabetha, we were privileged to host mid-week services! Sharing the pulpit that night were Elder Bros. Lynn Fiechter (Bluffton, IN), Herb Knochel (Phoenix, AZ) and Bruce Endress (Bradford, IL). Thank you for your labors!

Bro. Elwin and Sis. Mary Strahm

have our sympathy as they told Elwin's brother, Bro. Ron Strahm from the Kansas City, MO congregation, a final farewell on February 19. Bro. Ron died suddenly in a small airplane wreck on February 14.

On February 18, the Bern and Sabetha congregations had the opportunity to attend a women's seminar during the day and a presentation on Family Relationships in the evening for everyone. Thank you to Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. and Sis. Whitney Indermuhle for presenting this to us.

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### **KANSAS, FORT SCOTT** **Teresa Bahr**

Bro. Lyle Fischer (Sis. Lillian) is out of the hospital and now at the MedicaLodge Care Facility getting physical therapy. Our Bro. Floyd Banwart also resides there. Sis. Aleta Banwart (Bro. Don) is recovering from foot surgery.

Several from our Fort Scott congregation are anticipating a medical/work visit to the Hospital Lumiere in Bonnefin, Haiti, March 17-24, 2012. We trust God will bless and protect them as they plan this worthwhile trip.

We had three visiting ministers proclaim the Gospel message to us on February 12. They were Elder Bros. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS), Elder Bro. Jeff Streitmatter, III (Sis. Lynne, Sarasota, FL) and Bro. Klint Beyer (Sis. Kara, Sabetha, KS).

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

Our congregation is enjoying the Elder Conference tapes on Wednesday evenings.

We appreciate the visiting ministers this month. Bro. Ed Strahm (Sis. Ramona, Bern) and Bro. Jerry Meeks (Sis. Christy,

Sabetha) fed us God's precious Word. We are thankful for their labors of love.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Kelly Stewart and his family with the passing of his father.

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

*Hymns of Zion #112*

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

On Saturday evening, February 11, we assembled together to partake of Holy Communion and to remember our dear Lord's death and suffering. We appreciated the labors of Elder Bro. David Graf (Sis. Barb, Akron, OH) who assisted our Elder Bro. Jay Luthi. Also, we were blessed on Sunday with Elder Bro. Dave proclaiming the Word of Life to us. We thank Bro. Rex Frieden (Sis. Vera, Lamar, MO) who also ministered to us this month.

February 19 was the wedding day of Bro. Kent Kraft (Bro. Doug and Sis. Judy) to Sis. Marissa Hoerr (Bro. Norm and Sis. Connie) in Eureka, IL. We wish the Lord's richest blessings upon their marriage and welcome Sis. Marissa to our congregation.

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### **KANSAS, SABETHA** **Sally Strahm** **Belinda Kellenberger**

"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."

*Mark 16:16*

We were thankful to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of Sis. Rachel Edelman (Bro. Darin and Sis. Karen) on January 22. Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) assisted our Elder Bro. Gerry with the work.

We are thankful for the safe arrival of two precious babies, both born on January 25. Abram James W. Beyer joined the family of Koertland and Sis. Rebekah Beyer and big brother Keelan. Grandparents are Pete Beyer of Columbus, OH, and Sis. Luann Beyer (Oakville, IA), and Bro. Galen and Sis. Nancy Rokey (Bern, KS). Mark and Kari Hertzler were blessed with a little girl, Brielle Grace. Her grandparents are Elder Bro. Gerry and Sis. Ellen Hertzler and Bro. Steve and Sis. Kaye Meyer (Bern, KS). Also, on February 4, Bro. Rod and Sis. Arlene Grimm were thankful grandparents once again. Brecken Jay joined the family of Bro. Lyle, Sis. Amanda, Halle and Drake Grimm (Morris, MN). We pray these families will look to God to guide them as they raise their families.

Sis. Abby Kellenberger and Bro. Ross Mogler (Lester, IA) became one in the Lord on February 5. Their parents are Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa Kellenberger and Bro. Rodney and Sis. Lois Mogler (Lester, IA). Visiting ministers that shared the day with us were Elder Bro. Rod Bajema (Lester, IA), Bro. Ron Isch (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS), Bro. Kent Mogler (Sis. Mary, Minneapolis, MN) and Bro. Kevin Fehr (Sis. Lonnie, West Bend, IA).

February 12 was the wedding day for Bro. Ryan Grimm (Morris, MN) and Sis. Paula Mogler in West Bend, IA. Parents of the new couple are Bro. Kevin and Sis. Nita Grimm and Bro. Chuck and Sis. Beth Mogler (West Bend, IA). May God's blessings rest on these young couples and in

the homes they are establishing.

Our prayers are with Bro. Corbin Knobloch as his grandmother, Joann Luthi (Bro. Lloyd, Lamont-Gridley, KS), passed away. Also in our thoughts and prayers is Sis. Arleta Wenger (Bro. Harvey) as her sister, Mary Ann Rieger (Leonard, Fairbury, IL), has passed away. May our Lord comfort the sorrowing hearts.

Bro. Elmer Strahm (Sis. Phyllis) was in the hospital this month. May God's healing hand be upon him.

On January 28, the Memorandum was read to us. We rotate with Bern on hosting and this year was Bern's turn. We thank Elder Bro. John Jackson (Sis. Peggy, Bay City, MI) for his willingness to come and help our local Elders.

We had the opportunity to host the Mid-Winter Elder Conference February 7-10. On February 7, we had services in Bern due to our church being set up for the Conference. Elder brothers sharing the pulpit were Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL), Bro. Lynn Fiechter (Sis. Ronda, Bluffton, IN), Bro. Herb Knochel, Jr. (Sis. Laurie, Phoenix, AZ), and Bro. Bruce Endress (Sis. Elizabeth, Bradford, IL). May our prayers continue to ascend to Heaven for those that have been given oversight over our precious Faith, that they may seek wisdom and grace from above to be able to discern the many spirits and winds of doctrine that are rampant around us.

Prove ye, prove ye every spirit,  
As the Master did command it;  
Know their works, not words alone,  
Men, as trees, by fruits are known.  
Are their fruits, their works and  
teaching  
Based on doctrines Christ was  
preaching?  
Do they love and teach the truth?

Will their wisdom God approve?

Though the wolves be ever raging,  
Thou Thy fold are still defending.  
When such spirits do assail,  
We, who know Thee, will prevail.  
Lord, do Thou dispel confusion,  
Erring ones free from delusion.  
Saviour, may Thy fold increase,  
Grant us comfort, joy and peace!  
*Zion's Harp #127, vs. 1, 3*

## KANSAS, WICHITA

### Emma Miller

Recently we heard the good news that our defunct kitchen dishwasher would be replaced with a new one. This is the second week since it was installed and while it will take some adjustments as we use it, the consensus is that it is a good investment.

Sis. Marie Luthi is employed in Wichita. We are happy that she will make our Wichita church her home church.

Bro. Caylain Kellenberger from Kansas City spent the weekend in Wichita with his brother Ned who is a student at Wichita University. It was a pleasure to see their age group included our small assembly.

Bro. Ed Fritz and Sis. Sally (Washington, IL) filled the visiting minister schedule for February. We appreciate his willingness to give up his weekend for our benefit.

## KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

### Barb Huber

Christian Greetings in the precious name of our dear Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

"And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

*Philippians 2:8*

What an example Christ was for

us as He became obedient unto death to give His life on the cross of Calvary that we might have life eternal! May we be willing to humbly take up His cross daily and follow Him faithfully to do whatever He may ask of us.

We have been very thankful for visiting ministers who came recently and made the sacrifice to travel many miles that our little flock could be fed spiritually. We pray God's special blessings on Bros. Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonita, Cissna Park, IL), Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN), and Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) and their dear families.

A warm welcome is always extended to anyone who may be in our area or traveling through to worship with us. You may contact Bro. Lester Huber (859) 745-2541. Church services are held at 3938 Becknerville Rd., Winchester, KY.

Directions are in the minister's book.

## MEXICO, IXTLAN

### Matt Gerber

On Sunday, February 5, Sis. Claudia Gonzalez and Bro. Chad Aeschliman (Bluffton North) were married in the Lord. The Ixtlán church will miss having Sis. Claudia here, since they will be living in the U.S., but we wish them God's grace and blessings on their union. A number of visitors from the U.S. were with us for the weekend, including Elder Bro. Mike Leman. We enjoyed the extra fellowship and singing.

Unless you have been to Ixtlán for a visit, it's probably hard to picture what exactly goes on in the ministry here. I will attempt to give you a basic idea of what some of the main activities are, and mention some of the opportunities to serve.

*Ixtlán Church*

\* The Ixtlán church has approximately 40 members of various ages.

The principal way of reaching out is through establishing home Bible studies with people who are interested. The church also seeks to do deeds of service to the community through yearly eye clinics and medical clinics.

\* Summer Vacation Bible School targets children and adolescents from Ixtlán and the surrounding towns. Most of the children are not from church families, but we hope that some of them will start attending regularly after VBS. This summer VBS will probably be the last week of July. We can always use volunteers for VBS, even if you don't speak Spanish.

#### *Ixtlán School*

\* Our grade school currently has first, second, and third grades, with a total of 43 students. Each year a new grade level will be added until we are functioning with grades 1-6. The school is an outreach to families in the community who want a solid education and want their children to learn good values. We base those values on the Word of God. We have ongoing opportunities for Spanish-speaking licensed teachers to teach full-time, and for anyone interested in teaching English classes (not necessary to be a licensed teacher). Those who would like more information should contact Bro. Matt Gerber ([magerbe@gmail.com](mailto:magerbe@gmail.com)) for details.

