

# *The Silver Lining*

*To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:  
A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;  
A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;  
A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;  
A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;  
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;  
A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;  
A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;  
A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.*

*Ecclesiastes 3:1-8*

*May 2012*

Sermon by Bro. Wayne Wiegand, Goodfield, IL

## Job 23 & Romans 12

Greetings to all, and welcome to God's house on a Lord's Day morning. We can come together again with the confidence that the Lord knows our cares, our concerns, our needs and that He can speak to us through His Holy Word. What a precious privilege we have again this morning.

Whenever we think of Job, we usually think of his prosperity. Yet God knew his heart that he was His servant and His child, and He wanted to help him. Yet we know that in Job's life God allowed the devil to take all that he had, including his health. None of us know what conversation may be going on today between God and the devil concerning me or you. So, we just need to continually trust that God is in control, and if He sees fit that we would have some trials and struggles in our life that we may feel that are unfair, we need to look at the book of Job and see how God dealt with him and how Job responded. We can be thankful, can't we, that we have examples like this in God's Word. We all know and need to consider again this morning how fragile life is and how short – it's like a vapor.

Just yesterday morning as I opened the paper I noticed two young men, teenagers, in southern Illinois, lifted up an irrigation pipe and were electrocuted – in the bloom of their youth. Gone! In Michigan, a sixteen year old just put the winning basket in the basketball hoop and thirty seconds later dropped over dead. None of us know, Dear Ones, do we, when our time will come. The Word tells us that God has set the bound of our habitation here upon this earth. (Acts 17:26) None of us know where that is, but He does. It might be today. It might be next week. It might be fifty years from now, but we need to consider our walk with Him today and where we stand even as Job did. Job considered his standing with God and how God had dealt with him. He didn't understand it all as we don't understand it all, and yet we can see some of his thoughts.

"Then Job answered and said, Even to day is my complaint bitter: my stroke is heavier than my groaning. Oh that I knew where I might find him! that I might come even to his seat! I would order my cause before him, and fill my mouth with arguments." Job 23:1-4. We consider here as he was talking about God and wondering where he could find God – if he could just find Him and go and speak to Him in person. That is kind of how we are sometimes, aren't we? We feel a little bit distant from God. It might

be because we haven't been into His Word, we haven't spent the time in prayer that we should, and we feel a little bit distant. We wonder if we could just open His door, walk in, sit down in His office, and visit with Him. Job considered that at this time.

"Will he plead against me with his great power?..." v.6. He asks that question about God. He knew that God was all powerful and God could do anything with him, with the world, and with the people who were depressing and subduing him at the time. Yet he says, "...No; but he would put strength in me." v.6. That was his faith. What about you and me today, Dear Ones? Do we realize that when we are weak, God can show His power in us? We feel that weakness, don't we, Dear Ones – our nothingness so much and so often. We realize that of ourselves we are nothing. We are not even going to be able to stand against the wiles of the devil and keep our promise to stay true and faithful that we made there in the waters of the baptism. But as Job said, God will give us the strength that we need each day. Let's trust in Him. Let's believe it today that God is powerful and He will give us the strength we need to go forward.

"Behold, I go forward, but I cannot perceive him: and backward, but I cannot perceive him: On the left hand, where he doth work, but I cannot behold him; he hideth himself on the right hand, that I cannot see him: But he knoweth the way that I take..." v.8-10. He still knows, even though I don't see it, I don't understand Him, I don't know where He is for sure, but I have faith to know that He knows the way that I take. He knows my every step. Let's think about that this week when maybe things aren't going like we think they ought to go. God knows. God knows each step. "...when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold." v.10. He understood it didn't he. At that point he understood. Maybe through it all he didn't understand why, but he knew that he was being tried. He knew if he overcame, continued in his faith and purpose to serve God, and was faithful unto Him, that eventually he would come forth as gold. Maybe we're in that struggle today. Maybe we're just being purified. Maybe God is working in our heart, mind, and life today to help us draw closer to Him that we may be more valuable to Him and that we would come forth as gold. Let's trust Him today as Job trusted Him as his King and his Lord. What a faithful God we serve! We can see how years ago Job

Sermon continued on page 41

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*"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man, but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able..."*

1 Cor. 10:13

May 2012

# Light From The Word



Writings based  
on God's Word

## Lessons from the Temptation of Christ

A wise soldier studies his opponent so that he knows how to defeat him and is not taken off-guard and defeated himself. As Christians, Satan is our enemy. Like good soldiers, we must be vigilant in learning his tactics in the battle for our souls. Perhaps no passage of Scripture reveals Satan's tactics so clearly as Matthew 4:1-11, an account of Christ's temptation in the wilderness. Following are nine particular lessons it holds for us.

**Be extra careful following mountaintop experiences.** In the preceding chapter Christ had just heard his Father's public affirmation: "*This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased*" (Matt. 3:17). As often happens, however, that mountaintop experience was immediately followed by an emotional and spiritual valley. God does not tempt man with evil (Jam. 1:13-14), but He does allow us to be tempted. Why? For one thing, He is glorified in our obedience, and we cannot demonstrate obedience unless we have the opportunity to disobey. Perhaps this is why, in His foreknowledge, He frequently allows a time of spiritual struggle after a spiritual high point. He faithfully prepares us for the battles He knows we will have to fight and, by His grace, are able to win (1 Cor. 10:13).

**Satan attacks when we are weak and attacks our areas of weakness.** After forty days of fasting in the wilderness, Jesus was alone, hungry, and undoubtedly exhausted. Satan deliberately chose such a time to strike. What did he strike first? Christ's legitimate desire for food. Eerily reminiscent of his opening words in Eden, "*Yea, hath God said...?*" (Gen. 3:1), Satan's first words to Christ were, "*If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread*" (Matt. 4:3). He often starts by raising doubt before trying to destroy our faith.

**Satan seeks to defile God's purpose.** Food is intended to nourish our earthly bodies, but why did God create our bodies with this need in the first place? It is one way that He points us to Himself. Our bodies' hunger for food reflects our souls' hunger for God. That is why Christ called himself the "*bread of*

*life*" that removes hunger forever (John. 6:35). Could Christ have made stones into bread? Yes. Would He have been wrong to do so? Perhaps not, but He understood the aim of Satan's subtle suggestion. To regard physical food as the ultimate satisfaction for His desires would be to place His own will above His Father's will. His reply was brilliant: "*It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God*" (Matt. 4:3-4). God created everything for a purpose, but *nothing* exceeds our need to depend on Him for sustenance.

**Scripture is the best weapon against Satan.** To each of Satan's challenges, Christ responded with the Word of God. God's Word is the sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17), "*quick and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, ... and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart*" (Heb. 4:12). It is our best and most reliable weapon in spiritual battle.

**Satan seeks to leverage our victories against us.** The devil is crafty. He knows we are sometimes weakest when we feel strong. Satan didn't waste any time in seeking to capitalize on Christ's victory and the potential for pride that might have accompanied it. "*If thou be the Son of God,*" he said, "*cast thyself down [from this great height]. For it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee, and in their hands they shall bear thee up...*" (Matt. 4:6). As a man, perhaps Christ was tempted to show that He could do it. He was certainly capable. But again, His focus was on God's will, not His own. "*Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God*" (Matt. 4:7), He replied, quoting Scripture once again.

**Satan uses Scripture to deceive.** Having been beaten by Scripture once, Satan sought to twist truth to his own advantage. We saw this same tactic in Eden when Satan correctly told Eve that her "*eyes [would] be opened*" and she would know good and evil by eating the forbidden fruit (Gen. 3:5). It is true that God can send His angels to catch someone who is falling, but only if it is in His will. We cannot manipulate His will to our desires.

**Satan knows we are impatient.** We know that God is faithful and will ultimately be victorious. We know He will fulfill His plan for each of our lives in His time. "*Wait on the Lord,*" encouraged David (Ps. 27:14). "*Ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise*" (Heb. 10:36), said the writer of Hebrews. But waiting is hard. We so often want the promise now!

Christ knew He would conquer death and hell, but while He was fully God, He was also fully man. Thus, it must have been tempting when Satan showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and said, "*All these things will I give thee if thou wilt fall down and worship me*" (Matt. 4:9). In other words, let's just take care of the whole thing right now. The catch, of course, was that in doing so, the Author of Truth would submit himself to the father of lies. With the fate of eternity at stake, Christ defeated Satan: "*Get thee hence, Satan, for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve*" (Matt. 4:10).

**God rewards our faithfulness.** Immediately following His rebuke of Satan, God sent angels to strengthen His Son. "*Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you*" (Jam. 4:7-8). God was there all the time, just as Jesus promised all of us who will faithfully follow Him: "*...lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world*" (Matt. 28:20).

**Temptation is not a sin.** Jesus Christ was "*...in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin*" (Heb. 4:15). Being tempted is not a sin; giving in to temptation is sin (Jam. 1:15). Furthermore, Satan can only act to the extent that God allows him to act, and God's will is for all men to be on His side (1 Tim. 2:4) and to be victorious (2 Cor. 2:14). If we submit to His control, He will provide the strength necessary for victory.

As Christ demonstrated, and as promised in 1 Corinthians 10:13, there is always a way of escape from temptation, if we will avail ourselves to the promised grace and the knowledge of the enemy that we have learned by experience and in the Word of God.

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

Suggestions for subjects are welcome and can be sent to:

Silver Lining Editorials, 1377 County Rd 1600 N, Roanoke, IL 61561 or by e-mail to [cleman1377@gmail.com](mailto:cleman1377@gmail.com)



## APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN Mission Committee

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

### Mission Committee Update and Focus

The Mission Committee has been prayerfully considering how to better provide opportunities for the Apostolic Christian Church family to fulfill the biblical obligation and privilege of sharing the gospel message to the lost. Proverbs 29:18 says *"Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he."*

Whether sharing the hope in Christ is at home, next door, across the land or in another country, we ask the Lord's leading that we may edify the church and bring glory and honor to God. *"Ye shall receive power at the coming of the Holy Spirit upon you, and ye shall be witnesses to me both in Jerusalem (close to home), and in all Judea (reaching out), and Samaria (reaching still further), and unto the end of the earth."* ACTS 1:8

Three areas of sharing the gospel that are supported by the Mission Committee are Bible distribution, engaging our Apostolic Christian Church family, and establishing and nurturing churches.

#### Bible distribution

Distributing the precious Word of God is a significant opportunity managed through the Mission Committee. Bibles are purchased by the truck load and many are distributed to interested souls via direct contacts, hotels, truck stops and media ads by our local churches. Bibles are also distributed through programs such as prison contacts, college campus distribution, and through various World Relief work activities, including Child Sponsorship programs in several countries.

A growing recognition of accountability has encouraged us to explore possibilities of closer follow up and support for those receiving Bibles.

#### Utilizing our brotherhood

A goal for mission work in the church is to communicate to the brotherhood what opportunities exist and encourage participation by those who are called by the Holy Spirit. The many ways to participate include prayer for close friends and family that have not yet answered the call for salvation, Bible distribution, financial donations, and short or long term mission assignments.

Long term assignments supported by the Apostolic Christian Servant Fund are accomplished through the Mission Committee process for selecting, preparing, sending, and nurturing brethren who are sent. It begins with fervent prayer on the part of the individual, counsel with a home church elder, a formal application to and evaluation by a Mission subcommittee.

Sending outside the U.S. also requires compatible needs and available funding to fulfill an assignment in one of the approved mission programs. This process is designed to engage faithful brethren to assist in the many facets of sharing the gospel message.

#### Establishing and nurturing churches

Another Mission Committee goal is to develop processes and guidelines for establishing and nurturing new churches both within and without the United States. This includes a clear focus, not only on presenting the Gospel message to the lost, but nurturing the believer to a sanctified life, preserving sound doctrine, and

offering humble deeds of service. Establishing and nurturing viable Apostolic Christian churches is the nucleus of our mission work. This can only be accomplished by faithful and willing brethren through obedience to and guidance from the Holy Spirit (1 TIM. 3:15).

The Small Church Support Committee supports the work of the Mission Committee and is actively engaged in seeking ways to encourage and nourish small churches in the U.S.

#### Working with World Relief

Over the years spiritual outreach has been the primary focus of the Mission Committee and reducing human suffering has been the main focus of World Relief. Brethren have recognized that neither activity can occur in a vacuum. Both organizations also recognize a need to work more closely together in order to better fulfill the mission of Christ.

We also embrace the need to deliberately include in all outreach activities "nurturing the believer" and "preserving sound doctrine," thus balancing all four pillars of the Apostolic Christian church. To this end, both organizations are examining ways to integrate our efforts, reduce overlap and at the same time increase collaboration, biblical accountability, and a more unified structure as the Lord would lead.

#### In appreciation

The Mission Committee sincerely appreciates your interest, sincere prayers, and your support as we strive to spiritually discern and faithfully fulfill His will. More information is available at the Apostolic Christian Mission web site at [www.acmission.org](http://www.acmission.org).



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
**World Relief**

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

## That Ye May Be Healed

The ministry of Jesus Christ was involved with the healing of the body, soul and mind. Recognizing that all healing comes from the Lord, we also find opportunities for our ministry to address the needs of the whole person.

In the last twenty five years World Relief has sent over 40 Medical-Dental teams to Mexico to set up clinics in medically underserved areas, such as Juarez, Copper Canyon and Reynosa. Medical work in Ixtlan has consisted of cataract surgery clinics, eye glass clinics and five medical teams with paramedics, EMT's, RN's, physicians and translators.

They also provided emergency medical training to the local ambulance squad which provides service for several communities and transports patients to a higher level of care. This work supports the spiritual ministry of the local church in Ixtlan.



### Work team to Ixtlan

In October 2011 the Lord opened the way for another medical team to Ixtlan. The plan was to set up a medical clinic, provide training with the ambulance crew and be a positive witness in the community.

The team set up the clinic in Ixtlan and in a neighboring village. They assessed vital signs, screened for diseases, gave health education, and dispensed free medication as needed. Health kits which are carefully packaged by our brethren at home were distributed to all who came to the clinic. Many "muchas gracias" were expressed when opening the health bag to find a bar of soap, comb, washcloth, nail clipper, toothbrush and toothpaste.



Spanish Bibles were also distributed. It is encouraging to see people eager to have a Bible of their own and hungry for God's word. An added blessing to having a medical clinic in Ixtlan is having brethren from the church participate with the clinic. It provided an opportunity for them to interact and serve those in their community. The team also worked with the local health clinic. At the end of the day the man who takes care of the clinic stated, "We really appreciate what has been done for our community." May God's name be glorified.

Team members were able to spend time with the ambulance crew teaching skills to rapidly manage an accident scene and victims. Later in the day the local Ixtlan physicians joined the training to learn and practice new CPR updates.

Several challenges were shared

regarding keeping an ambulance service in Ixtlan. The ambulance, which was the best in a two hour radius, needs a new motor and other mechanical work. Also the defibrillator and ventilator equipment, originally donated by World Relief, needs to be updated and replaced.

Another opportunity for the team was supporting the Ixtlan church family. It is encouraging to fellowship with the same faithful brethren each year, and especially to see children grow up and become part of the church family. Little did we realize when meeting the Gonzales family on our first visit to Ixtlan, that they would become believers and good friends, help us on other medical teams in Mexico and then encourage us to provide a clinic in "their" town of Ixtlan.

The team enjoyed Thursday evening church, Bible study, young group gathering/singing on Saturday evening, Sunday church and evening singing and visiting in the homes of the believers.

### How you can be involved

Your prayers will be appreciated for the Ixtlan church to continue to be a light and a positive witness in the community, for future World Relief medical and dental teams to assist with the mission of the church and for the local ambulance equipment and other needs.

You can provide financial support by giving to World Relief medical missions via your local WR representative or on the website. If we receive more than is needed for Ixtlan (estimated \$25,000), the money will be used for other medical missions and supplies. For more information, contact Cheryl Herrmann 309-385-1082 or [cherrmann@frontier.com](mailto:cherrmann@frontier.com).

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

“Salvation belongeth unto the LORD: thy blessing is upon thy people. Selah.”

*Psalms 3:8*

Looking back over the winter, we are all counting our blessings. The residents feel very blessed to have had such a mild winter. Many of the residents were able to go attend outings that in colder months would have prevented their attendance like Christmas parties hosted by local churches and taking early spring walks outside. Once a month, the residents are blessed to have different church groups come to Timber Ridge to have a singing with them.

The mild weather this winter has also made it easier for residents to go out and participate in activities in the community. Many go to Sunday school and were recently able to perform at the Morton Apostolic Christian Church Easter Program. The residents are blessed to have different Sunday school groups and Young Groups come in to help with crafts and play games throughout the year. Many of the residents are also excited about starting gardens this year. Flowers and seeds are being purchased with the expectations of growing beautiful flowers and fresh foods to snack on over the summer months. We are looking forward to how He will continue to bless us in the future.

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

In September of 2011, I began working in the Home-Based and Adoption Departments at Gateway Woods. I had formerly enjoyed my time studying in Chicago, Illinois, and the transition to Leo has been a time that God has used to refine my life. I pray that it is for His

glory alone.

One of the things the Lord has been pressing upon my heart is the idea of letting God BE my strength. Not being content with asking for His strength, but being confident that God is my strength, my discernment, my comfort, my stability and so much more. Isaiah 40:31 reads, “But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.” I find that God is so faithful when I choose to find my strength in the Him and not myself.

One of my favorite experiences from the past seven months at Gateway Woods involves a parenting class I have been teaching as part of our Home-Based Program. We have partnered with a faith-based organization in Fort Wayne called International House, which has programs to teach, reach out and integrate the immigrants and refugees of Fort Wayne to the area. We are able to teach of how God is the ultimate parent and then draw on practical skills the women can use in their own home. This is a ministry that reaches women of all religions and all aspects of life. Last week the class focused on the concept of being a good role model to their children. It was a reminder to myself of the beautiful model God should be in my own life.

I am blessed to be here at Gateway Woods with such wonderful Staff, supporters, advocates and prayer warriors. I continue to expect great things from God as He works through us, is our strength, and reveals Himself in this place and for His glory.

*News:*

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

- Congratulations to Sis. Christa Gasser who has been brought on as our Summer Education Intern. Sis. Christa will graduate from the University of Akron in June and will be a great asset to the Education Staff this summer.

- We have had four adoptive placements in the past month. All four of the children are from Ethiopia. Please pray for the adoptive parents and children as they grow together. We praise God for the opportunity to place these children into a forever home.

- Gateway Woods School has been granted accreditation from the Association of Christian Schools International. This is a triumph for the Staff as it took many months of dedication and hard work to meet the standards set forth by such a well-respected organization. Plus, it automatically earns accreditation by the North Central Association, the key accreditation body for college and high schools in the Midwest. This accreditation provides an extra level of safety and increases our school's ability to transfer student credits to other educational facilities, public and private.

- Recently, a former NBA player, Bay Forrest spoke to our Staff and residents. For many years he has traveled to colleges and high schools sharing insights about his past, but more importantly about the difference Christ and God's word can make in our lives. He challenged each one to ask, seek and knock.

- The annual Gateway Woods school play, *The Trouble with Being Tucker Dowt*, is coming up on May 12. This is a great opportunity for our students to use and develop their acting skills.

- Looking forward to summer? Consider our final remaining summer full-time position at Gateway Woods. We are searching for a Top Quality Coordinator. Please see the notices in *The Silver Lining* or email Adam McAfee at [adam.mcafee@gatewaywoods.org](mailto:adam.mcafee@gatewaywoods.org) for more information.

- We are grateful to God for providing us with a wonderful Staff. We currently have four career positions available. We have an opening for a Teacher, an Illinois Adoption Manager, a Foster Care Program Manager and a Foster Care Child Placement Case Worker. For more information please see the notice in this month's edition of *The Silver Lining* or visit the Career Op-

opportunities page on our website at: [www.gatewaywoods.org/supporters/career-opportunities](http://www.gatewaywoods.org/supporters/career-opportunities). We trust that God will continue to provide qualified, mature brothers and sisters who will serve Him in a ministry that is 'Turning Lives Around'. Perhaps this includes you!

- You are an important advocate to help us spread the word about God's work at Gateway Woods. Please continue to lift us up in prayer, check our website [www.gatewaywoods.org](http://www.gatewaywoods.org) and our Facebook page at [facebook.com/gatewaywoods](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](mailto:mail@gatewaywoods.org)

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

Our themes for April were Easter, the color green, and plants. We studied the letters W through Z. We had an Easter party at the beginning of the month. The parents got to participate in the holiday activities. The students sang several Easter songs for their parents (My Jesus is Alive, At the Cross, Easter is a Time of Joy, and I Love Jesus). Ms. Louise had a great idea of painting flower pots and planting some flowers to watch them grow. Each student got their own flower pot and have been watching the plants grow over the past month. Students planted anything from flower seeds to bulbs to carrots! Hopefully our baby carrots will be ready to eat in a couple months. Maybe Ms. Barbara can incorporate them into our lunch! In addition to finishing up our ABC curriculum, each class has been practicing hard for the Graduation. We have seven graduates this year and we wish them well as they prepare for "Big School". Our graduates are Katie, Lauren, Alyssa, Madysen, Shane, Joseph, and Braylen.

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**ALABAMA, ATHENS  
Roger and Becky Roberts**

*Three Rusty Nails*

This is a story of long ago,  
Of a man who owned a little store.  
He said, "I was proud to have my  
name up over the door."  
It was some 2000 years ago, as I recall,  
Located in Jerusalem, across the  
street from Pilate's Hall,  
I thought I had everything anyone  
would need,  
And folks would come from miles  
around, regardless of their creed.  
I thought I had but one thing that I  
could not sell,  
And that was, over in a corner on a  
shelf, three old, rusty spike nails.  
Then one day a big Roman soldier  
came through the door,  
And as he walked up to me, it  
seemed that he shook the floor.  
I said, "Can I help you, Sir?," in a  
voice that I guess seemed frail,  
He looked at me with a sneering  
grin and said, "I want to buy  
some nails."  
"Three old rusty nails is all I have."  
"That'll do,  
For the job I have, three are enough.  
Now, how much do I owe you?"  
He placed the money in my hand  
and I was glad to make the sale.  
But then I wondered and I asked  
him, "Sir, what can you do with  
just three nails?"  
"Did you ever hear of a man called  
Jesus of Nazareth?"  
"You mean the one that goes about  
only doing good?"  
"That's Him. Today I intend to  
show the world who's boss,  
For with these three nails, I'll nail  
Jesus to the cross!"  
I stood there numb; you'll never  
know just how I felt.  
I said, "Please, Please, Sir, don't do  
that," as on my knees I fell.  
He just turned and walked away. I  
got up and followed him.  
I said, "Please, won't you let me buy  
them back?"

