

The Silver Lining

*The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them;
and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.*

*It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing:
the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon,
they shall see the glory of the Lord, and the excellency of our God.
Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees.*

Isaiah 35:1-3

April 2012

Sermon by Bro. Alan Schambach, Remington, IN

Isaiah 33 & Acts 6:8-15, Acts 7:1-10, 47-60

We sang a fitting hymn, didn't we? I love to tell the story... (I Love to Tell the Story, Tabernacle Hymns #142). We have an opportunity to tell about the story of Jesus behind a wooden pulpit, but each and every one of us has the opportunity to tell the story in our own ministries wherever we are – whether we're in the home, in school, or in the workplace. We each have that opportunity. You don't have to be a called minister of the Gospel that stands behind a wooden pulpit to share the story of Jesus and His Love. Someday, as we sang in that hymn, we'll sing the new, new song about the old, old story. What a beautiful message of Jesus and His Love. It inspires us who proclaim the Word.

It came to me as I was sitting here thinking about inspiring songs that another one that really inspires a minister of the Gospel is the hymn in the Zion's Harp, The Ministers of the Gospel (#113). We have the opportunity once a year to gather on Thursday evening before the conference – all the ministers and their wives. I tell you, it's touching, spine-tingling to sing about sharing the Gospel, with a bunch of brothers in your shoes. Should I restrain the Spirit's course for fear of man so feeble? Though Satan's hosts are raging here, should I not be more faithful? Awed by a mortal's frown, shall I conceal the Word of God most High? No. We don't want to preach to itching ears, either, do we? Should praise of man be more to me than God's most blessed favor? And though man might reject His word, the Truth remains forever; Unchanging, sure, it does impart a comfort to the poor in heart. So we have God's Word that's before us. We trust each and every one has prayed.

We've been blessed in this morning hour. We sang about grace – God's marvelous grace, and we heard about the relationship with Jesus Christ. We need grace to help maintain that relationship with Jesus Christ. Grace – the tools that are sufficient for us to maintain a godly life. I had to think – God is so faithful.

We read recently around the sup-

per table of when the Philistines took the Ark of the Covenant, and they captured it away from the Children of Israel. Of course, they put it in their temple next to Dagon, and Dagon fell on its face. They wondered what was going on so they put Dagon back up. The next morning Dagon fell down again and his arm broke off. They realized they better get rid of the Ark. So they hooked up two oxen – untrained the Word tells us. They weren't fit to pull. They didn't even know where they were going, and God caused the two beasts to take that Ark of the Covenant right back to the Children of Israel – if I remember the story correctly. (I Samuel 5&6) If God can do that with two simple-minded animals, what can He do for us, His chosen creation? As we were reminded this morning hour, God loves us, and He wants what's best for us. He really wants us to bear fruit. So may we be encouraged once more through the Word that we can be inspired to a closer walk with Him.

Brother Ron gave us a few challenges this morning. Perhaps I would have a few more. How would we be if we were like Stephen? We were charged – falsely charged. The Bible tells us that's going to happen. We will be accused. We will be looked down upon. There are those who are going to think wrong is right and right is wrong. How will we be? Will we be able to stand fast if we were brought before the courts? I think there are laws in certain places that if you speak negatively against certain behaviors that God certainly frowns upon, you can be caught for hate speech or whatever it would be. What if it became a hate crime to speak about the love of Jesus and how those who didn't love Him would spend eternity in outer darkness? Would we continue to preach it? Would you continue to live the life you are living? Would you continue to talk with your friends and neighbors the way we are asked to do?

We read in one of the last verses of one of the Gospels that we are to go into all the world and preach the

Sermon continued on page 41

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The Silver Lining
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309-923-7192 (phone)
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"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he them; male and female created he them."

Genesis 1:27

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

April 2012

Spiritual Headship

There are many facets of spiritual headship as defined in God's Word. In this article we will focus on the duties of the priest of the home and balancing work and family responsibilities.

Any human organization must have structure to accomplish its purposes. For the structure to be effective, the order of authority must be understood and followed.

The Bible clearly defines the order of authority in the home. *"But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God"* (1 Cor. 11:3). The Apostle Paul reinforces this in Colossians 3:16-19 and Ephesians 5:23. He completes the order of authority in the family when he further states, *"Children obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord"* (Col. 3:20).

The orderly structure that God established for the home is designed to hold families together, provide for their material needs, and most importantly, provide for their spiritual welfare. Although many attempts have been made to modify the order that God set in place thousands of years ago, none have improved upon God's order of creation.

There may be those who fear that the man is given too much authority over his family. If anyone over-emphasizes a few verses out of the Bible, this can happen, but if we take the whole counsel of God, this clearly is not the case. Let us consider the very high standard which is established for the head of the home: *"Husbands love your wives, even as Christ loved the church, and gave himself for it"* (Eph. 5:25). The Lord expanded the protection for families when he wrote, *"Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged"* (Col.3:21).

Christ never does anything that harms the church (His Bride) nor does He ever ask anything unreasonable of us. As husbands follow Christ's example they will not intentionally do anything to hurt their wives, nor will they intentionally do anything to discourage their children. Indeed they will be intentional about shoring up their courage and will choose their words carefully, by

the grace of God (Col. 4:6). And when they err, they will seek forgiveness and reconciliation.

Jesus was the perfect example for the church. Fathers must strive to be Christ-like examples for their wives and children. This does not mean that the family worships the husband as the head of the household. The family does not worship the man, they worship the Lord whom the husband seeks to follow. The godly order of authority leads us from the husband to Christ and ultimately to God, in whom we safely trust.

Although it is not possible in a short article to list all of the duties of a husband as the priest of the home, perhaps a few examples, based on biblical principles, may prompt husbands to deeply ponder their responsibilities. Godly husbands will be faithful, first to God—*"But seek ye first the kingdom of God..."* Matt.6:33, and then to their wives *"...what God hath joined together, let not man put asunder"* (Mark. 10:6-9), and finally to their children *"...bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord"* (Eph. 6:3.)

A believing husband will lead family worship, teaching the Word of God to his family by word and example. He will love his wife with heartfelt, self-less love. *"So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies"* (Eph. 5:28). His wife and children will safely trust him because they will observe his love for the Lord and will see that he places their welfare above his own interests. He will not waste his time in worldly entertainment or selfish activities at the expense of time for his family. He will use discretion in preserving needed personal time for edifying activities.

Being a godly priest of the home requires men to have a healthy balance between work and family responsibilities. Paul reminds us that *"...if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith and is worse than an infidel"* (1 Tim. 5:8). Although there may be circumstances beyond his control, the godly man will work to provide adequately for the material needs of his family without being materialistic. While he may not be able to provide as much as some others, God can supply the needs of those who are diligent. David wrote, *"I have been young,*

and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread" (Psa. 37:25).

Additionally, the godly man must not do as the rich man who placed his confidence in material goods. He pulled down his barns and built bigger ones. He then said to himself, *"...Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry"* (Luke 12:19). That very night, when his life was taken from him, he faced the loss of all things because he had placed his trust in riches.

Paul encouraged Timothy to *"Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy"* (1 Tim. 6:17). Jesus had earlier explained the spiritual dangers of trusting in riches: *"Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God. It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God"* (Mark 10:24-25).

The pressure on men to "be successful" often makes them spend too much time in material pursuits. Our culture and indeed our heritage have taught us to have a strong work ethic. The Apostle Paul wrote that we should not be *"...slothful in business..."* (Rom. 12:11). Sometimes our strengths can lead us into difficulty. We can so easily be caught up in the pursuits of the world which are of no eternal profit. This can lead to covetousness, pride and competitiveness. The godly husband will earnestly endeavor to have his and his family's priorities bring glory to God. He will regularly take inventory of how his time and resources are being spent, whether to further God's kingdom or to lay up earthly things that perish with the using (Matt. 6:19-20; Luke 12:21-31).

These biblical principles should guide us when we have opportunities for advancement in our earthly labors. They will help us determine if our choices will edify and bring our family together or contribute to the pressures to fragment and become self-absorbed. They will provide a foundation for application of the mind of Christ in spiritual headship.

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

Suggestions for subjects are welcome and can be sent to:

Silver Lining Editorials, 1377 County Rd 1600 N, Roanoke, IL 61561 or by e-mail to cleman1377@gmail.com



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN Mission Committee

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

Supporting New and Small Churches

Our small churches will flourish in God's kingdom as our brotherhood becomes more aware of the needs and opportunities in various locations and responds as His Spirit leads.

Fulfilling the Great Commission

In Matthew 28, Christ instructs us to *"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you."*

It was Christ's intent that His message and the power of His blood be made available to all who would believe.

That all should come to repentance

The apostles followed God's leading by helping others come to repentance. Peter, a Jew, visited Cornelius in another city because the Spirit directed him, even though Cornelius was a Gentile. Paul also traveled about, preaching the gospel, establishing and encouraging churches.

"The Lord is...not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." II PETER 3:9

A history of outreach

Sent by Samuel Froehlich, Benedict Weyeneth came to America from Europe. In the first 21 years (1847-1868) he helped establish 24 churches in 8 states. Everywhere he went, the seeds of the Gospel were planted. When people responded to the Lord, he nurtured and baptized new believers. Elders were

ordained, churches flourished and the Word continued to be spread.

Our opportunities in the harvest

The apostle Paul wrote *"I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase."* I COR. 3:6

In Ephesians 4, we read that some are evangelists and apostles (setting up churches and reaching out to the lost) and some are pastors and teachers (counseling and nurturing spiritual growth). Which of these opportunities align with the gifts God has given you for the furtherance of His Kingdom?

- Build relationships with friends and neighbors in your community and seek to meet their needs.
- Pray for those in new and small congregations when you hear of their requests and needs.
- Reach out and encourage those in new and small churches as the Spirit directs.
- Remember to include those from small churches as events are hosted (single invites, invite-a-friend, etc.).
- Develop a personal interest in the welfare of the brethren in one or two smaller churches.
- Travel to these churches on a regular basis to provide fellowship and encouragement. Include your families, as children love coming to church and seeing a visiting young friend.
- Stay current with the schedules posted on the Mission Committee website. Broaden the support of the minister rotations to include a Sunday school class, a song leader, brethren with a heart to listen, a local work project on a Saturday, etc.
- Pray about relocating to a smaller

church. Move to another location if the Spirit directs. In any decision involving relocation or being sent, believers are encouraged to first counsel with their local elder.

- Assist small churches with physical labor, materials or monetary gifts, supporting their mission to further the gospel.
- Participate in a disaster work team when scheduled in the area of a small church.
- Assist others who are called to go if you are unable to travel or move to support a small church.

Benefits of attending a smaller congregation

- Opportunity to share the gospel in a new geographical area.
- Get to know the local church family on a heart level, with substantial one-on-one time.
- Practice hospitality with visitors, building relationships with brethren throughout the national/international church body.
- Benefit from active mentoring opportunities between older and younger, reinforced by activities and fellowship for all ages.
- Bond closely to the local church through the necessity of a fewer number fulfilling needed roles.
- More fully utilize talents and spiritual gifts and exercise different responsibilities in the small group setting.

Establishing sustainable healthy churches

New and small churches should grow and transition from needing sustenance from others, to having sufficient capacity and strength to support all aspects of the local body of Christ. We invite you to share this vision.



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
World Relief

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

International Grants Disaster relief

The International Grants Committee coordinates responses to disasters that occur in areas of the world which are not under the responsibilities of the regional World Relief Committees. Most frequently, when news of a disaster is made known, our committee reaches out to international Christian relief organizations to offer support in their responses.

Japan Earthquake. The earthquake and subsequent tsunami in early 2011 created a unique challenge for disaster relief. The Japanese government would not allow medical personnel to assist with the wounded. However, we were able to provide financial support for the immediate disaster needs of shelter and food through our own Japanese churches as well as through two Christian relief organizations.

Midyear, the generous donations from our congregations for the Japan relief effort enabled us to finance the purchase of relocation kits for families who were being relocated from temporary housing to more homelike quarters provided by the government. These kits were customized to the needs of each family and provided appliances, bedding, and initial supplies of food.

Eastern Africa. Famine resulting from severe drought and political instability ravaged the country of Sudan and areas of Southern Ethiopia and Kenya. Grants were provided to send cargo containers of food and medications to the needy in these countries.

Libya – Tunisia Refugee Relief. The civil war in Libya created a mass exodus of refugees fleeing to nearby Tunisia. World Relief funded a shipment of medical supplies to the refugee camps.

Chile. An earthquake ripped apart buildings and bridges across Chile. More than 300 people were killed. A container of beans, emergency mattresses, blankets, and food boxes was sent.

Pakistan. In October, an earthquake hit Northeastern Pakistan causing much damage. A grant was provided to send disaster supplies to the survivors of the earthquake.

Haiti Earthquake. Our immediate response to the Haiti earthquake was to support the shipping of disaster relief materials and to support the transportation of medical teams. The Caribbean Committee is coordinating the continuing relief effort in Haiti.

Non disaster projects

The International Grants committee also provides financial assistance for many humanitarian aid projects each year. The last three years these projects were in twelve countries, located in Africa, Eastern Europe, Asia, Central, and South America.

Africa. We support feeding programs for school children in Ethiopia. Grants have been sent to assist with the building of schools, medical clinics, and bridges. In Ethiopia a breeding program has been initiated with the goal of increasing the milk production of the cattle. Funds were provided to purchase a cow for this program. In Zambia we supported an orphanage with the development of a strawberry farm which provides income as well as food for the orphanage.

Eastern Europe. Funds have been provided to help furnish a home for teenage orphans in Romania and to buy white canes for students at a school for the blind in the Ukraine.

Asia. We have committed to provide support for a mobile medical clinic in the Telos Islands off of the West coast of Sumatra, Indonesia. This clinic serves a population of over 10,000 persons located on twelve scattered islands providing both medical care and community health education. In 2011, 1,457 sick people were given medical treatment and 1,736 people were educated on healthy behaviors. We also provided funds for the drilling of water wells in Cambodia and the construction of a bicycle path for students in Thailand.



Central and South America. In Brazil we have provided support for a vocational training program for women. This program teaches skills to enable them to better support their families. In Nicaragua it is common to find families supporting themselves by scavenging in the dumps of major cities for recyclable materials. These families often live in primitive homes with leaky canvas roofs. We have provided grants to purchase metal roofing materials for these homes.

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
HOME FOR THE
HANDICAPPED**

www.achh.org

Blessings will follow to all those who take the time to listen, encourage and help those who are handicap. As you read the poem below (no author was referenced), try to put yourself in the place of someone with disabilities.

Friends of the Handicapped

Blessed are those who take the time
To listen to difficult speech,
For you help me to know that
If I persevere,
I can be understood.
Blessed are you who never bid me to
hurry up
or take my tasks from me
For my failures will be outweighed
By the times I surprise myself and
you.
Blessed are you who asked for my
help
For my greatest need is to be
needed.
Blessed are you who understand
that it is
difficult for me to put thoughts into
words.
Blessed are you who with a smile
encourage
me to try once more.
Blessed are you who never remind
me that today
I asked the same question twice.
Blessed are you who respect me and
love me
just as I am.

We would like to thank you for your support and prayers on behalf of the residents, agency and staff.

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

Last summer I was given the chance to serve God at Gateway Woods as a volunteer. I accepted the

opportunity not fully knowing what God had in store for me during the several months I would be in Leo. He used the Staff, residents at Gateway, local church members, and the Godly family I lived with to teach me about serving.

First and foremost I learned about the joy that God bestows on His servants. Recently I heard a sermon given on the parable of the talents. The speaker asked us to consider the talents as opportunities given to the men by the master. At the end of the parable, the speaker pointed out that despite the differences in amounts of the talents given to the men, those who were faithful were rewarded. They were told, "Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord." At Gateway, God taught me that no matter what I was doing, as long as I was truly doing it for Him, He would give me joy.

He also taught me to trust Him. Volunteering at Gateway is less about the actual work completed, and more about being a Christ-like example for the residents living there. The relationships that are formed are an essential part of volunteering. Before beginning my time there, I was so worried about how I would be able to relate to the kids. I had a sheltered and safe childhood; nothing in my life had been incredibly difficult, especially in comparison to some of the things the residents have dealt with. I was worried about what I would say, what I would do, to make a positive impact on their lives. God took that fear and melted it away. By the end of the summer, I was able to share with one of the boys the passages in Luke that detail when Christ was crucified. He told me it was the first time he had read it. I will never forget that experience.

God gives us all opportunities to serve in different ways. Some of you

may have the desire to volunteer at Gateway Woods this summer; others may not be able to do so. Regardless, each of you reading this has the opportunity to pray for the children and work at Gateway Woods.

If you are interested in volunteering this summer, whether for a day, a week or the entire summer, call me at 602-410-1739.

News:

- The Lord has blessed us with four new Staff members in the last month. Bro. Jason and Sis. Joy Huber (Francesville) as well as Bro. Justin and Sis. Kirsten (Leo) have joined our Houseparenting team! Please pray for them as they train and take on their new roles at Gateway Woods.

- 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 for more information.

- Gateway Woods welcomed three 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.

- 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 two career positions available. We have an opening for a Teacher at Gateway Woods School and for an Illinois Adoption Manager. 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: bit.ly/GateWork. We trust that God

will continue to provide qualified, mature brothers and sisters who will serve Him in a ministry that is 'Turning Lives Around'. Perhaps this includes you!

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

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

Our themes for March were farm animals, the color yellow, and Dr. Seuss. We studied the letters U and V then took a break from the ABC curriculum and focused on Easter. One of the highlights of the month was watching the 4-5 year old class' volcano erupt. Who knew that acid and base could cause so much excitement?

March brought an end to the World Relief volunteers coming and helping with tornado cleanup. We enjoyed the relationships we built with them. We would like to thank them for all the work they did for the preschool. I can still see the rows of toys drying on the parking lot after a good wash. We had many visitors this month. We loved having you here and appreciate your friendship so much!

**ALABAMA, ATHENS
Roger and Becky Roberts**

Our cups overflowed this month with those willing to share the gospel of Jesus with the Athens church family. Those who spent time with us

were: Bro. Jesse Bedolla (Detroit) and family, Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb Stoller (Remington), Bro. Nathan Walder (Cissna Park), Bro. Sam and Sis. Linda Schlatter (Latty), Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Bro. Tom and Sis. Connie Schambach (Elgin, IL), Bro. Randy and Sis. Becky Gudeman (Francesville, IN) and retired Bro. Wayne and Sis. Gloria Laubscher (Cissna Park). Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville) came and shared the Memorandum with us this month also.

We have enjoyed the blessed fellowship of the World Relief teams that came to serve in Cullman. Please pray as the project ends that God will continue to add His increase in the hearts of those we came in contact with.

We are encouraging you to come join us for Memorial Day Weekend for the annual singing. It is a wonderful opportunity to lift your voice in praises with those of like mind and faith.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX

Little Ava Hinrichsen (Bro. Todd and Sis. Heather) required emergency surgery this month and is home doing well now. Sis. Deanna Beyer (Bro. Clarence), Bro. Jerry Emch (Sis. Cathy) and Bro. Brent Emch were also surgical patients. Others of our congregation needing prayers for their physical health are Sis. Heather Hinrichsen, Bro. John Pulfer, Bro. Ed Frautschi, Sis. Ruby Barna, Sis. Eleanor Hill, Ruth Finley, Bro. Allan and Sis. Edith Freed, Sis. Shirley Mohrman, Bro. Jim Beres, Dakota Thorpe, Sis. Louann Klopfenstein, Bro. Jacob Hoerr, Sis. Bertha Miller, Bro. Rudy Bertschi, and Carl Steffen.

We are so thankful that we can pray for each other and then hear of God's wonderful healing!

Our visiting ministers this month

have been: Bro. Nick Gutwein (Sis. Suzanne, West Lafayette), Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit), Bro. Neil Ramseyer (Sis. Sharon, Bay City), Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Sis. Clara, Bloomfield), Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia), Bro. Ed Sauder (Sis. Bonnie, Roanoke), Bro. Ron Allenbach (Kiowa), Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern), Bro. Bill Schick (Sis. Joan, Magdalena, MX), and Bro. Tim Zimmerman (Sis. Barbara, Lamont-Gridley). We are grateful for each one and look forward to their next visits to AZ!

His blood purifies the congregation of His children, whom He did atone, whom He loved sincerely ere creation.

He to them says: "Ye are Mine alone!"

Zion's Harp #26, vs. 5

What a blessing it was for us to gather together on a recent Saturday evening to share Holy Communion! We are grateful to our Elder Bro. Herb Knochel and visiting Elder Bros. Mark Bahr and Ben Wiegand for their help in this!

We anticipate with glad hearts the coming Easter season when we renew in our minds the complete sacrifice made for our soul's salvation!

**ARIZONA, PRESCOTT
Denise Steidinger**

We had our annual business meeting on February 26. May the Lord bless those who have served so well in the past. Bro. Stan Schambach was re-elected as treasurer. Bro. Zach Roth was elected as usher. Sis. JaNon Furrer was elected to teach the new preschool class in Sunday School. May God bless each of them in their new duties.

Elder Bros. Mike Leman (Sis. Deb, Denver) and Jon Kokanovich (Sis.