#### *Morelia (2 hours from Ixtlán)*

\* There are currently four members living in Morelia, and official church services are held once a month. This is an opportunity for those who want to formally study Spanish in Mexico but also want to be around believers from our church. The believers there desire fellowship.

#### *Querétaro (4 hours from Ixtlán)*

\* There is one church family living in Querétaro. At this point we are not able to have services on a regular basis. Like Morelia, the city of

Querétaro has many excellent language programs, and students would have the opportunity to provide fellowship to this family.

*Barra Vieja (Acapulco) (12 hours from Ixtlán)*

\* Barra Vieja is a small coastal town close to the major city of Acapulco. There are four members in this area. We try to send someone every month or two to spend a week with the believers and continue to disciple them. The real need is for a couple/family to move here on a long-term basis and help build up this small church.

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### MICHIGAN, ALTO

**Listyn Oesch  
Melissa Blough**

"But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him."

*I Thessalonians 4:13-14*

Sis. Helen Steffen (Grandma Helen) has passed away to meet our Lord and Savior. Please continue to pray that God would comfort the family in the loss of their loved one.

"Here I go again,  
Thinking of the time when I will stand,  
and look into the eyes of my Redeemer  
Words won't come my way  
And deep inside my silence, accolades  
I'll find my voice to sing of my Redeemer  
And I know upon this earth I'll never find  
The words that can express my heart or mind..."

*(Matthew Ward)*

We also ask for your blessed prayers for Bro. Clint and Sis. Moonlight Moser as they embark upon a new journey of love and marriage.

We had an Alto invite weekend on February 24-26 and we thank all who were involved in helping and we thank each of you who attended; we very much appreciate your fellowship in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our congregation thanks Bro. Matt and Sis. Deanna Steffen (Princeville, IL) for their labors of love while visiting us this month and we wish you a safe trip home.

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### MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

**Sarah Knochel  
Janelle Ramseyer**

We rejoice with two young couples as they were joined in marriage this past month. Megan Meylan (Bro. Gene and Sis. Carol) became the wife of Daniel Snyder on February 11. Sis. Moonlight Szabo (Sis. Gail) and Bro. Clint Moser (Bro. Tom and Sis. Dawn, Garden Grove, IA) were married on February 19.

We are thankful for the visitors who worshipped with us during the weekend of Clint and Moonlight's wedding. Visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandy) and Bro. Howard Plattner (Sis. Kristin), both from Alto, and Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Deb, Denver, CO).

Three of our church families mourned the loss of a loved one over the past several weeks. Norm Andrzejewski's (Sis. Linda) sister, Joan S. LeRoux, passed away on January 29. Sis. Sharon Ramseyer's (Bro. Neil) father, John Sermon, was relieved of his earthly sufferings on January 30. Lyle McNally's (Sis. Marlene) mother, Esther McNally, passed away on February 5. We pray that each of these families will feel

the presence of the Holy Comforter in the coming days.

Our prayers are with Bro. Floyd Knochel as he has spent time in the hospital recently. We trust that God would provide healing all according to His will.

In just a few weeks, Easter will be upon us. How thankful we can be that Christ paid the ultimate price for our salvation, and we can have the hope of heaven because of this! May God's richest blessings be with each one!

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### **MICHIGAN, DETROIT** **Krista Wieland**

We are appreciative of visiting ministers, Bro. Dan Koch (Sis. Julie, Tremont) and Bro. Tom Troxel (Sis. LuAnn, LaCrosse). Both wonderfully shared the love of Christ and the truth of His Word with us. "...If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and His love is perfected in us." I John 4:12

We apologize for neglecting to mention in the last article that we were blessed on a Tuesday evening at Woodhaven with visiting ministering Bro. Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH). He was joined by his father-in-law, Bro. Gale Stoller, also from Toledo.

We have been prayerful for the mid-winter Elder Conference that was held in Sabetha, KS, and are thankful for the good report and testimony that God is faithful and that He continues to work in the hearts of His people.

We enjoyed the sharing of the Church Conference letter and thank Elder Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandra, Alto, MI) for assisting our Elder Bro. Mark Bahr with this. As in Acts 15:31-33, we too rejoice in the consolation and peace, being blessed and encouraged in our faith in Christ and in our love for each other.

Bro. Marc and Sis. Stacie Knepp report that Marc's dad, Bro. Rich

Knepp's condition has stabilized although he faces a long recovery ahead that we can continue to be prayerful for. Sis. Krista Wieland (Bro. Andy) has recently spent time in the hospital for testing for an ongoing health problem. They are facing more decisions about further treatment in the future and would appreciate your continued prayer.

We would like to thank ministering Bro. Bob Knochel and his wife, Sis. Rhonda, and also Bro. Kurt Munsel for coming last month from Bay City and conducting a worship service at Woodhaven. Thank you also to the Beverly Hills congregation who hosted a worship service at Woodhaven this month.

We have had an unbelievably warm winter so far and I think we are all wondering when the snow and ice is going to make an appearance. Besides the kids who want to go sledding, I don't think there are many complaints though!

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### **MINNESOTA** **MINNEAPOLIS** **Tim McMillan**

A couple of apologies are due from me for missing the following two announcements. The first should have appeared in the January issue and the second in the February issue. I sincerely ask forgiveness from those who were hurt or felt forgotten.

Ben and Chelsey (Messner) Swinton brought a beautiful daughter, Riley Nichole, into the world in December. May this family be happy and in good health always.

#### *Note of Thanks:*

The family of Sis. Arletta Bragg and Aaron Aupperle would like to thank everyone for all the prayers, love and beautiful cards at the death of our dear mother. Your kindness was deeply appreciated and will al-

ways be remembered. May God bless each of you.

We began February reading from St. Luke 19:11-27, the parable of the nobleman who left his servants with talents to care for while he was away. Verse 26 states "... and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him." God has given unto us a talent in our gift of salvation through the shed blood, freely given sacrificial death, and resurrection of His Son Jesus. As the servant who did nothing with the talent given him and thus giving no return unto his master, the Lord will take away our talent, (gift), if we do no works that His glory may be magnified.

We saw Sis. Sheila Schwab leave our congregation to return to Wolcott, IN. We do wish her the best in her endeavors and hope the Lord will be with her in her daily work.

No greater joy can be found than to hear of someone seeking the salvation of the Lord. Even angels rejoice! We pray for Betty Lindwall as she is seeking peace with God and man. Please join us in these prayers as she seeks the righteous path and gains strength in the Lord.

We are thankful for the visiting ministry of Bro. Kevin Banwart (Sis. Sandy Schmidt) of West Bend, IA. If the Lord allows, may our brethren always have the freedom to travel and share God's Word with all who will listen!

Thee will I love, oh, love eternal,  
Thy heart for me in death did break.  
Will love Thee out of purest motive  
sincerely true, though poor and  
weak.

Thee will I love, oh, light divine,  
so long as ever life is mine,  
so long as ever life is mine.

*Zion's Harp #227, vs. 1*

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

Visiting our congregation this month were Bro. Merlin Meyer (Sis. Marilyn, Lester, IA), Bro. Rex Frieden (Sis. Vera, Lamar, MO), Bro. Pat Zaugg (Sis. Julie, West Bend, IA), Bro. Kent Mogler (Sis. Mary, Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Doug Moser (Sis. Dawn, Morris North, MN), Bro. Jim Vierling (Sis. Linda, Eureka, IL), Bro. Greg Stoller (Sis. Jill, Forrest, IL) and Bro. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN). What a blessing it is to hear the pure Word of God spoken in truth and clarity.

God has continued to move in the hearts and minds of men. We are very thankful that two more souls have humbled themselves and are seeking to forsake sin, evil and unrighteousness and to do the Holy will of God. Esther Koehl (Bro. Guy and Sis. Lanette) and Wade Feuchtenberger (Bro. Kenny and Sis. Sally) have by the grace of God begun their repentance. May the Lord be with them each step of the way.

Bro. David Nohl and Sis. Cheryl Koehl were united in marriage on January 29. May God be with them as they walk this pathway of life together as one in the Lord.

Three new babies joined our congregation this month. Bro. Greg (Bro. Jim and Sis. Carolyn) and Sis. Sheila (Sis. Bonnie Nohl) Reuter welcomed Ashlee Brooks into their family on January 30. Her older siblings are Emerson and Kailee. On January 31, Bro. Jonathan (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Debra) and Sis. Mindy (Bro. Doug and Sis. Joyce Wulf) Joos had Coleman Douglas. He has one older brother, Clayton. Brecken Jay was born on February 4. His parents are Bro. Lyle (Bro. Rodney and Sis. Arlene, Sabetha, KS) and Sis. Amanda (Bro. Gary and Sis. Sandy Fehr) Grimm. His older siblings are

Halle and Drake.

Bro. Shane Jones (Sis. Ruth) was hospitalized this month. May the Lord grant healing if it is His will. We are very thankful that God has granted our ministering Bro. Beirne Messner a measure of healing after his injury several weeks ago. Let us not forget to pray for those who have ongoing health problems.

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

Matthew 22:37-38 "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment." When our hearts are fully devoted to God, we are able to walk in the love that God gives us and it will show in us from the inside out.

A.C.T.I.V.E. night was the occasion for our Sunday School and congregation to gather on assembling fleece blankets for our local hospital. We pray for God's goodness to the recipients of each blanket.

A singing shower was held in honor of Bro. Travis Strahm and Sis. Jilaine Furrer's upcoming marriage. A delightful Valentine Dessert Buffet Bar followed and was enjoyed by all.