He turned away with a grin. And  
soon in the distance I could see  
the howling mob,  
Through tears that filled my eyes.  
"Away with him," "Crucify him," I  
could hear their angry cries.  
And over all that noise, in groans of  
agony,  
I could hear the sound of that old  
hammer, in the hand of that big  
Roman soldier,  
And he nailed my Jesus to the tree.  
—Source unknown

Do we think of the nails that we have  
driven into Christ's body? How would  
have we felt if we were the one who sold  
the nails? What do you think the sol-  
diers thought when Jesus willingly laid  
down on the cross? Most people who  
were being crucified probably put up a  
fight before being nailed to the cross.

Christ is Risen! Hallelujah! is the  
message our Sunday school brought to  
us this month. Do we daily sing Hallelu-  
jah for what Christ has done for us?

We were thankful that the following  
ministers came for the preschool board  
meeting and joined us for Communion:  
Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville,  
OH), Elder Bro. Ted Steffen (Alto, MI),  
Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield,  
OH), Elder Bro. Ted Witzig (Morton,  
IL), Bro. Duane Reutter (Rockville,  
CT), Bro. Daron Price (Milford, IN).  
What a blessing to have many of their  
wives with them. Also serving on our  
pulpit this month were Bro. David  
Oberghel and Sis. Kathy (Peoria, IL),  
Bro. Jeff Waibel and Sis. Margo and  
family (Leo, IN), Bro. Randy Mogler  
and Sis. Evie (Washington, IL). Elder  
Bro. Ted Witzig and Sis. Cindy returned  
to share with us on Easter Sunday.

We are looking forward to the bap-  
tisms of three young ladies who have  
given their lives to Jesus and confess  
peace with God and man. Looking for-  
ward to baptisms are Jessica and Amber  
Edelman (Bro. Kerwin and Sis. Sara)  
and Rhoda Roberts (Bro. Roger and Sis.  
Becky).

Please continue to pray for Sis. Mae  
Haggenmaker who has spent quite a bit  
of time in the hospital. We miss having

her in church with us.

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## ARIZONA, PHOENIX

All things bright and beautiful...  
the sunset and the morning  
which brighten up the sky!  
Hymns of Zion, #207

What a glorious morning we shared at the home of Bro. Robert and Sis. Christine Baum's home on Easter Sunday! Bro. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Washington) led the sunrise service and we are so grateful to him for his visit and loving message! The view of God's creation was breath-taking!

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Baum family since the cancer diagnosis of Bro. Robert (Ducky) Baum. Others needing our prayers are Bro. Ed Frautischi as he moves to his daughter's home in TN to recuperate, Sis. Louann Klopfenstein, Jeni Severa, Sis. Eleanor Hill, Sis. Heather Hinrichsen, Bro. John Pulfer, Sis. Ruby Barna, Ruth Finley, Bro. Allan and Sis. Edith Freed, Sis. Shirley Mohrman, Bro. Kenny and Sis. Mary Jo Schmidgall, Sis. Deanna Beyer, Bro. Jim Beres, Dakota Thorpe, Bro. Jacob Hoerr, Sis. Bertha Miller, Bro. Rudy Bertschi, and Carl Steffen.

Our Easter Sunday School program on Palm Sunday was a delight to all! Many thanks to the teachers and students who reminded us of our Lord's ultimate sacrifice and His resurrection!

Sis. Diane (Bro. Tom) Ebert's mother, Sis. Verna Woodward, passed away in Burlington, IA. Sis. Diane also lost her father just three short months ago! What a comfort to know His timing is perfect and we can anticipate a great reunion someday! Our sympathy goes to Sis. Diane's family as well: Sis. Jen Hamilton (Bro. Bill), Bro. Jeremy (Sis. Janelle) Ebert, Amy (Patrick) Swain, Bro. Adam (Sis. Whitney) Ebert.

Our visiting ministers this month have been: Elder Bro. Steve Ringer (Sis. Myra, Bluffton North), Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis), Bro. James Fehr (Sis. Brenda, Tremont), and Elder Bro. Randy

Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City). God bless you for visiting our congregation and we hope you can come see us again soon!

As we look forward to the end of another school year, may we be prayerful for our graduates and the many life decisions that lay ahead of them.

"In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy paths."

*Proverbs 3:6*

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## ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

### Denise Steidinger

Our children in Sunday School put together Easter baskets for 30 children in foster care in Prescott. It broke my heart when we delivered the baskets to the agency and heard some of the stories of these children. We can't sit idly by and let children suffer for the sins of their fathers and mothers. We are called to show them love. They need a Savior and a God who is bigger than their circumstances, but they need us to show them that God. Healing can come for these little ones, but we have to be willing to let God use our hands and feet to bring it to them. We are prayerful for opportunities to continue to minister to those that are hurting, neglected and lonely.

Our Sunday School Easter program was on Palm Sunday. The children did a wonderful job singing and proclaiming the story of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Our congregation continued our study in the book of Romans in the second half of chapter 2, with the main admonition to not be a hypocrite. Be genuine to the core! The Jews put a lot of confidence in the fact that they were circumcised, yet the outward symbol of circumcision was nothing without the inner reality of the cleansing of sin by God. "For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love." (Gal. 5:6)

We sincerely extend our thanks for those who travelled to minister God's Word to us this past month: Bros. David

Hartter (Sis. Beth, Sabetha), Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Sis. Nancy, Phoenix), Steve Baner (Sis. Donna Lou, Gridley) Dan Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford), Gary Anliker (Sis. Edie, Elgin) and Keith Hinrichsen (Sis. Tammy, Phoenix).

We received a call from a ministering brother that is coming out to preach next month that asked what he could do while he was here to best serve and minister to our congregation. We appreciate his heart to serve and model the attitude of our Lord Jesus, who humbled himself to become a servant on our behalf in obedience to God, and died on a cross. We are prayerful that we can each become more like Jesus by His grace.

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## ARIZONA, TUCSON

### Lisa Knapp

It's not often that I get to report that our church family has grown by a total of four! We are thankful and excited to welcome Bro. Tom Koch from Tremont. Bro. Tom has moved to Tucson for his work at Caterpillar and we are so glad to have him here. We also welcome Bro. Dean and Sis. Jackie Knobloch and Bro. Andy Knobloch (Goodfield, IL) as they have all recently become Arizona residents. They are getting settled in and enjoying their time with family members, Bro. Chris, Sis. Sara and Isaias Hattan. We are blessed to have them here as well! We hope all four of them feel warmly welcomed and very much appreciated as we have already put Bro. Andy to work leading singing. God continues to provide abundantly for our little church, praise be to Him!

Elder Bro. Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL) and his wife, Sis. Mary, were with us for a recent Wednesday evening. We so appreciated their visit and Bro. Steve's willingness to serve on the pulpit. Thank you for coming!

It's April 22 but summer is apparently anxious to visit us this year. This past week we flirted with the 100 degree mark. I don't think we officially hit 100, but my car evidently felt the heat, registering over 100 degrees on my dashboard display. I didn't appreciate the inaccuracy at all! We are supposed to



cool off a bit by mid-week, but I'm sure that 100 degree mark isn't far off. We are always hopeful it will delay until June, but we are frequently disappointed. I suppose that is why God calls us to look to heaven - no disappointment there.

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## CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Our small fellowship has been blessed in the past month with many visitors. On March 18, we shared services with visitors from Vista; Rockville; Rittman and Kansas. They braved the rain and cold weather to be with us and share the love of Christ.

Bro. Scott Mangers (Sis. Shayna) has been re-elected Sunday School Superintendent for the upcoming term. We praise God for his beautiful and diligent service to our young people.

March 24 found us celebrating the Lord's Supper in Communion. Thank you to Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Sis. Deb, Peoria) for assisting with Communion and for taking the pulpit on Sunday morning.

Easter Sunday is always a beautiful celebration in Altadena. It starts with a sunrise service up in the local mountains where there is a breath-taking look-out over all of Pasadena and Los Angeles. The sunrise service is followed by an all-church breakfast. Our morning service included a program by our Sunday School.

As always, we welcome visitors. The spring weather is changeable, but for the most part lovely.

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## KITCHENER, ONTARIO CANADA Kim Leman

"Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints."

*Psalm 116:15*

With sad yet thankful hearts, we bade a final farewell to our beloved Bro. Peter Pfeiffer. We rejoice with him that his earthly race is finished and have a

blessed hope that we will meet again in heaven. We miss his precious smile and quiet, humble presence in our small congregation.

We had a blessed evening of Communion on March 23. Elder Bros. Duane Farney (Sis. Karen, Croghan, NY) and Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI) conducted the service. Bro. Tony Manz (Sis. Denise, Junction, OH) served on our minister rotation this month. We thank all of these Brothers for their loving service.

Even though our small flock experienced the loss of a loved one, we also rejoice to add another baby to our church.

Bro. John and Sis. Liz Kralt, along with daughters Shelby and Chloe, welcomed Margaretha Ruth into their family on April 10.

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## REGINA, SK CANADA Myrna Shipley

We were blessed with a Good Friday service as well as an Easter service by Bro. Kevin Fehr. His wife, Sis. Lonnie, as well as five people from West Bend, IA, came with him which was very nice.

As a reminder to our visitors, we have a few bedrooms inside our church for company use. Please contact me for arrangements: (306) 545-3025. Thanks.

Last Sunday we also had a minister and his wife, Bro. Fred and Sis. Diane Funk from Morton, IL. We read a chapter in Matthew 8, where Jesus marveled at the centurion man's faith. Bro. Fred said it is interesting to note that there were only a few times in the Bible where Jesus showed any reaction to someone's faith. His reaction was followed by His words and they were directed to everyone that followed him. "Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel." (Matt. 8:10)

## COLORADO, DENVER Lily Zarkovacki

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

*John 3:16*

We have so much to thank our living God for. We were blessed to have Good Friday services to remember Christ's suffering and death.

On Saturday, April 7, our Sunday school students shared our annual Easter program. It was a blessing to all that were there.

Bro. Mike and Sis. Sherice Reinhard and their family have relocated from Michigan. We are thankful for their addition to our Denver congregation.

Additionally, we would like to thank Bro. Duane Metzger (Sis. Ruth, West Bend, IA) for his willingness to share God's Word with us this past month.

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## CONNECTICUT ROCKVILLE Lauren Goric Sheila Gerber

Now it is accomplished! I'm no longer mine;

Lord, I will forever and always be Thine,

for Thou hast created and purchased me too,

baptized with Thy Spirit, Thou makest me new.

*Zion's Harp #209 v.1*

With joy and thanksgiving, our congregation welcomed five dear souls into the fold. On the weekend of April 21-22, Sis. Laura Schneider (Bro. Doug and Sis. Jane), Bro. Joshua Luginbuhl (Bro. Matt and Sis. Heidi), Bro. David Moser (Bro. Steve and Sis. Janis), Sis. Heidi Beutel (Bro. Gene and Sis. Lynn), and Sis. Taylor Welti (Bro. Pete and Sis. Jill) gave their testimony of what God has done in their lives and were baptized. We appreciate the labors of Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Sis. Karen, Croghan,

NY) and Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle, Philadelphia, PA) in their assistance to Elder Bro. Kevin and Bro. Warren at the testimonies and baptisms. We were also blessed to have these two brothers with us for the solemn occasion of partaking in Holy Communion that same evening. The entire weekend was such a blessed reminder of how we need to cleanse the temple of our own hearts. Our thanks are also extended to Bro. Todd Graf (Sis. Lydia, Akron, OH) for being used on our behalf.

We rejoice with Sam Schneider (Bro. Tim and Sis. Dana) and Courtney Wheeler (Bro. Burt and Sis. Cherrine) who have chosen to seek the Lord in humble repentance. We wish them much grace as they begin to build a firm foundation on Christ, the Solid Rock.

Our love and prayers are with those who have lost a loved one in this past month. Moise Frederick, mother of Sis. Karen Hunt (Ken Hunt), passed away unexpectedly after a short hospitalization and illness. Also mourning the sudden loss of her sister, Sis. Mattie Kaeb (Bro. Nick, Forrest, IL), is Sis. Dorothy Virkler. May God provide each one with His comfort in their time of sorrow.

Our dear Bro. Ed Lanz (Sis. Marilyn) was recently hospitalized and required surgery. We are thankful to hear that he is recovering and hope that he will be home soon to assemble with us again.

Bro. Stephen and Sis. Julie Lanz were blessed with their second daughter. Lydia Joanne joins big brother Corbin and big sister Susanna. Lydia's grandparents are Bro. Sherman and Sis. Joanne Lanz and Bro. Gary and Sis. Melody Schultz (Burlington, IA).

Our dear friends, Daniel Hoffman (Bro. Mike and Luann) and Tanya Townsend (Robert and Tammy Townsend), were married on April 28. May God be with them as they begin their new life together.

Eleanor and Sis. Dorothy Yackley (Taylor, MO) and Sis. Marilyn Bauer (Peoria, IL). The caretaker calendar for 2012 is filled except for the last two weeks of December. 2013 is starting to fill, so if this is something you are considering, please contact Sis. Doreen Steffen at 302-540-6574 or [dkgsteffen@gmail.com](mailto:dkgsteffen@gmail.com). We look forward to meeting new caretakers each month, as well as reconnecting with caretakers who come for a second or third visit.

Our ministers this month were Bro. Klint Beyer (Sis. Kara, Sabetha, KS), Bro. Les Kaeb (Sis. Christine, Francesville, IN), Bro. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kansas City, MO), Bro. Ron Heiniger (Sis. Kayleen, Bloomington, IL) and Bro. Tom Lanz (Sis. Mary, Oakville, IA). Other visitors this month were from Tremont and Morton, IL; Sardis, OH and LaCrosse, IN.

Movers have been busy in our area. Ken and Roberta Belsley have moved to their daughter's home in Highland, MD. We welcome Bro. Tom and Sis. Theresa Katanic and their children, Jackson, Jed and Annie, to our congregation.

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 devise, check with your provider to see if it works in Maryland. If you use the highway without such a devise you will receive a bill by mail with a service fee added.

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

## **FLORIDA FORT LAUDERDALE Renee Mangold**

We were thankful to have several visiting ministers this past month: Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie, Elgin, IL); Bro. Clint Schmidt (Winthrop, MN); Bro. Chad Gerber (Sis. Jami, Bluffton, IN); and Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL). We pray that the Lord will bless them for their service.

Our prayers for condolence go out to Sis. Vi Gerber, Bro. Mike and Sis. Faye Hohulin and their children and Sid and Sue Troxel and their children on the passing of Bro. Ed Gerber. Bro. Ed was a wonderful and kindhearted Christian and he will be sorely missed.

We pray that God will watch over David Mangold (Bro. Mike and Sis. Renee Mangold) as he prepares to deploy with his military unit.

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

Recent ministries and fellowship have made these few words seem so precious.

All my iniquities on Him were laid  
He nailed them all on the cross,  
Jesus the depth of my sin fully paid  
He paid the ransom for me.

We were greatly blessed this last month by visiting brothers, in addition to our own ministers. They were Bro. Randy Gudeman (Sis. Becky, Francesville, IN) and Bro. Tom Troxel (Sis. LuAnn, Lacrosse, IN). Our heartfelt thanks to them for their service to our congregation.

One of our true servant couples, Bro. Stan and Sis. Naomi Vogel, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on April 15. We do truly appreciate them. They are reminders of the many wonderful song leaders that have visited us this last winter, too. Lay men and women greatly inspire the rest of us to worship more meaningfully, it seems.

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

Our caretakers for March were Sis.

*The New Beginnings*

We at the New Beginnings enjoyed another meal and some fun fellowship at Bro. Don and Sis. Gladys Kaufman's. Our gals really liked the games after the meal and all of us would like to heartily thank the Kaufmans for their generous hospitality.

We are looking forward to having some summer help coming in May. Extra help will afford us the opportunity to go on some additional outings with the Moms and their children. We are super excited to have a 12 passenger van for our group so we can all go to church and other places together without taking two vans. It is also so very handy to not have to re-install car seats every time we go somewhere. We are so thankful for the families that donated this van to our ministry.

Our community center has been getting some good use. We have most of our evening meals together. This gives the young Moms opportunity to show off their cooking skills or to learn new recipes and have them critiqued by others.

We have been having parenting classes once a week and the results are being seen in our little boys. The Moms are finding it easier to take their children places and see the good behavior recognized by those around them. We appreciate our very capable teacher, Lydia Masters. She also manages the phone usage and educational preparation and needs of our young ladies.

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

"But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you."

*1 Peter 1:25*

We were so thankful to have visiting ministers this month who shared with us the Gospel. We pray a special blessing on Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI), Elder Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL), Bro. Daren Metz (Sis. Rita, Gridley, IL), Bro. Tim Ramsier (Sis. Jonell, Rittman,

OH), Bro. Clint Schmidt (Sis. Maggie, Winthrop, MN), Bro. Chris Laukuf (Sis. Rachel, Latty, OH) and Bro. Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI).

We bid farewell to Bro. Joel and Sis. Amber Virkler and their sons Liam and Aiden as their time assembling with the Sarasota congregation has come to a close. We wish them God's nearness and blessings as they travel back to their home in Detroit, MI, and wherever the Lord would lead them on the next steps of their journey in life.

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**GEORGIA, ATLANTA**

Our hearts and prayers are with Bro. Bud Klopfenstein as he recovers and heals from a mishap which left him with a few broken ribs. May this be a time of resting in the Lord and recovering for Bro. Bud and Sis. Billie; our thoughts and prayers are with you!

Our thoughts and prayers have also been with Chris and Sis. Peggy Camp and their family, in the death of Chris's father, Tom Camp.

Bro. Virgil Kaeb (Sarasota, FL) ministered to our congregation this month; we were blessed by the ministering spirit of Bro. Virgil and his wife, Sis. Suellen.

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

O Spirit of God's strength and night,  
Create in us new life and light;  
O join us all in heart and mind,  
That access to God's throne we find;  
Within Thy light!

With such a wonderful story and meaningful songs the Sunday school children helped to join us all in heart and mind to remember the crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord Jesus. It stirs our hearts to know that our Sunday School children are learning from a young age and up the reason for the Hope that we have.

O, may we all united stand  
By holy tie and sacred band,  
As members of Christ's body here,  
Led by Thy Spirit true, sincere,  
With one accord.

Then the next Sunday we were again reminded of the agony that Christ's body went through and of His miraculous and prophesied of resurrection. We thank Bro. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN) for assisting our local brothers on the pulpit in bringing this wonderful and familiar story to life.

Then come into our midst today;  
Impart Thyself to us, we pray.  
This cup and loaf are proof and sign  
Of this Thy covenant divine,  
In Jesus Blood.

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.

Communion then came upon us as we partook in the blest sacrament, the cup and loaf. Joined in heart and hand we remembered not only the physical pain but the emotional pain as Jesus was abandoned by all, even his Father. We thank our Elder Bro. Dave Steffen and Elder Bro. Jim Plattner for being our servants in our journey of remembrance and encouraging us as we journey on.

Our joyful praise we sing to Thee,  
O, Lord of glorious majesty!  
Through Jesus Christ to Thee we  
pray.

And bring our thanks to Thee today,  
Before Thy throne!

We sing to Thee of our thanks for the many blessings Thou has given us. One of these blessing we are able to enjoy is the gift of song and voice. The Mortonaires lifted up their voices for our small congregation one weekend

this April. The wonderful harmony and words of the songs filled our hearts with joy and love. That same weekend Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Morton, IL) and Bro. Doug Moser (Sis. Dawn, Morris North, MN) were able to share His word across the pulpit. Thank you for your labors of love in word and song.

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**ILLINOIS  
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL**

**Gina Metz  
Shelley Steffen**

The Sunday School presented their program "The Voices of Easter" on Palm Sunday. It was inspiring to hear the events of the Easter story told from the viewpoint of Judas, Peter, and Mary. As always, the highlight is the end of the program when the whole Sunday School stands at the front of the church and sings for the congregation. The risers were overflowing with children, young and old, singing of Christ's resurrection from the dead. What a beautiful sight! The following Sunday we held our annual Easter Sunrise Service.

Sis. Dorothy Walder (Cissna Park) passed away this past month and we extend our love and sympathy to her relatives who attend our church in Bloomington: her sister, Sis. Helen Hoffman, and her nieces, Sis. Brenda Kaeb, Sis. Bonnie Kaufmann, Sis. Barb Stevig, and Sis. Kay Knapp.

We were excited to hear of the arrival of little Ruby Clare Kieser! She was welcomed home by parents, Bro. Duane and Sis. Alissa, and big sisters, Jenna, Amy, and Lily. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Wilma Kieser, and Bro. Randy and Sis. Marj Schmidgall.

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**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD**  
**Roseann Stahl  
Sandi Joos**

We thank Bro. Sam Schlatter (Sis. Linda, Junction, OH) and Bro. Scott Schambach (Sis. Hope, Columbus, OH) for sharing God's Word with us this month.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Marilyn Nenadov (Bro. Paul) in the passing of her sister-in-law.

We are wishing the Lord's richest blessings upon Jordan Blakey and Jerrica Kieser (Joe and Geri) as they were married on April 21.

We welcome Bro. Aaron and Sis. Katie Ehnle and their family to our congregation. May they feel the love and prayers offered for them as they make this transition.

Even though Easter time has come and gone, may we remember Christ is still alive in each one of us and may His presence shine forth in each of our lives.

*Note of Thanks:*

The family of Sis. Violet Elsasser expresses their deep gratitude and appreciation for all of the love, support, prayers, and cards extended to us during the loss of our mother. We are so blessed to have such a loving church family to help us through times like these. May God richly bless all of you for your kindness.