Nancy, Phoenix) spent a Sunday with our congregation and served Communion, as well as Bro. Mike giving an exhortation on the Armor of God. Other visiting ministering brothers this past month were: Bros. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Sally, Oakville), Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington) and Mark Steiner (Sis. Sue, Smithville). We thank them all for their willing service to come and preach God's Word.

Romans 1 tells us "for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth" and we rejoice that this is true in Richard Manz's life! We will continue to lift him up in prayer as he begins his walk with the Lord.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

We have so enjoyed the blessing of having Bro. Ron and Sis. Lois Allenbach (Kiowa, KS) with us for the past two months. Bro. Ron so graciously shared the ministering duties with our Tucson ministers and we are very grateful for his willingness to serve. Many thanks to you both; we hope to see you next year, Lord willing.

Our Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia, PA) was here with us recently to serve Holy Communion, along with Elder Bro. Herb Knochel (Phoenix, AZ). We thank them both for giving of their time to spend this special day with us. It was a blessing to everyone who participated.

Bro. Ken Hoerr (Peoria, IL) was with us this past Sunday, March 18, along with his wife, Sis. Darlene. We certainly wish to thank him also for his efforts on the pulpit on our behalf.

Our Sis. Carole Haas is still recovering from shoulder surgery but was able to worship with us the past two Sundays for which we are so thankful.

We were having early spring weather with warm, almost hot

sunny days for most of March, but we are now enjoying a little reminder that winter is not officially over. Today, March 19, our high will quite possibly not reach 50 degrees and hail is covering my backyard. Out here in Arizona we are quite entertained by these little weather disturbances, the sun shining all the time can get a little "boring" for lack of a better term. The sun should return tomorrow and we should be back in the 80's by the weekend.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

We were blessed by the reading of the Memorandum, which was delivered over the pulpit on February 19 with the assistance of Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Sis. Nancy).

Our small church was thrilled to host the Peoria Church Choir on February 25-26. Along with the choir, we had numerous additional visitors. We shared dinner and fellowship with them before all headed over to the Villa Gardens Nursing Home for the presentation of a moving performance by the choir. Sunday morning brought more fellowship and the opportunity for us to hear visiting ministering Bro. Ken Hoerr (Sis. Darlene) deliver the message regarding the power and need for prayer. Our afternoon service recounted the ways that music speaks to our souls and brings us into deeper relationship with the Holy Spirit. After the message, we were uplifted in song by the Peoria Choir. It was a joyful weekend for all of us in Altadena.

We continue in prayer for the Elder Body as it reviews matters of importance pertaining to our church heritage. We pray that each Elder will be led by the Holy Spirit and that unity and love will prevail during discussions of important church doctrine.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Yasmin Koehl

As a congregation, we always look forward to the winter months and the blessings we receive from numerous brethren across the nation worshipping together with us. Now as spring break approaches, we bid farewell to our snow birds with whom we've enjoyed many sweet times as we fellowshipped together.

Amongst our visitors were Elder Bro. Bruce Endress (Bradford, IL), and ministering Bros. Gary Endress (Bradford, IL) and Paul Schmidgall (Morris, MN). We appreciate the labors of these brothers as they ministered unto us. We also want to extend our gratitude to Elder Bro. Bruce for his assistance to our Elder Bro. Peter as the Memorandum was shared with us. May the Lord richly bless these brothers for their service of love on our behalf.

Farewell, farewell, my morning
dawns, Farewell my rest I see.
The strife is o'er, my morning
dawns, The Master calleth me.
Farewell, Farewell, let me go on.

That endless rest to share;
Be faithful till the Savior calls, Farewell,
till we meet there!

Hymns of Zion # 194

This song was the last hymn sung as we bid farewell to our dear Bro. Joe Kaplar as he entered into his glorious rest. We extend our prayers and sympathy to his wife, Sis. Rose, and his beloved family. The last verse uttered continues to ring in our minds... "be faithful till the Savior calls, Farewell, till we meet there!" What a glorious reunion will be ours if we, by God's grace, can abstain from sin and remain obedient to the Word so that we can be worthy to enter heaven's bright shores where we can meet the faithful there!

**KITCHENER, ONTARIO
CANADA
Kim Leman**

“But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4:19

We appreciated the ministry of Bros. Lenny Meyer (Sis. Charlotte, Chicago, IL) and Larry Wenniger (Sis. Joyce, Latty, OH) this past month. May God richly reward them for coming to serve us God’s Word.

**COLORADO, DENVER
Lily Zarkovacki**

“The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

James 5:16

Our prayers are with our Sis. Ruth Pfeiffer as she has gone through some rehab from a fall she had recently. She has also moved into an assisted living facility, and we hope her transition goes smoothly.

We are also thankful that Sis. Becky Pfeiffer was not seriously injured in an automobile accident she was in recently. We trust that God’s healing powers would be with her.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Emily Petrovic as she is going through chemo treatment. May she feel God’s comfort and healing touch in her life.

“Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid”

St. John 14:27

**CONNECTICUT
ROCKVILLE
Sheila Gerber
Lauren Goric**

In True Repentance, die to sin,

In Jesus’ name Believing!
Baptized into His death with Him,
Full pardon be receiving!
Who dies with Christ will with Him
rise,

A new life’s way before him lies,
The road of life with Jesus.

Zion’s Harp #106

Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN) assisted with the testimonies and baptisms of Sis. JaNae Bahler (Bro. Steve and Sis. Lori), Sis. Leah Gerber (Bro. Ron and Sis. Sheila), and Sis. Amanda Bahler (Bro. Phil and Sis. Michelle) on March 24-25. We are thankful that these three Sisters have chosen the road of life with Jesus. We also appreciated having Elder Bro. John Jackson (Bay City, MI) visit our congregation and preach the Word during this month.

We were thankful to hear the announcement of five converts who have confessed peace with God and man and are ready for baptism. They are: Laura Schneider (Bro. Doug and Sis. Jane), David Moser (Bro. Steve and Sis. Jan), Heidi Beutel (Bro. Gene and Sis. Lynne), Josh Luginbuhl (Bro. Matt and Sis. Heidi), and Taylor Welti (Bro. Pete and Sis. Jill). Lord willing, testimonies and baptisms are planned for the weekend of April 21-22.

On March 12, Mason Robert was born to Bro. Doug and Sis. Leah Luginbuhl. He joins big brother Alex and grandparents, Bro. Rick and Sis. Sue Luginbuhl and Bro. Bob and Sis. Lynette Goric.

Our congregation mourned the passing of Bro. Robert Luginbuhl. We are thankful for his victory in the Lord, but he will be missed. He leaves his wife, Sis. Martha; and daughters: Sis. Bonnie Zahner (Bro. Warren), Sis. Susan Rufener (Bro. Larry, Smithville, OH) and Sis. Luanne Hills (Bro. Scott). Siblings are Bro. Rudy Luginbuhl (Sis. Evelyn), Bro. Eddie Luginbuhl (Sis. Alma), Sis. Adele

Trueb (Bro. Ron), and Sis. Betty Luginbuhl.

We are thankful that Sis. Marge Bahler is assembling with us again after recently having undergone surgery. We will continue to keep these families in our thoughts and prayers.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

Our caretakers for the latter part of February were Bro. Jerry and Sis. Ada Christensen (Gridley, 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 dkg.steffen@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. Brian Huber (Sis. Jacki, Francesville, IN), Bro. Jeff Wiegand (Sis. Janel, Goodfield, IL), Bro. Byron Stoller (Sis. Carol, Gridley, IL), and Elder Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL).

Other visitors this month were from Philadelphia, PA; Sardis, OH; Sabetha, KS and Princeville, IL.

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

If you are planning to visit Washington, D.C. area for vacation or business, please contact Bro. Joe and Sis.

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

**FLORIDA
FORT LAUDERDALE
Renee Mangold**

We were blessed with visiting ministering Bros. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL) and Chuck Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie, Elgin, IL) this past month. We pray that God would bless them for their service to Him.

Our prayers are with Sis. Ilene Haefli (Bro. Bob). Sis. Ilene fell just when she was getting off the airplane for a visit to Ft. Lauderdale. She is in a local rehab facility and we pray that she will mend quickly and feel God's healing hand upon her.

We continue to pray for Bro. Ed Gerber (Sis. Vi) as he struggles with health issues. They also celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary and his 90th birthday. We pray that our Lord will continue to give them peace, comfort and respite.

Recently our congregation met for a delightful pizza party hosted by Sis. Barb and Sis. Ruth Schneider. We had a nice evening of fellowship and laughter.

Once again, we are truly appreciating our winter visitors. It's wonderful to hear the voices lifted in God's praise and to meet new brethren and friends and renew old ties as well.

**FLORIDA
NORTH FORT MYERS
Victor Beer**

On the first Sunday of March, as we do each year, we celebrate Holy Communion at Fort Myers. Our Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Sis. Jeni, Bluffton, IN) and Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Sis. Nancy, Phoenix, AZ) shared in

servicing us. We were further blessed with visiting ministers, as Bro. Bob Pflederer (Sis. Ellie, Morton, IL) and Bro. Dave Zehr (Sis. Vicki, Gridley, IL) shared God's Word to us.

We're glad to have Bro. Larry and Sis. Teresa Bruellman back with us after they spent some time back in their home church. Their son, Bro. Andy, was married to Sis. Betsy Mogler at West Bend, IA, where they are living on their home farm.

News from New Beginnings:

Evelyn and her two children have left the program after being here for nine months. They went to live with her sister. We will miss them and wish them the best. Marta and her two year old son, Jay, have come to live here and we are enjoying getting to know them. Marta is finishing up a class online and will enroll in a local college or technical school.

We are very excited about getting our community room ready to use. Before it was complete, we used it to celebrate Jay's second birthday with pizza and cupcakes. It is now painted and ready for the finishing touches such as curtains and rugs.

Our next project will be to get the playground ready. It is already a nice area but needs some grass. Mr. Bill built a nice big sand box and it is getting some good use. Again, we had some wonderful volunteer help. Bro. Marvin and Sis. Rhea Steffen have been coming to help with various projects at least once a week. We really appreciate their helping hands. Also, Sis. Vera Martin from our congregation in Sarasota has come to help us several times. She brings us goodies when she comes and also leaves us with freezer meals. She has also watched kids and given rides to appointments. We really appreciate the boost she has given us.

We enjoyed another "Sunday Supper" hosted by Bro. Ray and Sis. Jeannie Haerr. We got babysitters for the kids and were able to play some

games after we ate. Thank you, Ray and Jeannie, and their helpers, Sis. Mary Ann Feller and Bro. Don and Sis. Gladys Kauffman for the delicious food and the fun evening.

**FLORIDA, SARASOTA
Kim Ott**

"And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst."

John 6:35

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandra, Alto, MI) assist our Elder Bro. Jeff Streitmatter in Holy Communion and also share in the ministry on the following Sunday. Bro. Ted reminded us that it was not the nails that kept our Saviour Jesus Christ to the cross, but it was His love for all human kind. We are forever grateful for this selfless and sacrificial act of love, God's most wonderful plan of salvation!

Also sharing with us God's Word this month were Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville, IN), Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI), Bro. Dale Moore (Sis. Cheryl, Elgin, IA), and retired Bro. Lenard Meyer (Sis. Charlotte, Chicago, IL). We pray that these ministering brothers and their wives would feel God's added blessings for their time and effort in service to our congregation.

A pancake breakfast was held this month to help benefit the Sunday School classes. Many thanks to all who attended and to all who also assisted the students in their service.

Our prayers continue to God on behalf of Bro. Larry Bauman (Sis. Betty, Goodfield, IL) as he has once again become hospitalized. We pray God would give Bro. Larry strength and courage for each new day and His

healing touch for a healthy recovery.

We extend our prayers and sympathy to Bro. Bill and Sis. Beth Roscher along with their children, Stephen and Julia, at the passing away of their dear mother and grandmother, Sis. Edna Roscher. We pray God would comfort their hearts in the coming days.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA

One Saturday, in late March, our church family gathered in the mountains of North Carolina, at the home of Bro. Larry and Sis. Melinda Gramm. The men worked next door, at the home of Bro. Lynn and Sis. Sylvia Knapp, building a lovely new wooden wheelchair ramp. Throughout the day, we all shared in fellowship, a potluck dinner and the making of memories!

God has continued to bless us with many visitors this spring, including three ministering brothers! We are so thankful for the ministering hearts of Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL), Bro. Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN) and their families.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

Doreen Moser
Shayla Steffen

Jesus paid it all
All to Him I owe
Sin had left a crimson stain
He washed it white as snow.
Hallelujah, Jesus paid it all

~is the chorus to one of our songs we are singing for the Easter program. The kids may not know all the verses before the chorus but when we get to that part they can really sing Hallelujah with enthusiasm. May the songs and verses sink deep in their heart as they continue to learn.

Although there is not much to re-

port this month for Belvidere, we certainly can sing Hallelujah as we had a full church with many that came from Gridley, IL, to spend a Sunday with us. Bro. Darren Metz shared the gospel and once again entreated all to come and taste and see AS Jesus has paid it all for each and every one of us.

I hear the Savior say
Your strength indeed is small
Child of weakness watch and pray
Find in Me your all and all.

We gathered together with our Elgin brethren to listen to the Memorandum this month. Our strength indeed is small and we truly need to watch and pray and continue to search for our answers in God's Holy Word.

Jesus paid it all
All to Him I owe
Sin had left a crimson stain
He washed it white as snow.
Hallelujah, Jesus paid it all.

ILLINOIS BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Shelley Steffen
Heidi Rinckenberger

“But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.”

Psalm 1:2-3

We were so very blessed to be able to have a Church Retreat on March 3, where we came together for a day to enjoy fellowship, worship and teaching. Bro. Fred Witzig and Bro. Ed Bahler were able to join us for the day. We were encouraged and unified with our church family.

On March 15, Elder Bros. Mark

Streitmatter and Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) read the Memorandum from the Elder Brothers' Conference. There was a meal prepared before that all were invited to join. We appreciate Bro. Brad and Sis. Cindy for coming to spend the evening with us.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD

Sandi Joos
Roseann Stahl

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

I Corinthians 15:58

After 40 years in the ministry, Bro. Kenny Dietz (Sis. Mardell) has retired from the pulpit. We, as a congregation, appreciate his steadfast service.

This past month our congregation was also blessed with numerous visiting ministers. Bro. Dale Stoller (Sis. Sandra, Fairbury, IL), Bro. Greg Stoller (Sis. Jill, Forrest, IL), Bro. Dana Nieman (Sis. Lea, Remington, IN), and Bro. Ron Isch (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS) shared the living Word with us.

Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL) was with us and assisted Elder Bro. Bruce in serving Holy Communion in remembrance of Christ and His suffering for us.

“But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this, fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.”

Matthew 26:29

Sis. Violet (Bro. William, dec) Elsasser passed from this life on March 11. Our sympathy goes to her children, Sis. Charlotte Stahl, Sis. Diana (Bro. Dean) Feucht, and Sis. Suanne (Bro. Chuck) Schafer, along

with grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Bro. John (Sis. Lucille) Endress was also called home two weeks later on March 25. Our prayers are with his children, Bro. Dale (Sis. Cindy) Endress (Peoria, IL), Bro. Dennis Endress, and Sis. Pamela Endress, along with grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

These souls have the promise of being able to drink of the fruit of the vine with Christ in His Father's kingdom.

We also witnessed a rebirth as we heard the testimony and witnessed the baptism of Bro. Tim Ringger (Sis. Karen and Bro. Bill). We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville, IL) with us along with Bro. Mark Zimmerman (Sis. Cheryl, Eureka, IL).

"My son, attend unto my wisdom, and bow thine ear to my understanding:"

Proverbs 5:1

Jonathan Ehnle (Bro. John and Sis. Sara), Luke Ehnle (Bro. John and Sis. Sara), and Clint Kupferschmid (Bro. Brad and Sis. Cheryl) have bowed their ear to the Lord's call and are seeking him in repentance.

Keith Wagenbach (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Sara) spent a few days at the burn center in Springfield due to an accident. We are thankful for God's healing hand.

Adam Young has spent time with our congregation this past month as he is a traveling therapist currently working in the Quad Cities area. We have enjoyed having him with us.

"And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment."

Mark 12:30

May we serve the Lord faithfully and joyfully as He only is worthy.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN Sarah Drake

Greetings from Champaign-Urbana! On the weekend of March 3-4 our Bible class invited the Remington and Wolcott Bible classes for a special weekend of fellowship as they all prepare to travel to Jamaica together this summer. We are prayerful for God's blessings on the students as they prepare for this mission trip.

We are thankful for our visiting ministers this month. They included Bro. Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonita, Cissna Park), Bro. Ron Kipfer (Sis. Linda, Bluffton), and Bro. Jeff Wiegand (Sis. Janel, Goodfield). Also, retired Bro. Everett Gerber (Sis. Nancy, Rockville) assisted Elder Bro. Wayne on the pulpit one Sunday when Bro. Wayne was the only active minister present. Thank you all for your service!

We are happy to hear that Sis. Lacy Braker has decided to make Champaign her home church. Sis. Lacy has lived and worked in this area for a couple of years, and we welcome her as an official member of our congregation.

Our heart goes out to Sis. Pam, Bro. Sam, and Bro. Joel Furrer at the loss of Sis. Pam's mother, Sis. Dorothy Walder of Cissna Park. Sis. Dorothy was loved deeply by her family and friends, and we have confidence that she is now resting peacefully in the arms of the One who loves her most of all.

On May 1, our church building will be closed until September for the remodeling project. At that time, Sunday church services will be relocated to the building of the Messiah Lutheran Church.

The address is:
1401 W. John St.
Champaign 61821

The exact time for Sunday services is to be determined. Wednesday evening services will be more flexible, possibly meeting in homes or parks. If you are planning to visit Champaign church this summer and need further clarification, you can contact Bro. David Eisenmann (217) 398-0119. Thanks for your patience as our church begins this remodeling adventure!

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO Rachel Meyer

Greetings from Chicago. We thank Elder Bro. Earl Ringger, (Gridley, IL) for assisting Elder Bro. Brad Eisenmann in the Conference Report reading. We appreciate your time and effort.

Our baby room is going from strength to strength with the birth of two more precious ones! Sweet Audrey Grace Lindberg was born February 18 to Bro. Matthew and Sis. Renae Lindberg and little brother Emmett. We wish them all the best during this transition. On February 20, little Brooklyn Adele Kaisner entered this world to first-time parents, Bro. Rick and Sis. Michelle. She had to spend some time in the hospital due to an infection but is now home. We praise God for providing.

Our dear friend Peggy Ryan is home from rehabilitation and feeling somewhat discouraged that the re-gaining of strength in her legs and hands is thus far very slow. She asks for our prayers.

Medical treatments and prayers continue for Bros. Dale Eisenmann, Dan Plattner, and Steven Hofstetter. May we trust in God for His every provision.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Deanne Plattner (Bro. Dan) upon the loss of her grandmother, Sis. Vi Elsasser from Peoria, IL. Every loss brings a unique pain. May God be near.

On February 25 our Sunday School Benefit Dinner was held. The students and teachers did an exemplary job of providing our meal and a sweet program. Thank you.

My supervisor at work has taught me that every client we see during the day – whether it be 8 am or 6 pm – deserves our best. We were talking about this one day and about how the scheduled therapy time should not affect our quality of care. I have kept that advice in mind and used it as a reminder when I am feeling tired. I have also witnessed my supervisor modeling her advice when she sees eight children in a row (for an hour each), without a break. I find myself motivated to keep a high standard.

So why is it that I can treat my loved ones - and my relationship with Christ – so carelessly? Where is my motivation to answer with love instead of “snap” just because I am tired? Why do I think I have the right to use the excuse of being too exhausted to say my evening prayers, read my Bible...even turn my heart to Christ? How can I justify my giving my best at work and my worst at home and in my spiritual relationships? The unconditional love I receive from Christ and my family simply does not excuse poor behavior. Perhaps we all fall into this trap at times...best faces in public and masks off at home. Jesus modeled the high standard that we have as followers of Christ. We are witnesses to it through story after story in the New Testament. He will give the grace.

“Then said Jesus unto his disciples, if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.”

Matthew 16:24

And a prayer from a merciful Savior who knows what it's like to live in this world:

“I pray for them...for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.”

John 17:9

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

**Marilyn Maul
Tina Walder**

Winter has been a time of many mission trips. We have had local brethren go to Magdalena, Alabama and Haiti on various mission trips. We are thankful that all have returned home safely from their missions.

Our Bible Class hosted the Fairbury Bible Class the first Sunday in March. Joining us that day were ministering Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott) and Bro. Ted Hirstein (Sis. Joyce, Morton).

We are so blessed to have a group of Elders who have such love for the churches. Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington) was here to help our Bro. Tom read the Conference letter sharing their concerns about our church.

We so love the blessed fellowship between churches. With that thought in mind we appreciate the visiting ministers we have had here in Cissna Park. Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Lisa, Eureka), Bro. Jim Vierling (Sis. Linda, Eureka) and Bro. Art Mueller (Sis. Marlene, Belvidere). May the Lord bless them as they continue to visit our congregations.