Our local food shelf was the specific charity designated by our church for the month of February.

Our hospital patient this month was Sis. Pearl Moser. We are so thankful for the healing power of our great God.

Skyview was the facility that we gathered at to sing praises unto our God for the elderly. A joyous occasion to witness the appreciation received by all who attended.

Serving us this month with their dedication and love of God's Word

was visiting Bro. Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield, IL), our Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan), and our ministers, Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel) and Bro. Doug Moser (Sis. Dawn).

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"

*Psalm 27*

**MINNESOTA, ROCHESTER****Mark Stork****Eric Bachman**

Greetings from Rochester. This is the first report from those that gather at Rochester. January was the first Sunday that there were services in Rochester. We are thankful for all those that gathered with us. We would like to thank Bro. Tom and Sis. Mary Lanz (Oakville, IA) for their willingness to bring us God's Word. We would also like to thank those that came with Bro. Tom and Sis. Mary, and also those from Elgin, IA, who came.

The Rochester guest house is complete and accepting reservations. There are three bedrooms, a living room, and kitchen available for guest. Bro. Mark and Sis. Sandy Stork are the contacts for guest house questions and reservations.

The next Sunday services will be March 1st and March 29th. There are also Wednesday evening services March 21st. Sunday services start at 10:15 and 12:30. Sunday services are being held at the guest house located at 4733 Birdie Lane NW, Rochester, MN 55901. Bro. Mark and Sis. Sandy Stork are the contacts for the guest house and the Sunday services. They can be reached at (507) 282-1901. Wednesday evening services start at 7:30 at Rick Tilburys located at 819 15th St. NW, Rochester, MN 55901.



Bro. Jim and Sis. Deb Tilbury are the contacts for Wednesday evening services. They can be reached at (507)282-1901.

We would like to extend an invitation to any who wish to come and visit. For those that are coming to the Rochester area for appointments, hospital stays, or to visit, feel free to contact any of us that reside in Rochester. If there are any questions or needs when in the area, feel free to call: Bro. Mark and Sis. Sandy Stork (507)282-1901; Bro. Jim and Sis. Deb Tilbury (507)282-1901; Bro. Eric Bachman (815)674-6500.

We all would like to first thank God for the blessings that we all have felt. We would also like to thank all of those that have given of their time and services to make the guest house and services happen. We ask for your continued support and prayers. May God richly bless you.

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

Draw us to Thee, O Lord; may we  
 Still journey on to heaven.  
 In one accord Thro' Christ our Lord  
 May grace to us be given.  
 Draw us to Thee, our course shall be  
 Wherever Thou shalt lead us.  
 Thy light reveal, that we may feel  
 Thy mercy in its fullness.  
*Zion's Harp #124 vs. 1 & 3*

Our thoughts and prayers were with the Elder brothers as they gathered together for the midwinter Conference. May God continue to hold them up as they seek His direction as they lead and guide our church.

Great and holy is the teaching  
 His messengers in thee are preach-  
 ing,  
 Such as no other nation hears.  
 God's own Word is thy salvation;

He gives His Spirit's inspiration,  
 By which all darkness disappears.  
 We hear from time to time  
 Thy gospel's lovely chime: "Grace  
 eternal."  
 How sweet the sound that here is  
 found,  
 Where crowns of endless life  
 abound!  
*Zion's Harp #194 vs. 3*

We extend sincere thanks to Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis) for sharing the Memorandum with us, and also willingly preaching from the pulpit on Sunday. We are so thankful for the words of truth that God provides for us each Sunday, and appreciate visiting ministers, as well.

God thus hears most graciously  
 All the prayers we offer;  
 And the angels glad will be  
 Worship there to proffer  
 To the Lord, in accord  
 With us poor and lowly,  
 To God, high and holy.  
*Zion's Harp #174 vs. 4*

Our praise ascends to God for the healing we have seen in recent months, as our numerous hospital and surgical patients in previous months have all recovered quite well.

*Note of Thanks:*

Sis. Bernadine Messner wishes to extend her thanks to all those who prayed for her through her health challenges in the past months. She appreciates the love that was shown to her and asks God's blessings on each one.

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

We pray for the family of Bro. Ron Strahm, who recently passed away in a tragic plane accident. Bro. Ron is survived by his wife, Cindy, and his

children, Lisa, Andrew, Bekah, Matthew, Robert, and Ryan, as well as 13 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. Bro. Ron's smiling face will certainly be missed in our congregation! A sudden death such as this one is a stark reminder of how temporary our lives really are and of the need to be prepared to meet the Lord at all times.

Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS), Bro. Brad Strahm (Sis. Michelle, Bern, KS), and Bro. John Baumgartner (Sis. Lori, Bern, KS) are the ministers who visited Kansas City for the weekend of Bro. Ron Strahm's funeral; may God's blessings be with them for their effort on the behalf of our congregation.

Also, we appreciate the efforts of Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville, IL) who assisted our Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen) in sharing the Memorandum. May God richly bless these brothers for their labors, and may His Spirit continually guide each of our Elder brothers that they may rightly discern truth.

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**MISSOURI, LAMAR**  
**Venetta Banwart**  
**Lisa Stoller**

We were blessed to have three visiting ministers last month. Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Lisa, Eureka, IL), Bro. Larry Bahr (Sis. Julie, Ft. Scott, KS) and Bro. Sam Schlatter (Sis. Linda, Junction, OH) all proclaimed God's true Word unto us. May the Lord be their rich rewarder.

Sis. Evelyn Marti (Bro. Joe) has spent some time in the hospital. May God strengthen and comfort her through this time.

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**MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS**  
**Kary Mangers**  
 Our church has enjoyed the

steady flow of visitors during the winter months. Thank you to Bro. Dale and Sis. Melissa Banwart and their family for taking Congerville's rotation in January. We also thank Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla Rassi (Chicago) and Bro. Jeff and Sis. Janel Wiegand (Goodfield) for their service to us during their visits.

Bro. Loren Schrenk underwent back surgery in February. We thank the Great Physician for guiding the hands of man during surgery and for bringing Bro. Loren much relief and healing. May we continue to praise and thank God in the small and big things in life!

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### MISSOURI, TAYLOR Melissa Reiman

Spring is here, and that means warmer weather, outdoor picnics, and spring cleaning. I know many of you probably don't like the idea of spring cleaning; but, as all of you know (or your wives and daughters), it is necessary. It is necessary because it is a chance to go through all the "hmm...when did I get that" things that have accumulated in your house. It is a time to find the buried treasures and get rid of excess stuff.

Let us remember to do a little spring cleaning on our own hearts this month. While we are cleaning the spider webs and dust out of the attic or basement, let us clean the dust from our hearts and Bibles; let us get rid of the garbage that has accumulated during the year and replace it with God's Word. Take a minute and pull out some old pictures of loved ones, and thank God for the simple things in life that make us stop and talk to Him about everything He has done in our lives, even if the simple thing is spring cleaning and buried treasures.

We would like to thank Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washing-

ton, IL) for teaching us about Jesus Christ on February 1!

Bro. Arnie Gerst was in the hospital this month. We are thankful that he is home now and recovering.

The Sunday School had their annual soup supper to raise money for the upcoming trip to Magdalena and for the Sunday School Fund. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped with this event! May God bless you!

We would also like to thank Bro. Neil Widmer (Sis. Kris, West Lafayette, IN) for coming and preaching the good news of Jesus Christ on February 5!

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### NEW YORK CITY Secaucus, New Jersey

"And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."

*Acts 2:42*

We have been blessed to have church services in Secaucus, NJ over the last years and are thankful to have the opportunity again in 2012, Lord willing. We are especially grateful for the many visitors who have come and shared in the fellowship and provided support of our church. We are also thankful for the Holy Spirit's nearness and guidance during this time and the on-going prayerful support of many who could not be with us in person.

We would like to share with you the 2012 Secaucus, NJ schedule. At this time, Lord willing, we are planning on having services on June 10th and September 16th. Our services are held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Secaucus, New Jersey. As always, if you are in the area on other Sundays, you are always welcome to worship with the brethren in Philadelphia,

PA, which is not that far away.

If you are planning to visit the New York City area for vacation or business, please call Bro. Ben Wiegand at (215) 295-4526 for assistance and to let us know how many to expect for Sunday services. We would be glad to provide directions on how to get to the hotel, or you can contact them directly at (201) 864-1400.

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### NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Hope Graves

We are finally getting a taste of winter in the north country. The snow looks so beautiful covering God's creation. This is the time of year we like to start our World Relief projects. Our first one was on Friday evening, February 17. The kids really enjoyed helping put together several health, school and sewing kits. We also assembled some snack bags for a local children's home.

Several people met with hospitalizations this past month. Our prayers extend to Sis. Polly Farney, Sis. Celia Virkler and Bob Millard. Brent Millard is now wearing a cast for a broken leg. We pray for healing for each one.

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### OHIO, AKRON Erika Gal

"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled."

*Matthew 5:6*

With joy we share the announcement of two souls being ready for proving and baptism on March 24 and 25. They are Katie Palitto (Bro. Bryon and Sis. Lisa) and Anna Steidl (Bro. Les and Sis. Judi). We are thankful for both girls and will certainly keep them in our prayers.

Our prayers are with our hospital patients this month. Bro. John (Sis. Joyce) Schamback was a surgery patient. Sis. Anna (Bro. Ted) Gherian, Mikey (convert Mike and Sis. Sheila) Carder, and Samuel (Bro. Sandor and Sis. Ginger) Hegedus were also hospitalized this month. We certainly pray for God's strength and healing for each one.