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

Beginning in May, we will not congregate in our regular church building for several months, as our remodeling project will be underway. Please see the following Church Worship Plans for Remodel/Addition Project:

*SUNDAY SERVICES:*

Sunday services for the project duration estimated to be May 1, 2012, through August 31, 2012, will be held at the Messiah Free Lutheran Church located at 1401 West John Street, Champaign, IL 61821

Morning services begins at  
11:15 am

Afternoon service begins at  
12:45 pm

If you visit us this summer, please note that the fellowship time for the members of the Messiah Free Lutheran Church ends at 11:00, so it will not be necessary to arrive for our services

prior to 11:00. Formal Wednesday night services will not be held in a church building during the project. We will be holding picnics, singings, and Bible Studies. Thank you for your prayers and patience with us as we undergo this process. We trust that the Lord is in this project and will continue to bless it for His glory.

On April 1, the Sunday School presented "The Final Words of Jesus" Easter program. Much thanks to students, parents, and teachers for all that you did to help make the program a success. The program was a reminder of Jesus' love and forgiveness as he prepared to sacrifice Himself for us.

We had the opportunity to share the Lord's Supper on April 4. We thank Elder Bro. Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary, Fairbury) for taking the time to commemorate this special event with us. We also thank Bro. James Fehr (Sis. Brenda, Tremont) for sharing the Word with us this month.

"Jesus Loves the Little Children" was sung at the graveside service of Matea Ann Stoller in Dallas, TX, on April 7. She was the daughter of Bro. Doug and Sis. Krista Stoller and was stillborn on April 3. Her sister is Ashlyn, age 3. Grandparents are Bro. Gale and Sis. Sonia Stoller (Princeville) and Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Charlen Banwart (Champaign).

Sis. Ila June Hari passed from this life on April 14. Sis. Ila June was very gracious and had a bright, vibrant personality. Our hearts go out to her family and friends during this difficult time.

Our Champaign congregation welcomed three new bundles of joy this month! Vienna Ashley Sauder was born on April 5 to Bro. Mark and Sis. Ashley Sauder. Cruz Randall Edelman was born on April 17 to Bro. Walt and Sis. Janelle Edelman. Miles Christopher Walder was born on April 24 to Bro. Aaron and Sis. Heather Walder. We rejoice with the families of these precious little children.

'Tis the season for graduations. On April 25 we held the annual Student Appreciation supper for the college stu-

dents. Many of our college students are completing their degrees this year. We will greatly miss the fellowship of the college students who will be moving from Champaign-Urbana after graduation. From our own congregation, we have the following college graduates: Cortney Eisenmann (Bro. David and Sis. Jackie), associate degree from Parkland College; Sis. Laura Tucker (John and Mary), bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois; Sis. Sydney Eisenmann (Bro. David and Sis. Jackie), master's degree from Illinois State University; Sis. Amber Miller (Bro. Orlan and Sis. Cathy, Gridley), master's degree from the University of Illinois; and Bro. Mark Sauder (Sis. Ashley), doctorates from University of Illinois.

April 29 was the annual Senior Breakfast to recognize our high school seniors. Graduates include Alyssa Kupferschmid (Bro. Chad and Sis. Linda), Brittany Walder (Bro. Jim and Sis. Beth), Caleb Plattner (Bro. Darren and Sis. Sue), Leah Waibel (Bro. Brian and Sis. Wendy), and Sarah Schmidgall (Bro. Dan and Sis. Mary). Congratulations on this important milestone!

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## ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

### Rachel Meyer

Greetings from Chicago. We wish to thank the following brothers for sharing God's Word with us. They are Elder Bros. Jeff Streitmatter (Sarasota, FL) and Ron Messner (Washington, IL), and Bros. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL), Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL), and Wayne Hartzler (Rittman, OH). May God richly bless you.

We continue to have loved ones in our congregation in need of medical attention and prayer. Our friend Peggy Ryan broke her leg, spent some time in the hospital, and is now recovering in a nursing home. Five-year-old Elias Carder (Greg and Rachel) is recovering from a fall that resulted in a fractured skull, brain concussion, and two black eyes. Elias' grandparents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla Rassi. Treatments continue for our two dear Brothers Dan

Plattner and Steven Hofstetter. Each one in our church family is simply that – family – and we need to continue to pray for those we love.

Also needing prayer are those in our church family who have lost loved ones. We extend our sympathy to Bro. Shayne Fehr (Sis. Emily), upon the passing of his grandmother, Sis. Madelyn Fehr from Roanoke, IL. Another loss was baby Matea Ann, who was stillborn. Her parents are former Chicagoans, Bro. Doug and Sis. Krista Stoller. Although they now live in the Dallas, TX, area they are close within our hearts. Going to her reward was Sis. Ila June Hari, who recently moved from Champaign, IL, to the Chicago suburbs to be near her daughter. As these loved ones, young and old, walk the streets of gold, we thank God we may go to them some day.

On March 18 we welcomed our new Brother in faith, Nelson Eisenmann (Elder Bro. Brad and Sis. Cindy). The weekend was a blessing. That same day we said farewell to Sis. Christy Stoller as she returns to Mexico to finish schooling. We enjoyed having her with us.

On March 24 we had the opportunity to participate in Communion and remember the suffering and death of Jesus for all. It was a blessed evening.

On March 28, long time Chicago area resident and friend, Bernice Houk, gave her testimony and was baptized by sprinkling in the Peoria, IL church. Sis. Bernice is 99 years old and we welcome her as our Sister in faith. God is good.

We thank our Bro. Greg Rassi for his recent Topical Bible Study, "God's Love in Leviticus". We appreciate the time and devotion he spent on our behalf.

After enjoying a wonderful Easter weekend April 6–8 with services Friday and Sunday, the Sunday School shared some Easter songs the following Sunday. We love to hear their voices and see their faces. It is encouraging and we thank them, their teachers, and their parents.

Note: The Chicago church now has a website: [www.chicagoacchurch.org](http://www.chicagoacchurch.org)

We encourage anyone interested to go and listen live for services as well as archived sermons.

Recently I was on an airplane that experienced a paper ticketing jam. Controlled chaos ensued with some passengers expressing their feelings quite openly. Finally we were all seated – except for two passengers. The airplane personnel had kept them waiting and ultimately told them just to go to any empty seat. One of them turned to the flight attendant and said disgustedly, "I'm a Gold Member!" Apparently he flew that airline often and had special flyer status that entitled him to special services and seats.

His words made me realize that often I act the same way with God. Meaning, "I'm Your child! Why do I have to experience hardship? Why do I have to suffer when people who are blatantly ignoring – even openly mocking You – are prospering?" Am I not entitled to a more blessed life because I am trying to live for Christ? I am not.

The Bible says in Acts 10:34, "Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons." God used a vivid lesson to share with Peter that the Gentiles were now equal and open to receiving the Holy Ghost. Later in that chapter we read that the other Jewish Christians were "astonished" when Peter shared this news.

All persons are given the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. Any extra blessings we experience on earth are simply that – extras.

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## ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

### Marilyn Maul Tina Walder

We have recently come through the Easter season during which we observed the Last Supper with the Lord. Assisting Bro. Tom with Communion was Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville).

We appreciate having visiting ministers. With us this past month have been Elder Bros. Curt Frank (LaCrosse), Dan Kilgus (Remington), Rick Plattner

(Fairbury) and Bro. Duane Reutter (Sis. Kay, Rockville). We thank these brothers for their willing service in our behalf.

Sis. Laverne Farney has been in the hospital with pneumonia. We are thankful that she is once again able to assemble with us.

Baby Kelsey Arline was born to Bro. Greg and Sis. Heidi Maul. Her siblings are Bethany, Natalie and Daniel. Grandparents are Mike and Sis. Kathy Maul and Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudie Rudin (Forrest).

Our prayers are with the family of Sis. Ila June Hari in her passing. She is the aunt of our Sis. Bonita Frank. We thank Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign) for being here for her funeral.

The angels in heaven rejoice when a soul turns to the Lord. We are thankful that Aaron Kaeb has answered the call. He is the son of Bro. Hartzell and Sis. Denise Kaeb.

We are even now looking forward to graduations. Our high school graduates are Corey Rudin (Bro. Arlyn and Sis. LaNae) and Sis. Amber Kaeb (Bro. Todd and Sis. Valerie). Our college graduates are AJ and Katrina (Kaeb) Nowaczyk. She is the daughter of Bro. Eric and Sis. LouAnn Kaeb. May the Lord be with them in their future endeavors.

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## ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

### Rachel Currier

We rejoice with Bro. Nate and Sis. Suzanne Wieland as they welcome a son, Aiden Eli, into their lives. Siblings of Aiden are Bro. Bryce, Evan and Autumn. Also thankful for his arrival are grandparents, Bro. Roger Wieland (Bay City) and Sandra Buza and Bro. Harvey and Sis. Janice Schieler (Fairbury).

Now I have vowed to fear and love

Thee

And to obey Thee, Lord, alone;...

*Zion's Harp #41 vs. 3*

We welcome Sis. Emma Zimmerman (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Ginny) into our

Brotherhood, as she gave her testimony and was baptized the weekend of April 14-15. May the Lord continue to provide for her and her family, as they seek to serve Him.

We are thankful for those who have brought forth the Word this past month. Visiting ministers include Bro. Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott), Bro. Mark Zimmerman (Sis. Cheryl, Eureka), Bro. Tim Zimmerman (Sis. Barb, Lamont-Gridley), and Elder Bro. Steve Martin (Sis. Vicki, Eureka).

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## ILLINOIS, ELGIN

### Amy Gasser Miriam Gasser

It was rather unusual to have just one visiting minister in the past month, Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA), who conducted the service on a recent Wednesday evening. May God be his Rewarder.

The absence of many of our local ministers and others who traveled this spring made a noticeable difference in our assembly. We are thankful for everyone's safe return — especially those who participated on work teams in Cullman, AL; Bastrop, TX; and Haiti.

We welcome Bro. Brent and Sis. Michelle Knobloch and their children to our Elgin congregation. They live in Marengo, IL.

The Lord provided a blessing for all who attended the Easter program on the evening of April 1. The recitations spoken by innocent youth were meaningful and the music harmonious. We thank our Sunday School students and teachers for their efforts.

Our recent medical patients included Kaelin Schambach (Bro. Eric and Sis. Erika), who broke her arm in a playground accident. While her activities are restricted, one that provides a real comfort is holding her baby brother Jason.

Sis. Joan Scheitlin (Bro. Al) is feeling stronger each day, Sis. Marie Hugh is receiving care in a rehab facility, and Bro. Gary Steffen (Sis. Lois) is recovering from elbow surgery.

Sis. Kathy Stefan fell in her home,

fracturing both wrists. She is temporarily at Rosewood, while her wrists are healing. Upon returning from Arizona, Bro. Howie Schifferer (Sis. Pat) entered the hospital with a serious heart condition.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all who are struggling with health problems or the infirmities of high age. We miss seeing Bro. Dick and Sis. Lyla Schock in our assembly, since their move to a Resthaven apartment. May God's peace and nearness comfort each one in times of transition.

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## ILLINOIS, EUREKA

### Dee Baer Jodi Blunier

Three little girls were added to our baby room. Bro. Chad and Sis. Angie Zimmerman and Blade welcomed Hailey Lanae. Grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Janet Zimmerman and Bro. Roger and Sis. DeAnn Wuthrich (Bloomfield, IA). Bro. Jonathon and Sis. Jena Stoller were thankful to bring home Taylor Marie. Grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Janet Stoller and Bro. Dan and Sis. Diane Fehr. Bro. Jonathon and Sis. Sheila Sanders are first-time parents with Myra Bernice. Grandparents are Bro. Bill and Sis. Sue Sanders and Bro. Ted and Sis. Donna Blunier.

Bro. Harlen and Sis. Shirley Metzger welcomed a granddaughter, Dylan Landry, to their son and daughter-in-law, Shane and Dusty Metzger of Macon, IL.

Bro. Roland "Swiftly" Martin died peacefully, satisfied of thirst and longing for his Lord's coming. Left to grieve are his wife, Sis. Deloris; sons, Bro. Bruce (Sis. Annie, Congerville) and Bro. Dean (Sis. Becki), and daughters, Lois Oltman (CA) and Janice Chickering (Keith, AZ).

Hospital stays were experienced by Sis. Madeline Cawley, Sis. Clara Huber and Lisa Ehnle (Bro. Jared and Sis. Marsha).

Visiting ministers have been Bro. Kent Getz (Elgin, IA), Bro. Matt Oesch (Alto, MI), Bro. Arlen Leman (Forrest), Bro. Randy Mogler (Washington), Bro. Ed Fritz (Washington), Bro. Brad

Gudeman (Bradford) and Bro. Tony Manz (Junction, OH).

*Notes of Thanks:*

Greetings dear Brothers and Sisters,

We want to express our deep appreciation and thanks for your prayers, cards and many other deeds of love and kindness shown to us during my recent surgery. The prayers of the brotherhood truly did carry us through this time. May God richly bless each one of you.

Humbly,

*Bro. Tom and Sis. Janet Zimmerman*

A sincere thank you to all friends, family and brethren for remembering me after my fall. We have such a precious fellowship and bond of love. God bless you.

*Sis. Clara Huber*

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## ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

### **Angela Herr Kay Steffen**

Little Cole Michael joined the family of Bro. Mark and Sis. Tania Bazzell on March 30. Cody, Dakota, Justus, Cheyanne, Summer, Haley, and Javan are excited to have a new little brother to love. Grandparents, Bro. Don and Sis. Carol Bazzell and Fred and Helen Voeste of Forrest, are delighted to have another grandson.

Bro. Denver and Sis. Sharon Rassi welcomed Cayden Daniel into their hearts and home on April 7. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Dennis and Sis. Diane Rassi (Austin, TX), Morris Kaeb, and Chuck and Brenda Mueller.

Bro. Nathan and Sis. Marsha Fehr became grandparents to another granddaughter when Zaythen Nicole was born to Austin and Nikki Fehr on April 16. Blaze is Zaythen's big brother and John and Jill Heenan and Kim Heenan of Pontiac are her maternal grandparents.

On April 19, Lucius Michael was born to Curtis and Sis. Traci Bunch. Carter and Natalie are happy for a new playmate. His grandparents are Rick

Bunch, Patty Bunch, Mike Maffett, and Kelly Maffett.

Bro. Bryan and Sis. Debbie Steffen welcomed their first-born, Payton Bryan, on April 19. Bro. Chris and Sis. Kay Steffen and Elmer and Darlene Stork are Payton's grandparents.

Baby Lucius and Baby Payton both had to spend extra time in the hospital after birth. Also, little Clori Feuchtenberger (Bro. Mike and Sis. Jen) recently spent several days in the hospital.

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.

*Zion's Harp #237, vs. 1*

Many of us witnessed the marriage vows of our Bro. Justin Kilgus and Sis. Kaylee Kaeb on April 1 in Forrest. Parents of this dear couple are Bro. Paul and Sis. Carmen Kilgus and Bro. Eldon and Sis. Stephanie Kaeb (Forrest, IL). We wish them God's richest blessings as they begin their life together and we welcome Sis. Kaylee to our congregation.

Throughout the Easter season we are often reminded of the great price that was paid for our sins by our dear Lord and Saviour. On Palm Sunday evening, April 1, the Easter story of Jesus Christ's death on the cross at Calvary and His glorious resurrection was shared as our Sunday School presented the Easter Program. On April 14 we gathered together to partake of Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Tim Funk (Peoria, IL) and Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) were with us for this blessed occasion and we thank them for ministering to us and assisting our Elder Bro. Rick Plattner in serving us. May we never forget God's deep love for us and the price that was paid for our debt of sin.

My lifetime doth pass away;  
hourly to the grave I hasten,  
and I know each fleeting day  
my allotted span will lessen.

Think, man, death comes soon or late.

Tarry not, it will not wait!

*Zion's Harp #253, vs. 1*

We extend our deepest sympathy to LaVerne Bittner (Wayne) in the death of her sister, Joan Schaab of Normal, on April 2. Our thoughts and prayers have also been with Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary Kaeb in the loss of their daughter-in-law, Sis. Mattie Kaeb (Bro. Nick, Forrest, IL), who passed away on April 19.

We bid farewell to Bro. Perry Virkler who passed away on April 4. May God comfort and be near his wife, Sis. Carol, and his children, Eric (Colorado Springs, CO) and Sis. Lori Stadel (Bro. Nick, Silverton, OR), as well as his grandchildren as they mourn the loss of their husband, father, and grandfather. Our sympathy is also extended to his brother and sister-in-law, Charles and Arlene Farley, of our congregation. Bro. Perry and Sis. Carol recently moved to Fairbury from the Minneapolis congregation and we were thankful to have Elder Bro. Duane Rocke and Bro. Kent Mogler, both of Minneapolis, in our midst for Good Friday services and then for the funeral along with many others from the Minneapolis congregation.

We were also blessed to have several other ministering brothers in our midst this past month. We thank Bro. Chad Leman (Kitchener, ON), Bro. Kerwin Edelman (Athens, AL), Bro. Al Schambach (Remington, IN), Bro. Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA), Bro. Dennis Rassi (Austin, TX), Bro. Dan Moser (Elgin, IL), and Bro. Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL) for being with us and sharing God's Word with us.

We rejoice with Brandon Stoller (Bro. Dale and Sis. Sandy) who has turned to the Lord in repentance. It is our prayer that he may seek the Lord in humility and that his heart may soon be filled with the peace of God which passeth all understanding.

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

We were blessed with many visiting ministers this month. They were: Bros. Glen Braker (Princeville, IL), James Fehr (Tremont, IL), Bruce Frank (Cissna Park, IL), Floyd Frieden (Elgin, IA), Fred Funk (Morton, IL), John Hartman (Fairbury, IL), Paul Kilgus (Fairbury, IL), James Knapp (Congerville), Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL), Craig Stickling (Peoria, IL), Chris Wuethrich (St. Louis, MO), and Mark Zimmerman (Eureka, IL).

In addition, Elder Bros. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) and Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL) assisted our Bro. Marvin with Holy Communion.

Our congregation experienced some losses this month. Krista Leman's (Earl) mother, Charon Brydon, passed away. Henry Friedman (Sis. Marge) lost his brother, Charles. Sis. Mattie Kaeb also passed away. She is survived by her husband, Bro. Nick, and sisters, Sis. Anne Wenger and Sis. Dorothy Virkler (Bro. Dan) of Rockville, CT. Our prayer is that God will comfort each one.

Bro. Justin Kilgus (Bro. Paul and Sis. Carmen, Fairbury, IL) and Sis. Kaylee Kaeb (Bro. Eldon and Sis. Stephanie) were married on April 1. Bro. Reuben Leman and Sis. Krystle Kaeb were married on April 15. Their parents are Bro. Fred and Sis. Brenda Leman and Bro. Eldon and Sis. Stephanie Kaeb.

Scott Rudin (Bro. Craig and Sis. Trudy) and Joyce Bolliger (Sis. Alma and the late Bro. John) have announced their engagement.

Molly Brown (Bro. Brad and Sis. Shannon) and Bro. Earl Gerber (Sis. Esther) were hospital patients this month.

**ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD****Kayla Wiegand****Melissa Rokey**

We joyfully announce the birth of a son, Drew Nathan, born April 6 to Bro. Nate and Sis. Emily Sauder. His sisters, Haley and Brookelyn, are excited to have him at home. His grandparents are

Bro. Loren and Sis. Rhonda Zeltwanger, and Bro. Bob and Sis. Jan Sauder (Roanoke, IL).

“The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will JOY over thee with singing.”

*Zephaniah 3:17*

The angels in heaven, and we as a congregation, are rejoicing that Matt Wood (Doug and LoriJean) has felt the conviction of sin and has yielded to the Holy Spirit in faith with a broken, repentant heart.

We are so thankful to share that four dear souls have come by faith with a broken repentant heart. They have expressed peace with God and with man. They are Allison Hinrichsen (Bro. Mike and Sis. Gerri), BJ Hinrichsen (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Brenda), and David and Kasey Roth. David's parents are Bro. Alan and Sis. Joann Roth and Kasey's parents are Loren and Lori VanScyoc. We are planning on testimonies and baptisms on May 5-6.

Please be prayerful for Whitney Wiegand (Bro. Brad and Sis. Karen). She has been in the hospital because of seizures she has been dealing with. Please remember her in prayer and support. Likewise, please keep our dear convert BJ Hinrichsen (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Brenda) in your prayers. She has had some serious health concerns and has spent time in the hospital again. She would appreciate your prayers, love and concern. Bro. Wilbur Heinold (Sis. Mildred) was in the hospital for a time, and really appreciates your prayers. Our Bro. Steve Wiegand (Sis. Mary Ellen) has spent some time in the hospital with some leg cellulitis. Please pray for God's healing hand over all of these loved ones.

Many hands made light work on March 31 as we spring-cleaned the church. We enjoyed the fellowship as we worked together.

What a joy to watch the children and listen to The Story at the Sunday School

Easter Program, which was held on April 1, Palm Sunday. On April 6, we held Good Friday services, followed by Communion. An early morning sunrise service was held at the Fellowship hall on Easter morning, followed by our regular service. We set aside April 11 for the reading of the Memorandum. We appreciate Elder Bro. Earl's assistance. We reverently and joyfully commemorate this time of our Lord's death and resurrection.

Burst are all my prison bars;  
And I soar beyond the stars.  
To my Father's house,  
the bright and blest estate.  
Lo! The morn eternal breaks,  
And the song immortal wakes,  
Robed in whiteness  
I am sweeping thro' the gate.  
In the blood of yonder Lamb,  
Washed from every stain I am;  
Robed in whiteness,  
clad in brightness,  
I am sweeping thro' the gate.

*Gospel Hymns #666*

Our dear Sis. Vi Hohulin got to go home to her great reward on April 7. Our prayers of comfort go to all of her loved ones, including her children, Sis. Charlene Knobloch (Bro. Clyde, Bloomington, IL), Bev Bauer (Sam, Cissna Park, IL), Sis. Phyllis Sauder (Gary, Roanoke, IL), Bro. Stan Hohulin (Sis. Jean, Kingston, TN), Bro. Wes Hohulin (Sis. Joyce, Goodfield, IL) and Lin Schmidt (Jim, Morton, IL). We also wish to include in our prayers her granddaughter, Sis. Leigh (Mike) Bowen, and great-grandchildren, Seth, Amanda, and Kelsy Bowen, of our Goodfield church family.