We have had much sorrow lately. Baby Elaina Rae Lynn Johnson (Jacob and Gabrielle Johnson) was stillborn. Grandparents, Curt and Sis. Bev Knapp, also mourn the loss of the little one.

Bro. Les Walder lost his wife, Sis. Dorothy, quite suddenly. Also mourning are children, Sis. Pam (Bro. Sam) Furrer, Bro. Doug (Sis. Julie) Walder and Patti (Guy) Percy, six grandchildren, and siblings, Sis. Helen Hoffmann (Bloomington),

John Baurer (Peoria), Bro. Arthur Baurer and Bro. Edwin Baurer (Princeville).

Martha Farney also suddenly passed away. She leaves sisters, Clara Bodager and Lucille (Frank) Baker of Jeromesville, OH, and Sis. Marge (Bro. Fred) Knapp of Congerville, and 62 nephews and nieces.

Sis. Judy Maul learned of the passing of her brother-in-law, William Bearden of California. He leaves his wife, Marilyn, and two daughters.

May our prayers be with these who have lost their loved ones.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Rachel Currier

The engagement of Bro. Brandon Stickling (Bro. Scott and Sis. Jan) to Sis. Corin Wagenbach (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Bonnie, Oakville) was recently made known to us. We wish them God's nearness and grace in the coming days, as they are joined as one in the Lord.

We rejoice with the family of Bro. Dale and Sis. Missy Banwart as their daughter, Angie, has turned to the Lord in repentance. May His grace be upon them and provide each step of the way.

Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Janae Stickling welcomed a son, Kelton Scott, into their lives on March 7. Grandparents of Kelton are Bro. Scott and Sis. Jan Stickling and Bro. Roger and Sis. June Schulz (Oakville).

We recently had the blessing of partaking of Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene, Princeville) was here to assist Bro. Ben in this important work. May the Lord reward them.

We appreciate those who have laboured in the Word this past month. Visiting ministers include Bro. Ed Fritz (Sis. Sally, Washington), Bro. Glen Braker (Sis. Audrey, Princeville), Bro. Jerry Wagenbach

(Sis. Bonnie, Oakville), Bro. Dan Koch (Sis. Julie, Tremont), and Bro. Mark Rufener (Sis. Julie, Mansfield).

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Amy Gasser
Miriam Gasser

“... many bodies of the saints which slept arose, and came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many. Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.”

Matt. 27:52-54

On February 25, Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL) assisted Bro. Dave Steffen in the reading of the Memorandum. The next day, Elder Bro. Doug Schock and Bro. Ryan Schock (Bloomfield, IA) were with us and shared Sunday's services with Bro. Tom. Other visitors during the month included Bros. Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL) and Jeff Waibel (Leo, IN). We thank these willing servants for their labors.

Bro. Dave also expressed sincere appreciation to Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) for his assistance with Communion on March 17. It was a meaningful and special evening, as we meditated on the pass-over in Egypt, the last supper, and Jesus' suffering and death.

A September wedding is being planned by Daniel Steffen (Elder Bro. Dave and Sis. Linda) and Samantha Lange, who have announced their engagement. Our best wishes to this couple!

Sis. Andrea Heiniger (Bro. Scott) is thankful for increasing mobility, as she recovers from back surgery. Bro. Don Stettner and Sis. Marie Hugh have also been hospital patients. We

pray the Lord will make their lots bearable and grant healing, according to His will.

Bro. Eric and Sis. Erika Schambach and family requested the church's prayers for their new baby, Jason Daniel, who was born prematurely on March 11. He has been in the NICU but is slowly improving every day. Jason's siblings are Joseph, Kathleen, Jack, Kaelin, Jesse, Kalli, James, Klair, and John; and his grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Jeanne Schambach.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Dee Baer
Jodi Blunier

Spring is the time of rebirth. This has begun in the hearts of Jed Kupferschmid (Bro. Rod and Sis. Cindy), Julie Wiegand (Bro. Andy and Sis. Vicki), and Kendall Wiegand (Bro. Brian and Sis. Tina) as they commit their lives to the Lord in repentance.

New births were experienced in two homes. Bro. Tim and Sis. Dianna Currier welcomed Roseanna Hope. Nathan, Justin, Trenton and Brianna, along with grandparents, Art and Sis. Mary Currier (Congerville) and Bro. Brian and Sis. Teresa Schieler (Goodfield) are thankful as well. Bro. Jared and Sis. Marsha, Laura and Caleb Ehnle are happy for new baby, Lisa Marie. Grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Carol Ehnle and Bro. Stan and Sis. Lola Stoller.

There is a new beginning in the lives of Sis. Katie Wiegand (Bro. Andy and Sis. Vicki) and Bro. Reilly Wagenbach (Bro. Colin and Sis. Barb, Oakville, IA) as they exchanged wedding vows. “Blest be the tie that binds.” (HZ #156)

Praise God for His provisions for our sick. Bro. Bruce Martin (Sis. Sheri), Bro. Jack Prather (Sis. Milly), Rebecca Kupferschmid (Bro. Rod and

Sis. Cindy), Bro. Roland “Swifty” Martin (Sis. Deloris), Bro. Brent Blunier (Trudy), Ed Meiss (Sis. Barb) and Bro. Toby Fehr (Sis. Holly) have all experienced hospitalizations.

Each Sunday this month we have enjoyed visiting ministers: Bro. Philip Schultz (Burlington, IA), Bro. Gary Brown (Forrest), Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Bro. Tom Lanz (Oakville, IA), Bro. Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA), Bro. Ted Hirstein (Morton), Bro. Ned Stoller (Alto, MI) and Bro. Craig Martin (Princeville). Helping in Sunday School were Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH) and Bro. Duane Metzger (West Bend, IA).

New life and light were felt in the hearts of our congregation as we partook of Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) assisted our Elder Bro. Steve in this solemn occasion.

Bro. Ernie Wiegand was welcomed home and is assembling with us again.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Angela Herr
Kay Steffen

We appreciate each visiting minister who has shared God's Word with us during this past month. We thank Bro. Les Kaeb (Francesville, IN), Bro. Don Sinn (Silverton, OR), Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Bro. David Eisenmann (Champaign, IL) for being willing servants in God's vineyard.

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

Luke 15:10

We are thankful Kyra Gadberry (Robert and Cheri Kaisner) and Jake Steidinger (Bro. Keith and Sis. Kristine) have found grace and faith

to surrender their all to God in repentance. Our prayers are with them and all of our converts as they build a firm foundation on the solid rock, Jesus Christ.

On March 18, many of us gathered together in Roanoke to witness the marriage vows of Bro. Jason Edelman and Sis. Olivia Wuthrich. Parents of this couple are Bro. Walt and Sis. Rosetta Edelman and Sis. Valerie Wuthrich and Bill and Kathy Wuthrich of Roanoke. We wish them God's rich blessings as they walk the path of life together.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with those who have recently spent time in the hospital or had surgery, including both Bro. Dale and Sis. Donna Banwart, Sis. Arlene Walter (late Willard), Bro. Marion Meiss (late Sis. Barb), Sis. Louise Zimmerman (late Bro. Les), Bro. Ben Lorch (Sis. Marguerite), Keith Moser (Nita), Sis. Carol Bazzell (Bro. Donald), Bro. Perry Virkler (Sis. Carol), and Sis. Elsie Bachtold (Bro. Willis). Also Bro. Tom Steidinger (Sis. Dianne) spent time at Mayo Clinic. May the Lord heal and provide for each one according to His will.

ILLINOIS, FORREST
Lisa Aberle
Lynn Dotterer

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

Psalms 127:3

Bro. Jeremy, Sis. Shara, and River Leman welcomed Madeira Eden into their family. Her thankful grandparents are Bro. Ernie and Sis. Carol Leman and Bro. Dan and Sis. Kathy Banwart.

We rejoice with Sis. Mary Edinger as she gave her testimony and was baptized. We are thankful Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL) was able

to come and assist Bro. Marvin with this work.

We are always thankful for visiting ministers willing to be used in service for the Lord. May God richly bless Bro. James Fehr (Tremont, IL), Bro. Don Sinn (Silverton, OR), Bro. Jerry Bauman (Rittman, OH), Bro. Philip Schulz (Burlington, IA), Bro. Merlin Meyer (Lester, IA), Bro. Scott Wegman (Taylor, MO), and Bro. John Lehman (Wolcott, IN) for their efforts on our behalf.

Our prayers are with Ruth Zimmerman (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Steph), Marshall Zimmerman (Bro. Matt and Sis. Kim), Molly Brown (Bro. Brad and Sis. Shannon), Sis. Mattie Kaeb (Bro. Nick), and Bro. Fred Leman (Sis. Brenda) as they have spent time in the hospital. May God provide comfort and healing.

We enjoyed hosting ACYF the last two Sundays in March. What a neat opportunity for our young people to fellowship and sing praises to God.

“I, even I, will sing unto the LORD;
 I will sing praise to the LORD God.”

Judges 5:3

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD
Melissa Rokey
Kayla Wiegand

Sunday, February 26, the choir hosted a soup supper and singing at the fellowship hall. The purpose was to lift up and encourage our widows, widowers, and pillars of our church. As a church we would like to say thank you to the choir members and everyone who labored to put on the soup supper.

“Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.”

St. John 15:16

On March 10-11 our congregation welcomed four dear souls into our brotherhood: Sis. Kalene Kloter (Chad), Sis. Brittany Rieke (Bro. Brian and Sis. Lisa), Sis. Perri Grimm (Bro. Jim and Sis. Ree Hartman) and Bro. Keith Grimm (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Ruth). Elder Bro. Tom Waldbeser (Sis. Sue, Atlanta, GA) assisted Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) in the testimonies and baptisms. We pray that God will continue to work in these dear brother and sisters' life that their fruit can be evident.

We rejoice with Sis. Sarah Melton as her son Dale Melton married Shirley Motes on March 10.

On March 2, Mark and Sis. Amy Sinn and big sister Makenzie welcomed Madison Olivia into their home. Thankful grandparents of Madison are Bro. Kurt and Sis. Livy Blunier (Eureka) and Bro. Charlie and Sis. Karen Sinn (Eureka).

Thank you for being prayerful for our dear Bro. Larry Bauman. He seems to be doing somewhat better after his second back surgery. He is beginning therapy and has days of rehab ahead of him. A CaringBridge website has been set up and the address is: <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/larrybauman>.

Also, our Sis. Marie Kieser (Bro. Alfred) was hospitalized this past month.

When we asunder part,
 It gives us inward pain;
 But we shall still be joined in heart,
 And hope to meet again.

Hymns of Zion #156, verse 4

Our congregation bid farewell for Bro. Dean, Sis. Jackie and Bro. Andy Knobloch on Sunday, March 18, as they leave us to go to Tucson, AZ. We thank them for their 33 years in the Goodfield congregation and will truly miss them assembling with us. May

God bless them on the journey and in their new home as they take their place out in Arizona.

Our dear Sis. Sandy Hohulin (Bro. Sam) went to her heavenly reward on Monday, March 19. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Bro. Sam and their three sons: Steve (Mary, Litchfield Park, AZ), Scott (Riverside, CA), and Shawn (Amy, Minier, IL). May they find comfort that she is free from her physical ailments and is in heaven rejoicing with the angels.

We want to thank Bro. Tim Hohulin (Sis. Cathy, Roanoke, IL), Bro. Tim Drayer (Sis. Gwen, Bluffton North, IN), and Bro. Brian Huber (Sis. Jackie, Francesville, IN) for ministering to us this month. It's a blessing to have others worship with us.

Note of Thanks:

Thanks for your prayers, words of comfort & support, and beautiful flowers sent. We wish to thank everyone for their kindness.

The family of Vernon Whitaker (Bro. Delton & Sis. Nancy)

"...If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

St. John 8:31-32

May we continue to press on through the trials and tests that we encounter on our journey here below, looking to our Father in heaven to help us through each day so that we can reach our ultimate goal of heaven some day.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry A. Klopfenstein

We were very blessed in March to take two more souls into the fold. They are Sis. Rachel Kaeb and Bro. Doug Schubach. Here to help with

this occasion was Elder Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton). Other visiting ministers were Bro. Duane Reutter (Rockville, CT), Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA), and Bro. Dale Moore (Elgin, IA). Retired ministering Bro. Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA) was also with us.

Following the testimonies, Elder Bro. Witzig gave encouragement to the converts and to the congregation, using verses from Proverbs 4:20-27. These are very instructive verses which point souls to inclining their hearts to the Lord's sayings. We are not to let God's teachings depart from us. We are to keep them "in the midst of thine heart" (verse 21). He reminded us that in housekeeping it is important to "take out the trash". And if we don't, very negative consequences will result. It is the same in our spiritual life. We are to constantly take out the trash — that is, if and when we find such in our hearts. Thanks to God — his remarks were inspiring and timely.

Bro. Zach Bertsch (Bluffton, IN) gave a presentation on his Stage 4 colon cancer on Friday, March 2, at the fellowship hall. This was a very moving talk.

Bro. John Gramm had knee replacement surgery, and is recovering. Others with health issues have been Sis. Sandy Schneider and Bro. Bob Greiner. A shut-in, Bro. Alvin Ringger, continues to struggle with his health. May God heal according to His will.

Danny Kaupp was married to Courtney Sharp, Bloomington, on December 17. His parents are Bro. Tim and Sis. Betty Kaupp. She is the daughter of Larry and Sherry Sharp, Bloomington. We wish them a happy marriage.

Sarah Ringger is engaged to marry Andy Hermes, Bloomington. She is the daughter of Bro. Steve and Sis. Donna Ringger. His parents are Pete and Susie Hermes of El Paso. They

are planning an April 28 wedding.

It is now Springtime, and field work has commenced. Our farmer brethren will plant acres and acres of corn and soybeans in the hopes that, if it is His will, God will grant a bountiful harvest. Spiritually, the church body continually plants and waters, and prays that God will yield a large harvest. It is God's will that none will perish — may our hearts be focused on the most important thing in life, the salvation of souls for all eternity.

ILLINOIS, MORTON Annette Tanner Julie Bahr

They say that the little birds in the Florida Everglades sing their loudest and best when the nights are darkest and stormiest — so is the same with Christians. Our prayer request is to appeal to our fellow Believers to ramp up their urgency of praying. Pray for persecuted Believers across our lands! Pray also for each of us to do what God put us here on earth to do — to share His marvelous plan of Salvation with ALL; beginning with our own neighbors and families.

God's Word influences His people, and our thanks are to those Brothers who ministered here this past month. Bro. Glen Funk (Sis. Sally, Wichita), Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke), Elder Bro. Bruce Endress (Sis. Elizabeth, Bradford), Bro. Gary Endress (Sis. Evelyn, Bradford), and Bro. Bill Schick (Sis. Joan, Magdalena). We also appreciated Elder Bro. Ted Witzig, Sr. for giving our Wednesday Evening Family Worship topic, "Guarding Your Heart".

On March 4, Sis. Amber Rassi was united in marriage to Bro. Brad Widmer in Taylor. Sis. Amber is the daughter of Bro. Gary and Sis. Debbie Rassi of Morton. Bro. Brad is the son of Bro. Neal and Sis. Kris Widmer of West Lafayette.

On March 11 we witnessed the testimony of how God powerfully changed the heart and mind of our new Sister in Christ, Alicia Endress (Dan). Dean and Mary Jane Wettstein (Roanoke) are her parents and Sis. Joannie Endress is her mother-in-law.

Our sympathy is extended to Shirley Baer in the passing of her son, Keith Baer. Our sympathy is also shared with Sis. Beulah Funk in the passing of her sister, Sis. Lois Belsley of Detroit.

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Pam Fritzenmeier

A precious baby boy was born to Bro. Ryan and Sis. Alyssa Funk on February 24. Charles Ryan is welcomed home by his big brother, Abram, and grandparents, Elder Bro. Tim and Sis. Deb Funk and Bro. Steve and Sis. Lois Leuthold.

Our monthly hymn sing was held Sunday evening, March 4. The 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade Sunday School classes and the men's quartet from Gridley, Testify, joined us in worshipping the Lord through songs and hymns.

We are thankful to report three converts: Bernice Houk, Jacob Feucht (Bro. Tim and Sis. Robyn) and Diana (Steven) Emerick (daughter of Bro. Dan and Sis. Miriam Messerli). Trust in the Lord with all your heart and He will direct your paths!

Sunday, March 11, Sis. Angie Knobloch and Bro. Seth Hodel became one in the Lord. Bro. Ed Stoller (Sis. Boni, Denver) gave of himself in his nephew's wedding. Parents of the bride and groom are Bro. Brad and Sis. Patti Hodel (Roanoke) and Bro. Loris and Sis. Pat Knobloch.

Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign) was our guest minister Wednesday evening, March 7. Our thanks to these brothers for their willingness to serve us.

Several families in our congregation have recently laid to rest loved ones. Susan (David) Diggles' father, Robert Greve, passed away March 4. Sis. JoAnne (Bro. Joe) Hoerr's father, Bro. Richard Binkele, passed away March 15. Please pray for these dear families.

Would you please continue to pray for those suffering health/surgical issues: Sis. Miriam (Bro. Dan) Messerli, Sis. Barb Schafer, Sis. Lois (Bro. Willis) Ehnle, Sis. Judy (Bro. Mark) Sceggel, Sis. Ilene (Bro. Bob) Haefli and Darryl and Sandy Nelson, parents of Bro. Breck (Sis. Janie) Nelson.

Please be prayerful for those from our congregation serving far from home on the mission field. These include Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard and family, and Sis. Janelle Grassi, Haiti, and Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Bere Aupperle, and Bro. Zach Knobloch, Magdalena.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

Linda Joos

Gloria White

We are always grateful for the Word of God being expounded to us by our faithful servants. Our visiting ministers the past month have been Bro. Ron Joos (Bloomfield, IA) and Bro. Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA).

We are very thankful souls are answering the call of God. Dallas Herrmann (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Renee), Philip Braker (Bro. Glen and Sis. Audrey), Ethan Steffen (Bro. Matt and Sis. Deanna) and Molly Christ (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Connie) have made known their need for repentance. We pray they may have willing hearts to separate from the world and follow after our Lord and Saviour.

Bro. Fred and Sis. Tina Christ are grandparents of twin girls born to their son, Dane and Anna. Sophia and Lilly were born February 21 and wel-

comed home by big sister Eden. Bro. Marvin and Sis. Dianne Knobloch were blessed with another grandchild, Ian Lee, born to their daughter, Crystal and Jason Cresto. Little Ian Lee was born with a heart disorder and required surgery. He is home now and we hope and pray on the road of recovery.

Bro. Erik Givens (Sis. Debbie) was our hospital patient this month. We are thankful he is healing once again. May God's presence strengthen and comfort him in his time of need.

Sis. Suanne (Bro. Chuck) Schafer experienced the loss of her mother, Sis. Vi Elsasser of Bradford, IL. Retired Elder Bro. Joseph (Sis. Emily) and Bro. Vernon (Sis. Bernice) Stoller would be her brothers here. We want to be prayerful for the family.

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Jamie Hodel

Judy Sauder

James 1:17 "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above..." We praise God for the miracle of newborn babies. We rejoice with Bro. Robey and Sis. Angie Shuck in the birth of Molly Sue born on February 21. Molly is also welcomed by older brother Abel, and grandparents, Bro. Brad and Sis. Patty Hodel and Les and Dianne Shuck of Palmyra, MO.

Bro. Chuck and Sis. Rita Hodel welcomed another grandchild on February 23. Gavin Carter was born to Kevin and Liana Hodel of Indianapolis. Older sister Lauren and maternal grandparents, Larry and Diana Manlove of Crawfordsville, IN, also welcome Gavin. May each of these families feel the nearness of God as they train their children up in the ways of the Lord.

We were blessed to have several visiting ministers this month: Bro. Matt Oesch (Alto), Bro. Clark Stoller (Gridley), and Bro. Mark Zimmerman (Eureka) were with us on February

26. Bro. Dave Obergfel (Peoria) joined us on March 4. Then, on March 11, Bro. Trent Meiss (Eureka) shared the Word with us. We thank each of these Brothers for serving our congregation.

Our annual Church cleaning was held on March 5, along with our annual Fellowship Hall cleaning on March 12.

On March 10, our Bible Class held their Spaghetti Supper.

Matthew 19:6 "Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." March 11 was the marriage of Sis. Angie Knobloch (Bro. Loris and Sis. Pat) of Peoria and Bro. Seth Hodel (Bro. Brad and Sis. Patty). On March 18, Sis. Olivia Wuthrich (Sis. Val of Roanoke & Bill of Peoria) became the bride of Bro. Jason Edelman (Bro. Walt and Sis. Rosie) of Fairbury. We were thankful to have Bro. Jeff Waibel (Leo), Bro. James Fehr (Tremont), and Bro. Dale Stoller (Fairbury) with us for the day.

March 11 was our Family Hymn Sing. The Mortonaires were our guest singing group for the evening.

Psalms 119:105 "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Wednesday evening, March 14, our Scripture Memory Students presented a program of scripture and song. We pray each student will continue to hide God's Word in their heart.

Isaiah 41:10 "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." We pray this verse could bring peace and comfort for those we continue to bring to the Throne of God. Our prayers continue for Bro. Rich (Sis. Janet) Knepp, Sis. Ann Hodel, Sis. Marge (Bro. Gene) Fehr, Sis. Annie Leman, Bro. Dan (Sis. Deanne) Plattner (Chicago) and Bro.