We appreciated having Bro. Jacob Kuntz (Sis. Brooke, Croghan-Naumburg, NY) and their family spend a Sunday with us this month. We pray for God's nearness and blessing on Bro. Jacob and his family.

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## OHIO, COLUMBUS

### Lauren Rufener

We were blessed to have many visitors this past month. We appreciate visiting ministers, Bro. Gary and Sis. Paulette Sinn (Latty, OH) and Bro. Warren and Sis. Cindy Schlatter (Junction, OH), for sharing God's Word with us.

Sis. Kelsey Gerber gave her testimony of faith and was baptized in her home Latty congregation the end of January. We are thankful to have her attend Columbus as she completes her college degree.

Recently, Bro. Philip Germann was appointed to Sunday School Teacher and Bro. Todd Saurer to Sunday School Brother Substitute. We are thankful for their willingness to teach our children of Christ.

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## OHIO, JUNCTION

### Vicki Boroff

We are thankful to hear that Linda Lord was announced as having peace in her life. We look forward to her baptism.

We pray for our hospital patients and those that have need of a healing hand.

On February 15, we were excited

to hear of the birth of Kenzie Kae. Riley, Cole, and Ashlyn are excited to have a little sister, and grateful parents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Julie Manz. Grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Sandra Manz, and Bro. Keith and Sis. Joann Klopfenstein (Latty).

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## OHIO, LATTY

### Mindy Stoller Carmen Stoller

The weekend of January 28-29 we were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of five souls. May God bless Bro. Arthur Stoller (Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth), Bro. Joel Dunham (Bro. Byron and Sis. Jody), Sis. Kelsey Gerber (Bro. Dave and Sis. Patty), Sis. Timna Klopfenstein (Bro. Lee and Sis. Desma), and Bro. Martin Stoller (Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth) with the needed grace and mercy from our loving Father.

Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Loren Schrenk (Sis. Betsy) blessed our congregation by ministering to us this past month.

February 16 was the birthday of Kyra Eden born to Bro. Doug and Sis. Bonny Wenninger. Happy siblings include Makaela, Luke, Lane, and Nathan. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Joyce Wenninger and Bro. Mike and Sis. Pat Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL).

Bro. Roy Stoller has finished his fight of faith in this life. May the Holy Spirit comfort his wife, Sis. Helen, and their family circle during this time.

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## OHIO, MANSFIELD

### Tami Griffey

Our congregation extends thanks to visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN), Bro. Matthew Manz (Sis. Deanna, Toledo, OH), and Bro. Steven Pamer (Sis.

Arliss, Akron, OH). May God bless them for their labors of love.

We remember in prayer those who have been hospitalized or are recovering from illness or surgery, including Sis. Kate Oesch, Mallory Gilbert (Geoff and Kim), and Bro. Ronald Rufener. May they each feel God's healing touch in their lives according to His will.

Bro. Bruce and Sis. Denise Sauder have been blessed with a son, Jamison Levi Sauder, born on January 31. Excited siblings, Jordan, Sis. Lauren, Colin, Madelyn, Elayn, Harrison, and Brennan, welcomed their little brother home. Thankful grandparents include Sis. Caroline Sauder, Tom and Aleisa McFarland, and John and Kathy Besenti.

### *Note of Thanks:*

I appreciate all the thoughtful prayers and cards sent during my surgery and recovery. May God bless each one.

*Sis. Clara Zimmer*

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.”

*Proverbs 3:5-6*

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## OHIO, RITTMAN

### Jenny Pertee Anna Bauman

Heartfelt thanks go out to the ministering brothers who visited and shared God's great Word on the pulpit this month. These ministers include Elder Bros. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT), Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH), Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, OH), Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH), Dave Graf (Akron, OH), Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) and Bros. Todd Graf (Akron, OH), and Ted Luginbuhl (Smithville, OH).

We hear good news from the pulpit every Sunday, but it was especially exciting on January 22 for one young brother- and sister-in-Christ as their wedding engagement was shared with the congregation. Sis. Minnie Baltic (Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty) and Bro. Alan Manz (Bro. Paul and Sis. Sandra) of (Junction, OH, look forward to their future wedding and marriage, and we pray that God's rich blessings will be with them as they prepare for that time.

Much appreciation goes to the following individuals who shared their testimony on January 21 and were baptized on January 22. They are: Sis. Tricia Bauman (Sis. Nancy and Dale, dec.), Bro. Kent Dotterer (Bro. Gary and Sis. Sandy), Sis. Anna Hartzler (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Camille) and Bro. Kirk Gasser (Bro. Mark and Sis. Jill). We hope they felt the blessing of that weekend and can continue to feel the love and support of the congregation.

Even as we were thankful to witness the above testimonies and baptisms, we rejoice with John Nussbaum as he begins his converted walk with the Lord. John's wife is Sis. Cynthia.

Moving from the spiritual birth of souls to the physical birth, there are several bundles of joy to report this month. On January 16, Bro. Jason and Sis. Crystal Pelfrey welcomed into their family a baby girl, Harper Brooke. Harper's grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Beth Pelfrey and Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol Stoller (Latty, OH). On January 23, Bro. Ben and Sis. Cymbal Stoller had a girl, Jasmine Ruth, little sister to Cassidy. Jasmine's grandparents are Bro. Rob and Sis. Joanne Stoller, and Bro. Bob and Sis. Lorie Riggenbach. Jasmine also gained a new cousin shortly thereafter. Aubrey Lyn was born to Bro. Josh and Sis. Megan Riggenbach (Smithville, OH) on Feb-

ruary 9 and joins brother Isaac. Aubrey's grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Lorie Riggenbach, and Bro. Mark and Sis. Sue Steiner (Smithville, OH). On January 30, Madison Jewel was welcomed into the world by Bro. Brant and Sis. Tiffany Gasser and siblings Austin and Carson. Madison's grandparents are Bro. Dale and Janet Gasser, along with Stanley Haverty and Wendy Haverty. Rounding out this fine group of girls is Emily Michelle, who was born on February 8 to Bro. Gary and Sis. Michelle Stoller and joins older brothers, Ryan, Nathan, and Samuel. Emily's grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Jeannette Stoller, and Bro. Bob and Sis. Mardel Dotterer.

Prayers and well wishes are extended to those who have recently spent time in the hospital. They would be Bro. Matt (Sis. Gail) Steiner, Boyd (Barb) Acker, Bro. Rich (Sis. Pat) Steiner, Sis. Joyce (Bro. Fred) Stoller, and Sis. Ruth Beery.

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### OHIO, SARDIS Faith Beard

We were blessed this month with a visiting minister when Bro. Greg and Sis. Jill Stoller (Forrest, IL) came for a weekend with family. May God reward him for his efforts made on ours and our Savior's behalf.

Our prayers were lifted up for John Brake (Sis. Almeda) as he had a short hospitalization. We are thankful that he was able to return home.

Our hearts cried out in joy and praise when we arrived to church on Sunday morning to hear of the repentance of Mariah Indermuhle, daughter of Eric and Sis. Lisa Indermuhle. Mariah's grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam Brake, and she is also great-granddaughter to John and Sis. Almeda Brake. We assure her of

our prayer support and, through God's grace, uplift her as a congregation and as individuals.

I waited for the Lord my God,  
And patiently did bear;  
At length to me He did incline  
My voice and cry to hear.  
He took me from a fearful pit,  
And from the miry clay,  
And on a rock He set my feet,  
Establishing my way.  
He put a new song in my mouth,  
Our God to magnify;  
Many shall see it, and shall fear,  
And on the Lord rely.  
O blessed is the man whose trust  
Upon the Lord relies;  
Respecting not the proud, nor such  
As turn aside to lies.

*Gospel Hymns #703*

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### OHIO, SMITHVILLE Gina Brake Lydia Dotterer

Bro. Josh and Sis. Megan and Isaac Riggenbach welcomed Aubrey Lynn into their hearts and home on February 9. Aubrey's grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Lorie Riggenbach (Rittman) and Bro. Mark and Sis. Sue Steiner.

Sis. Dorothy (Bro. Jim) Ramsier's brother, Kenneth Batley, passed away. We wish to remember the family in our prayers.

Bro. Bob Riggenbach (Sis. Lorie) from our Rittman congregation visited us this month.

Bro. Aaron Marty spent some time in the hospital. We are thankful for God's healing hand.

Bryce Indermuhle and Kori Roudebush were united in marriage on February 11. Bro. Dennis and Sis. Shari Indermuhle are his parents. We wish God's blessing on this dear couple.

It is wonderful to hear of more souls turning to the Lord in repentance. May God grant Neil Stoller

(Bro. Jeff and Sis. Millie) and Bethany Gasser (Bro. Ken and Sis. Sue-Ellen Maibach and the late Bro. Greg Gasser) much grace to serve Him “acceptably with reverence and godly fear.” (Hebrews 12:28)

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**OHIO, TOLEDO**  
**Anita Schlatter**  
**Deanna Manz**

On February 18, we gathered and listened as our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction) and Bro. Walt Rager read the Memorandum. We are grateful for their willingness to warn and encourage us in our walk of faith. Bro. Bill also ministered to us Sunday morning; we pray the Lord will bless him for his labors.

Our Annual Business Meeting was held February 19. Those accepting new positions are: Assistant Treasurer- Bro. Glen Whittaker; Trustee- Bro. Brice Gasser; Secretary- Sis. Emily Harmon; Usher- Bro. Kent Schlatter; Dinner Coordinator- Sis. Teresa Rywalski; Preschool Sunday School Teacher- Sis. Shari Tucker; Silver Lining Reporter- Sis. Anita Schlatter. We thank all those who have completed terms — may they be blessed for their willingness to serve.