We appreciate visiting ministers, Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Sis. Bonnie, Bloomington, IL), Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) and Bro. Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL) who have been with us and shared God's Word and teachings.



## ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry A. Klopfenstein

In our daily walk of faith we face many challenges. No one is exempt. Our closeness to God is our great joy each day, yet we face an enemy that “roars as a lion, seeking whom he may devour.”

Yet, the Psalmist gives us solace in Psalm 27. The Lord is our light and our salvation. The Lord is the strength of our life. And surely He protects us as He hides us in His pavilion.

The Psalmist had one main desire: to dwell in the house of the Lord so he could behold the beauty of the Lord, and “to inquire in his temple.” This, too, is the desire of all of us who are converted and daily seek God.

Bro. Ron Bollier (Indianapolis, IN) was a visiting minister in April.

Sis. Marilyn Schieler was hospitalized and is now back at the Meadows Home. We are thankful she is doing much better.

We offer our condolences to Bro. Keith Zimmerman over the loss of his father, John Zimmerman, of Fairbury.

Our congregation is concerned over the injury to Richard “Dick” Gilmore, who fell in a barn and suffered very serious head injuries. He is the brother of Sis. Kathy Kincade, and the son of Sis. Alyce Rose Gilmore.

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## ILLINOIS, MORTON Annette Tanner Julie Bahr

New life was stirred within us as we partook of Holy Communion this past month. We are thankful for Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis) and Elder Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago) for assisting Elder Bro. Ted Witzig Sr. and Bro. Bob Pflederer in this most blessed event. Our thanks also to visiting ministering Bros. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago) and Bro. Howard Plattner (Sis. Kristen, Alto) for their Scripture messages brought to us for our benefit.

What an awesome message of Jesus was brought forth at our church Easter program. The message entitled “The

Resurrection, Hope is Dawning!” was presented for us on April 1. This program, coupled with receiving Holy Communion this month, has certainly given us a reason to celebrate new life within us! Thank You, Jesus!

Our loving sympathy is shared with Sis. Dorothy (Roeschley) Krantz (Bro. Jack) in the loss of her son-in-law, Gary Orrison. He is survived by his wife, Carol, and son Matthew. Our sympathy is also shared with Sis. Bobby Roecker and Bro. Herman Schmidt in the loss of their loved one, Sis. Madelyn Fehr (Bro. Richard, Roanoke). Sis. Dorothy Frank lost her sister, Sis. Ila June Hari, formerly from Cissna Park. Our prayers are with each one as they grieve for those who they have been given to love here on earth for a season.

On March 26, a precious little boy, Hudson Crew, blessed the home of first-time parents, Bro. Dane and Sis. Kim Zeller. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Will and Sis. Dannelle Zeller and Bro. Dave and Sis. Ann Dill (Tremont).

### *Note of Thanks:*

I want to thank all who remembered me with cards, phone calls, food visits and prayers after my surgery. A special thank you to my Elder Bro. Ted Witzig Sr. for rising early to visit me before my scheduled 7 a.m. surgery!

My love and thanks to all,  
*Sis. Betty Yergler*

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## ILLINOIS, PEORIA Pam Fritzenmeier

Once again, we enjoyed our annual Sunday School Easter Program on Sunday, March 25. It’s a real blessing to hear the songs and recitations by our youth, as they repeat the real Easter story.

Wednesday evening, March 28, two dear ones gave their testimonies and were baptized. We welcome Bro. Rich (Bonnie) Hodel and Sis. Bernice Houk into the family of God.

April 1 we partook of Holy Communion; a time to come together as one body to remember and celebrate what Christ did for us.

Babies are such a precious addition to any family! March 26, Berlyn Rose was born to Bro. Hans and Sis. Mandy Schmidgall. Her siblings are Caden, Creed, and Bristol, and grandparents are Sis. Myrna Schwenk (Goodfield) and Bro. Steven and Sis. Christine Schmidgall. On January 25, Douglas and Lisa Grandstaff of Woodway, WA, welcomed Katherine Helene. Her grandparents are Sis. Jeanette (late Bro. Tom) Hoerr, and Florence and John Shetler.

Bro. Ted Witzig, Jr. (Sis. Donna, Morton, IL) was our guest minister April 11 and we thank him and all our ministers for their service.

Bro. Dale (Sis. Cindy) Endress’s father, Bro. John (Sis. Lucille), passed away March 25. Bro. Breck (Sis. Janie) Nelson’s mother, Sandy (Darryl), passed away April 6. Sis. Barb Schafer passed away April 15. May God comfort all family members.

Lighthouse Academy family and faculty would like to thank each one who made their auction and spaghetti dinner a success and ask for continued prayers for the school.

We were blessed to celebrate Easter Sunday with a sunrise service/breakfast at the Fellowship Hall, then regular services at church. God bless each one who participated.

Sis. Martha Schaefer celebrated her 99th birthday April 16. She is not able to assemble with us in church, but enjoyed a card shower. Bro. Leon and Sis. Eunice Kaisner celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary April 15 with their whole family in attendance at church!

Please pray for Sis. Ilene (Bro. Bob) Haefli, who just had surgery here at home for the fractured pelvis she suffered while in Florida and Diana (Messerli) Emerick who is dealing with some health issues.

We want to remember in prayer our local missionaries serving in Haiti and Mexico: 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

**Gloria White**

**Linda Joos**

Visiting ministers have been Elder Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Bro. Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA), Bro. Ken Schneider (Remington, IN), Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Wolcott, IN), Bro. Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Bro. John Lehman (Wolcott, IN), and Bro. Barry Dietz (Bradford, IL). Also, Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO) came to assist Bro. Jim in serving Holy Communion on March 31. It was a blessed, though humbling, evening as we remembered our Lord's suffering and death He endured for us.

The Sunday School Easter program was on Palm Sunday in the evening. It is always uplifting to hear the Easter message in song and verse expressed by our dear children, our future church.

Mary Satzler (Ron) and little Aleah Martin (Bro. Ben and Sis. Hannah) were in the hospital. We are thankful they are home again and doing well.

Sis. Dorothy (Bro. Les) Walder (Cissna Park, IL) recently passed away. Our sympathy and prayers are extended to her family here at Princeville - Bro. Art Baurer (Sis. Joy), Bro. Ed Baurer (Sis. Carol), and Bro. Noah Herrmann (late Sis. Evalyn).

Our prayers are also with Bro. Gale and Sis. Sonia Stoller as they laid to rest a little grand-daughter, Matea Ann (Bro. Doug and Sis. Krista Stoller, Dallas, TX). What a comfort to know that death is not the end!

Our prayers are also with Bro. Erik and Sis. Debbie Givens in the passing of his dear mother, Bertha Givens Vandenberg, on April 14. God has His timetable for each of us, and we trust Him and know He will provide that comfort we so need.

Janelle McFarland welcomes a new little daughter, Brinnley, born April 2. Her siblings, Ashlynn and Ty, are happy for a new sister to love.

The engagement of Sis. Michelle

Martin (Bro. Ed and Sis. Gladys) and Bro. Luke Gerst (Bro. Joe and Sis. Connie, Iowa City, IA) was announced on April 8. May God's blessings abide with them always.

The wedding of Sis. Brooke Streitmatter (Bro. David and Sis. Crystal) and Bro. Kory Wagenbach (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Bonnie, Oakville, IA) was April 15. We wish them God's blessings. We will miss Sis. Brooke but know where God leads, He provides and blesses.

## ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

**Jamie Hodel**

**Judy Sauder**

I Cor. 15: 54: "...Death is swallowed up in victory." Sis. Sandy (Bro. Sam) Hohulin (Goodfield) went to be with the Lord on March 19. She was a sister to Bro. Glen (Sis. Carol) Martin. Then on April 6, we laid to rest our dear Sis. Madelyn Fehr. Her survivors include her husband, Bro. Rich; six sons, Doug (Diana) of Peoria, Dave (Sis. Linda) (Washington), Paul of Eureka, John (Jane), Brian of Chicago, and Tracy of Eureka; a daughter-in-law, Annie Fehr of Roanoke; three sisters, Wilma (Vince) Bermel of Oakton, VA, Phyllis (Roy) Getz of Morton and Sis. Barbara (Bro. Ed) Roecker (Morton); a brother-in-law, Herman Schmidt of Morton; 16 grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren. Bro. Bill Schick (Magdalena) assisted in the funeral services for Sis. Madelyn. Also, Sis. Violet Hohulin (Goodfield) went to her eternal rest on April 7. She was the mother of Sis. Phyllis (Gary) Sauder. We offer our love and deepest sympathy to these dear families and ask that our Lord would comfort them in their bereavement.

A Men's Seminar was held at our Fellowship Hall on March 24. We thank all those who made it a blessed time of instruction and encouragement.

I Cor. 11:26: "For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come." On March 25, we partook of Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Winthrop) and Elder Bro. Ted Witzig

(Morton) assisted Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman and Bro. Frank Sauder in this work. It was a beautiful evening of worship and remembrance.

Isaiah 53:5: "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him: and with his stripes we are healed." Our annual Sunday School Easter program was held on March 25. We thank our youth for presenting the message of Christ's death and resurrection to us in word and song.

Romans 7:6: "...that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter." On March 28, Bro. Dennis Kaufman (Bloomington) conducted our monthly topical Bible study on Romans 7. We thank Bro. Dennis for his thought provoking and insightful message.

Bro. Clark Stoller (Gridley) was our visiting minister on April 1, and Bro. Troy Leyse (Bluffton, IN) was our guest minister on April 18. We thank these brothers for their faithful service to us.

Colossians 3:23: "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;" From March 31 - April 7, our Bible Class juniors and seniors along with a number of parents and Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman traveled to Magdalena, Mexico on a work trip. We're so thankful for traveling mercies and a productive time of service to others. We also ask for the Lord's continued blessings on the work at CVE in Magdalena.

Romans 5:8: "...while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." On Easter Sunday morning, The Prairie Choristers, our Youth Choir, and a trio of sisters presented a beautiful program of scripture and songs commemorating our Lord's suffering, death and resurrection. After this an Easter breakfast was served. Bro. Tom Schambach (Elgin) and Bro. Scott Schambach (Columbus) served us on the pulpit as visiting ministers that day. We thank all those who made it a blessed day of worship and praise, honoring our Lord and also ask for God's blessing upon them.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Jan Sauder have once again become grandparents. Drew Nathan was born on April 6 to Bro. Nate and Sis. Emily Sauder (Goodfield). His older sisters, Haley and Brookelyn, and his maternal grandparents, Bro. Loren and Sis. Rhonda Zeltwanger (Goodfield), are also thrilled with Drew's arrival. Then on April 9, Sadie Rae arrived to bless the home of Bro. Kirby and Sis. Ellie Leman. Her thankful grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Elna Wettstein and Bro. Don and Sis. Colleen Leman. Bro. Fred and Sis. Jodi Leman welcomed Aletta Marie into their family on April 10. Her grandparents, Bro. Mark and Sis. Cathy Kieser (Peoria) and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Karen Leman, are also rejoicing at Letty's birth. May God bless these dear families as they raise their children in the ways of the Lord.

St. John 3:23: "...and they came, and were baptized." We rejoice with Bro. Sam and Sis. Emily Wettstein who gave their testimonies of faith and were baptized on April 21-22. Their parents are Bro. Scott and Sis. Elaine Frank (Eureka) and Bro. Gary and Sis. Elna Wettstein. Elder Bro. Curt Frank (La-Crosse) assisted at the testimonies and Elder Bro. Steve Sauder (Tremont) offered a prayer on Saturday evening. On Sunday, Elder Bro. Curt Frank (La-Crosse), Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington), Bro. Dana Nieman (Remington), and Bro. Trent Meiss (Eureka) ministered the Word to us. We are so thankful for the Lord's redeeming work in the hearts of men.

St. Luke 9:11: "...and healed them that had need of healing." We continue to pray for Bro. Rich (Sis. Janet) Knepp, Sis. Ann Hodel, Bro. Merlyn (Sis. Jan) Getz, Bro. Steve (Sis. Tammy) Hofstetter (Washington), and Bro. Dan (Sis. Deann) Plattner (Chicago) who are dealing with health issues. May our Lord heal, strengthen and encourage each one, according to His will.

We said farewell to Bro. Cody and Sis. Maggie Maher who have relocated to Bloomington/Normal and will be assembling with the congregation there.

We will miss the Mahers but know they will be an encouragement and blessing to the Bloomington church as they have been to us.

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**ILLINOIS, TREMONT**  
**Teresa Rowell**  
**Janice Sauder**

What a privilege it is to commemorate Communion and remember the death and suffering of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We are thankful that Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan, Winthrop, MN) was able to be with us. Bro. Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield) came on a Wednesday night and gave us a topical lesson. Bro. John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Burlington, IA) spent Easter Sunday with us, and Bro. Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Sally, Oakville, IA) and Bro. John Bradle (Sis. Jill, Roanoke) were with us when our Sunday School invited another Sunday School to spend the day with them.

We have a number of new little ones in our congregation. Bro. Don and Sis. Sandy Kaiser have a new little grandson. Blayne is the son of Derek and Meaghan Kaiser. Bro. Dave and Sis. Anne Dill are excited new grandparents also. Hudson Crew is the new son of Bro. Dane and Sis. Kim Zeller (Morton, IL). Bro. Todd and Sis. Val Steiner welcomed another boy to their family circle. Micah John joins Victoria, Trent, Corbin, Phillip, Thad, Faith, Joshua, Lydia, Emma, and Timothy. Bro. Joe and Sis. Marcella Steiner and Bro. Ken and Sis. Mardell Dietz (Bradford, IL) are Micah's grandparents. Bro. Howard and Sis. Janice Sauder have a new granddaughter. Vienna Ashley was born to Bro. Mark and Sis. Ashley Sauder (Champaign, IL). Reuben is her big brother.

Sis. Linda Koch and Bro. Earl Sauder (Sis. Glenna) have experienced some health issues and are now on the mend. We are thankful for the Great Physician who heals and comforts as we need it.

Sis. Dorothy Meister (Bro. Mike) has experienced loss in her family. Her sister, Sis. Barb Shafer (Peoria, IL), passed

away. Bro. Tim Ropp (Sis. Jenny) also lost his grandfather, Maurice Stahly (Eureka, IL). We pray for these families that God can comfort them during this difficult time.

*Note of Thanks:*

Thank you to my church family for the love and support evident in prayers, cards, visits, and gifts during my surgery and continuing treatment. May God bless you.

*Sis. Linda Koch*

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**ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON**  
**Jodi Fehr**  
**Marlene Prather**

"But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine."

*Isaiah - 43:1*

He is risen and we are redeemed because of the ultimate price He paid on Calvary! We were privileged to participate in Holy Communion on March 31 and were blessed to have Elder Bro. Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra, Bluffton North) with us for the evening. On Palm Sunday we were reminded of the Easter story and the Resurrection through an Easter Program from our Sunday School children.

We enjoyed a wonderful weekend on March 24-25 of hearing testimonies and witnessing the baptisms of Bro. Seth Teubel (Bro. Mark and Sis. Marti), Bro. Austin Endress (Bro. Don and Sis. Sandra), and Bro. Seth Hoerr (Bro. Doug and Sis. Peg). We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sara, Bloomington-Normal) with us for the weekend.

Other visiting ministers this month included Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Morton) and Bro. Bill Schick (Sis. Joan, Magdalena).

With joy, Bro. Jason and Sis. Rebekah Stoller welcomed Clay William on March 30. Also welcoming Clay is big sister Sage and grandparents,

Bro. Wayne and Sis. Gloria Laubscher (Cissna Park) and Bro. Bill and Sis. Kathy Stoller (Princeville).

We welcome Bro. Jason and Sis. Whitney Indermuhle along with their two daughters, Aniya and Kezra, who have moved to this area and are making Washington their home church.

Our prayers are with Bro. John Cox (Sis. Shirley) and his family in the loss of his mother-in-law, Sis. Verna Woodward of Oakville, IA. We also extend our prayers and sympathy to Dave Fehr (Sis. Linda) and their family who recently said goodbye to their dear mother and grandmother, Sis. Madelyn Fehr (Bro. Rich) of Roanoke.

We continue to lift those up in prayer who are battling health issues including Bro. Steve Hofstetter, Sis. Barb Johnson and Sis. Sue Ruppert.

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### INDIANA, BLUFFTON Suzie Fiechter Kim Meyer

The Bluffton congregation has been, once again, inspired, led, and upheld by our loving Heavenly Father. As we have traveled the last month, there have been so many happenings take place. Each of us has felt the bumps in the road; sometimes, those bumps hurt and shake us more than we would like to feel. But in the midst of these times, we can't but rejoice in feeling the grace of God when we truly stop and ponder what is going on in each of our lives. What a peaceful feeling that is when you physically want to scream and shout at the circumstances but can't because you feel that undercurrent of grace and know God is in the midst of the storm with you. What a loving Father we serve.

Once again we had our annual church cleaning night. It was a beautiful night especially for the guys in the bucket trucks cleaning the outside windows! They usually feel the brunt of the weather. It's a fun way to come together as a church family and enjoy each other's company.

With having Easter and Holy Communion this past month, I feel like we

had some spiritual cleaning as well. It's a special time of year to cherish the relationship we have with Jesus Christ and appreciate all that He endured for each one of us. May it inspire us to proclaim it abroad and not just rejoice that we have an eternal home waiting for us. We were also blessed with another wonderful Easter program by our Sunday School students. Thank you students, teachers, and parents who put forth effort for the program.

We extend our sympathy to the Bro. Harry Longenberger (Sis. Devona) family who passed away this month. Their children would be Bro. Terry and Sis. Twila Longenberger and Bro. Steve and Sis. Kathy Longenberger.

Seth Snider began his repentance and we rejoice with him. He would be the son of Deb Snider and Bro. Mike Snider (dec.). We pray the Lord will guide him and continue to give him the hunger for the milk of the Word as he grows in his walk.

The Apostolic Home School group put on "Galessenheit, The Life of Samuel Froehlich". The kids put a lot of time and effort into the play and it turned out wonderful. It was very interesting to learn all that Samuel Froehlich went through in his life.

Bro. Ralph and Sis. Rosie Aschliman are delighted to welcome another grandson into their family. Their son, Rick and his wife Carrie, gave birth to little Noah on March 16. Bro. Jon and Sis. Jennifer Isch joyfully welcomed Morgan Violet into their home. She joins her big brother, Corbin. The grandparents would be Bro. Gene and Sis. Becky Gerber and Bro. Barry and Sis. Imogene Isch.

We also want to thank the visiting ministers that came to Bluffton this past month. Elder Bro. Steve and Sis. Mary Sauder (Tremont, IL) and Elder Bro. John and Sis. Jane Wiegand (Silverton, OR) came for Holy Communion. Bro. Mike and Sis. Faye Hohulin were also here from Ft. Lauderdale. We extend our sympathy to them as they were in Bluffton for her father's funeral (Bro. Ed Gerber).

"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

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### INDIANA BLUFFTON NORTH Jessie Longenberger Amy Moser

Greetings in the Lord Jesus Christ! As the season of Easter draws near and reminds us again of Jesus' faithfulness, we give Him praise for the things He has done in our lives.

May we in perfect love be found when we Thy table, Lord, surround;  
Keep soul and body purified;  
Thy blessings, Lord, be multiplied upon this feast.  
Then come into our midst today;  
impart Thyself to us, we pray.  
This cup and loaf are proof and sign of this, Thy covenant divine in Jesus blood.

*Zion's Harp #200,  
"Communion Hymn" (vs. 3&4)*

It was a special Saturday evening on March 17 when we gathered together to partake of the Holy Communion. We want to thank Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville) and Elder Bro. Lynn Fiechter (Sis. Ronda, Bluffton), and Elder Bro. Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra) for serving us the Lord's Supper. We were thankful for the opportunity to remember our dear Saviour who gave His life, shed His precious blood, and allowed His body to be broken for each of us. We're always strengthened and encouraged through the preaching of God's Word. May the Lord bless each of our dear Elders for their faithfulness to serve and share in the Lord's Supper.

Bro. Rob and Sis. Kristiana Jolloff are celebrating the birth of Anistyn Jo on March 22. She joins Hayden and Carson at home. Anistyn was also wel-

comed by her grandparents, Bro. Bob and Sis. Bev Jolloff. May God grant wisdom to Bro. Rob and Sis. Kristiana as they raise these little ones in God's love.

“The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?”

*Psalm 27:1*

Our congregation was deeply saddened to lay to rest Bro. Harry Longenberger (Bluffton) who passed away March 7. Left to mourn his passing are his wife, Sis. Devona (Bluffton); two sons, Terry (Twila, Bluffton) and Bro. Steve (Sis. Kathy) Longenberger; and six grandchildren. We pray God's peace and comfort to his family circle as well as our fellowship as we will all miss his bright, cheerful personality and Christian example, but also we are rejoicing to know that Bro. Harry is resting in the presence of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

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**INDIANA  
FRANCESVILLE  
Mildred Clauss  
Jacki Huber**

*JESUS*

His shed blood means we can live each day in His forgiveness.  
His resurrection means we can walk constantly in newness of life.  
His presence means we can know His victory in each situation.  
His love means we will never face anything alone!

This describes the blessedness of those who trust our Lord and Saviour to direct their paths! Bro. Chad and Sis. Pam Huber and their family have trusted in Him during these past four years while they were serving on the mission field in Jamaica. Now we are thankful to have them return to their home and once more worshipping with our congregation. We know the Lord will continue to direct their paths. (Pr. 3:6)

On March 30, Chariti Wuethrich (Bro. Rick and Sis. Judy) was married in Tempe, AZ, to Joel Stern, son of Edward and Sandy Fruechting of Reno, NV. The couple is making their home in Phoenix, AZ, and we wish them the Lord's blessings in their life together.

Betsy and Ryan Riley of Doha, Qatar, have welcomed a baby boy, Oswald Kent, to their family. Elder Bro. Steve and Sis. Linda Gutwein are maternal grandparents. Sis. Linda traveled to spend time with the family.

Those of our congregation who have been in the hospital are Bro. Wayne Putt (Sis. Paulette) and Sis. Eileen Boehning. We pray they will have a good recovery and their health can be restored. Derek, young son of Bro. Jan and Sis. Val Gutwein from Haiti, had the misfortune of two broken arms when he fell from playground equipment. Sis. Val and Derek had to return to Lafayette for surgery so his arms could be properly repaired and placed in casts. What a blessing that the Lord provided safe travels for them.