Steve (Sis. Tammy) Hofstetter (Washington) who are dealing with health issues.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Teresa Rowell
Janice Sauder

Our congregation was very blessed again, as we enjoyed visiting Elders and ministers. Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Morton, IL) came in February to teach the adult Sunday School class, which is held the third Sunday morning each month. He was also willing to share the Word with our whole congregation that afternoon. Bro. Craig Stickling (Peoria, IL) brought us a topical lesson, 'Bear ye one another's burdens', based on Galatians 6:1-10. Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL) came to help bring the Memorandum, and Elder Bro. Lynn Fiechter (Bluffton, IN) was here for testimonies and baptisms. We thank these brothers again for being willing to serve our congregation so lovingly.

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."

Matthew 7:21

On Saturday evening, March 10, Bro. Don and Sis. Kay Davis shared their testimonies of how they came to a saving faith in Jesus Christ. Following baptism the next day, we welcomed them into the family of God. We're so thankful for their salvation experience, and pray that many more can answer God's call to repent and believe.

There are two new grandbabies to report: Bro. Pete and Sis. Debbie Aberle have little Kyler Ryan to love now. He is the new son of Ryan and Courtney Aberle (of Troy, OH) with Khloe and Karter as siblings. Bro. Rich Sauder (the late Sis. Evelyn) also

has a new grandson, Benjamin Abel. He is the new baby boy of Brad and Kim Grant (of Athens, WI) with Leah, Micah, Jonathan, Titus, Levi, Susanna, and Rebekah as siblings.

We pray for healing to continue for those that have endured surgeries or illness: Bro. Bob (Sis. Doris) Baer, Steve (Sis. Sara) Garman, and Bro. Bob (Sis. Barbara) Wagenbach. May they each draw near to God in their time of need.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Marlene Prather
Jodi Fehr

As we begin a new season, with the trees and flowers in bloom, we rejoice with Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Nancy Leman, as God has blessed their family with a daughter, Willow Mae. Enjoying their new sister is Wyatt and Wade. Blessed grandparents are Bro. Norman and Sis. Polly Zaugg and Bro. Dale and Sis. Lezlee Leman, all of West Bend, IA.

We are so thankful that Elder Bro. Ron and Sis. Pam Messner had a safe and enjoyable trip to the Holy Land.

We thank Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor) for sharing the Memorandum with us on February 29. Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. (Sis. Donna, Morton) shared with us on March 4 and Bro. John Bradle (Sis. Jill, Roanoke) had our monthly Bible Study on March 14. We thank these brothers for their efforts.

On March 10, our Bible Class held a dinner and fundraiser for their trip to Magdalena, Mexico. Thank you to all who participated. We had our annual church housecleaning on March 12. It is always a joy to work together in God's house.

Our continuing prayers are being lifted for our Bro. Steve Hofstetter (Sis. Tamara) and Sis. Sue Ruppert. Also, Loretta Wettstein fell and broke her hip and is now recovering. May these dear loved ones feel our prayers.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Kim Meyer
Suzie Fiechter

“This people have I formed for myself; They shall shew forth my praise.”

Isaiah 43:21

This past month, our congregation has been challenged and encouraged with three messages on discernment. Bro. Ron Kipfer reminded us that 100 years from now, we will each be in Heaven or Hell, and our choices today will determine our destiny. He encouraged us to choose to live to show God’s praise, the purpose for which we were created. And he asked, “Do you love life more than you love Jesus?” Bro. John Reinhard spoke to us about discernment in social issues. He taught that we need to abstain from sin and indifference; adjust our lifestyle to moderation, modesty and forbearance; and embrace people and God’s calling. We were thrilled to have Bro. Gary Tonner return to the pulpit to instruct us to continue growing spiritually and learn from the past. He talked of our relationships within our families and our church, of how we need to live in forgiveness, and remember that our choices affect many lives today as well as future generations.

Our prayers are with Bro. Jim and Sis. Lora Walburn as they grieve the death of his earthly father, Bob Walburn. Bro. Harry Longenberger went to his eternal home. Surviving are his dear wife, Sis. Devona, sons, Bro. Terry (Sis. Twila) and Bro. Steve (Sis. Kathy), and six grandchildren.

We are thankful to greet Sis. Evie (Bro. Bob) Gerber again after her extended illness. We miss Bro. Bob (Sis. Nova, dec.) Steffen, Sis. Pat (Bro. Rod) Maller, and Bro. Bob (Sis. Jan) Herring, as they have been dealing

with health issues. Our Bro. Zach (Sis. Jenny) Bertsch received the sobering news that his cancer is growing. We continue to love and support this young family, as well as their parents, Bro. Mike and Sis. Carmon Bertsch and Bro. John and Sis. Janice Rueffner (Rittman). It would be tempting to question God, yet we know His love motivates all that He allows. Bro. Zach and Sis. Jenny are living examples to us all of trusting God and making each day count for Him.

The Lord has moved in the hearts of Bro. Justin Dubach (Bro. Ken Dubach and Jodi Holloway) and Sis. Sarah Gerber (Bro. Nathan and Sis. LeAnn) to serve Him together in this life. What a wonderful opportunity they now have to model Christ and the Church to a watching world!

The Bro. Don and Sis. Suzie Fiechter family is rejoicing with the birth of a new grandson. Bro. Joel and Sis. Wendy Putt (Francesville) welcomed their firstborn, Boden James. Bro. Brian and Sis. Tami Putt (Francesville) are the paternal grandparents.

Our high school students enjoyed ACYF at Purdue University on Sunday, March 11. Thanks to all who put forth the effort to make it a blessing!

Many of our congregation were involved in Loving Shepherd Ministries’ benefit auction on March 10. We could feel the Spirit of the Lord with us as a large crowd gathered and proceeded to give to help ease some of the suffering in the world. It was a blessing to work together for such a worthy cause.

Our ministering Bro. Allen (Sis. Susan) Stoller has retired from his pulpit ministry. He and Sis. Susan are currently in Ethiopia, working with Loving Shepherd Ministry. We will miss Bro. Allen’s challenging messages that often encouraged us to examine our lives and walk worthy of

the shed blood of Christ. Thank you, Bro. Allen and Sis. Susan, for your many years of sacrifice for our benefit!

Bro. Rich and Sis. Amber Pfister, and their children, Katelyn, William, Seth, Kendra, and Silas, are serving the Lord in Haiti at Hospital Lumiere. We lift them up in prayer and trust that He will provide their needs as they strive to meet the needs of so many others.

We thank Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis, MN) for ministering to us. Also, we appreciated having Bro. Wayne Hartzler (Sis. Camille) and Bro. Tim Ramsier (Sis. Joan) with us the weekend of the National Private School Meeting. Both families are from Rittman. They, along with many other families across the country, met on Saturday and worshipped with us on Sunday. It was encouraging and inspiring to become reacquainted with some of our loved ones and get to know many more. What a wonderful God we serve! What a wonderful family He has given us!

Thus united and in concord
 Let us walk the path of life;
 Hand in hand, O may love bind us
 For each other’s welfare strive.
 Only He is called a brother
 Whom the tie of love does bind;
 And the love of God, the Father,
 Filleth soul and heart and mind.

Zion’s Harp #237

INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Jessie Longenberger
Amy Moser

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

Matthew 6:33

Bro. Mark Steffen (Sis. Lori) is recovering from ankle replacement sur-

gery earlier this month. We pray for a patient and restful recovery.

Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen) continues to make improvements from a stroke that he suffered on February 21. Prayers are greatly appreciated.

Bro. Steve Fischer (Sis. Joyce) is asking for the prayers from his church family as he is used in Haiti for two months.

Bro. Doug and Sis. Tami Kaehr have become grandparents again. Todd and Cecily Sonnigsen were blessed with Landon William on February 10. He joins sister Gabrielle at home. Great-grandparents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Carol Gerber.

Bro. Matt and Sis. Tiffany Drayer were blessed with their fourth girl on February 13. Tabitha Lois joins sisters Hannah, Naomi, and Stacey at home. Grandparents are Bro. Derryl and Sis. Peggy Aschliman and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Lois Drayer. Great-grandparents are Bro. Les and Sis. Rosemary Gerber.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE

Mildred Clauss
Jacki Huber

“But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.”

Psalm 86:15

The closer we draw to God, the more we realize His compassion, graciousness, longsuffering, and mercy and truth towards us. His love is truly beyond comprehension, and we can't fully describe the peace He gives us, which passes all understanding.

As we understand His kindness and love more, we have a desire to show the same love and kindness to others, and although we will never attain His perfection in doing so, as we abide in Him, He helps us to grow!

Recently our “Young Group” hosted an invite, and it was a special blessing to have visitors here from various places. On the same day, the Bible Class (grades 9-12) attended ACYF in West Lafayette. Both events are special ways to have Fellowship, and our prayer is that bonds of friendship will result from these times, that will last into eternity.

We have had quite a few dear ones who have been in the hospital, or are experiencing health concerns. Those who have been hospitalized are Brothers Eugene Huber, Nate Gutwein (Sis. Rhonda), Vernon Pelsy, Ellsworth Pelsy (Sis. Luella), and Jim Bogart (Sis. Eleanor). There are others who we are aware of that are experiencing health concerns, and some we may not know of, so our prayer is that the Lord will help and strengthen each one, as only He can.

Bro. Joel and Sis. Wendy Putt are the joyous parents of a precious little boy. Born on Friday, March 16, Boden James is the grandson of Bro. Don and Sis. Suzie Fiechter (Bluffton, IN), and Bro. Brian and Sis. Tami Putt.

Kristy Wuethrich (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Connie) was recently married in West Lafayette, IN, to Jason Carlile (Paul and Kris Carlile of Otterbein, IN). Jason and Kristy are living in Otterbein, IN, and our prayers are with them as they establish a home, that God's presence and peace will be with them always.

We extend sympathy to the family of Virginia Von Tobel (Fort Wayne, IN) who passed away earlier this year. Her funeral was in Francesville, and we especially extend our love and prayers to her son, Ben Masten (Rachael, Fort Wayne, IN); daughter, Becky Bath (Ron, Washington, IN); her brother, Virgil (Sharon, Rensselaer, IN); sisters, Vivian Siegfried (John, Copperopolis, CA), and Sis. Verene Sutton (Bro. Tim, Phoenix, AZ). Virginia's parents, who

passed away before her, are Bro. Virgil and Sis. Viola Von Tobel who lived in Francesville.

Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN) visited here recently on a Sunday, and we appreciate him sharing God's Word with us! Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Ruth Ann, Wolcott, IN) shared with the Sunday School teachers about the privilege and opportunity to teach, at the annual Sunday School Teacher's Chili Supper, held at our Fellowship Center. It is always a joy to have visitors.

INDIANA

INDIANAPOLIS

Sandy Lichtle
Katy Frantz

“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.”

Psalm 19:1

Our Bro. Phil Bertsch shared on a Wednesday night how the universe speaks of the greatness of God. We saw how God reveals His glory from the largest star to the small protein molecules that hold our cells together. Canis Majoris is the largest star known to man. Imagine, if the earth were a golf ball, Canis Majoris would be the height of Mount Everest. We are so small in the vastness of space and yet creatively designed by the One who desires an intimate relationship with us.

Our Sis. Edye Mayer went to the hospital early in the month, but is back in her home recovering from pneumonia. The young group and other church members visited her at home. She is a blessing to our church, and we hope she returns soon.

Bro. Derek and Sis. Leann Sauder (Tremont, IL) are back in Indy for Derek's treatments. Derek was diagnosed with brain cancer almost a year ago and we have adopted the family as

our own during the treatment periods. We appreciate their sincerity and the energy their three kids bring to our church.

We had yet another birth in our young church. Bro. Mitch and Sis. Anna Schlatter welcomed Wyatt Daniel into the world on March 17. Big brother Liam is enjoying the attention he is getting from grandparents, Bro. Dan and Sis. Karen Pfister (Leo, IN) and Bro. Gus and Sis. LeAnn Schlatter (Latty, OH).

Bro. Nick Hoerr and Sis. Kristen Fiechter were married on March 18 in Bluffton, IN. We rejoice with their parents, Bro. Mark and the late Sis. Carolyn Hoerr (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Mike and Sis. Shari Fiechter (Bluffton, IN). We are also glad they will be living in Indianapolis for now.

In the past month visiting ministers gave encouraging messages, and God's Spirit was alive and working through them and the Word. We are grateful to them: Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS), Bro. Kevin Knapp (Sis. Dixie, Bloomington, IL), Elder Bro. Steve Sauder (Sis. Mary, Tremont, IL), Elder Bro. Akito Inoue (Sis. Marie, Tokyo, Japan), Bro. Alan Schambach (Sis. Sarah, Remington, IN), Bro. Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN), and Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis, MN).

INDIANA, LACROSSE
Julie Rocke
Meagan Frank

“Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.”

Matthew 24:44

We ponder this verse as we look forward to the taking of Holy Communion; our Elder Bro. Curt encouraged us to examine our hearts and be mindful of the parable of the man attend-

ing a wedding without a wedding garment. Our Savior has provided us with this garment, but we must strive to keep it clean and intact, ready for the return of our Bridegroom.

Our annual Fellowship Weekend was once again a great blessing; it was so encouraging to see the church full and hear the beautiful singing. We appreciated all of the visitors and the efforts of the committee who brought it together. The brotherhood we share in our faith is indeed a miracle.

We have recently enjoyed having the brethren from our Valparaiso congregation assemble with us monthly on Wednesday nights. It is an encouragement to see more faces on these evenings, and we have appreciated Bro. Mike Thomas ministering to us.

Our prayers continue to be with Sis. Connie Knobloch as she is still recovering from surgery at Parkview Haven. Also, 12-year-old Makayla Martin (Jason and Karla) had surgery this past month, and we are thankful to report is recovering quickly.

At the beginning of the month we were presented with information on the work World Relief is doing in Haiti. We thank the brothers from Wolcott who brought it to us, and for reminding us to be prayerful for this work, and thankful for how richly the Lord has blessed us here in America.

INDIANA, LEO
Kirby Reutter

“Go and prepare us the passover, that we may eat.”

Luke 22:8

Spring seems to be the season of preparation. The Leo Sunday School has been preparing for their Easter Program in addition to a service trip to Jamaica. The Leo Bible Class and Young Group have been preparing for College Weekend. The Leo church

community has been preparing for spring cleaning, three bridal showers, three testimonies, and a work trip to Alabama. Most importantly of all, the Leo believers have been preparing for Holy Communion.

The Lord also continues to prepare the Gateway ministry with willing servants. Our esteemed Bro. Ed Graf recently distributed the following message to the Gateway employees:

“After running short-staffed for eighteen consecutive months, the residential program is prepared to announce some major changes this morning. In addition to the previously announced hiring of Sis. Amanda Winn, we are excited and delighted to announce the hiring of two alternate houseparent couples: Bro. Jason and Sis. Joy Huber of Francesville and Bro. Justin and Sis. Kirsten Wiegand of Leo. In addition, Sis. Maria Steffen plans to return to work following her recuperation. Please join me in thanking God for His most excellent and timely provision of our need.”

Even more importantly, the Lord continues to prepare the tender hearts of the young residents we are called to serve. One message recently distributed to the Leo believers seems to validate the entire reason for Gateway's existence: “We are looking for individuals willing to be foster parents from the Leo church. We are seeing a growing number of Gateway residents who get connected in the Leo church, and when they transition to foster care, they have a desire to stay in the Leo area and assemble with the church. Please contact either Bro. Jeff Schumacher or Sis. Rachel Klopfenstein if you have an interest in pursuing this opportunity.”

Finally, the Lord continues to prepare all of us for both His present and coming Kingdom by sending preach-

ers of the gospel to lead us in worship. Most recently, we have enjoyed the visits of Bro. Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH) as well as Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN).

In this next month, let our feet be “shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace” (Ephesians 6:15).

INDIANA, MILFORD

**Janie Price
Paula Haab**

Our bodies were warmed this past week by the unusually high temperatures we have had. Today our spiritual bodies were warmed by the precious Word of God. Visiting us and rightly diving the Word was Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere). He was led to open in Revelations which is so relevant for our times. No matter if it is our own ministers or a visitor, the Bible is opened to words of admonishment or encouragement. James 3 was used recently and really spoke to my heart with taming the tongue and putting off envy and strife, but knowing that the wisdom from above is pure, peaceable, gentle and easily entreated. We thank these willing servants.

Our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily) came on a Wednesday evening to help us prepare for our upcoming Communion service and make a few comments about the winter Elder Conference. He was then willing to come back for our monthly Bible Study. May God protect Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily on their many travels and bless them for their labors of love.

One evening the old and the young got together in our Fellowship center to work on a World Relief project and enjoy sweet fellowship. The following night our yearly benefit auction was held and was well attended. It is heart-warming to see the generosity that comes forth when it is an opportunity to help the needy. We always enjoy a meal together on that eve-

ning. A new item on the menu was the “real” Mexican Burrito made by one of our Spanish friends. We appreciated their participation.

The Bible class joined the other Indiana Bible classes at Purdue on March 11. It is such a good time to be taught from the Bible, meet old friends, make new ones, and be served in a proper atmosphere compared to all the casualness in our lives.

We previously reported that Helen Roberts passed away. Mourning her loss in addition to her sister, Sis. Edna Lehman, are her brother, LeRoy Lehman, and her sister, Lorene (Martin) Stookey, who are a faithful part of our congregation. May God be very near them especially at this time.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Jenni Honegger
Marcella Tyler**

We have had some smaller Sunday gatherings this month due to some of us traveling, some on work teams, and some warming themselves in the southern part of the country, but we are grateful for the many visitors that come along the way. It is always nice to meet and greet those of like mind and faith.

Our annual Cheer Circle Auction was held earlier this month with the proceeds going to help those in need from around our area. We read in 2 Corinthians 9:7 that “God loveth a cheerful giver” and it seems that is what He provided. We are a blessed people but there are so many around us that are in need.

Our Bible Class attended ACYF on March 11 and we pray that seeds were sown in their hearts that some day they will see the need of their Savior as they are our future church.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Joshua Martinez

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

Hymns of Zion #156

In a small congregation such as ours, when one of our own is away, we certainly feel it!

We are thankful that Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue Beebe are safely home from their most recent Haiti mission trip. We pray a blessing upon their efforts serving at Hospital Lumiere and welcome them back with a smile and open arms.

We’re thankful that Sis. Leona Lehman is recuperating well from recent cataract surgery. She is thankful for the many prayers on her behalf.

We recently gathered for an evening of World Relief soup packaging. We wish to thank Bro. Brad Langhofer (Sis. Becky) for planning the event and all the happy helping hands that participated.

We are thankful for Bro. Dan Beer’s (Sis. Deb, Milford) recent service from the pulpit.

We appreciate their visit and that of other friends, brothers and sisters in the faith this month.

Although not unique as Apostolic Christians, we enjoy a precious rare gift of fellowship that we hope we will never take for granted. We pray that our Christian family will always be a shining light in a world of chaos and darkness, a joyful circle of strength, joined in love, anchored in truth and faith, protected by God, together forever.

God be with you until we meet again!

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Marguerite Hoerr

One of our children lives in Ala-

bama and we live in SW Michigan, so it's difficult to see them oftener than once a year. We had the pleasant experience of having our son Fred and his wife Martha with us for an entire week in March. He retired after 31 years and had time to spend with us. Needless to say it was a most pleasant experience and we enjoyed every minute of it. It was a true blessing from God.

I have had the thought more than once what a good idea it would be to keep a list of blessings showered on us. I have had those intentions often in my life and have started a list only to discontinue it because of my human frailties. Do you ever have problems following your good intentions? I would love to sit in a room full of people who do have those problems and listen to the ways they overcame this weakness. God is always so faithful in supplying us with His promises that I feel distressed when I fail to do this. Especially I feel distressed because I realize that I have just passed my 85th birthday and still fail in these determinations. My mother told me when I talked to her about this problem, "Just remember that you are human, and God isn't surprised, and to keep in mind the promise you made, that you will live for Him for the rest of your life." Then she said, "Thank goodness we have a loving, and forgiving Heavenly Father." I'm sure as often as she forgave me for being forgetful to follow her instructions, that she remembered to pray for her well intentioned daughter who was so forgetful. Latoya Thomas, youngest daughter of ministering Bro. Mike and Sis. Claudia, gave us all concern when she fell in school and became incoherent. After many tests and surgery in the hospital, her problem was diagnosed as a very severe migraine headache. She is at home again, back in school and has been able to return to her part-time job. She is very dear

to our congregation and many prayers were offered for her during this time. She is looking forward to graduating from high school this spring.

During our daily devotions recently, Bob has read to me several times the beautiful poetry that has been put to music in our songbooks. When we think of the inspiration from God that has been given to someone, we marvel that the words can continue to bless us so many years later. Sometimes he plays them on our organ and they bless us even more as they are put to music, meaning that we are doubly blessed by the person who wrote the words and the person who put them to song. I think of this when our little group follows our song leaders; trying to give God our best during worship; that we're thanking God and the two people who made this song available to us. In our hearts we thank God for our song leaders who contribute so much depth to our worship times. Worship becomes a perfect triangle as the ministers offer His Word to us, and the song leaders punctuate it with songs; plus the congregation listens and becomes filled with the awe of the Spirit of God Himself.