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**OREGON, SILVERTON**  
**Kris Luthi**  
**Deb Roth**

“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men....for ye serve the Lord Christ.”

*Colossians 3:23-24*

Several positions were filled at our annual business meeting in January. We offer our prayerful support to Bro. Mark Tribbett (trustee), Bros. Phillip Petrovic and Monte Kuenzi (ushers), Bro. Kenton Sinn

(sound system), Bro. Ryan Kuenzi (treasurer) and Sis. MaryBeth Kuenzi (kitchen committee). It is so easy to take for granted the little (and big!) things that make a church run smoothly week after week. Thank you to everyone for their efforts in the past and in the future!

A sweet baby boy has blessed the home of Bro. Josh and Sis. Tresa Hansen, Ethan and Trevor. Brett Timothy entered the world on January 28. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Loren and Sis. Marlene Dettwyler and Bro. Tim and Carol Hansen.

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you...”

*St. John 14:27*

We rejoice with Denver Slagel (Dennis and Lorene, Fairbury, IL) as he has professed peace with God and man. We pray that in the weeks ahead the Lord will continue to grant His grace and guidance. What a privilege to lay our heads down at night knowing whatever happens we are ready to meet our Lord. May souls continue to answer God’s call and come to Him in repentance!

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**PENNSYLVANIA**  
**PHILADELPHIA**

Hasten gladly to the labor  
 Consecrate to God your heart  
 Say this day unto your Saviour  
 Lord, I’ll gladly do my part!

*Hymns of Zion #46*

On January 29 we conducted our annual business meeting. We were reminded how the church works together as the body of Christ. The efforts of each member of the body are necessary and appreciated!

We were also thankful to Bro. Jerry Bauman (Rittman, OH) for

coming and sharing the Word with us this month. May we all be doers of the Word and gladly do our part for the Lord!

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**TENNESEE, NASHVILLE**  
**Mike and Monica Fritz**

We rejoice that Aaron and Tanya Beard and their children have recently begun assembling with us. They moved to the area for employment, and we welcome them into our fellowship.

We have been encouraged by the Word, shared with us by our recent visiting ministering brothers:

Bros. Dana Indermuhle (Sis. Joy; Sardis, OH), Jerry Isch (Sis. Linda; Philadelphia, PA), Dan Koch (Sis. Julie; Tremont, IL), Dan Pfister (Sis. Sherry; Bluffton North, IN), and Neil Ramseyer (Sis. Sharon; Bay City, MI). We have also been blessed by the fellowship of brethren and friends visiting from Rockville, CT; Bradford, Chicago, Congerville, Eureka, Fairbury, Forrest, Princeville, and Tremont, IL; Bluffton North, IN; Bay City, MI; Sardis, OH; and Philadelphia, PA

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: Cissna Park, IL (3/25); Latty, OH (4/1); Wolcott, IN (4/8); Milford, IN (4/15); Roanoke, IL (4/22); Forrest, IL (4/29). 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. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder, (615) 373-8928; Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz, (615) 866-5543 ([fritzmb.family@gmail.com](mailto:fritzmb.family@gmail.com)).

com); and Sis. Gwen Leuthold, (615) 356-5755.

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### TEXAS, AUSTIN Serenity and Jasmine Ringger

“Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.”

*Ps. 100:1-2*

We continue to have many visitors coming to help World Relief build homes for fire victims.

We are thankful for the fellowship and hope the Lord will bless all for their efforts.

Ministers who came to preach the Word were Elder Bro. Herb Knochel (Sis. Laurie, Phoenix, AZ), and Bros. Paul Schmidgall (Sis. Shawn, Morris, MN), John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Burlington, IA), Chuck Kellenberger (Elgin, IL), Matt Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville, IL), and Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL).

The following is the minister schedule for April: (1) Bluffton North, IN, (8) San Diego, CA, (22) West Bend, IA, and (29) Champaign, IL.

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

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### TEXAS, McALLEN Gloria Walder

We recently were reminded we are “saved to serve” and this was again manifested in the ministering Brothers who visited us this past month. May God bless Bro. Gary Endress

(Sis. Evelyn, Bradford, IL), Bro. Clint Schmidt (Sis. Magdalena, Winthrop, MN), and Bro. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend, IA). We also appreciate other visitors from West Bend, IA; Bradford, IL; Bloomington, IL; Bluffton, IN; and Zapata, TX.

If you plan to join us for services, please call Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Joyce Nohl (956-581-8266) to check if there has been a schedule change. Even though we are planning for services on March 4 – Washington, IL; March 11 – Eureka, IL; March 18 – Latty, OH; April 1 – Taylor, MO; and April 8 – Akron, OH, please verify before you come. We also meet on Wednesday evenings at the home of Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Joyce Nohl.

Andy and Kristi Plattner have a one-bedroom apartment available just one block from the Gulf at South Padre Island for ministers and other visitors who wish to spend some time there. Please call them at 956-433-9844 for information.

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, and appreciate advance notice when possible for planning meals and fellowship.

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### TEXAS, ZAPATA Mary Plattner

We appreciated having Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy) return this month for Communion services.

Also Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Sis. Becky, Lamar, MO), Bro. Ken Eisenmann (Sis. Sharon, Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, Portland, OR) have assembled with us. We appreciate their willingness to share the Word.

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### 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 Bro. Duane (Sis. Kay) Reutter, and Bro. Dan (Sis. Mary Lou) Goric, and Bro. Tom (Sis. LaNae) Bahler, all from Rockville, CT. May God richly bless all the efforts on our behalf. We trust they will not grow weary in well-doing.

If you are interested in fellowshiping with us here in Vermont, and would like information about dates of services, please contact Bro. Chad and 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*

Plan to come and invite family and friends to attend the 2012 Athens/Tennessee Memorial Day Weekend scheduled on May 26-27. During the weekend, speaking topics will include the "History of the Alabama Apostolic Christian Churches" and "God's Promises to the Believer". Additionally, an auction is being planned for Saturday afternoon beginning at 2:00 p.m. See additional weekend schedule details below.

If you are in the Central Illinois area and would be interested in riding a bus to the Tennessee Fellowship Area from Morton, Ill., please contact Andy or Jayne Sauder at (309)263-9965 or e-mail them at [jayne.sauder@gmail.com](mailto:jayne.sauder@gmail.com).

Everyone is invited and welcome to come for a wonderful weekend of fellowship, singing and worship. If you plan to come or have questions, please RSVP or contact one of the contacts listed below.

### **Weekend Schedule**

**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. — Speaker on "History of the Alabama Apostolic Christian Churches"
- 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. — Speaker on "God's Promises to the Believer"
- 5:30 p.m. — Supper
- 7:00 p.m. — Singing

### **Contacts for Questions or to RSVP:**

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

### **Teaching Position Available**

Gateway Woods is excited to announce an opening for a Teacher at Gateway Woods School. Gateway Woods School is a fully accredited educational facility serving 6th-12th grade students who have difficulty in public school. Qualifications include a Bachelor's Degree in Education and/or an active teacher's license. Special Education Certification and previous teaching experience is especially useful, but not required. If you hold these qualifications and have a heart for children, please ask the Lord if this is the position He has in mind for you. For more information please contact 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

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](http://www.acpublications.org)*

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



*Sermon continued from page 2*

they did is they brought the spices with them. They were on their way to the tomb and they had that which they were going to offer to Christ's body (v.1), they thought. Whatever they could offer they brought with them before they got there. They didn't send one first. Mary, go to the tomb and see if the stone is rolled away. That is not how it is recorded. I don't believe that is how it worked. But rather they took with them the spices and on the way they said, who shall roll us away the stone? But they went with the spices with that expectation of heart, to give what they could to Christ.

And when they looked, their faith was rewarded! Their faith was rewarded for "...they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great." St. Mark 16:4. The answer to prayer, we're coming Lord, we're coming Jesus, with that we have that we can give. Oh how can we give it because there is a stone in front, because there is a hindrance, there is an obstacle to being able to anoint the body of Christ? But they came in faith it would be rolled away. And so for me, to encourage my weak faith, to strengthen and to buoy up faith that we have in Christ Jesus, come with that expectation, the anticipation of bringing that which we can bring for Him. Allow Him to roll the stone away. Allow it to be that earthquake to roll that stone away. Allow it that the keepers of the watch, they vanished with fear. Allow the power of the Almighty God to open the way, as we come in faith, bringing what we can for Christ.

As you would read the Gospel accounts beloved, have you noticed that it wasn't given to the men to see the angels? It was early in the morning at the break of day, the women came bringing their sweet spices to anoint the body of Christ (St. Mark 16:1,2). They looked in for the stone was rolled away, and they looked in and they were frightened (St. Mark 16:5). We would recognize that, they'd had a difficult day, the Sabbath, the Saturday, as they had prepared spices and the things to anoint the body of Jesus. I believe all those that were His, that in fact, followed Him, believed in Him, I believe they all had a difficult day on that Saturday wondering, worrying about the authorities, about the things

that were going to happen to those that still believed in Him. And at the same time despairing and pressed down because He is dead. He's Dead! And they thought that He would have redeemed Israel.

They came to the tomb to anoint Him and they saw the angels. They saw the angels, an account here or there, an angel or two. The angel said, "He is not here, He lives." (St. Matthew 28:6) And they saw the linen and the cloth there in the tomb (St. John 20:5-6) and they went and told the rest, "Jesus Lives! Jesus Lives! The tomb is empty!" They went and told the men. I ponder that, I have no answer, but I think it is precious the women saw the angels.