A seminar for the “Pen Pals for Jesus” Ministry was held at our Fellowship Center; and those who attended were encouraged by hearing testimonies read of some souls who have been grateful to learn of the saving grace of Jesus. It is a privilege to share the love and mercies of our Lord with those who have endured very difficult experiences in life. There were eleven churches represented at the meeting.

The JOY Circle recently held a benefit dinner and silent auction to help fund their various mission projects and to assist the Bible Class to make a summer mission trip. It's so good to observe the “spirit of cooperation” that makes these projects happen!

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**INDIANA  
INDIANAPOLIS  
Katy Frantz  
Sandy Lichte**

We want to thank our Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL) for assisting Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn) in reading the

Memorandum on March 24. May we continue to lift up our Elder Brothers in prayer as they have the responsibility of shepherding our churches.

On March 28, we said farewell to Bro. Derek, Sis. Leann, Lexi, Wesley, and Whitley Sauder. Bro. Derek has finished his radiation treatments, and they will be returning to their home in Tremont, IL. They were a blessing to us, and we will miss them.

On March 31 - April 1, we had Indy Outreach Weekend. Many young people joyfully gave of their time to help with a variety of service projects in our community. We thank all of those who participated in this weekend, and we appreciate their servant hearts and willingness to help others.

Our Easter program was held on April 8. It was a joy and blessing to hear the Sunday school students proclaim the Easter message through verse and song.

We rejoice with Bro. Darl and Sis. Cindy Schieler on the birth of their granddaughter, Xavia A. Schieler, born on April 15. Jeremy and Tonya Schieler are Xavia's parents.

We extend our thanks to Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago, IL) for his willingness to be used in the Lord's service on a recent Wednesday evening.

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**INDIANA, LACROSSE  
Meagan Frank  
Julie Rocke**

Several opportunities for working together were presented this month. One Saturday morning was spent doing general landscaping cleanup around the church property—trimming bushes, weeding and mulching were among the jobs accomplished. Another Saturday morning was spent cleaning up our church cemetery. Those who came to help at either of these times were greatly appreciated.

April 7-8 was a blessed weekend for our congregation. Partaking of Holy Communion made for a beautiful evening together on Saturday. Elder Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie, Minneapo-

lis, MN) shared the labors with our Elder Bro. Curt Frank. Palm Sunday followed with our Sunday School Easter program after church. It is always a blessing to hear the truth of God's gift of salvation repeated in song and verse by our Sunday School children.

Our prayers continue to be with Sis. Connie Knobloch. Shortly after returning to her home after recuperating in the nursing home, she experienced more health problems causing her to be hospitalized once again. She is currently in an extended-care hospital. We are thankful to have Sis. Sis Zimmerman back home again after spending some time with her daughter out West. May God continue to comfort and bless each of His own with healing and grace according to His will.

Bro. Dan Moser (Sis. Anne, Elgin, IL) spent a day with us and preached the Truth of God's Word. May he feel the blessing of God as he continues in service to Him.

Our area has recently been plagued by a rash of burglaries. Naturally, this has put many of us on the watch for suspicious activities in our various neighborhoods. How much more important it is to be on the alert for suspicious activity of the Devil in our hearts! "And this know, that if the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through." (Luke 12:39). May we all be inspired and encouraged to keep our eyes on God, our hearts in His Word, and our lives shining for Him.

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### INDIANA, LEO Kirby Reutter

"For brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another."

*Galatians 5:13*

Usually the best way to figure out what is happening at Leo is to look at the schedule for the Kitchen Committee. These loving Sisters frequently yet si-

lently undergird almost every major church event and function. For example, "Group 1" recently served the Son Rise Easter Breakfast on April 8; "Group 2" recently served the snack for the Easter Program on April 15; and "Group 3" will serve the Baptismal Dinner on April 29. Sisters, thank you so much for all that you do to serve the Leo flock!

Our beloved Sunday School children remain a vital force within the Leo church community. During the first week of April, many of our Sunday School students traveled to the beautiful island nation of Jamaica for a week of Christian service and fellowship. Upon their return, the same Sunday School children presented a beautiful choral rendition of the Easter message, including the divine mandate to spread the gospel to "all nations". Now our dear Sunday School children will be preparing for another week of instruction in the form of Vacation Bible School.

We rejoice that two more souls have been physically born into our church family. Bro. Stu and Sis. Daisha Reynolds welcomed precious Navy Joy at 7 pounds, 4 ounces, and 21 inches. In addition, our dear friends Dan and Kami Schafer welcomed precious Ashlyn Marie on March 26 (dimensions unavailable).

We further rejoice that three more souls have been spiritually reborn and adopted into the family of faith: Andre Sauder (Bro. Tim and Sis. Jenny); Andrew Fischer (Bro. Paul and Sis. Leanne); and Zach Schumacher (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Tina). Lord willing, testimonies and baptisms will take place after this article is submitted but well before it is published. If the Lord further wills, Elder Bro. Herb Knochel from our beloved congregation in Phoenix plans to join us for this blessed weekend.

Many other visitors continue to grace us with their presence from both near and far, east and west, north and south. Most recently, we were especially blessed to host Elder Bro. John Jackson from our dear congregation in

Bay City, who led us at the Lord's Table in serving Holy Communion. In addition, ministering Bro. Bill Waibel (same church as above) as well as ministering Bro. Brian Huber (Francesville) both joined the "grandfather's bench" in support of the Easter Program. Other recent visiting ministers of the gospel have included Bro. Jedd Rocke (Goodfield), Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville again), and Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit).

Finally, Leo church cleaning has been scheduled for May 5. Church cleaning never seems to end! "Even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." (Ephesians 25-27)

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### INDIANA, MILFORD Paula Haab Janie Price

It is such a wonder to witness God's creation come to life in the spring. Not only can we witness the beauty of nature come alive, it is also a precious time to stop and attempt to comprehend the wonderful love God has for us that he gave His only Son. Our congregation gathered to partake of the Lord's supper.

I Corinthians 11:24 "this is my body which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me." For me it is a time to ponder what is it in this world that enslaves me from the total joy and beauty Jesus has to offer. We thank Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis, OH) for assisting our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily) in sharing Holy Communion with our family of God.

Our Sunday school students shared their talents presenting the Easter story to us. On Easter morning we arose early and gathered for the story of the resurrection at our sunrise service. As the sun was rising on Easter morning, we were gathered together singing praises and reading the wonderful story

of the sacrifice and resurrection of our loving Saviour.

O precious cross! O glorious crown!  
O resurrection day!

We angels, from the stars come  
down,

and bear my soul away.

*Tabernacle #304*

Our Bro. Fred Beer still battles some health issues. We continue to hold him and his family up in prayer. As we walk the daily battlefield, my mind often goes to the verse in II Thessalonians, "And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ." Some day He is coming for you and for me.

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## INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Jenni Honegger  
Marcella Tyler**

We are thankful to report the safe arrival of Hannah Jean on March 22 to Bro. Loren and Sis. Jenni Honegger. Siblings, Troy, Corey, Abby and Laura, are excited to have another little sister to add to their family's joy. Hannah's grandparents are Bro. Lloyd and Joyce Honegger of Forrest and Kirk and Jeanne Johnson of Moro, IL. We pray that Bro. Loren and Sis. Jenni will feel the Lord's nearness as they raise little Hannah to know and serve the Lord.

We want to thank visiting ministers, Bro. John Hartman (Sis. Rosemary, Fairbury) and Bro. Tim Drayer (Sis. Gwen, Bluffton North) for sharing the Word with us this month. Bro. John was with us for a Wednesday evening Topical Bible Presentation and Bro. Tim shared a Good Friday message with us. We are glad they took the time to be with us and ask God to bless them for their efforts.

Easter weekend provides much to celebrate and much to be thankful for. On Good Friday we are sobered by Christ's sacrifice on the cross. Then on Easter Sunday we celebrate the joy we can have and the freedom from sin and death offered by the empty tomb! It is this joy that makes us look forward to

being refreshed by the sharing of the Lord's Supper with Him once again through Communion. Truly what a glorious time of year this is!

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## INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**Joshua Martinez**

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

*Matthew 5:14-16*

We witnessed many examples of shining lights both tiny and great this month!

Sweet little Poppy Jane was welcomed into David and Jenna Beebe's family on March 29. We rejoice with her parents, siblings, Laisa, Lily and Corbin, and grandparents, Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue Beebe.

Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Debra, Remington) worshipped with us and shared the Good News from the pulpit this month. Also, Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla) joined our church family for our Communion service. We appreciate the love and effort given by these brothers and their families and wish them God's blessings.

On Easter Sunday we witnessed our Sunday School children share, with fervent simplicity, the meaning of our Lord's victory over death and the glorious promise of eternal life for all who believe in Him. We are thankful for the efforts of their teachers and parents. We also appreciate the children's courage and their expressions of praise, trust, joy and faith.

We lift up in prayer our loved ones who share the Gospel in faraway lands. We wish God's blessings to our dear friend Ciprian ("Chip") Iacob and his bride, Kasha, as they begin their life together as missionaries in Romania. We also pray for Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue

Beebe, who have travelled to serve in another mission trip to Hospital Lumiere in Haiti.

"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*

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## INDIANA, VALPARAISO

**Marguerite Hoerr**

Our winter in the Midwest section of the country has been quite mild; and now we find ourselves with a very early spring, and blossoms have burst forth early in unprecedented ways. We have loved the beauty of this and were enjoying it without complaint. Then comes a frost warning and those beautiful blossoms are nipped or destroyed and we find it more difficult to accept the effect this had on the fruit and early vegetables. The fruit and vegetable farmers are checking their fields often.

On the first day of April we were blest with a visit from the members of the Bro. Elmer and Sis. Rose Haab family. Each time they get together for their reunion they do it in an area that is close to one of the smaller churches; in this case they chose our Valpo church. What a blessing they all were. It was like "old home week" to me as we visited together, because the Theo Beer and Elmer Haab families grew up together, and attended Sunday school and church together. It was a special pleasure to us to have them visit, and to be with them for a Sunday. They were also a special gift to our Valpo members and friends. It seemed hard for any one of us to say goodbye and to head to our various homes. May God bless them richly for sharing their love with us.

On April 22, we were filled with pleasure by young people visiting us from the West Lafayette church. All, or most of them are college students at Purdue and several of them had ties to

the Valpo area. It was a day to make parents and grandparents smile as they welcomed relatives. I wish I could explain to you how wonderful the singing sounded to us, as their young voices strengthened our voices during song service. We also heard some inspired prayers from the young men. Our hearts are full of thanks for their visit.

Our folks who have enjoyed the sunny South and Southwest are back home in Valpo, and there is a huge welcome in our hearts for them. We would love to welcome back our special Bro. Art Heinold, who went to the Fort Myers area with Sis. Mary Ann Feller of the LaCrosse church. Mary Ann is waiting to bring her brother Art home with her again, but he has been ill and they have been waiting for the right time to make the trip. Bro. Art is our oldest member and we miss him and hope that this can happen soon. We have been asked to remember them in our prayers so God can grant them traveling safety and that he can become strong enough to be with us in Valpo church again. We miss him.

Bro. Dennis Weiss will be leaving the end of April, part of an engineering team to plot the course for bringing electricity for the first time to the mountainous villages of Guatamala. They will return with a work team of approximately 30 people in September to install transmission lines, in a very rugged terrain. Dennis said initial reports show that not one pole will be set into level ground. Our prayers are that he and his team will be safe as they start this project.

As we anticipate warm weather and pleasant travel, we ask you to remember that our church is located just 2 ¾ miles S of U.S. 30 on State Rd. 49. We love company and would give you a warm welcome.

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**INDIANA  
WEST LAFAYETTE**

**Ben Stoller**

**Katie Widmer**

Cheerful greetings from West Lafay-

ette!

We were blessed to partake in the sharing of Holy Communion with Bro. Curt Frank. It is always humbling to remember the sacrifice our Savior paid for the redemption for our sins.

That same weekend the youth of our church proclaimed with joy the resurrection of Christ our Lord in our annual Easter program.

Two weeks later West Lafayette had the special joy of hosting college age students from around the country for College Weekend. The topic of the weekend was "Unity Matters". The visiting brothers were Elder Bro. John Wiegand, Bro. Ken Wuethrich, and Bro. Troy Leyse. The entire church was blessed by the teachings and many visitors. Thanks to all who made the effort to come out; we did indeed feel great unity.

This time of year does bring much sorrow to the West Lafayette congregation as we bid farewell to Seniors whom we have grown to love. We wish God's abundant blessings as they pursue their next stage of life. We congratulate and bid farewell to Bros. Jay Fiechter, Tad Tonner, Jesse Wuethrich, Brent Fiechter, Shane Bahler, Joel Reinhard, Marcus Schwab and Sisters, Janessa Wahl, Tianna Stieglitz, and Leah Kaeb. Also we want to congratulate Bro. Chad Aeschliman upon his graduation and are excited to keep him and his lovely wife in West Lafayette.

Lastly, we'll leave you with a favorite spring sonnet.

The corn is beginning to sprout  
The farmers are running about  
We're praying for no drought  
But trusting God will provide, without doubt.

The spring rain brings us joy  
Though the pollen does us annoy  
However, it is a necessity  
for Springs colorful blessing

We trust all is well  
In the various locations you dwell  
We are thankful for the love that

binds

And the unity in Christ which leaves discord behind.

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**INDIANA, WOLCOTT**

**Sasha Kyburz**

**Donita Edelman**

On Good Friday we gathered together to hear the story of Jesus's death and resurrection told by the youth of the church. How precious it was to listen to the wonderful story of Easter being told with such excitement and enthusiasm. A special thanks to all the children, parents and teachers for their efforts — without each one's hard work it would not be possible to have such an amazing program!

We were richly blessed this month by the messages that were sent forth by our visiting ministers. We would like to thank them and their wives for spending this time with our congregation: Bros. Dale Banwart (Sis. Missy, Congerville, IL) and Al Schambach (Sis. Sarah, Remington, IN).

Our beloved Sis. Jean Kyburz was called home this month. Our sympathies are with her family at this time of her passing. The Lord will call each one of us home at our appointed time; let us watch and be ready when that time comes.

We are rejoicing with the angels as Diane and Lindsey Mailloux have announced that they have peace and are ready to become a part of the family of God. Our thoughts and prayers are with them at this wonderful time in their lives. We pray that the Lord will continue to guide and direct these dear souls down the path of righteousness.

It was such a blessing to gather together as a church body to reflect and take Communion together this month. We are so thankful for the Elders that came to partake of the Lord's Supper with us. Elder Bros. Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane, Lamont- Gridley, KS), Rick Plattner (Sis. Mary, Fairbury, IL), and Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN). It is such a special time to reflect on our lives and renew our relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ!



We are blessed to have so many graduates this year. Graduating from high school are Laura Furrer (Bro. Troy and Sis. Lisa), Kylie Blanding (Michael and Sis. Melissa), Sis. Hannah Bahler (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Heidi), Sis. Samantha Edelman (Bro. Kip and Sis. Donita), David Lehman (Bro. Greg and Sis. Mary Beth), Caleb Furrer (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Pam) and Sis. Adrienne Lehman (Bro. Greg and Sis. Mary Beth). Graduating from college are Bro. Shane Bahler (Chris and Sis. Teresa), Abbie Bahler (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Heidi), and Marcus Schwab (Bro. Mark and Sis. Shari). Our thoughts and prayers are with these dear ones as they continue their journey in life. May the Lord be with them and bless them always in everything they do!

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**IOWA, AMES**  
**Jacob Schulz**

We had a visiting minister one Wednesday night and one Sunday this month. We would like to thank Bro. Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove, IA) and Bro. Kevin Banwart (Sis. Sandy, West Bend, IA) for bringing forth the Word. May God bless them for their willing service.

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**IOWA, BLOOMFIELD**  
**Rachel Stoller**

According to Thy gracious word, In meek humility,  
This will we do, our dying Lord, We will remember Thee.  
Thy body broken for our sake, Our bread shall be;  
Thy sacramental cup we take, And thus remember Thee.  
Can we Gethsemane forget? Or there Thy conflict see?  
Thine agony and bloody sweat, And not remember Thee?  
When to the cross we turn our eyes, And rest on Calvary,  
Oh Lamb of God our sacrifice, We must remember Thee.  
*Hymns of Zion #301*

As we had the privilege to once more remember Christ's death and resurrection during the Easter season, we have much to be thankful for. We also took an evening recently to share Holy Communion together and remember our Lord's sacrifice. Elder Bro. Ted Steffen (Sis. Sandra, Alto, MI) was with us. We appreciate his labors.

Also visiting us this month were ministering Bros. Ted Luginbuhl (Sis. Stephanie, Smithville, OH) and Brad Funk (Sis. Laura, Garden Grove, IA). We are thankful they came to be with us and break the Bread of Life.

We have three new babies to report this month. Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary Wiegand have a new grandson, Cinch Wesley. Dan and Traci Wiegand are his parents. Bro. Roger and Sis. Deann Wuthrich also have a new grandchild, a granddaughter Hailey Lanae. Her parents are Bro. Chad and Sis. Angie Zimmerman (Eureka, IL). Bro. Doug and Sis. Rachel Stoller have been blessed with a baby girl, Anna Grace. Welcoming her are Joseph and Mary, along with grandparents, Bro. Tim and Sis. Mary Maibach and Sis. Luella Stoller of Smithville, OH. We thank God for His protecting hand over His creation.

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**IOWA, BURLINGTON**  
**Marilyn Anderson**  
**Monica Eisenmann**

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

*II Timothy 4:2*

We are very thankful for the visiting ministers who shared the Gospel with us the past couple months. May God bless Bro. Erik Givens (Princeville, IL); Bros. Tom Lanz, Mark Schmidgall, John Steiner, and Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) for their willingness to serve us.

On March 24, Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) assisted Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall read the Memorandum.

We shared the evening with the Oakville congregation and it was a blessed evening. May we continue to pray for our Elder body and take counsel to heed the warnings that are sounded.

Nearer my God to Thee; nearer to Thee;  
E'en tho it be a cross, that raiseth me;  
Still all my song shall be, Nearer my God to Thee.

*Hymns of Zion #92, vs. 1*

On April 2, our dear Sis. Verna Woodward was called to her heavenly home to be with our Lord and her dear husband Marvin, who passed away recently. Our sympathy and prayers are extended to her children; Sherry and Don Keppner, Sis. Diane and Bro. Tom Ebert, Bonnie (the late Tom) Niemtschke, Beverly and Larry Moser, and the late Sis. Ellen Cox (Bro. John, Sis. Shirley).

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**IOWA, ELGIN**  
**Maria Roche**  
**Brianna Strahm**

All things bright and beautiful  
All creatures great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful  
The Lord God made them all.  
Each little flower that opens,  
Each little bird that sings,  
He made their glowing colors,  
He made their tiny wings.

*Hymns of Zion #207*

Once again, we're thankful to see the many wonders of God's creation in the changing of winter to spring. May it serve as a reminder to us how God took our soul, dead in sin, and brought us back to life through His Son, Jesus.

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

Serving our congregation from the pulpit this month were Elder Bro. Doug Schock and Bro. Ryan Schock (both

from Bloomfield, IA). We are thankful for those that give of their time and talents.

We welcome glad Easter when Jesus arose

And won a great victory over His foes.

And tell how the women came early that day

And there at the tomb found the stone rolled away.

And sing of the angel who said, "Do not fear!

Your Saviour is ris'n again; He is not here."

And think of the promise which Jesus did give:

"That he who believes in Me also shall live!"

Then raise your glad voices, ye children, and sing;

Bring sweet Easter praises to Jesus our King.

*The Children's Harp # 127*

Without the birth of Jesus and His death and resurrection we could not have eternal life. Are you and I living a sinless life worthy of dying for the sins of the whole world?

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### **IOWA, IOWA CITY Diana Butikofer**

We were pleased to hear the engagement announcement of Bro. Luke Gerst (Bro. Joe and Sis. Connie) to Sis. Michelle Martin (Bro. Ed and Sis. Gladys) of Princeville, IL. We wish them the Lord's grace and pray He will direct their life together as they seek and trust in Him.

Bros. Floyd Frieden (Sis. Jan, Elgin, IA) and Gary Anliker (Sis. Edie, Elgin, IL) were with us during the Easter weekend. We appreciate these brothers' visits and their service on the pulpit and trust the Lord will bless them.

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### **IOWA, LESTER Gloria Moser Joyce Moser**

We welcome now our Saviour,  
Who lay in calm repose,  
For over death He triumphed  
and from the grave He rose.

*Zion's Harp #121*

We reflect on the miracle of the resurrection of our Lord and Savior during this Easter season.

Three dear families were blessed with precious little bundles from Heaven. Bro. Chet and Sis. Cassie Mogler welcomed Lily Anne into their family on March 25, along with big brother Brecken and grandparents, Bo. Brian and Sis. Bev Mogler and Bro. Tom and Sis. Deb Metzger. Brett and Melissa Metzger, Grayson and Calais, welcomed Payton Wayne into their family circle on April 3. Happy grandparents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Joleen Metzger. On April 8, Bro. Brent and Sis. Priscilla Bosch were blessed with Briley Rose. She is welcomed home by Breyona, Brooklyn, Briggs and grandparents, Bro. Tony and Sis. Pam Bosch.

We remember in prayer those who have spent time in the hospital this past month. They were Sis. Eleanor Popkes, Bro. Alfred Reutter (Sis. Barb), Shelley Van Wyhe (Leroy), Jeremy Metzger (Bro. Dana and Sis. Kary), Sis. Michelle Gramstad (Bro. Kjert), and Bethany Messner (Bro. Paul and Sis. Stacey). We also have many from our congregation who are undergoing tests and treatments at this time. May God's healing hand be upon each one.

It is always with great anticipation and a deep thankfulness that we partake of Holy Communion to remember the Lord's suffering and cruel death on the cross. We thank Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS) for his labors on our behalf the weekend of March 31. Other visiting ministers throughout the month were Bro. Brandon Emch and Bro. Brent Kellenberger (both of Kansas City, MO) and Bro. Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL). May the Lord be their rich Rewarder as they labor in His vineyard.