Remember if you are traveling that we are just 2 3/4 Miles S. of U.S. 30 on State Rd. 49. You are so welcome.

INDIANA WEST LAFAYETTE

**Ben Stoller
Katie Widmer**

We are incredibly thankful that Phil Knobloch made the commitment to turn his life over to Jesus Christ. We rejoice with him and are praying for God's peace in his life.

Bro. Brad Widmer (Bro. Neal and Sis. Kris, West Lafayette) celebrated the unity of two becoming one in the Lord with Sis. Amber Rassi (Bro. Gary and Sis. Debbie, Morton). They

were married in Taylor, MO, which welcomed everyone with open arms on March 4. West Lafayette is excited to have the new couple join the fellowship, though not expecting to see much of them as they are still in this honey moon period.

Speaking of love, the PYG had the opportunity to travel to Cullman, Alabama, to aid in tornado repair. The Spirit truly moved amongst those on the voyage as they accomplished much in building relationships as well as buildings.

Speaking of new creations, we will leave you with this springtime observation.

The grass has been greening, and
the flowers are gleaming.
The birds are chirping in the trees,
surrounded by glorious green
leaves.
The air is warming,
And the bumblebees are
a'swarming.
Though e'en in the midst of most
glorious weeks,
A thundercloud can be found brew-
ing.
We take comfort in the fact that
there is always a silver lining.
*-Humbly composed by Bro. Jay
Fiechter*

INDIANA, WOLCOTT Sasha Kyburz Donita Edelman

With no news to report last month, we have several items this month. The first "news" is a precious bundle that has arrived to bless grandparents, Chris and Sis. Teresa Bahler. This little girl, Audrey Grace, is the daughter of Bro. Matthew and Sis. Renee Lindberg (Chicago, IL). We pray for God's wisdom in the rearing of this precious little soul for Him.

A big "thank you" to the many loved ones came and helped out at our winter World Relief family nights. Many World Relief projects were com-

pleted during this two month adventure. Thank you to everyone who provided the meals and gave of their time and talents in so many ways. I know each one that came received a blessing in the fellowship while working together to help those in need.

We are rejoicing along with the angels in heaven with Marcus Schwab as he has answered the call of repentance. We pray for grace and mercy for Marcus as he works out his soul's salvation. Marcus is the son of Bro. Mark and Sis. Shari Schwab.

On March 18, many of us traveled to Latty, OH, to witness the wedding vows of Bro. Clint Blume (Bro. Larry and Sis. Lynell) and Sis. Holly Stoller (Bro. Todd and Sis. Pam). We pray for many years of happiness for them as they look to God as the three-fold cord in their blended lives. We will miss Bro. Clint as they have chosen to make Latty, OH, their home church.

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to Bro. Dana Nieman (Sis. Lea, Remington, IN) for coming over to help Bro. Michael Wagenbach on the pulpit the Sunday of Bro. Clint and Sis. Holly's wedding. With so many traveling, it was a blessing to have Bro. Dana with us. Also with us for our special Bible Topical Presentation on a recent Wednesday evening was Bro. John Hartman (Sis. Rosemary, Fairbury, IL). Thank you, Bro. John, for lending of your time and talents in the service of our King. We pray God's blessings here on earth and much more in eternity for the service of our visiting ministers.

IOWA, AMES
Jacob Schulz

We had a visiting minister one Wednesday night and one Sunday this month. We would like to thank Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis, MN) and Bro. Jerry Wagenbach (Sis. Bonnie, Oakville,

IA) for bringing God's Word forth. May God bless them for their willing service.

IOWA, BLOOMFIELD
Rachel Stoller

“... and his eye seeth every precious thing.”

Job 28:10

We welcome two little precious babies into our congregation this month. Daniel Lloyd Wiegand was born to Bro. Mark and Sis. Danielle, Travis and Blake. Grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Jane Wiegand and Bro. Kent and Sis. Chris Leman (all of Eureka, IL). A first child, Ella Kay, was welcomed by Bro. Craig and Sis. Angela Dotterer. Her grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Rose Dotterer and Bro. Craig and Sis. Marilyn Martin (Eureka, IL).

We thank God for our precious heritage of gathering around the truth each Sunday. Sharing His Word with us this month were Bro. Earl Beery (Sis. Susie, Rittman, OH) and Bro. Greg Stoller (Sis. Jill, Forrest, IL). Bro. Earl was here for invite-a-friend, and we are thankful to each of our visitors that came to be with us.

The Lord also sees His children grieving in the loss of loved ones. Our Sis. Mary Wiegand's (Bro. Dave) brother (Fred Domnick of Rochester, MN) passed away recently. We offer our support and sympathy.

IOWA, ELGIN
Maria Rocke
Brianna Strahm

Our congregation has enjoyed the many visitors that have worshipped with us throughout the past month. We're thankful Bro. Pat Zaugg (Sis. Julie, West Bend, IA) could be with us to share in the ministering duties as

two of our three home ministers were gone that Sunday.

Anew, Lord, we are bound to Thee
Through Thy blest sacrament,
which we
Partook, that joined in heart and
hand;
To Zion's realm and holy land
We journey on.
Zion's Harp #200

Also visiting this month was Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA) and Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapolis, MN) for the purpose of Communion. What a special time for us as a congregation as we could sit together, ponder all that our Lord and Saviour did for us and partake of His supper.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. LaVerne Butikofer as she recovers from her surgery.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE
Laura Funk

Father, through Thy word awaken
Us to faith and true devotion!
Zeal to serve Thee do Thou give;
Show us that Thy Son still lives.
Zion's Harp #126, vs. 7

As I was typing this verse, I had to stop and think, have I been awakened to faith and true devotion? We have been blessed with Thy Word many times this past month. Bro. Bradley Strahm (Bern, KS), Bro. Kent Getz (Elgin, IA), Bro. Ryan Schock (Bloomfield, IA), Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL) and Elder Bros. Doug Schock and Rod Bajema (Lester, IA) have taught us through Thy Word. Elder Bros. Doug Schock and Rod Bajema presented the Memorandum and expounded upon the conclusions of the Conference.

Our congregation is lifting Bro. Tom Moser and family up in prayer. Bro. Tom has suffered some serious

health issues and spent several days in the hospital. At this writing, he is home and we pray for a full recovery.

We are experiencing very warm weather for March, 70-80's. Makes one think of summer vacations. Include Garden Grove!

We are about 90 minutes south of Des Moines, IA, which has many interesting and various age group activities to offer. Please let us know how many will be attending church so we can plan accordingly for church lunch. See you soon, Lord willing!

IOWA, IOWA CITY Diana Butikofer

Bro. Brian and Sis. Wendy Waibel (Champaign, IL) and Bro. Alan and Sis. Sarah Schambach (Remington, IN) and their families visited us in February. We appreciate these brothers' willingness to speak the Word in Sunday School and from the pulpit, and trust the Lord will reward their efforts.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Ryan and Beverly Eland, their children and extended family. Beverly is very ill and is currently in a hospital in Germany where Ryan is stationed with the Air Force. Ryan's parents, Bro. Brad and Sis. Joyce, are there currently and all would appreciate your prayers as Beverly's healing continues.

IOWA, LESTER Joyce Moser Gloria Moser

Even though we have experienced a mild winter, we are always thankful to witness the first signs of spring. The buds pushing forth and the grass coming out of dormancy cause in us a thankfulness to our Creator who has made and created all living things. It is also the time of the year when we commemorate the new life we received because of the shed blood and

the resurrection of our Saviour.

Bro. Cory and Sis. Rachel Leman received double blessings when their twin babies were born on February 26. A son, Luke Russell, and a daughter, Elizabeth Kay, are adored by their siblings, Sarah, Seth and Julia, as well as grandparents, Bro. Henry and Sis. Charlene Messner and Bro. Dale and Sis. Lezlee Leman (West Bend, IA). On March 5, Morgan Elizabeth was born to Lance and Janice Bullerman. Big brothers, Micah and Mitchell, and grandparents, Bro. Chuck and Sis. Vicki Leuthold, are delighted with a precious little girl to love. Tristan Lambert Van Wyhe was welcomed into the family of Bro. Mychal and Sis. Dawn, Megan, Jordan, Devin and Drendan Van Wyhe on March 18. Bro. Pete and Sis. Susan Van Wyhe and Bro. Arnie and Sis. Sharon Koehl (Morris, MN) are the thankful grandparents. May these families feel the nearness of a caring Heavenly Father as they raise these special miracles that have been entrusted to them.

Bro. Willy Knobloch (Sis. Helen), Sis. Charlotte Metzger (Bro. Bill), Bro. Bob Gerber (Sis. Nancy) and Sis. Rachel Leman (Bro. Cory) have undergone surgical procedures which required hospitalization. May God be near them as they recuperate at home.

Dead to sin, I am now buried,
From its curse forever free:
Buried with Thee in Baptism,
Saviour let me rest with Thee:

Hymns of Zion #223

With joy and thanksgiving, the Lester church welcomed four precious souls into the fold. On the weekend of March 17-18, Sis. Cari Moser (Bro. Rick and Sis. Lori), Bro. Joe Barber (Mike and Sis. Donna) and Bro. Tim and Sis. Carla Feucht shared their testimonies and were baptized. We appreciated the efforts of Elder

Bro. Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA), Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO), Bro. Gary Sinn (Latty, OH), Bro. Larry Bahr (Ft. Scott, KS) and Bro. Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO) as they shared the gospel of salvation.

"Yea, Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me..."

Psalms 23

Our sympathy is extended to Bro. Dean and Sis. Diana Feucht as her mom, Sis. Violet Elsasser, went to her eternal reward on March 11 at the age of 98 years. We also remember Bro. Doug and Char Leuthold as they mourn the passing of her father, Gerald Haak, who died on March 15 at the age of 80 years. May God comfort these families as they experienced the sadness and change that the loss of a loved one brings. "In every change, He faithful will remain."

IOWA, OAKVILLE Sharla Wiegand

"Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead."

Col. 2:12

On February 26, arising from the baptismal waters were Vienna Lanz (Bro. Monte and Sis. Kelly); Rory Wagenbach (Bro. Colin and Sis. Barb); Billy Massner (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Lois) and Jenni Frank (Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy). We were thankful for visiting Elder Bro. Ben Walder (Congerville IL) and ministering Bro. Matt Steffen (Princeville IL).

It is very rare for us to have two engagement announcements on one day! Sis. Alicen Wagenbach was announced to Bro. Kenton Sinn from Silverton, OR. Their parents are Bro.

Colin and Sis. Barb Wagenbach and Bro. Tom and Sis. Edith Sinn. Also engaged on February 26 were Sis. Corin Wagenbach (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Bonnie Jr.) and Bro. Brandon Stickling (Bro. Scott and Sis. Jan) of Congerville, IL. We wish both couples the grace and peace of God.

We hosted invite-a-guest weekend on March 4 and Bro. John Bradle (Roanoke, IL) ministered to us.

IOWA, WEST BEND

**Janet Fehr
Leona Fehr**

Three of our loved ones were hospitalized this past month. Sis. Helen Zaugg and Sis. Darlene Metzger had been hospitalized for illness. They have both been released, but continue to endure some lingering afflictions of the body. Bro. Art Mogler (Sis. Eula) was hospitalized due to an accident. We are thankful he came through surgery fine and is now recovering at home.

On March 4, Bro. Barry Dietz (Sis. Rachel, Bradford, IL) and Bro. Brian Metzger (Sis. Angie, Lester, IA) were here to worship with us. We are thankful for their willing hearts to share of themselves by speaking the truth through the Spirit.

“The blessing of the Lord be upon you.”

Psalm 129:8

We are amazed and thankful to see many early signs of spring all around us. May we feel the refreshing of the Lord in our hearts the same way.

Even as the spring time flowers
Grow beneath the sun's warm rays,
So the Lord by His own powers
Makes us garlands for His praise;
He invites most lovingly:
Little children come to me!
All should truly know Him ever,
Call Him Brother, Lord, and Sav-

ior!

Come then, Lord of life eternal
Step into our midst, we pray;
Help that we may not be merely
Hearers of Thy Word today.
To our teacher, O, be near,
Bless the children gathered here;
May we thrive in fullest measure,
And Thy heart in us find pleasure!

Zion's Harp #166, vs. 3,6

JAPAN, SHIODA

Carrie Ito

Bro. Hirose passed from this earthly life very peacefully on March 3. We were so thankful for the inspiration his childlike faith was to those who visited him and to his family. The funeral was well attended by family, neighbors, and church people and we pray that the gospel message that was preached there could take root and grow in many hearts. What a contrast it must be to the traditional Buddhist funeral here in Japan, where very little of it is comprehensible to those in attendance!

JAPAN, TOKYO

**Manuela Denes
Marie Inoue**

We are thankful to be kept safely in the Saviour's arms again this month as some of us traveled to the U.S. It is always a special blessing to sit among brethren and hear the Word in one's native language.

It was a joy this past Sunday to sing Easter hymns at a nursing home, one of two located near our church. These homes have origins in the country of Denmark and allow us to sing there at Easter and Christmas. We are thankful for the opportunity. We look forward to several Easter events in the coming weeks and trust as we ponder the message of Christ's death and glorious resurrection, that we will all be drawn closer to Him.

We rejoiced with the Shioda

church this month in the addition of a dear brother to their fold. Being very ill with cancer Bro. Hirose (Sis. Kiyoko) was baptized in the hospital. The great joy shown by his expression and countenance brought back memories of 50 years ago to Bro. Akito when his own father, Bro. Zenichi Inoue, was taken into the fold in this manner. The same joy was so evident in his father, he remembers. We praise God for brethren who faithfully and lovingly taught them the way of salvation.

Our visitors this month were Ryan Martic of Toronto/Detroit, cousin of Sis. Manuela Denes, and Sisters Carol Sauder and Michelle Mueller of Tremont, IL, who joined us for an evening meal with cousins Sis. Carrie and Bro. Akihiro Ito. It was a joy to visit with them, and we hope they could enjoy their stay in Tokyo and travels to Hiroshima and Kyoto.

KANSAS, BERN

**Sheri Edelman
Rita Menold**

The weekend of March 3-4 our congregation enjoyed our Invite-a-Guest weekend. What a blessing it is to renew old friendships and establish new ones!

Our Bible class enjoyed spending the week of March 18-23 in Bastrop, TX, rebuilding homes damaged from fire. Our hope is that each one felt it a blessing to be able to help those in need.

We appreciate Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. Lavonne, Sabetha, KS) lending of himself in the service of ministry.

We are thankful that Sis. Pearl Miller had a successful heart surgery at Mayo Clinic and is having a healthy recovery. Our prayers are with Bro. Elwin Strahm (Sis. Mary), as he suffered a stroke while on vacation. We are so thankful he is making good progress!

Our church family is rejoicing over

four souls who have found the grace to repent! Our prayers are with Olivia Baumgartner and Tabitha Baumgartner (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Kim), and Kara Goodman and Jody Goodman (Mike and Sis. Luci) as they begin this most important step in their life. Our children could sense our excitement when we heard of these new converts, and our 6-year old looked at me and asked "What does repenting mean?" I explained that you are giving your life to Christ and you are very sorry for any wrong you have done in your life. Then she asked... "Do you repent for one day?" As I tried to explain so a 6-year old could understand, it was a good reminder to me that we need to always be that light and example to our children, so they can see the Joy of Jesus in us and that they, too, will want to someday become a child of God!

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT
Teresa Bahr

We all have loved ones who need the Lord, therefore we can be constant in prayer lifting them up to Him (I Thess. 5:17).

Bro. Lyle and Sis. Lillian Fischer are thankful to both being back in their own home after spending time in medical facilities.

KANSAS, KIOWA
Janice Bahr
Jenny Stewart

Communion Hymn

Jesus in the night of His betrayal,
When His covenant He did endow,
When His blood, in love and grace
eternal,
For transgression and for sin did
flow,
He established for His church a to-
ken,
That His covenant might ne'er be
broken,
This His holy Sacrifice and feast,

For His own, from sin and death re-
leased.

After they the paschal lamb had
eaten,
He took bread, and breaking it, gave
thanks;
Shared it with His own belov'd disci-
ples,
Who in love and trust had joined His
ranks,
"Take and eat, my body I do offer,
As unto the death for you I suffer;
This a mem'ry of my death and
pain,
Likewise your redemption shall re-
main."

When of this blest bread they had
partaken,
And brought thanks unto their God
above,
Having been unto this feast invited
And found worthy of His grace and
love,
He the cup into His hands did
gather,
Giving thanks unto His Heav'nly
Father,
Said to His disciples: "Drink this
wine,
As a token of my blood divine."

"This cup is the blood of my new
cov'nant,
which for many sinners I have shed;
Therein lies the promise and the
power
Of each one who unto sin is dead."
So this blood, which flowed on
Calv'ry's mountain,
Unto full salvation is the fountain;
And this cup reminds us of the
blood,
Which for sin was made a cleansing
flood.

There is life and there is peace and
gladness,
There contentment, grace, and
mercy flow;
There the light of Jesus scatters
sadness,
Shining with a soft and blessed
glow.

O, who would not joy in this salva-
tion,
Yearn to dwell within that habita-
tion
Where the Light of life shines full
and free,
Giving men new life and liberty.
Zion's Harp #26

We are looking forward to Com-
munion in a couple of weeks, and this
beautiful hymn from the Zion's Harp
just touches us so deeply as it brings to
our remembrance all of the suffering
Christ meekly accepted on our behalf
and in our stead throughout the
mocking secret trial and on that cruel
cross. As we partake of the bread and
wine, representing His broken body
and shed blood, we stand in awe that
God is mindful of the human race and
cares so much about us that He gave
His only Son to save us. How marvel-
ous a concept, and we are humbled
and thankful for God's perfect plan.

We would like to thank Bro. Ron
Joos (Sis. Christy, Bloomfield, IA)
and Bro. Ed Stoller (Sis. Bonnie, Den-
ver, CO) for visiting and proclaiming
God's Holy Word to our congregation.
May God bless them for their labor of
love toward our small congregation,
as we know we live quite a distance
from their home churches and coming
takes quite an effort.

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

Psalm 127:3

Little Ithan Santiago was born to
Bro. Joel and Sis. Stephanie
Rinkenberger in Magdalena, Mexico,
on March 14. Bro. Jeff and Sis. Janice
Bahr and Bro. Jim and Sis. Jeannie
Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN) are the
grandparents. Ithan comes home to
four excited siblings: Marcos, Aron,
Diego and Candi. It is our fervent
prayer for God's richest blessings on
this precious family!

**KANSAS
LAMONT-GRIDLEY**

Our congregation was blessed with many visitors this month and we appreciate each one. Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend, IA), Bro. Larry Bahr (Sis. Julie, Ft. Scott, KS) and Bro. Brandon Emch (Sis. Maria, Kansas City, MO).

We rejoice with our convert, Michael Luthi (Elder Bro. Jay and Sis. Jane), who has found peace with God.

**KANSAS, SABETHA
Belinda Kellenberger
Sally Strahm**

Love is of a friendly nature,
Does no selfish thought possess;
Love is not a sin partaker,
And is free from bitterness.
Love is truthful, not deceitful,
Does here ev'ry burden bear;
And, enduring, is so fruitful
In all trials joys to share.

Zion's Harp #37

We rejoice with Bro. Loren and Sis. Lena Grimm as they became one in the Lord on Sunday, February 26. Their parents are Bro. David and Sis. Beth Hartter and Bro. Kevin and Sis. Nita Grimm.

On March 11, Bro. Travis Strahm of Morris North, MN (the late Bro. Carl and Sis. Sharon Strahm of Sabetha) and Sis. Jilaine Furrer of Morris, MN (Bro. Thomas and Sis. Jill Furrer) were united in marriage. May God bless both of these unions.

Our visiting ministers for the past month were Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. (Sis. Donna, Morton, IL), Bro. Ron Isch (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS), and Bro. Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa, Bradford, IL). We thank them for being willing servants in His vineyard.

We extend our love and sympathy to Sis. Florence Meyer (Bro. Harlan

in the passing of her brother, Joe Steiner (Belva) of Nebraska City, NE. May God comfort them as only He can.

Our Invite-A-Guest weekend was March 17-18. We appreciate those who came to be our guests for the weekend. It is a blessing as we can fellowship with one another.

“Who can find a virtuous woman?
For her price is far above rubies. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.”

Proverbs 31:10,31

We are thankful for all our mothers and what they do for us. For those whose mothers have gone to their eternal reward, Heaven seems a little closer to our hearts.

**KANSAS, WICHITA
Emma Miller**

Bro. John and Sis. Lori Baumgartner (Bern, KS) spent a recent Sunday with us in Wichita to fulfill the small church effort. We thank them for giving up opportunities for fellowship within their local congregation so the few in Wichita could be encouraged.

We are reminded of the afflicted in our brotherhood. Bro. Charley Grimm has been homebound for the past several months. Bro. Phil Bowers struggles with his afflictions which makes it difficult to transport him. Also, his mother, Sis. Lillian, is often homebound.