And then came the men - you read the account there in John - John and Peter ran towards the tomb, because the women said, His body is gone from the sepulcher where they laid the body of Christ. They laid that body there and it is gone! Then John and Peter ran together, as we read there. (St. John 20:4) John, who doesn't want to refer to himself, outran Peter. Yet Peter was the one who went right on in to look at the tomb, to look about, to see those cloths laid there. I say some of you are good runners, some of you run fast and some of us don't. And the Word this morning is for those that run fast and the Word is for those that don't run fast. Peter we know would have had that nature of going right on in to see and John perhaps not so. That means some of us have pretty outgoing personalities, don't we, and we would go right ahead and speak out and perhaps intervene, speak quickly, and some of us don't. We would like someone else to speak, we would like someone else to go ahead. We'd say, we'll follow. The Word this morning is for those that speak first and the Word is here for those that want to follow.

What they saw is that the tomb was empty, and it reads I believe, that John believed. He believed. And the account that we read today beloved is for our faith that we in fact believe, and that we act on that faith. That we act on that faith! For what would it have profited one of the women, or what would it have profited one of the men, if they just left, if they didn't contemplate what it really meant? We read about Mary Magdalene, I believe, she

stood there. She couldn't leave. (St. John 20:11) Yes they saw the tomb was empty. When the tomb was empty there is nothing more there, and they had left, and went back to their places, and wondered and pondered perhaps, oh not perhaps, they cried, they wept. Didn't they? When you add worry together with fear and with not understanding how this can all work out and all of the emotion of the mind, they wept and wondered.

Mary stood there we read, and she said to the gardener "If you have taken His body tell me, just tell me where you have taken Him, I'll go anywhere, I'll do anything to follow the body of my Lord." (St. John 20:15) I'll do anything, would have been the thought of her heart, and the message for my life and yours. What is it that would prevent us from yielding our life to the service of our Lord, who gave His life for the redemption of our soul? When it is put that way it is not so hard, is it? It seems like it follows pretty clearly.

Jesus said to her, "Mary". Just her name, "MARY"! (St. John 20:16) And Jesus says to me, in order that I might believe and obey and love, and exhibit His attributes, He says to me, 'Curt!' And He says to you, 'your name'. Your name is well known to Him. There is no hiding of how we feel, there is no hiding of my heart; the times where I feel His closeness, and times where I'm not close as I should be. There is no hiding our hearts as converted hearts. He knows our hearts as converted hearts. Dear friend He knows your heart as unconverted. He knows your heart, if in fact you have opened a part. He knows your heart if you have closed it entirely. Mary, He knew her heart, and He knows yours.

She wanted to embrace Him, she wanted to throw her arms around Him and just hold Him. She knew what that sounded like. She had heard Him say her name before. And when He said, "Mary", she knew who it was. She knew who THAT was. That wasn't someone that was dead. That wasn't someone who's body had been taken away. That was Jesus Christ her best friend. She knew the sound of His voice, and her name when He spoke it. Dear precious loved ones, He knows your name. He calls you by name. He asks your heart, but our response to

*Sermon continued on page 42*

*Sermon continued from page 41*

His call is up to us.

“...Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father...” St. John 20:17. We might think, Oh! Well it would be a better story, it would have worked a little better if she could have embraced Him right then. I can't tell you exactly why. He was now, in fact, her Savior, not only her best friend. It says He had not ascended to the Father. Was he fully as a human being's touch would have been? We don't know that, but we know yet that day, in fact, He asked them to touch Him. And He ate before them yet that day. Yet that day! (St. Luke 24:39-43)

“But their eyes were holden that they should not know him.” St. Luke 24:16. Beloved, like those that went to the tomb, some saw one angel, some saw two. Do we sometimes look at something and don't see it like the person next to us? Do we sometimes walk right past something and not be able to visualize or understand what we saw? Indeed! And they went with their eyes holden that they should not know Him.

“And, behold, two of them went that same day...” St. Luke 24:12, went walking down the way, and I say that's a picture of you and I, of all mankind, really. We are knowledgeable of some things and we are on the way, we are walking down the way, from one village to the next. We are all on the way. And some of us have been so privileged to have our heart burn within us, to have known Him as He walked along the way. “... Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?” St. Luke 24:32. Beloved that is you and I when we've had the Word before us; we've had it there in the glove compartment of our car; we've had the Word there on the nightstand next to our bed; the Word there on the coffee table in the living room; the Word there next to the kitchen table; the Word there for Christ became flesh and dwelt among us. Is the Word in our hearts, can burn within us, for in fact, He's talked with us and He's revealed a measure of the Scriptures, and we know we are on the way, beloved.

We are, I trust, among those that really can't sit still with just keeping the Scripture message to ourselves. Per-

haps that is for me, to think of the two there on the walk, who when the realization came - well, we who have peace in heart, we who have had the privilege of great joy through the Spirit of God working within us, we know what it felt like, don't we? We know what it felt like - they couldn't just stay there and finish eating. Did not our heart burn? “And they rose up the same hour...” St. Luke 24:33 and went back because they couldn't sit still just saying, now we know, it's just for me, and I know. But rather, let it be that our hearts can move within us wanting to make sure that here and there; next to us; across the table; next bench over; this is just too good to keep, it's too good to hoard, for that's the power of the Spirit of Jesus Christ in our heart. They returned, as well for us, to allow others to know of that that is so good.

It could have been about this time, as they're on their way back to Jerusalem to tell others, there was perhaps another conversation going on about that time, the watch, those who had been charged with watching the tomb to make sure that the disciples didn't come and steal the body away. Oh there's another group, oh so many in this beautiful account. I love the Easter message and how it reached into many hearts. There was group that was charged with making sure that the tomb stayed sealed, and that the stone didn't move, and that's a hard job. That's the most difficult of tasks beloved, to make sure that the tomb is covered, to keep Christ in the tomb, so that no man knows, that in fact He lives, and that He moves in hearts today. That's a hard job, to keep that stone in front of the tomb. And they went and they said - I'm not sure what they said exactly - but the chief priests said to them, “Say that His disciples stole Him away”, and they gave them large money to lie, because they had failed in their job of keeping Christ's body in the tomb. (St. Matthew 28:11-15) It will be that way beloved, it is a hard job, it is a hard walk to walk with your back towards Jesus. It hurts our hearts for you. We know what it was like. We know what it was like to fear death. We know what it was like to reject Christ. When He knocked on our heart, and He called us, we said, “No not now!” We filled that which was in front of us with any

entertainment, anytime, anything that could obscure our minds and make us not think about life and death, and hell and damnation. That's where I was, right! The rejecting of the Gospel message of Jesus Christ and the empty tomb and life forever with Him, if so be we live a faithful and obedient life according to His Word, is like trying to keep Christ's body in the tomb, and it can't be done! It only ends.

Pretty satisfying day for the watch, to get the bribe in their hand and to know that forever after, throughout their lives they had to lie about it? They had known of the earthquake, they had known that the angel came down and sat there on the stone in front of the sepulcher, they had quaked to the degree that they became as dead men as the stone was rolled away, right from in front of them. (St. Matthew 28:2,4)

It's hard to walk against Christ, really! Really, to reject Jesus is a hard thing to do. It doesn't bring any joy. We kind of have to lie the rest of our lives about this thing called the resurrection, about Easter Sunday. What a hard job. How much more joyful to meet with Christ, when He comes in the midst, and He says, “Peace be unto you!” there that day, the end of the day. They are gathered around, the doors were shut, physically no one could come in. They did it to prevent the enemy from coming in and finding them, yet that didn't prevent their Savior from gathering with them. Peace be unto you! Peace be unto you! (St. John 20:19) Then came the morning, night turned into day; the stone was rolled away, hope rose with the dawn. Then came the morning, shadows vanished before the sun, death had lost and life had won, for morning had come. (Then Came the Morning by William and Gloria Gaither and Chris Christian) Oh, might it be that the beauty of the message of Christ be engraved on each of our hearts for our worship for Him and our service to His name.



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

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**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.

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but he that keepeth the law,  
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APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN

## Counseling and Family Services

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### Seasons of Parenting

- Spoke 2 of 6 from the Parenting  
With a Purpose Parenting Wheel

The Journey of Parenting: The concept of parenting seasons brings milestones to the journey of parenting. It brings awareness to where you are as a parent based on the ages of your children and where you would like to go as they mature. It also brings awareness to your children's needs at different seasons of life and the parent's role in meeting those needs.

#### Parenting Seasons<sup>1</sup>:

1. Season of Being a Servant: Love and nurture, building to the Season of Authority
2. Season of Authority: Increase in structure, consistency, and expectations, which builds to the Season of Mentoring
3. Season of Mentoring: Increase in instruction, guidance, and support, which builds to the Season of Friendship
4. Season of Friendship: Increase in level of attachment, respect, and love, which leads to healthy family units that can serve in the church family and bring glory to God.

**Discerning Your Parental Role:** In "real life," parenting does not move smoothly from one season to another, nor do parents stay exclusively in one season. Instead, look at the seasons of parenting as a general guide to what your child will need from you at different stages of their development. Parents need to ask God for wisdom and discernment so they are able to move from one parental season to another based on the specific needs of a situation.

**Servant Season (Ages 0-2):** In the servant season, a parent's role is to serve the child by providing for his basic needs. A child will not survive infancy without consistent, direct intervention from parents. This season can be extremely demanding on mothers and fathers alike. It is wise for parents to make an effort to exercise the love detailed in 1 Corinthians 13 through the blessings and challenges of caring for an infant. During this season, parents work to establish bonds, build connections, trust, language, and security. This is done through activities such as changing diapers, feeding, clothing, talking, playing, and singing.