March 31 was the wedding day for Brian Leuthold (Bro. Chuck and Sis.

Vicki) and Deanna Kruse. We wish them God's blessing as they walk the path of life together.

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

*I Thessalonians 4:13-14,18*

We extend our love and sincere sympathy to Bro. Harlan and Sis. Betty Wulf and Jesse in the passing of her father, Bro. Raymond Klopfenstein (Latty, OH), on April 9 at the high age of 97 years. May the Lord grant comfort and strength during this time of sorrow.

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

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) with us the weekend of March 24-25 to help with the reading of the Conference Report.

It was a blessing to come together as a congregation to partake of Holy Communion. We wish to thank Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) for his willingness to be used March 31-April 1. May the Lord be his rich Rewarder.

Bro. Reilly Wagenbach and Sis. Katie Wiegand became one in the Lord in Eureka, IL, on March 18. Their parents are Bro. Colin and Sis. Barb Wagenbach and Bro. Andy and Sis. Vicki Wiegand.

On April 15, Bro. Kory Wagenbach and Sis. Brooke Streitmatter were married in Princeville, IL. Parents of the couple are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Bonnie Wagenbach, Jr. and Bro. David and Sis. Crystal Streitmatter.

We welcome Sis. Katie and Sis. Brooke to our congregation and hope they feel our love.

*Note of Thanks:*

Dear Loved Ones,

We want to express our thanks for remembering us on our 25th wedding anniversary. We appreciate the many cards, gifts and acts of kindness you have shown unto us. We pray God's blessings to you all.

In Christian love,  
Bro. Charles and Sis. Charlene Gerst

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## IOWA, WEST BEND

**Janet Fehr**  
**Leona Fehr**

Our prayers for healing went out to Don (Deb) Schultz and Bro. Martin (Sis. Doris) Zaugg this past month as they were hospitalized. May God continue to keep each one suffering bodily afflictions in His precious care.

Sis. Ruth Dodd went home to be with the Lord on April 7. We will never forget her giving heart. May her children (and grandchildren) feel God's comfort: Sharon (Robert) Wilson, Mary (Roy) Heller, Evelyn (James) Wilson, and Cathy (Jeff) Peters.

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

*Psalm 27:1*

Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi (Sis. Becky, Lamar, MO) assembled with us the first Sunday in April. We appreciated his willingness to be used of the Lord for services and also to assist Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm in serving our congregation Holy Communion. It is a humbling experience being united in Jesus' death. As Christ was faithful until the end, so may it be found of us!

We, who in God's name are here assembled,  
Solemnly do clasp our hands;  
That Christ's death and suffering be remembered,  
Faithfully for Him to stand.

*Zion's Harp #11*

April 15, Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, Portland, OR) were

gathered with us and we are thankful for their labors. Bro. Wayne Fehr will be assembling with us through the spring planting season and we appreciate having him take his place among the brothers who share the pulpit here.

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## JAPAN, SHIODA

**Carrie Ito**

Spring has sprung here in Japan and here to enjoy it with us were many visitors! Sis. Carol Sauder and Sis. Michelle Mueller from Tremont were here to visit the Itos and do some sightseeing. Later, Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois Ehnle (Peoria) were here for several weeks. It was wonderful to have fellowship with this dear couple who were used by the Lord to start our churches here in Japan. Because of their visit we had a nice crowd in Shioda church. Hint, hint—those of you with Japan connections—please come—it brings others, too! We pray that the Word they heard can draw them and that they can continue to come to church and seek the Lord! Lastly, but certainly not least, is Sis. Javon Steffen from Bluffton. She has come for a three month visit to study Japanese and see about the possibility of long-term service here in Japan. It was wonderful to hear her sing hymns in Japanese with us the first Sunday as she had learned Japanese in school! Thanks to all our visitors for making the effort to come and visit and support us!

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## JAPAN, TOKYO

**Marie Inoue**  
**Manuela Denes**

One of the many things I was looking forward to in coming to live in Tokyo was the cherry blossom season. I had seen many pictures but wasn't ready for how truly beautiful it is when they come into full bloom. It seemed that almost overnight, the trees exploded with their beautiful pink blossoms. The sudden springing into life of many other flowers coincided with Easter. The rebirth of the earth after a long winter brought to life the miracle that was the resurrec-

tion of our Saviour.

"And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre. And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus."

*Luke 24:1-3*

We were blessed to share an afternoon with a number of young children who come specifically to take part in the Easter program. Their parents were there as well and the majority of them do not come to church on a regular basis. Please be prayerful that the words the children speak and the songs that they sing become more than just something to memorize. May God touch their hearts and bring them to believe in what they sing and speak.

What a blessing it was to have a return visit from Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois Ehnle! It is such a privilege that God gives us to be able to travel with relative ease and comfort to such faraway places. We shared a lovely day of fellowship and singing. May God bless them richly for the many years they spent here in Japan ministering His Word at a time when communication was not as easy as it is now. May God continue to bless them.

Bro. Jesse Bedolla (Detroit, MI) spent the past Sunday with us. He was based in Yokohama for business and we were so happy to hear that he would be able to take time off from work to spend the entire day with us. It is truly special for us to have ministering brethren visit us and share the Word. We were able to have a Bible study together as well as share a meal and singing. We encourage one and all that, if the opportunity should present itself, please come and visit Japan!

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## KANSAS, BERN

**Sheri Edelman**  
**Rita Menold**

We continue to rejoice with the angels over another sinner who has begun his repentance. Jordan Rokey (Bro. Galen and Sis. Nancy) has answered the call! May God continue to bless him and

lead him on the path to everlasting life!

Another reason to rejoice and be glad was at the engagement announcement of Sis. Maria Baumgartner (Bro. John and Sis. Lori) to Bro. Aaron Luthi (Elder Bro. Jay and Sis. Jane) of the Lamont-Gridley congregation. A July 1 wedding is being planned. We wish God's blessings on them as they become one in the Lord!

Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris North) preached to us at Good Friday services. We thank him for his labors!

Holy Communion is a special time to be together as a congregation as we remember the Lord's suffering for us. We thank Elder Bro. Tom Waldbeser (Sis. Susan, Atlanta, GA) for preaching to us and helping in our partaking of the bread and wine.

We thank the other ministering brothers who came to preach God's Word as well: Bro. Jeff Bahler (Sis. Heidi, Wolcott, IN), Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS), Bro. Jerry Meeks (Sis. Christy, Sabetha, KS), and Bro. Dave Hartter (Sis. Beth, Sabetha, KS).

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### **KANSAS, FORT SCOTT**

**Teresa Bahr**

We had two of our flock in the same hospital at the same time. Sis. Betty Lemons (Bro. Bob) and Bro. Lyle Fischer (Sis. Lillian) have both been dismissed but still are needing our prayers.

Our visiting ministers this past month were: Bro. Brandon Emch (Sis. Maria, Kansas City, MO), Bro. Kevin Fehr (Sis. Lonnie, West Bend, IA), Elder Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO) and Bro. Jerry Meeks (Sis. Christy, Sabetha, KS).

We enjoyed blessed fellowship together as we held Good Friday services followed by our Sunday School students presenting their annual Easter Program.

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### **KANSAS, KIOWA**

**Janice Bahr  
Jenny Stewart**

“O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good; for His mercy endureth for ever.”

*Psalm 118:29*

Our congregation was very blessed this month to have partaken of Holy Communion. We are thankful to Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) for his time and efforts to be with us for this special service.

Spring is here and new life is all around us. May we be thankful for the blessings He bestows upon us daily.

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### **KANSAS LAMONT-GRIDLEY**

The engagement of Bro. Aaron Luthi (Elder Bro. Jay and Sis. Jane) to Sis. Maria Baumgartner (ministering Bro. John and Sis. Lori, Bern, KS) was made known to our congregation on April 8. We wish them God's blessings as they plan for their marriage.

What a blessed Sunday, April 15, to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of Michael Luthi (Elder Bro. Jay and Sis. Jane). We welcome this precious soul as our new brother in the Lord. Our thanks to Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN) who assisted our Elder Bro. Jay in this most important work. Visiting ministers who were with us were Bros. Larry Bahr (Sis. Julie, Ft. Scott, KS), Jeff Bahr (Sis. Janice, Kiowa, KS) and John Baumgartner (Sis. Lori, Bern, KS).

Other visiting ministers this month were Bros. Brandon Emch (Sis. Maria, Kansas City, MO) and Cory Metzger (Sis. Jodi, Wichita, KS).

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Lloyd Luthi who spent time in the hospital and is now in rehab. Also, Sis. Dorene Metzger underwent cataract surgery in both eyes.

Bro. Doug and Sis. Judy Kraft are thankful for the safe arrival of their second grandchild, Tylan Michael, born

April 22 to Bro. Todd and Sis. Kara Sinn (Latty, OH). Paternal grandparents are ministering Bro. Todd and Sis. Janet Sinn of Latty.

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### **KANSAS, SABETHA**

**Sally Strahm  
Belinda Kellenberger**

Ring the bells of heaven, there is joy today,

for a soul returning from the wild....

*Gospel Hymns #622*

Six souls have realized their need for the Savior and have started their repentance. They are Logan Fehr and Leanna Fehr (Bro. Todd and Sis. Cynthia), Whitney Grimm (Bro. Rod and Sis. Arlene), Daniel Strahm (Bro. Curt and Sis. Ellen), Ashley Grimm (Bro. Darin and Sis. Marci), and LaVon Wenger (Sis. Erma). We are so thankful for the troubled waters here in Kansas and continue to pray for those who are yet lingering without as the fields are still white for harvest and our Great God is not satisfied.

Bro. Curt and Sis. Ellen Strahm are thankful grandparents. Ethan Ray Strahm joined the family circle of Bro. Doug, Sis. Amanda and Elsie of Lamar, MO.

Visiting ministers who came and worshiped with us were Bro. Brent Kellenberger (Sis. Beth, Kansas City, MO) and Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris North, MN). God bless you for your labors in His vineyard.

Hospitalized this past month was Bro. Josh Hartter (Bro. David and Sis. Beth). We are thankful for God's merciful and healing hand.

We have now discontinued Wednesday evening church and began our bi-monthly Sunday evening hymn singing, rotating with the Bern church.

“And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”

*Ephesians 6:4*

With Father's Day upon us, let's be thankful for our earthly fathers and continue to encourage them to raise up the children God has given them to serve Him. And to our Heavenly Father, let's give Him all honor and praise that He is so worthy of.

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## KANSAS, WICHITA

**Emma Miller**

Sis. Ann Warner underwent knee surgery and has been dealing with the healing process. She is in our prayers and we look forward to seeing her able to make the trip from Hutchinson to church alone which she does since Bro. Howard's death.

Prayers are needed for the Bowers family as Bro. Phillip's affliction continues to worsen. Bro. Charlie Grimm seems to be rallying for which we are thankful but is still in home care.

The April 14-15 tornado that touched down in Wichita thankfully spared our congregation. I took shelter as the winds twisted realizing that God was our shelter.

We thank Bro. Gary and Sis. Edith Anliker (Elgin, IL) for spending Easter Sunday with us to fulfill the small church schedule. Traditionally, Wichita church observes Easter with a carry-in breakfast, followed by the Sunday School program and two regular services, so Bro. Gary adjusted his schedule to our schedule.

Our two Sunday School classes had been studying the scriptures in preparation for their part. The older group made up of middle school boys learned that the true colors of Easter were black which stood for sin, red for Jesus blood, white for purity/holiness, purple for royalty, yellow for light, green for life, and orange for Holy Spirit. The beginning class made up of Claire, Landon, and Nicklaus wrote this poem to explain what they had learned:

Bunnies are cute  
Eggs are fun  
But we're not done  
Here's the TRUTH  
Jesus died

Shed His blood  
Rose again  
To save us from our SINS.

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## KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

**Barb Huber**

"For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."

*II Cor. 5:21*

We were thankful as our Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH) came to share with us the blessed event of Holy Communion, the first weekend of April. How humbling it was to remember the great price our dear Savior paid when He shed His blood and allowed His body to be broken for each of us. We are not worthy of the death He died to save us from our sins. The reading of the Memorandum was also shared. May we by His grace "walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God." (Col. 1:10)

We also appreciated Bro. Chad Gerber (Sis. Jamie, Bluffton, IN) who came to minister God's Holy Word on April 15. May God bless our dear Elders and ministers for their faithfulness to labor and serve in the Lord's vineyard.

We were blessed by the fellowship of other visitors from Bloomfield, IA; Forrest, IL; and Sardis, OH; a foretaste of fellowship in heaven.

As we give tribute to our dear Mothers in May, we pray for God's special blessings to be with each one and "Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father." (I Thess. 1:3)

Again, we welcome all who may be in our area or travelling through to worship with us at Lexington. You may contact Bro. Lester Huber (859) 745-2541. Church services are held at 3938 Becknerville Rd., Winchester,

KY. Directions to the church are in the minister's book.

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## MEXICO, IXTLAN

**Matt Gerber**

"I will hear what God the LORD will speak: for he will speak peace unto his people, and to his saints: but let them not turn again to folly."

*Psalms 85:8*

This month the church was blessed by visitors and by a new baby. Bryan Josué was born on April 9 to Bro. Javier and Sis. Veronica Torres. Elder Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily Schlatter (Junction) spent a week here. Later on, Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Berenice Aupperle (CVE/Magdalena) visited Morelia and Ixtlán with the family of six children they care for. Sis. Marcela Salcedo travelled back with them and plans to live with the family to help lessen the load for Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Bere. Please pray that God would bless and strengthen Sis. Marce as she leaves home to serve at CVE. A small group from Ixtlán had the opportunity to visit Barra Vieja over Easter weekend and share a special time of fellowship with the brethren there. The Ixtlán Young Group has been reaching out lately to the older Sunday school children and doing activities with them. Hopefully this relationship can be an encouragement to these boys and girls who will soon be teenagers and have many choices and temptations before them. Thank you for praying for the church and the ministry here!

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## MICHIGAN, ALTO

**Listyn Oesch  
Melissa Blough**

"Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? Some of them that stood

there, when they heard that, said, This man calleth for Elias. And straightway one of them ran, and took a sponge, and filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him to drink. The rest said, Let be, let us see whether Elias will come to save him. Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; And the graves were opened; and 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. And many women were there beholding afar off, which followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering unto him.”

*Mark 27:45-55*

Our congregation was blessed with special songs of praise and worship to our Lord Jesus Christ as we celebrated His death and resurrection through our Easter program.

“And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body. And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it. And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many. Verily I say unto you, I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine, until that day that I drink it new in the kingdom of God.”

*Matthew 26:22-25*

A beautiful Communion service was given while, as a body of believers, we took part in the remembrance of our Lord and Savior and what was sacrificed so that we may be made clean through Christ’s shed blood.

We give special thanks to Elder Bro. Kent Heimer and his wife, Sis. Jan (Taylor MO), for their labors of love while

visiting us for Communion.

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## MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

**Sarah Knochel**

**Janelle Ramseyer**

Greetings in our Saviour’s name!

We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Dave Steffen (Sis. Linda, Elgin, IL) and his family in Bay City for Easter.

Our prayers have been with Bro. Eugene Meylan (Sis. Carol) and Bro. Joe Ramseyer (Sis. Dort) as they both spent time in the hospital recently. We are thankful that the prayers of healing have been answered.

As Mother’s Day approaches, let us take an opportunity to thank our mothers for the godly examples and heritage of faith they have given us!

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## MICHIGAN, DETROIT

**Krista Wieland**

Today as I was walking to pick up my first grader from school, I was praying for wisdom in parenting. It sort of struck me that one of the best things I can do for my daughter is to share with her some of the “little” things I talk to Jesus about throughout the day. I will never forget the times when I was a child sobbing about a lost kitten or a hitchhiker and my mom would drop everything to pray about it with me. I remember how much it meant to me when those prayers were answered and I knew without a doubt that Jesus cared. These experiences impacted my faith and prayer life as I grew older. I want my daughter to know that she can talk to Jesus any time during the day about anything as well as at bedtime and meals. Jesus cares about the little things as well as the big things. Am I teaching my daughter this?

“May the Lord watch between me and thee, when we are absent from one another.”

*Psalms 31:49*

Our church family sadly said good bye to the Strassheim family this month. Bro. Eric, Sis. Jodi, Tatton,

Landon, Selah, and Keira have relocated to the Indianapolis area and will be missed by all of us. We hope you will come back often to visit!

Thank you to Bro. Matt Manz and his wife, Sis. Deanna, and their son Tyler who came with Bro. Doug Harmon, Bro. Gale Stoller, Sis. Kristi Baran, Sis. Jessica Wenninger and Sis. Anita Schlatter (all from Toledo) to do a church service with the residents at Woodhaven.

Our annual church Easter program was March 25 and was a blessing to all. Visiting us that day were Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA) and his wife, Sis. Rose, and we wish to thank them.

“Blessed are they that mourn for they shall be comforted.”

*Matthew 5:4*

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Russ Rambeau (Ginny) as his brother Mike has passed away after a battle with cancer. We also give our sympathy to Sis. Jodi Strassheim (Bro. Eric) as her grandmother, Sis. Violet Hohulin (Goodfield, IL) passed away after living a wonderful life of 98 years.

We are praying for our Sis. Linda Reardon who has been diagnosed with cancer and will be having surgery the first part of May.

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 meal planning purposes by the 4th of July.

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## MINNESOTA MINNEAPOLIS

**Tim McMillan**

We began the month reading from Numbers 11:4-5, "And the mixt multitude that was among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat? We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely: the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onion, and the garlick:". As it is written in God's Word, it is the mixed among His people that go "a lusting" for what they used to have. They misled the people of Israel and caused them to weep. Only when the body is of one mind can we please the Lord and accept that which is according to His will. Let us pray that none of us yearns for what we had when we walked in the way of the world and cause others to be misled.

Bro. Don Miller and his family extend a heartfelt thanks to all who provided comfort, support, and kindness during their mourning of Sis. Bernadine going to rest.

Lord willing, the testimonies of Jamie and Jodi (Messner) Pelzel will be heard on the weekend of June 2. May we all rejoice in the growing of the flock as these two leave the cares of the world for the peace and comfort of the Lord!

A pleasant weekend was had this month as the World Relief committee met in our small Minneapolis church. The amount of work that is done by this group is extensive and far reaching. Please pray for the Brothers involved in the tasks the group does for the glory of the Lord. With the visit we were blessed with many visiting ministers. Elder Bro. Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra, Bluffton North, IN), Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO), Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Sis. Karen, Crogan, NY), Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Deb, Denver, CO), and Bro. Virgil Kaeb (Sis. Sue Ellen, Sarasota, FL). Thanks be to the Lord for the work these brothers perform.

Comfort, peace and joy  
be given through thy Holy Spirit,

Lord;  
may our hearts by it be driven  
in Thy ways with one accord.  
*Zion's Harp #48 vs. 6*

## MINNESOTA, MORRIS

**Annie Wulf**

**Kim Feuchtenberger**

Bro. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam, Latty, OH) and Bro. Wes Moser (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA) shared the pulpit with our home ministers. May God bless each minister when they lay aside thoughts of self and speak by inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Erika Domnick (Bro. Jim and Sis. Penny) and Aaron Rokey (Bro. Galen and Sis. Nancy, Bern, KS) feel that they are at peace with God and man. May God be with them and continue to help them grow in grace.

Bryson Lee Joos was born March 11 to Bro. Kevin (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Debra) and Sis. Kelli (Sis. Sharon Adams, Forrest, IL). Mallory, Adyson and Meyer are his older siblings. Chad Leonard Wulf was welcomed home by Emmitt, Lane, Reid, Nolan and Todd. Chad was born to Bro. Kurt (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy) and Sis. Savannah (Bro. Tim and Sis. Gwen Gramm) on March 14. Andon Thomas was born to Bro. Anthony and Sis. Amy Ekren on March 27. Andon's siblings are Alton and Annabella. His grandparents are Mark and Mick Ekren, Vance and Kim Gullickson and Bro. Gary and Sis. Sandy Fehr. Bro. Jon (Bro. DeWayne and Sis. Janice) and Sis. Sally (Bro. Dan and Sis. Eunice Fehr, West Bend, IA) Nohl had Eva Marie on April 5. Her siblings are Devin, Erin, Dustin, Elise and Elsa. On April 11, Bro. Darren (Bro. Rod and Sis. Denise) and Sis. Heidi (Bob and Sis. Janice Stoller, Lamar, MO) Schaefer had their first child, Luke Andrew.

Sis. Shirley Nohl has been in our thoughts and prayers through the illness and death of her husband, Bro. Noah. His funeral was on April 11. May God continue to be with her in the coming weeks and months.

"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. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

## MINNESOTA MORRIS NORTH

**Lois Schmidgall**

**Wanda Gramm**

"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

*John 16:33*

With Heaven as our primary objective in our walk here on earth, if we have obeyed the Gospel, are living in sincerity and diligence in the Word, we will then have the strength to face the unforeseen challenges and disappointments that we may encounter.

Life's victory is won was proclaimed of our Savior's resurrection in the Easter Program given by our Sunday School. We thank our dear youth for the wonderful program they shared with the body of Christ. On Easter morning, our annual Easter morning get together started with a short worship service by rejoicing and praising the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ at the WCROC Overlook site and was then followed with the Easter breakfast get together.

Bro. Loren Dettwyler (Silverton, OR) and Sis. Rita Knobloch (Lester, IA) visited on a special evening and shared their World Relief presentations with us. An extra special thanks to them both for the great informational evening.

Our hearts are rejoicing that our friend, Rachel Veenstra, has found peace in her heart and is looking forward to baptism. Our prayers of love and encouragement are with her.

We were thankful to have our Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan) and Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta) with us for our Communion service. Sincere hearts gathered in remembrance of the sacrifice that our Lord and Savior did for each and every one of us.

Bro. Floyd Schmidgall has come through knee replacement surgery successfully and we pray for God's continued healing mercies for him.

A special appreciation and thanks to the visiting ministers this past month whom were Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS); Bro. Kent Mogler (Sis. Mary, Minneapolis, MN); Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville, OH); and to our ministers, Elder Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan), Bro. Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel), and Bro. Doug Moser (Sis. Dawn) for their love and dedicated service to the Morris North congregation.