Bro. Glenn and Sis. Sally Funk have another granddaughter. This is their son, Tim's, first baby. Beyza is the second granddaughter in the Funk family.

And now I can end this writing with some 'up' items. Our part of Kansas is being blessed with gentle rain! Thank Thee, dear Father! Also, we are rejoicing with Fanja Bowers.

She will become a naturalized citizen of the United States at the end of March.

**KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON
Barb Huber**

“For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Philippians 3:20

What a blessed hope we have as we wait, look, and watch for our Lord's soon return. We're thankful again for faithful brethren who were willing to lend themselves to be used in His service. This past month Bros. Ed Fritz (Sis. Sally, Washington, IL), Paul Zimmerman (Sis. Loretta, Forrest, IL), and Sam Schlatter (Sis. Linda, Junction, OH) came to minister God's Holy Word.

May the Lord bless each one and all who travelled with them for their many sacrificial efforts and labors of love.

We extend a warm welcome to come and worship with us at Lexington. You may contact Bro. Lester Huber at (859) 745-2541. Church services are held at 3938 Becknerville Rd., Winchester, KY. Directions to the church are in the minister's book.

**MEXICO, IXTLAN
Matt Gerber**

“I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, that I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh...Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.”

(Rom. 9:1-3, 10:1)

There are many small communities near Ixtlán (and throughout Mexico) where there are no Christian congregations...no established groups of believers who can preach the gospel and give witness to the gospel through their lifestyle. While it's wonderful that there's a stable church in Ixtlán, it should burden us that there aren't churches in other places. In fact, shouldn't we long to see vibrant fellowships of Christ-followers in every village, town, and city? This seems like an impossible task. But the power is Christ's, and He has promised to be with the church as we go and make disciples, baptizing them and teaching them to obey all things He has commanded (Mt. 28:18-20).

A women's breakfast this month was a special time for fellowship. Each one had the opportunity to share something she had read recently from God's Word that had ministered to her. Activities like this are helpful to foster openness, sharing of burdens, and times of encouragement for the sisters and converts.

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Listyn Oesch
Melissa Blough

The birds are singing, the grass is turning; spring is on its way and with it comes new life. Every year after the dead of winter comes the refreshing wave of new life. God's example in nature displays a glorious picture of what He does in human hearts that He loves so much.

"They [His compassions] are new every morning: great is Thy faithfulness."

Lamentations 3:23

Joy has come into the arms of our dear convert, Kasi Crumbo. We are thankful for Amy Joy. Mom and baby are at home and growing strong. As

the body of Christ, we look forward to watching and aiding as Amy grows and matures.

A beginning of a new chapter has begun for Sis. Moonlight Szabo and Bro. Clint Moser (Garden Grove, IA) as they were joined in holy marriage on February 18 in Bay City, MI. Our prayers ascend as they develop a threefold cord and journey together. May they always find God's grace sufficient.

Sorrow and joy mix our hearts at the passing of dear Sis. Helen Steffen. In February she went to meet her Savior and Lord. A great hole has been left in her family and in our congregation. We pray for the family at this time of loss and ask that encouragement would fill their hearts by her faithful example. Helen has left behind a large family...children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Sarah Knochel
Janelle Ramseyer

We rejoice with Sis. Yvonne Arnold as she welcomed a new grandson, Callen Robert, on February 12. Callen's parents are Eric and Roberta Arnold and great-grandfather is Bro. Floyd Knochel.

Megan Snyder (Dan) spent some time in the hospital recently and we are thankful for her recovery and that God provided healing strength.

Our prayers are with the Del Grew family as he passed away on February 29. We want to remember his children, Nancy Herzberg, Donald (Lynn), and Kenneth. His grandson, Bro. Bob Grew (Sis. Kayleen) from our congregation also mourns his passing.

March 10-11 was Invite-a-Friend weekend for our congregation. We appreciated having Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. (Sis. Donna, Morton, IL) with us as a visiting minister and also Psalm 100 quartet (Bluffton, Bluffton North,

IN) for sharing their musical talents with us.

We gathered to hear the Memorandum on March 17. We are thankful that Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan, Winthrop, MN) was able to be here and assist Bro. John for the weekend.

It is such a refreshing feeling to see the arrival of spring! As the trees and flowers begin to blossom and bloom, may we feel invigorated by Christ's love in our hearts and minds.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT
Krista Wieland

"Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say Rejoice."

Phil. 4:4

It's easy to rejoice when life goes the way we think it should. It's tougher to be thankful for the hard things. Let's pray for gratitude today for the hard things. Our life is like a quilt; we try to make sense of the mismatched pieces but God is seeing the final beautiful picture the whole time!

We wish to thank ministering Bro. Ned Stoller, his wife, Sis. Heidi, and their children who came from Alto to minister to the Residents at Woodhaven. Other visiting ministers this month were Bro. Tom and Sis. LuAnn Troxel (Lacrosse, IN); Bro. Howard and Sis. Kristen Plattner (Alto, MI); Bro. Dan and Sis. Julie Koch (Tremont, IL); and Elder Bro. Curt and Sis. Lila Frank (Lacrosse, IN). Bro. Curt assisted Bro. Mark with our Communion service on March 17 which was a real blessing to our church.

Our dear Sis. Lois Belsley passed away to her heavenly home. We wish to extend our sympathy to her family.

Her children are: Larry (Elaine) Belsley; Linda (John) Reardon; Jeanne (Pat) Allen; Steve (Patti)

Belsley; and Sally (Ron) Blaszczyk.

She also is survived by a sister, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Our hospital patients were Virginia Smiley and Sis. Krista (Bro. Andy) Wieland. They have returned home. Also, Sis. Linda Shaw has finished her radiation treatments.

“Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven”

St. Matthew 11:32

We are thankful that Tyler Rauhe (Bro. Jason and Sis. Carrie) has made known his desire to repent and commit his life to Christ. It is an encouragement to the whole church to see God working in Tyler.

Woodpointe's 13th anniversary service was held at Woodpointe on Wednesday, March 7. We enjoyed a dinner and fellowship prior to the Wednesday night service.

Our 7th Annual All Michigan sing is scheduled for Sunday evening, May 20, at the Woodpointe Independent Living Community, adjacent to the church. New for this year is a 5:30 pizza dinner, which will precede the 6:30 singing. This event includes the Alto, Bay City and Detroit, MI churches, as well as the Toledo, OH church.

The 24th Annual Choir Benefit Dinner and Program is scheduled for Saturday, July 14, at the church. The dinner will be at 5:00 and the Choir Program will begin at 7:00. Feel free to invite friends and neighbors. Please R.S.V.P. to Jamie or Scott Bahr at (734) 513-5907 or spbahr@yahoo.com for overnight accommodations by the 4th of July.

Our unseasonably early spring weather allowed us to move our March 18 Sunday evening singing outside. It was a perfect evening; and the birds chirped right along with

us! The only minor interruptions were the many jet planes flying overhead, as our church is not very far from the airport!

**MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS
Tim McMillan**

We began March reading Numbers Ch. 6. The writing describes what can be done by a man or woman who has “vowed a vow... to separate themselves unto the Lord....” If, during the vow, the person made himself unclean or “defiled the head of his consecration” (vs. 9), instructions are given for redemption through sacrifice. When we came to the Lord in baptism, we separated ourselves and made a vow unto the Lord. The Book of Hebrews (10:26) reminds us if we make our selves unclean or defile the head (Jesus), there is no way to crucify Christ again for redemption. Let us pray always none of our brethren would stray from the body of Christ!

Exhortation to examine our self (II Cor. 13:5-6) was spoken of in preparation for Holy Supper. We are thankful for the assistance of Bro. Rod Bajema (Lester, IA) in the taking of Communion on March 24. May the Lord give comfort to him for his work.

It is with great sadness that Sis. Bernadine Miller (Bro. Don) succumbed to pneumonia and went to sleep in Christ this month. Sadness for us as we will miss her presence, but in joy we rejoice that we look forward to meeting her in heaven on the day of Christ's coming! She truly has been an inspiration in faith to many. Please pray for Bro. Don as it has also been revealed that a sibling brother has been diagnosed with cancer.

Prayers for Sis. Vera Schmidt are also requested as she helps her son Dave through another surgery. We hope he will recover quickly and be healthy after the healing is complete.

We share joy this month with Bro.

Jim and Sis. Krissa (Skoglund) Klotzle. Welcome to the world their new baby boy, Ender James, born Monday, March 19. We hope all are well and healthy and the Lord's blessing will be on their home.

There is also happiness in the announcement of peace for Jamie and Jodi (Messner) Pelzel. They are to be baptized soon, Lord willing. We also are prayerful for Allison Rocke as she starts her path in seeking peace with God and man. Please share your prayers for these people as they repent from the world.

May now the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the peace and love of God, the fellowship of His Holy Spirit abide with us all, yea, with us all.

Amen.

Zion's Harp #213

May God be with you til we meet again, Sis. Bernadine.

**MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Kim Feuchtenberger
Susie Wulf**

On March 11 we witnessed the wedding of Sis. Jilaine Furrer (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jill) to Bro. Travis Strahm (son of the late Bro. Carl and Sis. Sharon of Sabetha, KS) of Morris North, MN. We wish them God's blessings and guidance as they begin their life together. The wedding brought many visitors including ministering brethren. Among them was Bro. Jerry Isch (Sis. Linda, Philadelphia, PA), Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Ruth Ann, Wolcott, IN), Bro. Larry Bahr (Sis. Julie, Fort Scott, KS), Bro. Galen Rokey (Sis. Nancy, Bern, KS), Bro. Clint Beyer (Sis. Kara, Sabetha, KS), Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan, Winthrop, MN), Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris North, MN) and Bro. Wes Moser (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA). May the true

Spirit of the Lord guide, direct and bless our ministering brethren that labor in the Word and doctrine of our Lord Jesus Christ.

February 12 was the wedding of Bro. Ryan Grimm (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Nita, Sabetha, KS) to Sis. Paula Mogler (Bro. Charles and Sis. Beth) of West Bend, IA. May the Lord also bless and guide them as they begin their life together.

We are thankful Denise Feuchtenberger (Bro. Bob and Sis. Gwen) has turned to the Lord in repentance. May each one of our converts seek to enter in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat. (St. Matthew 7:13). Our desire for each soul that has truly been converted is to find that peace that passeth all understanding. Larissa Schmidgall (Bro. Paul and Sis. Shawn) has found this true peace. May she continue to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

We had many who suffered illness of the flesh this month. Bro. David Nohl, Bro. Virgil Sauder, Bro. Noah Nohl, Eden Nohl (Bro. Todd and Sis. Jamie), Brecken Grimm (Bro. Lyle and Sis. Amanda), and Ashlee Reuter (Bro. Greg and Sis. Sheila) all spent time in the hospital. We are thankful that each life is held in the hallow of our Lord's hand.

**MINNESOTA
MORRIS NORTH
Wanda Gramm
Lois Schmidgall**

"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork."

AN EARLY SPRING! What a wonderful time of the year when God's creation comes alive! And we can see the beauty of the little blades of grass peeking out, we can hear the new song

of the birds and we can truly rejoice for God is still with us. Let's take a minute out of our busy day to enjoy a little piece of God's work.

Again, we have so much to be thankful for. We have been blessed with ministering brothers who have shared the Word with us along with our Brothers Dale and Doug. This month Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH), Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan, Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Glenn Steiner (Sis. Rachel, Winthrop, MN) were with us. Thank you for giving yourself to further God's Word.

We rejoice that our friend Mason Metzger has decided to follow Jesus. We pray for him and our other converts, that they can give their all for Him.

"Love of all gifts is the greatest" ... March 11 was the wedding day for Bro. Travis Strahm and Sis. Jilaine Furrer (Morris). Our prayers are with them as they start this new walk together, and we welcome Sis. Jilaine into our Morris North congregation.

The evening of March 14, many of us came together to tie blankets for the local hospital. Our pre-school and kindergarten children created and designed bags to put the blankets in. It is so amazing to see the eagerness of these children to do something for someone else, and to read the special little messages they write on the bags that are sure to make some sick little child smile. God bless you for your love.

Our Elder Bro. Paul Messner and Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter read the Memorandum to us and shared loving encouragements to us. We are thankful to them.

Summer vacations are no doubt being thought of at this time of the year and we just want to extend a welcome to you to visit us at Morris North.

**MINNESOTA, ROCHESTER
Mark Stork
Eric Bachman**

Greetings from Rochester. This is the second report from those that gather at Rochester. February 26 was the second Sunday for services in Rochester. We are thankful for all of those that attended from the Minneapolis congregation. We would also like to thank Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis) for his willingness to bring us God's Word. There were approximately thirty people that were in attendance. There were also visitors from: Cissna Park, Fairbury, Forrest, Gridley and Washington, IL and Elgin, IA.

As spring time rolls around, the guest house is continuing to grow. There was one week in March that the guest house was full. We will continue to thank the Lord for His blessing and continue to pray for the Lord's guidance and blessings. We will be looking at having a work day in the near future to do some landscaping and cleanup around the guest house.

We would like to also welcome Bro. Josh Wettstein who moved up to the Rochester area for 8 weeks. Bro. Josh is doing an internship at Holden Farms. If anyone would feel the Lord's direction to relocate to the Rochester area, they would be warmly welcomed. There are many opportunities in the Rochester and surrounding areas for those that are looking for housing and employment.

The next Sunday services will be May 27 starting at 10:15 and 12:30. The next Wednesday service will be May 16 starting at 7:30. 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 are 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) 281-2875.

We would like to extend an invitation to any who would 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) 281-2875; 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.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Lindsay Schmidt
Heather Steiner

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

Luke 15:10

We are rejoicing greatly with Quintin Schmidt as He turned His life to the Lord. There is no greater joy than to witness the miracle of salvation in those we love dearly!

“Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.”

Matthew 10:29-31

We have been prayerful for our

hospital and surgical patients this month: Sis. Dorothy Messner and Sis. Jamie Schmidt (Bro. Verl). May God continue to grant healing according to His will.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY
Brittany Fehr

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

Luke 22:19-20

We were very blessed to be able to partake of Holy Communion the beginning of March. What a solemn yet joyful occasion to gather together after examining our hearts to remember Christ’s suffering and perfect sacrifice offered up for the remission of our sins! May God’s blessings be with Elder Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane, Silverton, OR) who traveled to Kansas City to assist our Elder Bro. Randy (Sis. Karen) in serving Holy Communion.

MISSOURI, LAMAR
Lisa Stoller
Venetta Banwart

We were blessed with three visiting ministers this month, Bro. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA), Bro. Kent Getz (Elgin, IA), and Bro. Kenneth Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL), and would like to thank them for their labors of love in feeding us from God’s Holy Word that we might walk on the straight and narrow way to heaven.

Our hospital patients this month were Sis. Corrine Marti and Sis. Evelyn Marti. May God continue to grant them healing and strength.

Bro. Kyle and Sis. Dana Kellen-

berger welcomed the safe arrival of Maria Kate on February 28. Also welcoming her home was big sister Marlie. Grandparents are the late Bro. Orlan and Sis. Mary Kellenberger and Bob and Sis. Janice Stoller. Bro. Doug and Sis. Amanda Strahm welcomed the safe arrival of Ethan Ray on March 2. Also welcoming him home was big sister, Elsie. Grandparents are Bro. Curt and Sis. Ellen Strahm (Bern, KS) and Bro. Larry and Sis. Marcy Schmidgall. May God richly bless each of the parents and give them Godly wisdom to raise their children in the fear of the Lord.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS
Kary Mangers

Our congregation would like to thank those who came and shared in fellowship this past month. Special thanks to Bro. Darren and Sis. Sue Plattner (Champaign) and their family for coming for rotation in February and to Elder Bro. Kent and Sis. Jan Heimer (Taylor) in March. Bro. Kent took this opportunity to share Communion exhortation with us. As Easter approaches and we think of Communion with Him, may we dwell on the life Jesus gave us.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR
Melissa Reiman

There are so many bridges that are built in this world, but the best bridge built was the cross on which Jesus was crucified and died. Jesus’ suffering, His sacrificial blood, and His death formed the bridge for us to reach our Heavenly Father. This Easter, remember that Christ suffered and died to save each person. Do not reject His gift of eternal life.

Bro. Caleb and Sis. Mercedes Sutter were married on February 26. Their parents are Bro. Rich E. and Sis. Kay Sutter and Randy and

Monica Thompson (Quincy, IL).

Bro. Brad and Sis. Amber Widmer were married on March 4. Their parents are Bro. Neal and Sis. Kristine Widmer (West Lafayette) and Bro. Gary and Sis. Deb Rassi (Morton).

We hope and pray for the two new couples that they may be happy and that God will richly bless their lives!

Our visiting ministers were Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Morton, IL), Bro. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL), Bro. Neil Widmer (West Lafayette, IN), Bro. Scott Schafer (South Bend, IN), Bro. Matthew Rassi (Chicago, IL), Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), Bro. Ted Hirstein (Morton, IL), Bro. Rustin Meister (West Lafayette, IN), Bro. John Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Bro. Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN), and Bro. Dave Zehr (Gridley, IL).

Sis. Deb Sutter was in the hospital recently. We are thankful that she is home now and recovering.

NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Hope Graves

We have been blessed with company coming out to enjoy the maple syrup season and to fellowship with us. It has been a blessing for our congregation to have visitors with the arrival of spring to the north country. Travel is much more predictable once the winter season ends.

We were able to share a potluck and singing together on Sunday, March 4, and Saturday, March 24. We also gathered in the 1st floor family room to sing with Sis. Louise Purvines at the Lewis County Extended Care Facility on March 10. Our visitors have come from the Midwest and Connecticut. We appreciate them for remembering us in their travels.

Our prayers remain with Joe Bush who has had surgery recently and is home recovering. We also remember Gary Rivers in our prayers as he is

now in the extended care after having a stroke.

As the Easter season is upon us, may we remember to keep our eyes upon Jesus and be reminded of the sacrifice He made for each of us.

OHIO, AKRON Erika Gal

The peace which Thou hast brought us,

All fear has put to flight;
The righteous now in chorus
Are singing with delight!

Zion's Harp #121 (verse 3)

A weekend of provings and baptisms brings such joy and renewal to the whole church. We are so thankful for our new sisters, Katie Palitto and Anna Steidl. Their parents are Bro. Bryon and Sis. Lisa Palitto and Bro. Les and Sis. Judi Steidl. We are also thankful to Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sabetha, KS) for his willingness to travel and labor for us during the weekend. Thanks are also extended to Bro. Bob Riegenbach (Rittman) for being used on our behalf as well.

We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to Sis. Barb (Elder Bro. Dave) Graf in the loss of her brother, Jim Gasser from Smithville. It is a blessing to trust in a loving, merciful God who is able to provide comfort to each of us in our sorrows.

Our thoughts and prayers continue with Samuel Hegedus (Bro. Sandor and Sis. Ginger). He is still in testing to determine the cause of his symptoms. We are so thankful to have Bro. John (Sis. Joyce) Schambach in church with us again after his surgery. Surely God is faithful to provide for each one.

OHIO, COLUMBUS Lauren Rufener

“Seek ye first the Kingdom of God,

and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

St. Matthew 6:33

We are thankful that Rebecca Tieche has begun her repentance and has decided to serve the Lord. Rebecca is from Rittman, OH church and is a daughter to Greg and Sis. Peggy Tieche. She is attending Ohio State University to pursue her degree in Radiography.

“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

We rejoice with Bro. Todd and Sis. Esther Saurer as they welcome their first child, Clayton Tyler, who was born March 12.

We appreciate visiting ministers, Bro. Ted and Sis. Stephanie Luginbuhl (Smithville, OH) and Bro. Tim and Sis. Jonell Ramsier (Rittman, OH), for sharing God's Word with us.

OHIO, JUNCTION Vicki Boroff

We were thankful to have Invite-a-Guest weekend in March. As part of that blessed weekend, we were thankful to have visiting ministers: Bros. Fred Domka (Sis. Connie, Mansfield), Marvin Zollinger (Sis. Pam, Smithville), and Nelson Beer (Sis. Minnie, Milford) minister to us. We also appreciated having Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley) help for our Communion weekend later in the month. We also enjoyed having visiting ministers on other weekends: Bros. Don Steidl (Sis. Nan, Akron), Bruce Frank (Sis. Bonita, Cissna Park), and Larry Wenninger (Sis. Joyce, Latty).

As always, we pray for our hospital

patients and those that have need of a healing hand. Some we may not even be aware of have the need for prayers.

John and Diane Manz are thankful to have a new grandson, Dylan John, born on March 9, to daughter Briana and her husband.

We were excited to hear that Richard Manz is repenting. Richard makes Phoenix his home. His parents are Bro. Russell and Sis. Vera Manz.

We are happy to announce that Sis. Lily Manz (Bro. Russell and Sis. Vera) is engaged to Bro. Travis Schlatter (Bro. Denny and Sis. Laurie). We wish them God's many blessings as they enjoy their engagement period.

OHIO, LATTY
Carmen Eisenmann
Mindy Stoller

He finds them all where'er they
roam;
He leads the way and brings them
home!
Zion's Harp #116

We were so thankful to hear that Ashley and Derek Plummer (Bro. Rick and Sis. Denise) have professed peace with God and man. We rejoice with them and look forward to their baptisms in the near future!