**Authority Season (Ages 3-12):** This season is the parent's prime time to establish

the foundation of obedience through intentional and purposeful training and instruction (Deuteronomy 6). In today's society it can be difficult for parents to shift from the Season of Servant to the Authority Season. One reason this shift is difficult for some is because they have bought into the belief that a "good parent" is someone who helps their child avoid all disappointment and hurt. When this is the primary goal of parents, they are not able to adequately step into the Authority Season. Shifting into the Authority Season will only take place if the parents make a shift themselves and begin to give age-appropriate responsibilities to the child. This transition takes work and intentional action. In this season, parents are building a framework of right and wrong for the child. Many directives and explanations will be given with the hope of developing principles and the joy of Biblical obedience, not just a list of rules.

**Mentoring Season (Ages 13-18):** During the Mentoring Season, the parent's role falls heavily into leading and instructing the child towards managing the future expectations of adulthood. It is a unique time of stretching the need to grow in responsibilities while maintaining an anchor of willingness to still receive counsel and advice. It is important for the parent to have a clear understanding of the differences between preferences and moral absolutes so they can lead and instruct in the way of truth. Parents need to guide their children by helping them learn and discern the difference between absolutes and preferences. In modern society, many people believe that there are no moral absolutes and that personal preferences rule. Parents need to discern when an adolescent's behavior represents a difference in a preference from the parents' preferences and when the issues are about biblical absolutes. One battle is worth fighting for; the other will just lead to strife.

In this season, parents are assisting their children in building their own framework for making good decisions and choices in their lives. Early on, they may make a lot of poor choices and parents may want to revert back to telling them what they should be doing rather than discussing and allowing them to experience the rewards/consequences of their choices. However, it is essential that they are allowed to learn from the "law of reaping and sowing" (Galatians 6:7-8) in this stage of their lives.

**Friendship Season (Ages 18+):** Finally, the Friendship Season is where the par-

ent-child relationship looks more like that of fellow peers. Here the parents are enjoying and building a lifelong friendship of transferring wisdom and counsel to the next generation. Parents' relationships with children at this stage likely consist of asking questions, challenging, encouraging, listening, offering counsel, and so on. The difference is in the authority parents have in those interactions. The Bible is clear about children obeying and honoring (Ephesians 6:1-2) their parents. The Bible is also clear that as children grow into adults they are responsible and accountable for their actions (Ezekiel 18:20). These verses point to the concept of growth in children's lives from obeying and being under the authority of parents to becoming accountable for their own actions.

The previous parenting seasons (Servant, Authority, and Mentor) point to and prepare children for adulthood when they become more independent from their parents. In the majority of cases, children will grow into adults that live separate, but connected, lives from their parents. This is what the friendship season encompasses. While some may choose a different word than friendship to describe this season, it is a good goal to have in mind as the children move toward becoming adults. In this season, parents ask questions more as peers rather than authority figures, although parents are still authority figures in their lives. Bringing them up to walk in God's ways will make them wise and bring blessings to the relationship.

#### Personal REFLECTION:

*(How am I doing in this area?)*

1. Identify what season of parenting you are in with each of your children. Then write what you enjoy and what you find challenging about each of those parental seasons.
2. Are you stuck in a season of parenting that requires a parenting shift into a different season?
3. How will you prepare for or begin transitioning to the next season, as appropriate?

#### <sup>1</sup>References:

Rosemond, J. (2007). Parenting By the Book: Biblical Wisdom for Raising Your Child. Howard Books.

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

## USA World Relief Committee

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

* Bro. Kent Heimer * Bro. Chuck Kellenberger * Bro. Bill Leman * Bro. Les Schambach * Bro. Tom Neuenschwander * Bro. Ray Slagel * Bro. Paul Kaeb	<i>Counseling Elder</i> <i>Chairman</i> <i>Treasurer</i> <i>Administrator/Sec.</i>	Taylor, MO Elgin, IL Roanoke, IL Elgin, IL Bluffton, IN Fairbury, IL Bern, KS	Cell# 573-248-5701 Cell# 224-629-6531 Cell# 309-241-0257 Cell# 630-247-5271 Cell# 260-307-6026 Cell# 815-848-3714 Cell# 785-547-5269
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## 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](mailto:tstoller@grics.net). Questions about ACMF can be directed to Bro. Lee Klopfenstein at [ldklopf@live.com](mailto:ldklopf@live.com) or Sis. Cheryl Herrmann at [cherrmann@frontier.com](mailto: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.

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Mr.  Mrs.  Miss

Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Home Ph \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Ph \_\_\_\_\_

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Please check preference:

- Haiti     Guatemala  
 Mexico     Jamaica  
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If possible I would prefer:

Boy – Age \_\_\_\_\_

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No Preference

Cost: \$25.00/month

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

### Send to:

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Phone: 309-266-6080

Fax: 309-266-5281

E-mail: [childsponsorship@acwr.org](mailto:childsponsorship@acwr.org)



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## CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 2012

All volunteers should contact the project coordinator. If you are unable to contact the coordinator for Haiti, please direct your inquiry to Bro. Jon Zeller at [jonzeller@comcast.net](mailto:jonzeller@comcast.net) or 309-266-9009.

### HAITI

Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012 -[www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/](http://www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/)

Project	Year 2012	Coordinator	Capacity				
Les Cayes AWA Water Aid	Apr 6-13	Maurice Schaefer 309-925-3740 schaefs2@gmail.com	4	Bonne Fin, Haiti Hospital Lumiere Facility Renovation	Jun 2-9	Daryl Luginbuhl 484-433-1205 daryluginbuhl@gmail.com	12
Les Cayes MEBSH Haiti Support	Apr 13-16	Rich Bertschi 309-467-2351 lemangm@mtco.com	WR-CC	Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Jun 8-15	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 rick@wuethrichfarms.com	4
Bonne Fin, Haiti Hospital Lumiere Facility Renovation	Apr 21-28	Daryl Luginbuhl 484-433-1205 daryluginbuhl@gmail.com	12	Bonne Fin, Haiti Hospital Lumiere Facility Renovation	Jul 14-21	Daryl Luginbuhl 484-433-1205 daryluginbuhl@gmail.com	12
Bonne Fin, Haiti Hospital Lumiere Facility Renovation	May 5-12	Daryl Luginbuhl 484-433-1205 daryluginbuhl@gmail.com	12	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 March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012 -[www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/](http://www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/)

Project	Year 2012	Coordinator	Capacity				
Hospital Lumiere at Bonne Fin, Haiti Haiti Medical Team	Apr 27-May 5	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

### JAMAICA

If anyone is interesting in sponsoring a team to Jamaica, please contact Bro. Loren Dettwyler at [imdettwyler@gmail.com](mailto:imdettwyler@gmail.com).

Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012 -[www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/](http://www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/)

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

### Haiti and Jamaica Work Team Code Definitions

**CCCC**=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](mailto:mfiechter@onlyinternet.net)  
 Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012 -[www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-mexico/](http://www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-mexico/)

Location	Year 2012	Coordinator			
Magdalena Construction	Jun 9-16	Steve Leuthold Peoria Bible Class 309-249-2141 sleuth@speerbank.com	Magdalena Construction	Jun 23-30	Jeff Rocke Taylor Bible Class 573-231-5849 jeff@rocksolidcustombuilders.com
Magdalena Construction	Jun 16-23	Andy Sauder Morton Bible Class 309-263-9965 andy.sauder@gmail.com	Magdalena Construction	Jul 21-28	Rick Kaisner Chicago Bible Class 847-942-1174 rick@kaisner.org

**Single Focus Weekend**

Greetings of love,

The Tremont congregation would like to invite all working singles and postgraduates to the upcoming Single Focus Weekend on **May 5th/6th, 2012**. This weekend is for spiritual encouragement and a great opportunity for Christian fellowship. The theme of the weekend will be *The Mirror of His Word*. For more specific details, please contact Sister Dawn Massner at [dawn\\_mass@hotmail.com](mailto:dawn_mass@hotmail.com) or 319-750-4014.

Please be prayerful for the ministering brothers and our time together.

*Tremont Single Focus Committee*





*The ongoing autobiography of Elder Earnest Graf of Akron, Ohio continues. He came from Europe and became established in America, and went on to become part of the Apostolic Christian Church, and eventually an Elder at Akron, and was an instrumental leader on a national basis for several years.*

#### **School Days**

In school I made rapid progress, starting with the McGuffey's Second Reader, primary geography, and fourth grade arithmetic. Spelling was easy for me to learn. I had for a seat mate a boy named Karl High who was much older than I, but he helped me much in learning the rudiments of the American language. My teacher's name was Albert Daniels.

#### **Farm Life and Work**

In spring we planted half an acre of potatoes and all kinds of vegetables, and it was my job to keep them clean of bugs and weeds. My father also brought home 2 pigs and half a dozen hens which he paid for with labor.

About this time one of my dearest wishes was fulfilled when a lady in Creston gave me a puppy. Some kind of terrier which I called Fido. We became fast friends and companions.

Father still kept working for farmers, sometimes close by and sometimes far away. The summer thus passed. Our truck patch yielded over 40 bushels of potatoes and lots of tomatoes, cabbage, and carrots. Our pigs supplied us with meat and lard, having been fattened with corn which I earned by husking for neighbors for the 8th bushel. Thus, we were much better supplied for the second winter in America than the winter before.