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

Visiting us in Rochester this month were Bro. Dewayne Dill (Sis. LaRae, Minneapolis, MN) and Bro. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend, IA). We appreciate their willingness to bring us God's Word. The dates for future Sunday services are planned for May 27, July 1, and July 29. We would encourage anyone in the area during that time to assemble with us. Wednesday services are held the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

We are prayerful for those who have used the Guest House for various reasons. It is a real blessing when we can meet people for the first time and feel the common bond that we have. It truly is something that only comes from our Great God. Contacts for the Guest House are Bro. Mark and Sis. Sandy Stork. The phone number for reservations is 507- 288-0072.

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

I need Thee every hour, in joy or pain;

Come quickly and abide, or life is vain.

I need Thee, oh! I need Thee;

Every hour I need Thee;

O bless me now, my Savior! I come to Thee.

*Gospel Hymns #597 vs. 3*

We have been prayerful for Sis. Dorothy Jacobson as she had surgery and is now recovering. We thank God for His healing powers and pray that He continues to heal according to His will.

He lives! He lives! What glorious consolation!

Exalted at His Father's own right hand,

He pleads for us, and by His intercession,

Enables all His saints by grace to stand.

"I am he that liveth, that liveth and was dead,

I am he that liveth, that liveth and was dead;

And behold, I am alive forevermore."

*Gospel Hymns #350 vs. 2*

During this very blessed Easter season, we enjoyed many visitors. We appreciate each one and welcome you back. We also express thanks to the Sunday School students for your efforts in serving breakfast to the church Easter morning.

I think of my blessed Redeemer,

I think of Him all the day long;

I sing, for I cannot be silent;

His love is the theme of my song.

Redeemed, redeemed,

Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb;

Redeemed, redeemed,

His child, and forever, I am.

*Tabernacle Hymns #126 vs. 3*

We always rejoice in Jesus' love for us, but especially when we celebrate Palm Sunday and Easter. We are so fortunate and grateful that we have been redeemed! To each one who has not yet

claimed redemption – we pray for you often!

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

As the Easter season just recently passed, we were blessed to remember the torture and separation from God that our Savior endured before He died and shed His blood for the remission of sins. How thankful we can be that He arose from the grave, offering the opportunity to each person who repents of sin and becomes truly converted to arise to a new life in Christ. And what better way to demonstrate our gratefulness than to live each day in obedience to God's will!

Also, on behalf of the trustees, a thank-you is extended to all who helped in some way with the spring work day at church earlier this month.

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

We were thankful to have had visiting ministers, Bro. Kent Getz (Sis. Betty, Elgin, IA) and Bro. Greg Stoller (Sis. Jill, Forrest, IL) with us last month. May God bless them for being willing to preach the Holy Word unto us.

Sis. LuEtta Braker (Bro. Raymond) spent a few nights in the hospital last month. We are thankful the Lord saw fit to send His healing to her and she is now able to be back in her home.

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

We are excited to welcome Brodie Curtis Wettstein, born to Bro. Curt and Sis. Larisa and big sister Isabella on April 24, to our church family. Grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Elna Wettstein (Roanoke) and Bro. Larry and Sis. Lori Wiegand (Goodfield). We thank the Lord for Brodie's healthy arrival and the blessings and lessons He brings to us through children. "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom



of God.” ( Luke 18:16)

We have enjoyed getting to know Polly Widmer from Rittman while she is here for a short time for flight attendant school. We wish her God’s blessings as she plans to move to Raleigh, NC, upon graduation.

Our church family enjoyed a breakfast and Easter program together on Palm Sunday to celebrate our risen Lord. Just thinking about what Christ did for us reminds me of 1 John 3:1, “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God...” and the eternal blessings for those who call upon His name.

We would like to thank Bro. Bill and Sis. Sharon Dotterer (Lamar), Bro. Robert and Sis. Laura Dotterer (Sardis) and Bro. Ken and Sis. Bernice Schneider (Remington) for sharing the Word of God and supporting our fellowship with their visits.

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### MISSOURI, TAYLOR Melissa Reiman

We would like to thank Elder Bro. John Jackson (Sis. Peggy, Bay City, MI), for helping with our Communion service and ministering to us again on Sunday. We also were blessed with visiting ministers in April: Bro. Ron Joos (Sis. Christy, Bloomfield, IA), and Bro. John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Burlington, IA).

Sis. Carrie Blunier has returned to her home at Leo, IN. We wish her God’s blessings.

Bro. Jon Zeller (Sis. Christine, Morton, IL), spoke to us on a Wednesday evening about the “Desire to Serve” and used Bible characters to illustrate his topic. What are we doing to show our desire to serve God? Do we have those quiet moments in our day when we are close to God and feel His nearness?

The Sunday School Easter Program reminded us of Jesus’ death and resurrection. Some of the children looked scared; some looked mischievous; some looked shy. However, all of them had two things in common: they were all happy and they were looking for their

parents’ faces in the audience. Just like the children, are we happy serving the Lord, and are we looking for our Father’s face?

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### NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Hope Graves

We are so thankful we have times when we can fellowship together. A potluck and singing were shared together on March 24. Several also gathered for World Relief quilting days on March 27 and 30. These are blessed times that we should not take for granted.

Our prayers extend to Sis. Alice Farney whose brother, Donald Everard, passed away on April 4. Sis. Alice was also hospitalized due to a broken bone from a fall. We pray that she may receive strength to heal over time.

Asking, I now may receive.  
Seeking, I know He’ll relieve.  
Knocking, I get, for I take and believe

Jesus is praying for me.

There in the presence of Jesus I stand.

Glorified Son at the Father’s right hand.

There I can plead, I can claim, I can have,

All He purchased for me.

*Hymns of Zion/Tabernacle Hymns  
#305*

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### OHIO, AKRON Erika Gal

“The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing.”

*Psalms 34:10*

At this time of year, our prayers and best wishes are always extended to our high school graduates. This year our thoughts are with Michael Indermuhle (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Carol), Kenny Graf (Bro. Todd and Sis. Lydia), Sis. Anna Steidl (Bro. Les and Sis. Judi), Brandon Ordogh (Bro. Peter and Sis.

Elvira), Bethany Laubli (Bro. Gaius and Sis. Ilona), and Benjamin Greenbank (Bro. Glen and Sis. Joan).

Our congregation hosted an Invite-a-Guest weekend this month, and we were so thankful to have Bro. Curt Walter (Sis. Elizabeth, Mansfield), Bro. Dana Indermuhle (Sis. Joy, Sardis), and Bro. Floyd Frieden (Sis. Jan, Elgin, IA).

Another blessing for us was the observance of Holy Communion. We wish to thank Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA) for his love and efforts during the weekend. Also visiting us this month was Bro. Pat Zaugg (Sis. Julie, West Bend, IA) and Bro. Ted Luginbuhl (Sis. Steph, Smithville). May God richly bless each one for their faithfulness and labors of love.

Our thoughts and prayers are extended to our hospital patient this month, Bro. Eugene (Sis. Dianna) Bako. We are thankful to see him in church again and pray that God will continue to strengthen and provide for him.

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### OHIO, COLUMBUS Lauren Rufener

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

*John 3:16*

Rejoicing in His faithfulness, we have once again felt the blessings of remembering His sacrifice on the cross and resurrection as we reflected this Easter season.

We appreciate visiting ministers, Elder Bro. Dan and Sis. Jenna Kilgus (Remington, IN), Bro. Tim and Sis. Wendy Gerber (Mansfield, OH), Bro. Todd and Sis. Lydia Graf (Akron, OH), Bro. Fred and Sis. Connie Domka (Mansfield, OH), and our Elder Bro. Mark and Sis. Jeannine Masters (Mansfield, OH) for sharing God’s Word with us.

## OHIO, JUNCTION

**Vicki Boroff**

We were excited to hear that Clark Schlatter is repenting. His parents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Corrine Schlatter. We pray for God's grace during his repentance.

We enjoyed the testimony and baptism of Sis. Linda Lord (Chuck). We wish her God's many blessings.

Elder Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily Schlatter are thankful to have a new grandson. Tucker Dane was born on April 21 to first-time parents, Bro. Regg and Sis. Bev Beer. They currently live in Ixtlan.

As always, we pray for our hospital patients and those that have need of a healing hand.

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## OHIO, LATTY

**Mindy Stoller**

**Carmen Stoller**

Greetings of love to each of you! We were appreciative to Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA) as he ministered to our congregation this month. May God bless him for his efforts.

Heidi Jo was born to Bro. Chet and Sis. Amanda Wenninger on April 1. She is welcomed home by older siblings, Reid and Heather. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Joyce Wenninger and Bro. Donn and Sis. Karen Steffen. May God bless this couple as they continue to raise their family.

We are thankful to report that John Rosswurm (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Amy) has turned to the Lord in humble repentance! May God bless him with grace and joy.

We are also rejoicing with Bro. Sam Steffen (Bro. Donn and Sis. Karen) and Sis. Laura Gerber (Bro. Dave and Sis. Patty) as they have announced their engagement. May God bless this couple with strength and love as they prepare for their marriage.

Two dear older brothers have finished their fight of faith and have gone to their heavenly reward. We pray for the families of Bro. Harlan Riggensbach (Sis. Dolores) and Bro. Raymond Klopfenstein (Sis. Catherine). May the

Holy Spirit provide comfort during this time.

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## OHIO, MANSFIELD

**Tami Griffey**

"...We drink one cup; we break one bread; One Saviour suffered in our stead." (Zion's Harp #25, verse 5). Communion Services were held March 25. We thank Elder Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane, Silverton, OR) for assisting in the evening. We are eternally thankful for our Lord's death and suffering for our sins upon the cross, and the hope we find in His resurrection.

"Jesus loves the little children..., Jesus died for all the children..., Jesus lives for all the children, all the children of the world. Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight, Jesus loves the little children of the world." (The Children's Harp #20). On April 1 our Sunday School students proclaimed the Easter message in verse and song. We thank each teacher and student for their efforts.

Prayers are with Sis. Luci Baumann and her family as she recently had surgery and was hospitalized. We pray God's healing hand upon her according to His will.

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

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## OHIO, RITTMAN

**Jenny Pertee**

**Anna Bauman**

God's Word was presented to the Rittman congregation through a variety of messengers this month. We are grateful to the many ministering brothers who came to the Rittman church and allowed God to use them on the pulpit. These include: Elder Bros. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT), Ed Schwartz (Bluffton, IN), Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumburg, NY), Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI), Ron Messner (Washington, IL) and Bros. Todd Stoller (Latty, OH), Gary Maibach (Smithville, OH), Matt Feucht (Roanoke, IL), Tony Manz (Junction, OH), Nelson Beer (Milford, IN) and

Gary Sinn (Latty, OH). Several events occurred which were partly responsible for bringing these ministers our way. The first event was Holy Communion, which took place March 17. It is always a blessed evening, and this year it was no less a blessing to partake of the wine and bread as Christ's blood and body. It's both an act of humility, knowing that we are part of the sinful human race responsible for crucifying the only perfect man to ever walk on earth, and at the same time an acceptance of the ultimate love given to us by that perfect Lamb.

The following Sunday, we were granted the opportunity to observe the union of a dear brother and sister in Christ. On March 25, Bro. John Calame III (Bro. John and Sis. Jodi) was joined in marriage to Sis. Jennifer Ryan (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Kathy). We trust that they will be able to experience God-given joy throughout their married life together.

It was also our privilege to witness the testimonies and baptisms of four converts on April 14 and 15, respectively, and we welcome them into the body of Christ with great joy and thankfulness. We heartily welcome into the fold Sis. Amber Sayre (John and Carol), Sis. Jessica Steiner (Bro. Rod and Sis. Jill), Bro. Reid Beery (Bro. Earl and Sis. Suzanne), and Bro. Matthew J. Steiner (Bro. Matt and Sis. Gail). We pray that our brothers and sisters will feel God's peace surrounding them wherever they may be.

We are thankful also to hear of a new convert, Amos Hartzler. Amos is the son of Bro. Tim and Sis. Sharon. We wish him much peace and grace as he takes steps in his walk with God.

New grandparents in the congregation are Bro. Rick and Sis. Dawn Dotterer. They were pleased to travel to Milford, IN, to visit Jenna Michelle, who was born March 24 to Bro. Marc and Sis. Jodi Beer.

Our prayers and sympathy are with the family of Lee Gasser, who passed away on April 10. Lee is survived by his son, Matthew; mother, Sis. Lucille (Bro. Albert, deceased); and siblings, Alan

(Becca), Mary Lou, Chris (Angela), and Carol (Paul) Zollinger.

Several people have recently spent time in the hospital, including Sis. Martha Steele (Bro. Ken), Sis. Joann Christian (Bro. Ron), Sis. Dorothy Zollinger, and Sis. Karen Rufener (Bro. Dan). God knows their various needs so we pray that they all may feel the loving and healing hands of the Comforter surrounding them.

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### OHIO, SARDIS Faith Beard

May we in perfect love be found  
When we Thy table, Lord, surround;  
Keep soul and body purified;  
Thy blessings, Lord, be multiplied  
Upon this feast.

Then some into our midst today;  
Impart Thyself to us, we pray.  
This cup and loaf are proof and sign  
Of this, Thy covenant divine  
In Jesus' blood.

*Zion's Harp, #200*

We sang a few verses of this hymn Saturday evening as we gathered for Holy Communion. Helping serve us was Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN). Bro. Dan also ministered to us the following Sunday, and we pray God's continued blessings on him and Sis. Jenna as they strive to do the work that God has given them.

We have recently had a few from our church family travel some distances on a couple different world relief/mission trips. We are thankful that we have the ways and means to participate in these activities as these broaden the locations that we can serve Jesus, and it also gives us the opportunity to observe firsthand the different people in the different cultures whom Jesus loves just as us.

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### OHIO, SMITHVILLE Gina Brake Lydia Dotterer

Our congregation was blessed with a number of visiting ministers and Elders this month. Elder Bro. Rick Plattner

(Fairbury, IL) was here to help serve Holy Communion. Bros. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN) and Ted Witzig, Jr. (Morton, IL) also visited us this month. Easter weekend also brought many from far and near. With us on Good Friday was Bro. Mike Ursu (Kitchener). For Sunday services our pulpit was full of visitors as we also had baptisms scheduled. Visitors included Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis) who assisted our Bro. Andy in the baptismal duties, and ministering Bros. Don Manz and Tony Manz (Junction), Tim Ramsier (Rittman), Mark Ramsier (Sardis) and Lucas Frank (Detroit, MI). It is such a blessing to hear the Word brought forth in truth and clearness. May God bless these brothers richly for their labors of love on our behalf.

“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

*Romans 6:3-4*

On Easter as we remembered Christ's death and resurrection, four dear souls, now our Bros. Nate Zollinger (Bro. Ken and Sis. Becky), Phillip Maletich (Bro. Dave and Sis. Connie), Travis Wilson (Jack and Carol) and Ian Maibach (Bro. Steve and Sis. Dawn), also died to their old life and were risen again.

Bro. Roger and Sis. Sue Saurer became grandparents to little Clayton Tyler Saurer on March 12. Clayton's parents are Bro. Todd and Sis. Esther, who attend the Columbus church. On March 19, grandparents Bro. Larry and Sis. Susan Rufener were glad to hear of Jasper Robert's arrival. His parents are Nimesh and Rebecca Patel. He has a big brother Harri. Bro. Paul and Sis. Kristen Klotzle became first-time parents to Wade Robert, on March 25. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley Klotzle. Sullivan James

Steiner, welcomed by big brother Mason and parents Milan and Stephanie, was born on March 27. Bro. Mark and Sis. Sue Steiner are Sullivan's grandparents. On March 30, Anna Grace was born to Bro. Doug and Sis. Rachel Stoller from Bloomfield, joining her siblings, Joseph and Mary. Sis. Luella Stoller is her grandmother.

On the same day Bro. Larry and Sis. Susan celebrated the birth of a grandson, they also mourned the loss of Sis. Susan's father, Bro. Robert Luginbuhl (Sis. Martha) of Rockville. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family in this time of grief.

Sis. Carol Schuster and Bro. Dave Dotterer both spent some time in the hospital this month. May God grant swift recovery as according to His will.

We are thankful to hear that Heidi Stoller (Bro. Ed and Sis. Verla) and Jackie Wilson (Jack and Carol) have started repenting. We certainly wish them much grace as they walk this narrow path of life.

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### OHIO, TOLEDO Anita Schlatter Deanna Manz

March 17-18 was our Invite-a-Guest weekend. It is always uplifting and encouraging having a full church! We are grateful for all those who made the effort to be with us.

Bro. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction) and Bro. Curt Walter (Sis. Elizabeth, Mansfield) ministered the Word to us this past month. We thank them for bringing their families to visit, and ask the Lord to bless them for their willing service.

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

*St. Luke 15:10*

We rejoice with the angels that Clark Schlatter (Bro. Ray and Sis. Corrine, Junction) has made a beginning on the path of repentance. Clark has been attending our congregation while he pursues a degree at The University of

Toledo. May he feel our love and prayers as he begins his walk with the Lord.

Our thoughts and prayers have been with Kurt Rager (Bro. Walt and Sis. Sharon), as he was hospitalized recently. We are thankful he could return home in good health.

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### **OREGON, PORTLAND** **Rebekah Jones**

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

*Hymns of Zion #207*

It has been a blessed month to watch God's creation unfold as the warm weather approaches. How thankful we can be to praise the One who created all! We were thankful to worship together on Good Friday and Palm Sunday to remember the suffering of our Saviour and the Salvation that was made possible. The Sunday school children had the Easter Program and brought forth the story of the Christ at Calvary through songs and verses.

We were blessed with the ministry of Elder Bro. John Wiegand (Sis. Jane) and Bro. Todd Zollinger (Sis. Michelle), both of Silverton.

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

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

*Psalms 139:14*

Lyle and Andrea Kuenzi welcomed Victoria Louise into their home on March 16. Henry, Adeline and Emerson are Victoria's excited siblings. Grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Barb Kuenzi, Bohm and Ramona Townsend, and Jim and the late Victoria Buss. May God bless this family as they raise their children to know Him.

"...be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him."

*St. Mark 16:6*

We enjoyed the story of the Lord's crucifixion and resurrection brought to us by our Sunday School students on April 1. We appreciate their hard work in preparing this for our benefit. How thankful we are that the story does not end at Calvary but at the empty tomb. To God be the glory!

Aaron and Stacie Kuenzi (Bro. Jim and Sis. Barb Kuenzi and Bro. Tim and Sis. Barb Zimmerman, Lamont-Gridley, KS) have experienced the miracle of Christ's atoning blood as they have professed peace with God and man. Our prayers will continue with them in the upcoming weeks.

Our prayers are with Bro. Nick and Sis. Lori Stadel and their children, Trever, Kiersten, Malinda, Kassandra, Miranda and Trent in the loss of Sis. Lori's father, Bro. Perry Virkler (Sis. Carol, Fairbury, IL). The loss here on earth is great but the victory is greater in heaven! May God comfort their hearts and fill the emptiness as only He can.

Bro. Jim Dietrich (Sis. Joan) was a surgical patient this month, and Brandon Metzger (Bro. Kurt and Sis. Koreen) had his tonsils removed. Both are doing well and we are thankful to see them back up and running!

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### **PENNSYLVANIA** **PHILADELPHIA**

Hallelujah! The Lord arose!  
Our ransom now is paid.  
The Son is victor over death,  
whoe'er believes is saved.

*Hymns of Zion #257 vs. 5*

We were very blessed with the Sunday School's Easter program on Palm Sunday. First, the Sunday School provided the church with a delicious breakfast. Then, we really enjoyed hearing the wonderful program from

the students. It was really a blessing to be reminded of Christ's sacrifice and victory for us.

We were also thankful to get together on Saturday, April 14, for our annual church cleaning.

Our prayers are with Connie Baer (Ed) as she had surgery this month.

May God provide for every need and keep us all in His wonderful care.

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### **TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE** **Mike and Monica Fritz**

We are thankful that Bro. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder have returned safely from their winter in Zapata, TX. Aaron Beard recently had surgery, and we are thankful that he is recovering well.

We appreciated the opportunity recently to have Elder Bros. John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia; Latty, OH) and Lynn Fiechter (Sis. Ronda; Bluffton, IN) with us to share Holy Communion and the reading of the Memorandum.

Additional visiting ministers this past month, for whom we are thankful, include Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Sis. Karol, Cissna Park, IL) and Bro. Daron Price (Sis. Monica; Milford, IN). We have also been blessed by the fellowship of brethren and friends visiting from Cissna Park and Forrest, IL; Bluffton and Milford, IN; Bern, KS; and Junction and Latty, 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: Peoria, IL (5/27); Bradford, IL (6/3); Akron, OH (6/10); Princeville, IL (6/17); and Kansas City, MO (6/24). If you plan to worship with us, please call ahead to confirm our schedule. Often we gather on Saturday evenings for fellowship, and all are heartily welcome.

Also, we typically meet on Wednesday evenings at 7:15 p.m. for call-in services and would welcome any midweek visitors. Contacts are Bro. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder, (615) 373-8928; Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz, (615) 866-5543 (fritzmb.family@gmail.com); and Sis. Gwen Leuthold, (615)

356-5755.

**TEXAS, AUSTIN**

**Serenity and Jasmine Ringger**

The dedication of the World Relief homes was March 29th, wrapping up the 2012 work projects. Sincere thanks to our locals and visitors for their part.

Thanks to all who came to visit our little church this month; there were some from Bern, Smithville, and Mansfield.

We appreciate the ministering Brothers who come to share the Word with us. The past month we hosted Bros. John Baumgartner (Bern, KS), Galen Rokey (Sis. Nancy, Bern, KS), Don Manz (Sis. Connie, Junction, OH), Dale Stoller (Sis. Sandra, Fairbury, IL), Rex Frieden (Sis. Vera, Lamar, MO), and Steve Frauhiger (Sis. Irene, Bluffton North, IN).

The following is the minister schedule for June: (10) Rittman, and (24) Roanoke.

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

**TEXAS, McALLEN**

**Joyce Nohl**

We wish to thank our visiting ministers who have shared God's Word with us this past month: Bro. David Marquart (Sis. Lori, Taylor, MO) and Bro. Steven Pamer (Sis. Arliss, Akron, OH).