On March 18, we were privileged to witness the wedding of Bro. Clint Blume (Bro. Larry and Sis. Lynell, Wolcott, IN) to Sis. Holly Stoller (Bro. Todd and Sis. Pam). We gladly welcome Bro. Clint to Latty as they will be making their home here. May God bless their union with His presence and love.

Many ministers have visited us in the past month and have willingly served us. We want to humbly thank Bro. Mark Wettstein (Sis. Karen, La-Crosse, IN), Bro. Matt Manz (Sis. Deanna, Toledo, OH), Bro. Jeff Bahler (Sis. Heidi, Wolcott, IN), and

Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott, IN) for their service to us. They are all very much appreciated!

Sis. Marge Gerber (Bro. Jim) has experienced some health issues in this past month and we pray she is feeling the Lord's provision.

OHIO, MANSFIELD
Tami Griffey

We were blessed the weekend of February 26 and 27 by the testimonies and baptisms of Sis. Johanna Beer (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Tammy), and Sis. Marjorie Dawson (Bro. Ed and Sis. Judy). May God continue to lead, guide and direct our new sisters in faith. We thank Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO) and Bro. Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynell, Akron, OH) for being willing to share God's Word with our congregation.

The family of Elmer "Bud" Sauder has our sympathy and prayers as he passed away February 27. His family includes his children, Tim (Amy) Sauder, Louetta (Arnold) Fronts, and Marilyn (Keith) Barth; 5 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren, and siblings, Bro. Kenneth (Sis. Sue) Sauder, and Bro. Donald (Sis. Faye) Sauder of Nashville, TN.

World Relief Days were held March 12-13. May God bless the many helpers who gave of their time and talents to accomplish this work. There were 15,020 bags of rice pilaf, 500 health kits for Mexico, 50 layettes for Mexico, 100 local Red Cross kits, and sewing projects. Many thanks to the helping hands of all ages.

OHIO, RITTMAN
Jenny Pertee
Anna Bauman

Bro. Jeff and Sis. Naomi Miller became first-time parents on March 3, with the birth of Alayna Jule. Thankful grandparents are David and Rosie

Miller and Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon Rupp.

Our prayers are with those who were in the hospital this month. They include Drew Tanner (Lonnie and Lisa), Logan Hartzler (Bro. Sam and Sis. Gail), Sis. Margaret Everhard, Bro. Rob Stoller (Sis. Joann), and Bro. Andy Winkler (Sis. Mary Jane). May God be with them and grant them recovery.

We offer love and sympathy to Bro. Gene Bachman (Sis. Kathryn) in the loss of his brother-in-law. Also mourning the loss of their brother, Jim Gasser (Kris), are Sis. Barb (Bro. Dave) Graf (Akron, OH), Bro. Jerry (Sis. Ellen) Gasser, Sis. Bev (Randy) Moore, Bro. Jeff (Sis. Deb) Gasser (Smithville, OH), and Bro. Neil (Sis. Donna) Gasser.

Elder Bros. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN), Ted Steffen (Alto, MI), and Bros. Clint Schmidt (Winthrop, MN), Todd Graf (Akron), Tom Bahler (Rockville, CT), and Bill Brake (Sardis, OH) have visited Rittman church in the past month. We appreciate their willingness to bring forth the Word.

We are very thankful in Rittman for three new converts this month. They are Nick Delcos, Rebecca, and Mary Tieche. Rebecca and Mary are the daughters of Greg and Sis. Peggy Tieche. We wish them God's grace as they seek the Lord in repentance.

We welcomed Julia Zollinger (Bro. Arlyn and Sis. Barb), Molly Hanzie (Tim and Sis. Kim), Matthew Stoller, and Brian Stoller (Bro. Ken and Sis. Lori) as our new brothers and sisters in Christ, as they were baptized and made their covenant with God on February 26. May God continue to be with them.

OHIO, SARDIS
Faith Beard

We gathered together one Satur-

day evening to listen to the Memorandum. Elder Bro. Dave Graf (Sis. Barb, Akron, OH) was here to assist that evening as well as Sunday's worship service. We continue to thank and pray for our Elders as they seek after the Lord's guidance in all their spiritual decisions they are called upon to make.

Also here helping from the pulpit was Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridgett, Chicago, IL). We thank him and his family for their efforts, both physically and mentally, involved with traveling here to serve us with their friendship and spiritual guidance.

With the return of spring comes the return of our loved ones that travel to the southern states during the cold Ohio winter months. We thank God for safe travels and welcome back Bro. Bob and Sis. Karen Indermuhle as they are once again worshipping with us.

The congregation of Sardis wishes to once again extend an invitation to all to join us in our annual Memorial service at our little church high in the hills of New Martinsville, WV. This is scheduled to take place the weekend of June 23/24. To any who may not be familiar with this weekend, we have a worship service Saturday evening at our Sardis church, then Sunday we travel across the Ohio River to our New Martinsville church to worship as did our ancestors with no electricity, air conditioning, or indoor plumbing. We also use the old Heft hymnals for our song service. As has been done traditionally, we like to have this weekend ministered by our guests, so we certainly also welcome any visiting ministers. Any and all interested please contact Bro. Ken and Sis. Linda Indermuhle for overnight accommodations and for any other information at 740-483-1593.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Lydia Dotterer
Gina Brake**

We are thankful for the safe arrival of two baby boys. Will Michael joined the family of Michael, Jennifer, Luke and Sara Snowbarger on February 17. His grandparents are Linda and the late Bro. Ben Maibach. February 24 was the birthdate of Simeon Daniel, son of Bro. Dan and Sis. Beth Kellenberger. His siblings are Reuben and Salome, and his grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Verla Stoller.

We are also thankful to hear that Katrina Beery (Bro. Dwaine and Sis. Shelly) has begun her repentance. May God continue to be with her and grant her grace.

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

II Timothy 4:2

We had many visiting ministers this month, including Bro. Mike Ursu (Sis. Barb, Kitchener, Canada), Bro. Jim Vierling (Sis. Linda, Eureka, IL), Bro. Todd Graf (Sis. Lydia, Akron, OH), Bro. Fred Domka (Sis. Connie, Mansfield, OH), Bro. Mark Rufener (Sis. Julie, Mansfield, OH), Bro. Tim Lehman (Sis. Amber, Taylor, MO), and Bro. Dana Indermuhle (Sis. Joy, Sardis, OH).

Our prayers are with those who have lost loved ones. Jim (Kris) Gasser passed away on March 1. He is the brother of Bro. Jeff (Sis. Deb) Gasser. Calvin (Linda) Beery, son of Sis. Rhea Beery, died on March 11. May God be with both of these families at this difficult time.

OHIO, TOLEDO

**Deanna Manz
Anita Schlatter**

Our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis.

Emily, Junction) was with us on March 1 to share feedback from the Elder Forums and the Midwinter Conference. We are thankful for his efforts and for all of the Elder Brothers who so willingly give of their time and energy to help guide us in our spiritual walk.

The time of our midweek services has been changed to 7:30 pm on Thursday evenings. If you are ever passing through the Toledo area, we would love to have you join us!

OREGON, PORTLAND

Rebekah Jones

We were blest to have visiting ministers this month. Bro. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville, IA) shared the Word with us on Wednesday night. Bro. Don Sinn (Sis. Linda, Silverton, OR) also brought the teachings of Christ to us.

The Annual Business meeting was held this month, and several positions were filled. Elder Bro. John Wiegand was present for that meeting.

Elisheba Folia (Bro. Peter and Sis. Elizabeth) was married to Chad Kerr on March 10. May God be with them in their new life together.

Sis. Barb Moser had successful surgery this month. She wishes to express her thanks for the many prayers, phone calls, and cards that she received from the brethren. It is always a privilege to take part in each others burdens and lift one another up in prayer.

“Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”

Galatians 6:2

OREGON, SILVERTON

**Deb Roth
Kris Luthi**

Lord Jesus, Our Light
In this dark night of unbelief,

When loud its billows roar,
Afford protection and relief,
Grant courage evermore!

Hold us fast while we are here
Upon our pilgrim way,
Until our journey we complete
With Thee fore'er to stay!

Hymns of Zion #265

Helping us to hold fast was Elder Bro. Bruce Endress (Sis. Elizabeth, Bradford, IL). We appreciate his willingness to humbly serve us recently. He assisted our Elder Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane) in the reading of the Memorandum from the Elder body. Bro. Kurt Walter (Sis. Elizabeth) was back "home" from Mansfield, OH, and we were blessed by his service to us from the pulpit. We are also thankful that Bro. Kevin Fehr (Sis. Lonnie, West Bend, IA) ministered the Truth to us. We appreciate these dear brothers and their wives for their faithful examples.

Several in our church family have been in our thoughts and prayers as they recuperate from surgery. God grant healing to Sis. Verla Hari, Bro. Jim (Sis. Barb) Kuenzi and Bro. Jim (Sis. Joan) Dietrich.

By faith, Bro. Kenton Sinn (Bro. Tom and Sis. Edith) and Sis. Alicen Wagenbach (Bro. Colin and Sis. Barb, Oakville, IA), being drawn together by God, joyfully plan for their marriage on August 26.

Another blessing came to the home of Lyle and Andrea Kuenzi in the name of Victoria Louise. She is the new baby sister to Henry, Adeline and Emerson. Thankful for her safe arrival are grandparents, Bro. Jim and Sis. Barb Kuenzi and Ramona Townsend (and the late Bohm Townsend) and James Buss.

PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

We were very thankful for the op-

portunity this month to gather together for our World Relief Project. It was a blessing as we met to make frozen meals for a local shelter. We also enjoyed a time of singing and fellowship. We also were thankful for our visitors this month. Visitors are always welcome and appreciated! May God bless each one in the coming month.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE

Mike and Monica Fritz

We rejoice with Tanya Beard, who has chosen to seek the Lord and has begun her repentance. We pray that the Lord's grace and mercy will be with her and give her strength as she makes this wonderful new beginning.

We are thankful for the strengthening we have received from God's Living Word, brought to us by our recent visiting ministering brothers: Bros. James Emch (Sis. Gina; Phoenix, AZ), Bob Pflederer (Sis. Ellie; Morton, IL), Gary Anliker and Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL), Dale Moore (Sis. Cheryl; Elgin, IA), and Ned Bahler (Sis. Anna; Fairbury, IL). We have also been blessed by the fellowship of brethren and friends visiting from Phoenix, AZ; Chicago, Elgin, Fairbury, Forrest, Morton, Princeville, Tremont, and Washington, IL; Bluffton and Leo, IN; Elgin and Lester, IA; and Junction, OH.

If you are traveling to or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. The following churches are scheduled for services in the near future: Roanoke, IL (4/22); Forrest, IL (4/29); Bloomington-Normal, IL (5/6); Eureka, IL (5/13); Champaign, IL (5/20); and Peoria, IL (5/27). 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 wel-

come any midweek visitors. Contacts are Bro. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder, (615) 373-8928; Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz, (615) 866-5543 (fritzmb.family@gmail.com); and Sis. Gwen Leuthold, (615) 356-5755.

TEXAS, AUSTIN Serenity and Jasmine Ringger

"A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come."

Luke 19: 12-13

The chapter goes on to talk about three of the servants. One of them gained 10 pounds, another gained 5 pounds, and one gained nothing at all, and his talent was taken away from him. Have you ever wondered what happened to the remaining 7 servants? Perhaps that is us - what are we going to do with the life God has given us? Will we serve ourselves or God?

We appreciate the many visitors with the World Relief project here, too many churches represented to count.

We appreciate the ministering Brothers who come to share the Word with us. The past month we hosted our Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL), Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS), and Bros. Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX), Ken Eisenmann (Sis. Sharon, Cissna Park, IL), Wes Moser (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA), and Ron Schambach (Sis. Nancy, Elgin, IL).

The following is the minister schedule for May: (6) Eureka, IL, (13) Elgin, IL, and (27) Silverton, OR.

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

TEXAS, McALLEN**Gloria Walder**

May God bless Bro. Wayne Fehr (Portland, OR), Bro. Tom Schrenk (Sis. Joan, Zapata, TX), Bro. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL), Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Lisa, Eureka, IL), Bro. Leland Plattner Zapata, TX), and Bro. Todd Sinn (Sis. Janet, Latty, OH) for ministering to our small group here. We truly appreciate the Word of Life brought to us — “the fountain flowing purely from the throne above, Life and strength to him imparting, who accepts the Word in love.”

We also thank other visitors from Morris, MN; Congerville, Princeville, Eureka, and Gridley, IL; Leo, Bluffton, and Wolcott, IN; Detroit and Alto, MI; and Denver, CO for joining us for services.

Please call Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Joyce Nohl (956-581-8266) to confirm our schedule if you plan to meet with us. We are planning for services on May 6, Smithville, OH; May 20, Goodfield, IL; and June 3, Francesville, IN. We also meet on Wednesday evenings at the Nohl's home for call-in services.

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 more 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.

TEXAS, ZAPATA**Mary Plattner**

We appreciated having Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest, IL) return this month for Communion services. Also, Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Sis. Becky, Lamar), Bro. Ken Eisenmann (Sis. Sharon, Cissna Park) and Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, Portland) have assembled with us. We appreciate their willingness to share the Word.

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 Elder Bro. Kevin (Sis. Cheryl) Ryan, Bro. Duane (Sis. Kay) Reutter, and Bro. Warren (Sis. Bonnie) Zahner, all from Rockville, CT. May God richly bless all the efforts on our

behalf.

We have had a few individuals in the hospital this past month. They include Caleb Virkler (Bro. Chad and Sis. Jenny), Micah Stevenson (Bro. Adam and Kris), and Kris Stevenson herself. We pray for the restoration of their health and bodies and that we can all assemble at church soon.

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

“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”

Philippians 4:8



Summer Worship Services in Colorado

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

July 22 and July 29 – Comfort Inn and Suites – Dillon, CO
276 Dillon Ridge Rd. Dillon, CO 80435
Office: (970) 513-0300

Dillon is located in Summit County with good access from Interstate 70. It is within 90 minutes of Granby, Glenwood Springs, Denver, and Buena Vista. The hotel has provided a special room rate of \$84.99 per night.

www.comfortsuites.com/hotel-dillon-colorado-CO001

Morning song service will begin at 10:15 A.M.; worship service at 10:30; followed by lunch and afternoon service. Ministering Brothers from the Denver congregation will be responsible for the services, however we welcome and encourage visiting ministers to support this effort if your travel plans bring you out west this summer. The intent of these services is to alleviate *some* of the crowding that we tend to experience during the busy summer travel season. (*We don't want all our visitors to avoid Aurora!*) We welcome all our visitors and deeply appreciate the fellowship that we share in Christ, whether in Aurora, or at the optional location. **For more information, and to help us plan more effectively, please notify Bro. Tom Leman if you will be attending services on any of these dates.** (303) 696-1540 E-mail: lemantom@comcast.net

Please be our guest for a weekend of glorifying and praising God on the occasion of the

24th Annual LIVONIA APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN Benefit Dinner & Choir Program

to support the ministry of the

Woodhaven Retirement Community

*at the
Apostolic Christian Church
29575 Wentworth Street, Livonia, MI 48154*

Saturday, July 14, 2012

5:00 Dinner

7:00 Choir Program

Sunday, July 15th

10:15 Morning Worship

12:30 Afternoon Worship

For overnight accommodations, please reply by the 4th of July to Scott or Jamie Bahr at 734-513-5907 or spbahr@yahoo.com

Suggested possible nearby day trip: Greenfield Village www.thehenryford.org

Come to the 2012 Alabama/Tennessee Memorial Day Weekend on May 26-27

Looking for a place to enjoy singing, fellowship and worship during Memorial Day Weekend? If so, plan to attend the 2012 Alabama/Tennessee Memorial Day Weekend scheduled on May 26-27. During the weekend, speakers will discuss topics including the "History of small U.S. and International 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. Donation of auction items is appreciated. See additional weekend details below including a schedule of activities, motel accommodation options and driving directions.

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.

Everyone is invited and welcome to attend the weekend!

Please RSVP by Monday, May 14 to one of the contacts listed below.

Sis. Gwen Leuthold — 615-969-0958 or leutholdg@aol.com

Bro. Don Sauder — 615-373-8928 or don.sauder@juno.com

Bro. Kerwin Edelman — 256-777-1107 or 256-230-2151 or edelmanteam100@gmail.com

Bro. Andy Stoller — 330-682-8171 or andrew.stoller@juno.com

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 small U.S. and International 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

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

Fellowship Area in Pulaski, Tenn.—Super 8 (931)363-4501

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

Director of Nursing Needed

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

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



Education Intern

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

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

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www.acpublications.org*

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Word (Mark 16:15). Are we willing to do that? Would we be willing to do it if somehow the laws of the land changed, and we were going to be prosecuted for telling of Jesus? How would we live? Would we change? I would like to think we wouldn't change.

We know God's grace is sufficient for us. He tells us so (II Corinthians 12:9). In talking about temptations, He says He'll provide a way of escape. With every temptation He will provide a way of escape so we can bear it. (I Corinthians 10:13). Now that may not be a temptation. Maybe it will just be a persecution, but I would venture to say that God's faithfulness will be there as well. He said He will never leave us. (Hebrews 13:5) Do we have the confidence to believe that? Do we have the courage to place our trust in Him? Stephen did.

Maybe Stephen was all by himself, I don't remember. As he stood there before the counsel, charged falsely first of all, he gave an account. It says he sat in the counsel and people looked on him and saw his face as it had been the face of an angel. (Acts 6:15) I can just see Stephen sitting there with calmness. With calmness because why? He was an excellent speaker? No. Because he had his attorney beside him? No. Because he had the faith to believe Jesus would carry him through and God's Holy Spirit would be present and give him the words to speak. I'm told that sometimes people would rather die than stand before a group of people and give a presentation. It's not necessarily a comfortable thing to stand and talk in front of people. I stand before a friendly crowd. Think if it was a hostile crowd, and you had to stand and were falsely accused. Could you sit there steadfastly and with your face as the face of an angel?

Do you have that close relationship with Jesus, as we heard this morning, and have the confidence He will be with you each and every step of the way, or sometimes does our faith wane? Do we become a little lax in our faith? Perhaps do we look at the footprints in the sand as the poem says and say Lord, where are you? Or

do we know with full assurance that Jesus is carrying us? His desire is to carry us – to help us through the thick and thin.

Stephen spoke. It says he was full of faith and power. (Acts 6:8) That same faith and power that Stephen had access to years and years ago, we still have access to today. We may not be able to perform some of the miracles the apostles did of healing the sick, giving sight to the blind, or whatever it would be, but that same faith, that same power is still available today.

"And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake." v.10. It rubbed the people the wrong way, didn't it? It cut them to the heart because he spoke the truth and the people didn't want to hear it. It says, "And they stirred up the people, and the elders, and the scribes, and came upon him, and caught him, and brought him to the council, And set up false witnesses, which said, This man ceaseth not to speak blasphemous words against this holy place, and the law:" v.12-13. What must have been going through his mind?

Maybe I should ask what would be going through your mind? What would be going through my mind? So often I have to think of the verse in the Bible that says "...vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord." Romans 12:19. There are things done in this world, there are laws being passed, there are people promoting things that are so gross and sick it about makes me want to do something I shouldn't. We must remember that vengeance is mine; I will repay saith the Lord. It's not our department to take care of all of these problems. God is in control. God knows where our nation is going. Let's not follow it.

Let's be a follower of Jesus Christ each and every step of the way. The Bible calls us to be a peculiar people. (I Peter 2:9) That doesn't mean weird or strange. We need to be different. We need to be set apart. We need to be sanctified by the Holy Spirit, and we need not be ashamed, Loved Ones. We need not be ashamed. The Word tells us if we're ashamed of Him,

speaking of Jesus, He's going to be ashamed of us come judgment day. (Luke 9:26) Let's never be ashamed. I don't want to say we ought to be proud to be a follower of Jesus. We are thankful – maybe that's a better word. We are thankful to be a follower of Jesus and that He has called us out of sin and darkness and cleansed us with His blood.

We are a blessed people, and we have a great story because He did so much for me, I believe it says in that hymn (I Love to Tell the Story, v.2). Because He did so much for me, I'm willing to tell others about the old, old story of Jesus and His love. Are we doing it? Are we living it? By our fruit we are known the Word tells us. (Luke 6:44). Are people seeing the fruit? Maybe it doesn't matter so much that we are pleasing other people with our fruit. Our desire is to please the Heavenly Father – to please the Vine as we were reminded this morning hour.

Getting back to my point, I don't believe Stephen had a heart of vengeance. I know he didn't have a heart of vengeance because we read in the end of this chapter that he had a heart of Jesus. As Jesus was hung upon the cross, He said, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." Luke 23:34. Stephen kneeled down and cried with a loud voice as the stones were flying and his breath was departing, "...Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep." Acts 7:60. A heart of Stephen. A heart of Jesus. In the midst of a very treacherous situation, Stephen stood calm.