Now my brother John came home from Mansfield where he had been working for a family named Lindegger. He and I went to school that winter, and would sometimes amuse the teacher and scholars by singing songs in German. We had an excellent teacher named Fred Hayner.

#### **Places of Abode**

When spring came, we moved about 14 miles to a place near Smithville, where nearly everyone spoke German, which was what father wanted as the English language was very hard for him to learn. Here we had a much better house and nearly as much ground as before for \$4.00 per month. But I was not destined to be at home very long. My sister Margaret, who had married Albert Zollinger and had started farming in Ashtabula County, wrote and asked Father to let me come and stay with them in their new home and help with the light work. It was decided that I should go. I went by train, sometime in April, 1885. They were living on a rented farm near East Trumbell. Here I learned to milk cows, tend to chickens, and feed pigs.

#### **A Memorable Picnic**

One incident remains clear in my mind. It was announced on July 4 that there would be a picnic at Callander's Grove on Grand River some 4 miles from home. To this I wanted to go. My brother-in-law gave me a quarter to spend, saying that was all he could spare.

I had once been to a Sunday School picnic in Creston where all kinds of good eats and lemonade were plenti-

ful and free. I thought all picnics were like that so I spent 10 cents on firecrackers and 10 cents for a ride on the little steamboat on the river, leaving me 5 cents. About this time, everybody got out their lunch baskets, some on tables and some on the grass. I stood around looking from one group to another but nobody invited me or paid any attention to me.

A huckster had some bananas for sale so I asked him to give me 5 cents worth, expecting to get at least 3 or 4. He gave me one, and that one was not very large. So that one banana was my picnic dinner, which only aggravated my hunger. After that I lost interest in what was going on, and being disgusted with picnics in general and the selfishness of man in particular, I left the grounds.

#### **More Schooling**

The following winter I went to school in East Trumbell and learned under a teacher named Egbert McIntosh. During this year I went with my sister and brother-in-law to church every Sunday. One Sunday they had company from Girard, and the sled on which we were riding broke down and we had to wade in snow about 18 inches deep the last mile and a half.

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

#### **Next Issue:**

The Graf autobiography continues.

# The Light Of Hope

## “What Are We Seeking”

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

"For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's."

*Philippians 2:21*

The Apostle Paul had been commenting on Timothy, how he naturally cared for others. Then he comments that all seek their own.

What are we seeking? Do we seek our own, just look out for ourselves? If someone asked us "What is your goal in life?", what would our answer be? Many of us might answer, "I want to get married, have a family, and be a successful farmer, doctor, or school teacher." That's all very honorable and can be to the glory of God, but I believe it would be better to say, "My goal in life is to please God and to do all things for His glory." We human beings have a tendency to seek our own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's.

Matthew 6:33 reads, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God." This tells us what to seek first and foremost but what do we seek after conversion? Conversion is only the start of our Christian lives.

"Ask, and it shall be given you, seek and ye shall find." Matthew 7:7. Here Jesus is talking about seeking forgiveness and salvation, which also is before conversion. Therefore, we conclude that anyone who has not been converted to Christ should, first of all, seek the kingdom of God, forgiveness and salvation.

In I Corinthians 1:22 we read, "For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom." Evidently, God prefers for us to trust Him without a sign. Jesus told Thomas, "Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have be-

lieved." John 20:29. As for the Greeks seeking wisdom, that's good if they are wise enough to choose Christ, repent, and follow Him. Wisdom is the ability to make good decisions while knowledge is only an accumulation of facts.

In Colossians 3:1 we are taught to, "Seek those things which are above." Since those things which are above in heaven are invisible to us at the present time, we are more apt to seek those things which we can see with our human eyes. According to the Bible, this is a mistake. Even though we seek some things of this world which are necessary for us to live, those things should be used for the glory of God and not for selfish purposes. What are we seeking?

Paul wrote in II Corinthians 12:24, "For I seek not yours, but you." He didn't want their possessions but them. That sounds like more than their possessions and it is. He wanted their love and respect which is much more valuable than material things. The invisible things in life are more precious than the visible things. The visible things alone cannot satisfy.

It is written in Proverbs 2:4, "If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God." Here we are being taught that we should seek wisdom, knowledge, and understanding, the non-material things, the spiritual things, at least as earnestly as we seek for silver and gold, or money.

Romans 3:11 reads, "There is none that understand, there is none that seeketh after God." Here

the Apostle Paul is speaking of man in his natural state. Actually we should all seek after God and only those things which honor Him.

In the love chapter, I Corinthians 13:5, we find the following written about charity or love, "Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own." This certainly means that we should not seek simply our own benefit nor our own pleasure. We must seek to please God first of all, and we must seek to help others, spiritually and physically. Is that what we are always seeking to do? It should be.

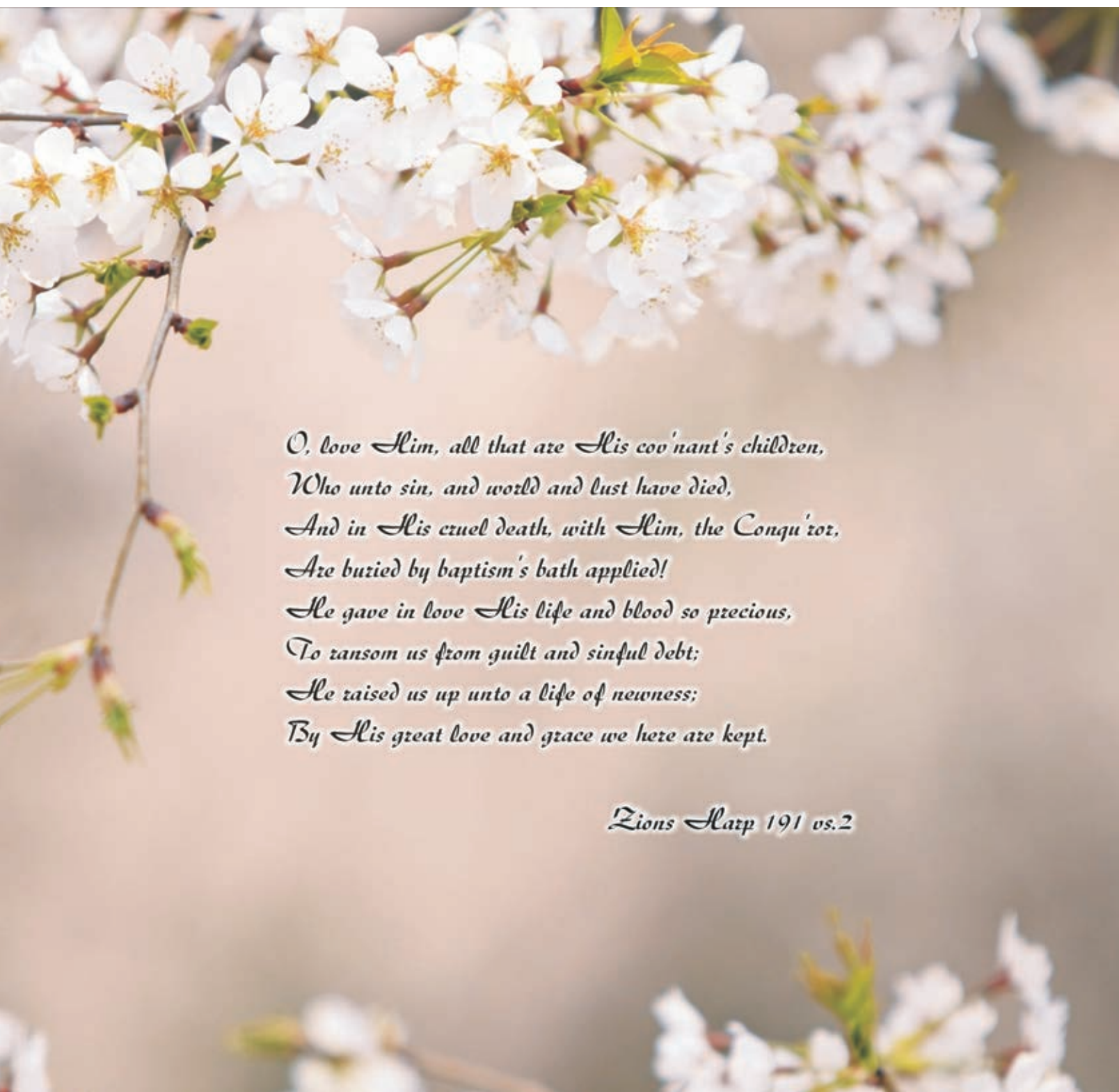
Jeremiah 29:13 reads, "And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart." When we repent, it should be with all our heart. After we are converted to Jesus Christ, we should seek to serve Him with all our heart.

What are we seeking? We need to seek a closer walk with Christ and a more intimate walk with Him. We need to read the Bible every day and pray every day, not only for our own protection from the evil one, but for the purpose of seeking to be faithful ambassadors for Christ. He wants to work through us and in order for that to take place, He needs to have 100% control of us.

The Apostle Paul wrote in I Corinthians 10:33, "Not seeking my own profit." May God help us to seek with all our hearts the profit and benefit of Christ and of others. Forget self. What are we seeking? We are seeking to serve Christ faithfully by living holy lives and helping others.

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*O, love Him, all that are His cov'nant's children,  
Who unto sin, and world and lust have died,  
And in His cruel death, with Him, the Conqu'ror,  
Are buried by baptism's bath applied!  
He gave in love His life and blood so precious,  
To ransom us from guilt and sinful debt;  
He raised us up unto a life of newness;  
By His great love and grace we here are kept.*

*Zions Harp 191 vs.2*