Stephen took this opportunity then to challenge, to share his defense. "And he said, Men, brethren, and fathers, hearken; The God of glory appeared unto our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Charran, And said unto him, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and come into the land which I shall shew thee." Acts 7:2,3. It goes on and on. It talks about God promising Abraham a land when he even had no children. (v.5) Our God is a faithful God. Our God is an all-knowing God. Old Abraham

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got a little concerned, didn't he? He said, God has granted me all this land to my posterity, those that would come after me, and I don't have any children. He took things into his own hands. (Genesis 16) He shouldn't have done that. God is faithful. God will provide the way. He always has and He always will if we trust Him.

It talks about Joseph. It didn't talk about him specifically, but we read about Jacob begetting the twelve patriarchs (Acts 7:8). "And the patriarchs, moved with envy, sold Joseph into Egypt: but God was with him," v.9. How must have Joseph felt – deserted by his eleven brothers, thrown in a hole, sold as slave into a foreign land? Who would have ever guessed that Joseph would have gained the status he had gained? Joseph was a man of faith. Obviously, at that time, Romans 8:28 hadn't been written yet. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." He didn't know that at that time. We have the opportunity to be the recipients of the Word of God which tells us those things. We can look back at Joseph and see God had Joseph's best interest at heart.

We could think of Daniel. We could think of all kinds of faithful men and women of old, in the Old Testament and New Testament, and how God was with them. We can take comfort in those accounts, but let's not just look at them as historical stories. This is the Living Word of God. The same God that was with Joseph, Daniel, David, so on and so forth is the same God who can be with us today. He is the God that was with Stephen as he gave his defense and the same God that was with Stephen as he had stones being thrown at him.

We skipped over a large portion of history in Stephen's defense. I just chose to read at verse 47 of Solomon building God a house. He built Him an earthly tabernacle. How is our house? What kind of house have we provided for the Holy Spirit? Does the Holy Spirit desire to reside within us? I trust He does. He wants to. He wants to direct our every step, every path we take. He wants to grant us

peace. He wants to grant us comfort especially when we are in sorrow. Let's make sure we keep our heart a clean, pure place for the Holy Spirit to reside.

Stephen didn't mince any words, did he? He talked about a stiffnecked people. "...uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye. Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One..." v.51-52. He didn't mince words. He told the truth. He spoke out boldly. Of course, hearing all this made the people irate. "...they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth. But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven..." v.54-55. I'm not sure if he looked up into heaven because he knew that's where his strength was coming from or if he hoped to see some vision of Jesus. I don't know for sure. It doesn't really matter, I don't think, but he was full of the Holy Ghost. He looked up into heaven, "...and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God," v.55.

It about chokes me up every time we read this particular scripture. I don't know what it is. I really enjoyed athletics as a kid. I never ran a race; well, field day I guess in grade school, but whether it's a cross country meet in high school or whether it's the Olympics, what happens when you get near to the finish line? Maybe it's even in all forms of racing, I don't know; I don't watch that sort of thing, but I have a pretty good idea that when things are getting down to the wire, close to the end, what happens? The crowd arises to their feet and they start yelling, screaming, and cheering. What are they doing? They are trying to encourage the team, the runner, You can do it! You're almost home! You're almost there! Don't give up!

I have to think of that as Stephen. He was standing there and he said "...Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God." v.56. It is my opinion that God knew this was the

end of Stephen's time. Maybe Stephen needed it. Maybe he didn't, but God gave him the courage unto the end. Jesus stood up and I believe gave Stephen the courage to go onward! Keep the faith! Stay true! Stay faithful! They are throwing rocks at you. They're really throwing rocks at me, He could have said. Jesus said it's not you they hate, it's me they hate (John 7:7). Don't be bitter Stephen! Some times things happen to us. Maybe a car crosses right in front of us, and we just about crash. We can about see our whole life in a matter of seconds. I don't know what all went through Stephen's mind as his life was coming to an end, but I just think every time of Jesus standing. How He must have been encouraging him onward – keep the faith, Stephen, you're almost home!

They cast him out of the city. They stoned him. (v.58). Interestingly enough, one of the power houses, if you will, of the New Testament was at that event – Saul. He was on the wrong side of God at that point in time of his life. Soon he would be converted by a miraculous conversion, but he was there. That gives me courage as well. We think of how bad Saul was, how much in the wrong direction he was going – going down the wrong path. But, God always grants us the opportunity to make a U-turn. He gave Saul the opportunity to make a great U-turn, and He's still granting the opportunity for us to make U-turns today.

If we're on the wrong path, He continues to beckon. He continues to call, Turn around! Come unto me all ye who are weak and heavily laden, and I will give you rest, Jesus said. (Matthew 11:28) Stephen found rest in Jesus, did he not? The stones flew, they took his life, but to repeat one more time, as he was dying there, he said, "...Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep." v.60. What a wonderful example to us today. One who was not bitter. One who was forgiving. One who never lost courage. One who never lost faith. Jesus was faithful to him and took him safely home. May He do the same for us.

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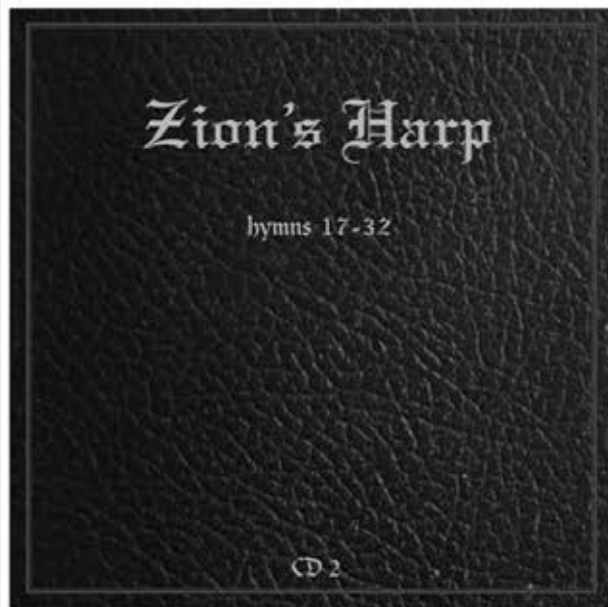


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APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN

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Seasons of Parenting

- Spoke 3 of 6 from the Parenting
With a Purpose Parenting Wheel

Biblical Basis: There are 2 scriptures that give us a starting point for discussing communications in parenting. *Proverbs 25:11* says, "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver." *Proverbs 18:13* instructs about the importance of listening, "He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him."

What purpose does this concept have in the parenting wheel? Effective communication is essential for a healthy relationship. Effective communication leads to enriched relationships as it allows parents to obtain information that will aid in their ability to lead their children.

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

•Communication takes a Speaker and a Listener: Good communication requires a Speaker role and a Listener role. The Speaker's goal is to share information while the Listener's goal is to understand the information that is being sent by the Speaker. While this may seem self-apparent, unfortunately many conversations take place with two Speakers and no Listeners! Parents must be willing to be both a Listener and a Speaker, not just one or the other.

•Watch out for Filters: Anything that comes between the Speaker and the Listener that interrupts or alters the message is a filter (or barrier) to good communication. Filters can be either environmental or internal. Environmental filters can be things like being in different rooms, noise, or someone listening to an iPod while others are trying to talk with them. Internal filters have to do with an individual's emotional and physical state. For example, being angry, frustrated, tired, or having a headache can all impact how a person speaks and listens.

•You Communicate Constantly: Communication takes place regardless of the presence or absence of words. This communication can either build or destroy relationships. Healthy communication facilitates growth, safety, clarity, and understanding.

•Communication and your Emotional State: A calm emotional state, plenty of rest, proper nourishment, and minimal filters between parents and children will make a big difference in communication. Remember, communication takes place whether the

conditions are ideal or not. Parents must work to communicate appropriately even when they are tired, frustrated, angry, and the circumstances do not lend themselves to healthy communication. Recognize when these challenges are present and look to the Lord for strength. Pray first, listen second, react last.

•Watch your Tongue! Scripture is very clear about the power of the tongue and the need for it to be controlled. Read *James 3:2-8* think about how it applies to parenting. We can see from this passage that we do not have the ability in and of ourselves to control the tongue. We need God's help! The good news is that He is willing and able to help us. *Colossians 4:6* provides good counsel, "Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man." To do this, we must submit ourselves to God, be prayerful, and grow in grace.

•Nonverbal Communication is Powerful: Be aware that nonverbal messages are constantly being sent. Facial expressions, tone of voice, eye contact, etc., all speak volumes. Also, remember that parents are modeling interpersonal skills to their children. If parents don't use good eye contact with children when they are talking to them, how will they learn to use good eye contact when other people are talking to them?

•Make Sure your "Walk" Matches your "Talk": *Matthew 5:37* teaches us the "yea, yea; nay, nay" principle. That is, we should say what we mean and mean what we say. When words and actions do not match, the Biblical instruction of meaning what is said is not being followed. Obviously this is a high calling, yet we are to take this standard seriously and desire to move toward it. When a parent's walk and talk don't match, they have the opportunity to model how to acknowledge their sin, repent, confess, and move forward.

•Knowing how to Communicate with your Child is Important: Learn which type(s) of questions each child will respond to best: open ended vs. closed or general vs. specific. Also know what type of tone is needed with each child. It is very likely that every child will respond differently from the others. Being aware of these differences and responding to them appropriately will help parents communicate more effectively with their children.

How does this concept benefit children?

•Intentional Communication Brings Clarity: When parents are intentional about what they communicate, it will reduce the probability of a child misinterpreting what was meant by what was said. We all put meaning to information. Parents who are willing to help place correct meaning to what is being said will help reduce conflict and frustration for both the child and the parents.

•What you Communicate is what you Teach: Communication in the home will shape how a child communicates with parents and others in his life. Displaying and teaching healthy communication skills at home is one way parents can model the Fruit of the Spirit to their child. The Fruit of the Spirit (*Galatians 5:22*) will then manifest themselves through healthy social skills such as being courteous and polite.

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

- 1) What are your strengths when it comes to communication? What are your spouse's strengths when it comes to communication? Your child's?
- 2) In what ways could your communication improve? What changes could you make that would help you communicate better with others?
- 3) Rate yourself on the following items from 1-10, with 1 being the lowest and 10 being the highest.
 - a. Communication
 - i. How well do you communicate your thoughts and feelings verbally? ____
 - ii. How well do your verbal and nonverbal messages match? ____
 - iii. How well do you avoid being negative or critical in your communication? ____
 - iv. How well are you communicating in a way that encourages and edifies? ____
 - b. Listening
 - i. How well do you listen? ____
 - ii. Ask your spouse how good of a listener he/she feels you are. ____
 - iii. Ask your child how good of a listener they feel you are. ____

Child Placement Manager (IL) Opening



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

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

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

Jeff Schumacher
 Administrator
 PO Box 125
 Leo, IN 46765
 jeff.schumacher@gatewaywoods.org
 1-888-443-4283 (GATE)

Short Term Service Opportunity at Hospital Lumiere

The Hospital Lumiere Governing Board is seeking an individual (or couple) to assist at the hospital in Bonne Fin, Haiti with on-site renovation support and coordination. This position is an opportunity to serve short term (8-12 weeks) through the intern program to provide project support for renovation work teams.



Responsibilities will include preparing for the arrival of work teams and providing coordination and support when a work team is present. The individual will assist the stateside Facilities Support Team Coordinator in planning for construction/renovation projects, distribution of materials and providing guidance for work teams at the hospital. An individual with some general construction background is preferred. The time period for this opening is 8-12 weeks beginning in May 2012. The opportunity may extend through August, if desired. You will reside on the Hospital campus with other brethren and missionary families.

For more information contact:

Daryl Luginbuhl ❖ 484-433-1205 ❖ darylluginbuhl@gmail.com

 APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
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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 |
|--|---|---|--|

Apostolic Christian Medical Fellowship

Greeting brothers and sisters,

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

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

Give a Child Hope

Child Sponsorships

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



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

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

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 Mr. Mrs. Miss

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Address _____

City _____ St ____ Zip _____

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 E-mail: 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 or 309-266-9009.

HAITI

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

| Project | Year 2012 | Coordinator | Capacity | | | | |
|---|-----------|---|----------|---|-----------|---|----|
| Bonne Fin, Haiti Hospital Lumiere Facility Renovation | May 5-12 | Daryl Luginbuhl 484-433-1205 darylluginbuhl@gmail.com | 12 | Bonne Fin, Haiti Hospital Lumiere Facility Renovation | Jul 14-21 | Daryl Luginbuhl 484-433-1205 darylluginbuhl@gmail.com | 12 |
| Bonne Fin, Haiti Hospital Lumiere Facility Renovation | Jun 2-9 | Daryl Luginbuhl 484-433-1205 darylluginbuhl@gmail.com | 12 | Bonne Fin, Haiti Hospital Lumiere Facility Renovation | Aug 4-11 | Daryl Luginbuhl 484-433-1205 darylluginbuhl@gmail.com | 12 |
| Les Cayes FRW Vocational School | Jun 8-15 | Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 rick@wuethrichfarms.com | 4 | | | | |

HAITI - MEDICAL WORK TEAMS

Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of April 11th, 2012 -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.

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

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

Haiti and Jamaica Work Team Code Definitions

CCCD=Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf

MEBSH = Missions of Evangelical Baptists of South Haiti

Palm Grove = Mission of Haiti

S.E.E.D. = An Agricultural School & Extension Service

TBA = To Be Announced

Palm Grove = Mission of Haiti

A.W.A. - B. = Apostolic Water Aid/Bluffton

A.W.A. - FRW = Apostolic Water Aid/Francesville, Remington,

Wolcott

A.W.A. - T = Apostolic Water Aid/Tremont

(*) = Changes or additions since last issue

()** = Spring Break Timeframe

MEXICO

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

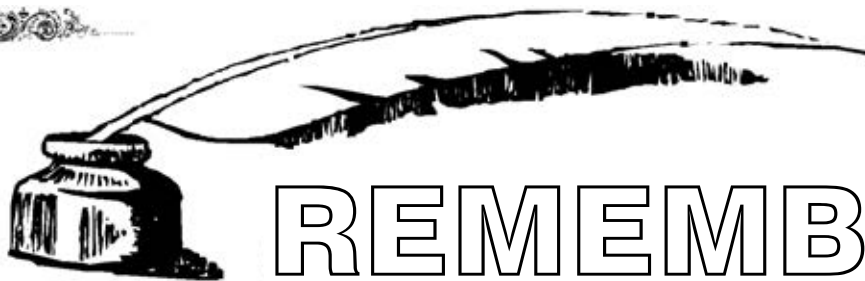
Greetings of love,

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 or 319-750-4014.

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

Tremont Single Focus Committee





REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

The autobiography of Elder Earnest Graf, Akron, Ohio continues. He came from Europe with his father and siblings, settled in Ohio, and became an Elder in our church, serving for many years.

Living With My Father

In the spring, my father took me home again after being with my sister for a whole year. My father, brother John, and sisters Rosa and Louise were still living on the Dave Brubaker property near Smithville. They had, in the meantime, acquired a cow and were living quite comfortably.

Father worked among the neighbors, John had undertaken the peddling of various articles called notions, while the girls kept house and now and then would work "out" for a week or two to help some neighbors. My job was to take care of the cow, the pigs and chickens, to hoe the potatoes and other garden stuff. We had lots of apples and peaches. I worked some for Mr. Brubaker and learned to plow, harrow, and cultivate. I attended various Sunday Schools and church services, but always felt more drawn toward the church where the Hilty family and also my sisters in Ashtabula had taken me, namely the Apostolic Christian Church.

Noticing Faithfulness

What appealed to me (regarding this church) was that I could see they were living up to its teachings. But though I felt this tendency in these early years, I had no opportunity to go at this time, and grew up much like other boys. This I can say, that I

never found any delight in being cruel to animals, or in doing harmful mischief. The following winter I attended Georgetown school, and had for a teacher a man named William Runkle, a middle-aged man.

Literary Society

The community formed what was called a Literary Society, and met one evening a week in the school house. There were declamations, essays, select readings, and debates on various questions, with sometimes a play or drama. All this interested me very much.

More Changes

The following spring, 1887, brought changes to our family. John had gone to Girard during the winter to learn the harness making trade with the Ludt brothers. The girls wished to go out and earn some money, so Father hired me out to a farmer named John Klopfenstein at \$ 6.00 per month and board. He sublet part of the house, keeping two rooms for himself, but he mostly boarded wherever he went. The cow and chickens were sold.

At my place I was treated well, but was kept at work from 4:00 a.m. until sundown. In many lines of work I could take a man's place, and I felt that I earned several times my wages. The Klopfensteins were Dunkards, and I usually went with them to church and Sunday School. On Sunday afternoons a number of boys my age would congregate at one or the other's house and often would roam through fields and woods. Usually one would invite the others to dinner, and if in the absence of the old folks there was no cooked meal, we

made serious inroads upon pantries and cupboards.

Farm Animals

Mr. Klopfenstein had a blind sorrel mare called Mand, which was very easy to ride, and he often allowed me an evening to ride her to go see my father, or any other place. Some of the other horses were wild, and I had two runaways that summer, which, however were not due to carelessness on my part, but to the poor condition of the harness. On one of these occasions I fell under a hay rake, and my escape with no more than a scar on my head was next to a miracle.

Mr. Klopfenstein had a coon dog and was a great hunter, much to the disgust of his good wife. He persuaded me a few times to go along on a coon hunt with him and a man named Sam Lytle, but the sport was no recompense for the weariness I would feel the following day, and I refused to go anymore.

Edited by

*Bro. Perry Klopfenstein,
Gridley, IL*

Next Issue:

This autobiography continues.

(Note: This autobiography on Bro. Graf is fairly lengthy, and many pages remain to be printed in this series. Since biographies and general information on our church leaders in our early American church are rare, it has been decided to continue these personal writings. His life surely depicts the privations and general lifestyle of many of our early members in America).

The Light Of Hope

“Submit To Authority”

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

How are we doing in regard to being submissive? Do we have a submissive spirit? The Bible says quite a lot about being submissive.

In Ephesians 5:21 we find the words, “Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.” To say that we must submit to each other in the fear of God indicates that if we don’t submit we are in danger of displeasing God, and that’s quite serious. On the contrary, we may be inclined to believe that we do not have to submit to anyone, that we are working for the Lord and we don’t have to be concerned about displeasing God. Besides, salvation is by grace through faith and God is very loving and merciful. Therefore, I can be self-willed and I don’t have to listen to anybody. However, that is not what I believe the Bible teaches. Unless we are willing to submit to each other in a loving way, we will not have true peace and unity in the church.

When I say that I immediately have the feeling that the Holy Spirit is prompting me to ask, “What about if church leaders tell me to do that which I believe is not in accordance with God’s will, or tell me not to do that which I believe is God’s will for me to do?” This makes it a little complicated but if your church leaders are true God-fearing men, I believe you should submit to them in every way except that you want to humbly serve God. They probably will not be against that.

The case of Martin Luther comes to mind. He disagreed with his church’s leaders because they were selling indulgences and promoting this sale of the forgiveness of sin for money, which is not according to the Word of God. It was a way of

making money by encouraging sinful living. We should not submit to our church leaders if they are doing something like that. The Bible assumes that church leaders are obeying God.

Submitting yourselves to one another goes farther than simply submitting yourself to church leaders. Those in the pews should also submit themselves to each other.

The verse that I once used with someone in trying to encourage better cooperation with our church leaders is found in Hebrews 13:17, “Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give an account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.” I was told, “Don’t you pull that on me.” We must look out for the tendency to be uncooperative with no good reason. That is indeed unprofitable for the individuals concerned. Things may seem to be going well for 10 or 20 years but then regrets may come upon those who have had such an experience. It is much better to be with our brethren, and to strive to maintain that peace and unity.

In James 4:7 we read, “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” God represents authority, the highest authority there is. Church leaders also represent authority, not to build up themselves but authority to keep order in the church. When the principal of a school is no longer considered an authority there is chaos in the school.

This verse in James also indicates that if we are not willing to submit ourselves to God and do what His Word teaches, it is the

devil that is influencing us in that direction. The devil may often be at work and we don’t realize it. We may be patting ourselves on the back about what a good work we are doing, and it may be a good work, but the devil wants it to be at a terrible cost.

I have been thinking and writing about submission. What do you think about it? There should be easier things to write about, but still, it is in the Bible.

Now lets turn to the example of the Lord Jesus Christ. We are taught that we should be like Jesus. I John 2:6 reads, “He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.”

Was Jesus submissive? Not to the Pharisees, He wasn’t. But He certainly was submissive to the Heavenly Father. In the garden of Gethsemane He said, Matthew 26:39, “O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.” Here the Lord Jesus Christ submitted Himself to the Father’s will. He also submitted Himself to being a servant when He washed His disciples feet.

What was the benefit of Christ being submissive? The benefit is, that through His submission and obedience, you and I have salvation and eternal life. The resurrection is also a benefit of Christ’s submission. The angel said, “He is not here: for he is risen.” Matthew 28:6.

If we can be submissive in a Godly way for a Godly purpose, the benefits are great. To submit to authority is not very popular these days but God’s Word teaches it.

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



*Even as the springtime flowers
Grow beneath the sun's warm rays,
So the Lord by His own powers
Makes us garlands for His praise;
He invites most lovingly;
Little children, come to Me!
All should truly know Him ever,
Call Him Brother, Lord, and Saviour!*

Zions Harp 166 vs.3