We have services scheduled for June 3 - Francesville, IN; and July 15 - Bern, KS. These dates could be changed so please verify if you plan to visit.

Andy and Kristi Plattner have in-

formed us that their apartment will not be available for the months of September, October and November.

Sunday services are held at 10:30 and 12:30 at the Holiday Inn Express, 1921 South 10th St. Take the 10th Street exit off Expressway 83 and go 1 1/2 blocks south. Please see the ministers' directory for local contact information. We 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**

Our winter residents have returned to their homes and we are now having a smaller gathering each Sunday. We have been alternating services with the McAllen congregation.

We are looking forward to traveling to Magdalena, Mexico in June for the testimony of our convert, Alisha Ramirez who lives in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico and assembles with us in Zapata.

Anyone coming to South Texas is encouraged to call to make certain where services are being held on that weekend. We certainly welcome anyone coming to worship with us.

**VERMONT**

**NORTH CLARENDON  
Nathan and Miriam Reutter**

Out onto Calvary's hill  
where Jesus died I'll go,

to hear the words He speaks,  
to see Him in His woe.

*Zion's Harp #89*

Once again, we wish to thank our visiting ministers and their dear wives that were with us this past month. They were Bro. Dan Goric (Sis. Mary Lou), Bro. Tom Bahler (Sis. LaNae), and Bro. Duane Reutter (Sis. Kay), all from Rockville, CT. We remembered the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior earlier this month and look forward to Communion at the beginning of May. God has been so good to us and we want to continually praise and honor His Holy Name!

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

(802-293-2724). We love to fellowship with believers, whether it is during the week or on the weekend. Please let us know if you are planning 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.



## 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:spbahr@yahoo.com)*

*Suggested possible nearby day trip: Greenfield Village [www.thehenryford.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:leutholdg@aol.com)

Bro. Don Sauder — 615-373-8928 or [don.sauder@juno.com](mailto:don.sauder@juno.com)

Bro. Kerwin Edelman — 256-777-1107 or 256-230-2151 or [edelmanteam100@gmail.com](mailto:edelmanteam100@gmail.com)

Bro. Andy Stoller — 330-682-8171 or [andrew.stoller@juno.com](mailto:andrew.stoller@juno.com)

### **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](mailto:countryinn@live.com) for complete job description.

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



## **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:

## **Foster Care Program Manager Needed**

Gateway Woods has an opening for a brother or sister to manage our Foster Care Program. We are seeking someone who desires to serve in a ministry that serves troubled and broken children and families. The Foster Care Program Manager is a key full-time position that offers responsibility, management and creativity. If you have a dedicated interest, love and sensitivity for youth and families, at least a bachelor's degree in social work, counseling or a related field, and possess good motivational, organizational, teaching and communications skills please contact one of the brothers listed below for more information and a job description.

## **Foster Care Child Placement Case Worker**

Gateway Woods has a need for a full-time Foster Care Child Placement Case Worker. This position provides the opportunity to work with foster families and foster children. We would prefer a Bachelors Degree in Social Work, but would accept a Bachelors Degree in a related field such as Guidance, Sociology, or Psychology.

Please prayerfully consider our need and contact Bro. Jeff Schumacher or Bro. Lynn Stieglitz for more information concerning this position. This is an opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of children.

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

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

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



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was faithful. He knew God would be faithful to him, and He will be faithful to you and to me today. Let's continue to trust Him.

In this Bible there are little headings at the beginning of some of the thoughts. In this chapter, Romans 12, there are three little headings that I would like to read before we start. Let's, in our mind, consider these little thoughts as we go through it. The first one is proper response to God's grace. The second one is proper use of God's gifts. The third one is overcoming evil with good. As we go through this chapter let's think about those three things – proper response to God's grace, proper use of God's gifts, and overcoming evil with good.

We should be thankful every day for God's grace – His help and favor – that He has for His creation. He created us in His own image. (Genesis 1:27) From the dust He made Adam. (Genesis 2:7) Think about it. We read in God's Word that from dust we are created and to dust we will again return. (Genesis 3:19) That's this body. It's not going to last forever. It's only going to last for a few years here upon this earth and it will be gone. The Word also tells us, doesn't it, Dear Ones, that this body is the temple of the living God, and we are to keep it Holy by His grace. (II Corinthians 6:16) He gives us the power and the strength just like He gave Job the power and the strength to overcome many, many years ago. He will give us that power, strength, and grace to overcome. Yet sometimes we make excuses, don't we, and we wonder if God would really expect that from us. The Word tells us we should deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Him. (St. Mark 8:34) I just read this morning in the Silver Lining what Brother Willis Ehle wrote, and he said in Japanese it translates as throw yourself away. Throw yourself in the garbage – that's how it translates in Japanese. So let's think about that as we read these first few verses here about trusting in God's grace and His almighty power to help us each day. Let's think about if we can just throw ourselves away and let God take control, wouldn't it be a lot better? It would be a lot better if we could deny ourselves, take up our cross daily, and follow Jesus, and yet there are so many distractions. We live in a world where there are more distractions today than since the world began. Yet God knows that, and He will give us strength, courage, and grace each day.

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your

bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Romans 12:1. That's denying ourselves, picking up the cross, and following Christ, isn't it? That's all that is, and it says that's just a reasonable service. Yet it is hard. Without the grace of God it is impossible. So how are we going to respond to the grace and power of God? Are we going to get bitter? Are we going to say, 'I can't do it.' Are we going to make the blood of Christ of none effect and say 'It doesn't have any power for me. It's not helping me.' Or are we going to respond as Job did, and say, 'Yes, He gives me strength. He doesn't punish me for what I deserve. He gives me the strength, courage, and the grace to go on if I just submit to him and if I deny myself, throw myself into the garbage, and just follow Him.' That's what the Apostle Paul told the Roman church right here in this first verse, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Let's trust Him, in His grace, and the power He has.

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." v.2. By the renewing of our mind, we can prove what is that good and acceptable will of God, can't we? We struggle with that sometimes. We wonder what is God's will? What is He trying to tell me? Where should I go? What should I do? If we live by that first verse, if we just throw ourselves away, God can guide us, direct us, and teach us. The Word tells us the devil is enmity with God. (James 4:4) We can't have both. We can't hang onto both and ever make it. Let's cleave to Jesus as we sang in that hymn. "Jesus I will never leave, who for me Himself has given; Therefore unto Him I'll cleave, Nor from Him be ever driven; Life from Him doth light receive, Jesus I will never leave. (Zion's Harp #228, verse 1). Just think about that whenever times get rough, whenever we feel we are in a struggle, in a battle, and wondering what to do and the direction to take. Let's cleave to Jesus because He's going the right direction.

"For I say, through the grace given unto me..." v.3. This is proper use of gifts that God gives us. If we submit to Him, the gifts are bountiful. In that article that Brother Willis wrote, he talks about what we should give up. What should we give up? We just give up all, and He will bless us. He's eighty-some years old, and he said, 'I have found that so.' The brother that baptized him told him the more you

give up for Christ, the more He will give you, and he said, 'I have found it so. That's how I found it. He was right.' Seventy years ago when he was baptized the elder told him that, and he said, 'He was right!' He would be right if he said it today, wouldn't he. We can be thankful God has not changed. As we submit to him, He gives us blessings. As we give, He gives. We are not going have any lack. We'll have plenty.

"For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly..." v.3. Consider our short life here upon this earth today. Let's think about it a little bit. We could just tear through life and not worry about a thing, and yet that's not how God wants it either, is it? He wants us to think soberly – think how short this life is and that there is a destination at the end that's eternal. There are two destinations at the end that are eternal, and we want to go to one of them, don't we? There are two choices.

"...think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith." v.3. The measure of faith. We are not all the same. We could go down through the pews here this morning, and everybody would have a different idea. We all think a little bit differently, don't we? We all look at our life and what's really important to us a little bit differently. The Apostle Paul said that "...to every man the measure of faith."

"For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:" v.4. We are not all cut out for the same thing, are we? Wednesday night we had our business meeting, and it's amazing to me how God has put brothers into positions who are good at what they are doing. They know how to do it. They know how to handle situations, money, and different things they have to handle in God's household. We're not all the same. Some of us can't do it, and we wouldn't even want to try to do it because we know we can't do it. The Apostle Paul said that is the way it is. "...all members have not the same office:"

"So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith: Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering; or he that teacheth, on teaching;" v.5-7. So we can see here as he brings forth some offices in the church how we are all different. We all have different gifts and talents, and God will put you in a position  
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*Sermon continued from page 41*

where He wants you. But what do we do? Sometimes we think why? Why am I here? Why am I not here? Why am I not in that position? Wouldn't you think for as good as I am at this that God would put me there? Then we have to go back to the chapter in Job where we could see that Job knew God was in control, and God knew him, better than Job knew himself. He knows you and me better than we know ourselves, and He knows what we are made for. He put us here for a reason. Let's throw ourselves away so He can use us as He wants to use us.

"Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness." v.8. We can see that in our brotherhood, can't we? We have brothers and sisters here who have a tremendous talent. They might not say a word, but God is using them. We can be thankful that God can use each one of us no matter what we are doing or what we are not doing if we submit to Him and throw ourselves away.

"Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good." v.9. We live in a society where evil almost isn't evil, is it? It's accepted. It's promoted. We as believers should know that it is wrong. It was wrong in the beginning, it was wrong at the time of Adam and Eve, and it is still wrong today. We should abhor it. Apostle Paul put it that way – abhor evil! Hate it! But we are reminded here that we are not to abhor the person, "Let love be without dissimulation." In the same verse he says, "Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good." We shouldn't just hate the evil, but we should cleave to that which is good. As we sang in the hymn, cleave to Christ; cleave to the things that are eternal.

Think about the seeds you are sowing today. If we are sowing to the flesh, we shall reap corruption. That's what the Word says – of the flesh we shall reap corruption, if we are sowing to the flesh. (Galatians 6:8) We don't want to be there, do we? We don't want to just end up out here in the dust and spend an eternity in hell so we should cleave to that which is good. That's what the Apostle Paul was telling them: just abhor the things which are evil – that's the old body that you threw into the dumpster; cleave to that which is good – those things that are eternal that are going to enhance God's kingdom here upon this earth and will go on into eternity.

Let's dig into His Word, read and meditate, live and love His Word as He would

want us to do, Dear Ones. We have a precious privilege to be a child of God. We don't need to spend eternity in hell. No one does.

"Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;" v.10. Is that how we are – in honor preferring one another? Just because this brother has this talent but doesn't do what I do, do I think maybe I don't prefer him above me? We are to prefer our brother above ourselves, even the brother of low estate, whoever that might be. I don't even know who that might be. We do know the Word says the first shall be last and the last first. (St. Matthew 20:16) Let's consider that.

"Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;" v.11. So we have a duty, don't we? As we go through life, we're not to be slothful or just sit around and do nothing in a physical way or in a spiritual way. We can't just sit back and say, 'I've been baptized, the Lord has saved me, and it's going to be great to be there in Heaven.' That's not why we were called. God has work for us, and we should be thankful. We should be thankful we have work to do. Sometimes at work guys complain, 'we are so busy; we just can't get this all done.' I don't know what they expect, and yet are we thankful for work, for a job where they actually pay us on Friday? We should be thankful, shouldn't we? It's the same way with the Lord. He's given us an eternal home there. He's built a mansion there for us in Heaven, and all we have to do is throw ourselves away and follow Him in this life upon earth. It's simple, and yet it's hard because human nature comes in, our pride comes in, and we don't want to follow Him. We have things to do, we have interests, and we have things we like.

"Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality." v.12-13. What an admonishment but yet an encouragement to each one of us! Distributing to the necessity of saints and given to hospitality might not be just having people into your house, but are you hospitable when you meet people on the street, at work, or wherever it might be? Are you the kind of person they want to be around, to visit with, and talk to? Can they see within your heart as they could see there was a good spirit within the heart of Joseph? They knew it was something from God. Are we given to hospitality?

Then the last part is overcome evil with good. "Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not." v.14. Do we sometimes feel persecuted? It might be closer than you think. It might in our own

home. It might be in our own family. It might be at work or school. All of us are going to suffer some persecution. The Word tells us that all who live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. (II Timothy 3:12) So then how do we react? Do we react as Job did, or do we react how the old man that we threw in the garbage can would like to react? Bless them that persecute you.

"Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits." v.15-16. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. You know we can see that in the world, can't we? So many people get into trouble by trying to keep up with the Joneses – for lack of a better term. They get into trouble financially, spiritually, maritally, and a lot of things because they are trying to reach for more. They just can't get enough. Think about it! Where are we? Have we thrown that away? Have we given that up, and we're just condescending to men of low estate and being content with a peace and a joy in our heart that comes from following Jesus?

"Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men." v.17. There we go again. It hits kind of close to home for some of us, doesn't it? "Provide things honest in the sight of all men." Sometimes we maybe didn't cheat anyone, but it might have looked like we cheated someone so in their sight we don't look honest. Let's consider it today. Are we just following Jesus? If we are just following Him, we'll look honest. We'll look like we have love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, meekness, temperance, and faith. That's how people will perceive us.

"If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men." v.18. If it be possible – sometimes people are unreasonable, aren't they? Or sometimes maybe we are unreasonable. A lot of times we see, work with, or are around unreasonable people, and that's why he said "if it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men." Jesus and God have the power. They have the power to help us live peaceably with all men or he wouldn't have put it here.

"Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." v.20-21.

What a powerful chapter God has opened to us this morning. May God bless us and keep us each one in His power and in His grace.

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

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

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

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*Jerry and Arlene Banwart, 307 First St, Congerville, IL 61729*  
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the people perish:  
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Proverbs 29:18*

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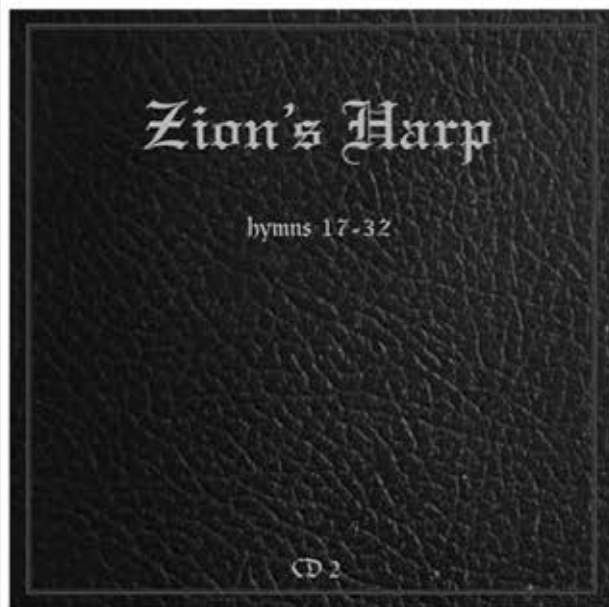
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APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN

## Counseling and Family Services

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### Instruction

- Spoke 4 of 6 from the Parenting  
With a Purpose Parenting Wheel

**Biblical Basis (what does God say about this topic?):** Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 23:12, "Apply thine heart unto instruction, and thine ears to the words of knowledge." Psalms 43:11, "Come, ye children, hearken unto me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord."

**What purpose does this concept have in the parenting wheel?** Biblical Principles must be taught intentionally. For children to know and desire the will of Christ for their lives, they need to be trained and taught in accordance with His word. Deuteronomy 6:6-7 "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." If left to themselves, children, like adults, will pursue the flesh rather than godliness. The Christ-centered honor and respect between parents and children talked about in Ephesians 6:1-4 will not just happen; rather, it is the result of purposeful instruction.

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

•**Establishing the Fundamentals:** As Daniel purposed in his heart to follow God (Daniel 1:8), so ought parents to purpose in their hearts to instruct their children in the truth of God's Word. John 17:17, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." The "how" of instructing children in the truth of God's word will vary from parent to parent and family to family. While the Word has graciously allowed for flexibility in the "how-to's" of discipline methods, there are some fundamental elements that need to be in place with whatever discipline method parents choose to use. Examples include training our children (Proverbs 22:6), teaching them diligently (Deuteronomy 6:7), not avoiding correction (Proverbs 23:13), and not provoking them to anger (Colossians 3:21).

•**Building Blocks:** Listed below is one way to consider the building blocks of parenting. This model includes three core building blocks along with three modifiers. The modifiers tell us the spirit in which the building blocks need to be applied. The building blocks are what we DO and the

modifiers describe HOW it is done.

#### Building Block Modifier

- a) Communication MUST Command
- b) Consequences MUST Compel
- c) Consistency MUST Confirm

If we think about constructing a wall out of blocks, we can more easily see the need for modifiers. A wall constructed of blocks stacked together without mortar might have the appearance of being strong; it might even hurt to run into it. However, the block wall could probably be pushed over or even dismantled one by one. The modifier (i.e., how it is done) is like the cement that holds the blocks (i.e., what we do) together. The mortar between the blocks is what unifies the strength of all the blocks and can create a structure that will provide strength and security when the storms of parenting come.

#### •Building Block 1: COMMUNICATION with modifier of COMMAND.

This building block and modifier help answer the question: *How do we communicate instructions, limits, and expectations with our children?* The building block, Communication, forms the basis of all relationships. The modifier, Command, refers to the ability to speak or direct with specific authority. As parents, this means striving toward being seen as a trusted leader. If parents are not viewed as an authority figure in the home, it will be difficult (if not impossible) for them to be commanding in communication.

#### •Building Block 2: CONSEQUENCES with modifier of COMPEL.

This building block and modifier helps answer the question: *How do we implement consequences and how do we know which one to use?* The building block, Consequences, teaches about the effects and outcomes of one's behavior, whether positive or negative. The modifier, Compel, refers to the ability to convince others of the need for change. There are two principles to remember about discipline:

#### 1. Discipline Must Be Purposeful:

Hebrews 12:11, "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby." This verse affirms that consequences are to have impact. To apply such consequences, parents need determination, discernment, and the right attitude. The consequences we give our children should be powerful enough to compel them to reestablish self-control in a present situation and then, ideally, to act correctly in simi-

lar future situations. Such consequences need to be purposefully unpleasant enough so that children can recall from memory what happened the last time they disobeyed.

#### 2. Discipline Must Keep the Child's Best Interests in Mind:

The power of the modifier "compelling" for this building block lies in how it brings purpose to consequences. It can also provide assurance to the child that his parents have his best interests in mind even when they are implementing consequences. A child will often rebel against consequences, but there is a part of his heart that will find comfort in knowing he doesn't have to lead the home or be in charge.

#### •Building Block 3: CONSISTENCY with a modifier of CONFIRMING.

This building block and modifier help answer the question: *How do we maintain consistency with how we are parenting?* The building block, Consistency, allows parents to provide children with a predictable set of guidelines for living. The modifier, Confirming, refers to the ability to instruct with assurance and truth.

#### Consistency in Principles, Flexibility in Application:

As parents, our response to our children's issues needs to be consistent from day to day; however, our actual disciplinary tactics will vary based on the needs of the situation. To be consistent in approach, we must be consistent in our attitude (i.e., the way we think) and our composure (i.e., being confident that we are doing the right thing). We develop this consistency by being firmly grounded upon biblical principles. This allows parents to vary disciplinary tactics while remaining consistent in what they are teaching their children.

#### Personal REFLECTION:

(How am I doing in this area?)

1) What expectations do you have about your role and your spouse's role in instructing your children? Consider your strengths and weaknesses and how you can help each other.

2) What will be your first priority or area to address?

3) Do you need any additional information or support to help make that happen? If so, what would that be?

<sup>1</sup> Rosemond, John. (2007). Parenting by the Book: Biblical Wisdom for Raising Your Child. New York, NY: Howard Books.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:darylluginbuhl@gmail.com)

 APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
**World Relief**  
[www.acworldrelief.org](http://www.acworldrelief.org)

## USA World Relief Committee

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

* Bro. Kent Heimer * Bro. Chuck Kellenberger * Bro. Bill Leman * Bro. Les Schambach * Bro. Tom Neuenschwander * Bro. Ray Slagel * Bro. Paul Kaeb	<i>Counseling Elder</i> <i>Chairman</i> <i>Treasurer</i> <i>Administrator/Sec.</i>	Taylor, MO Elgin, IL Roanoke, IL Elgin, IL Bluffton, IN Fairbury, IL Bern, KS	Cell# 573-248-5701 Cell# 224-629-6531 Cell# 309-241-0257 Cell# 630-247-5271 Cell# 260-307-6026 Cell# 815-848-3714 Cell# 785-547-5269
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### Light From The Word

*now available by downloadable PDF from the  
Apostolic Christian Publication web site*

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

## Give a Child Hope

### Child Sponsorships

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



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

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

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

### To sponsor a child

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mr.  Mrs.  Miss

Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please check preference:

- Haiti     Guatemala  
 Mexico     Jamaica  
 Zambia     Wherever needed

If possible I would prefer:

Boy – Age \_\_\_\_\_

Girl – Age \_\_\_\_\_

No Preference

Cost: \$25.00/month

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

#### Send to:

ACWR Child Sponsorship

PO Box 36

Morton, IL 61550

Phone: 309-266-6080

Fax: 309-266-5281

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



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
**World Relief**

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

## CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 2012

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

### HAITI

Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012 -[www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/](http://www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/)

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

### JAMAICA

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

Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012 -[www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/](http://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**

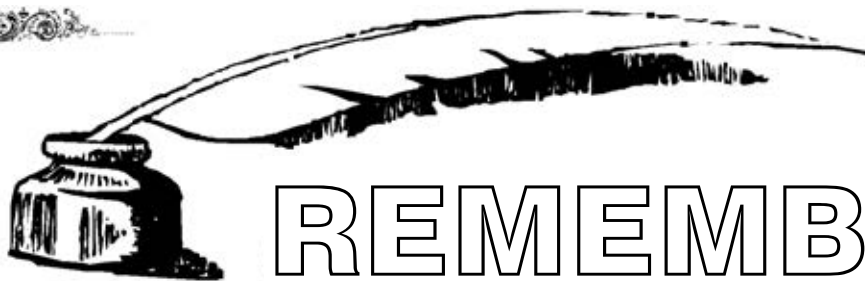
*If anyone is interested in leading a team to Mexico, contact Bro. Mike Fiechter at 260-597-7330 or [mfiechter@onlyinternet.net](mailto:mfiechter@onlyinternet.net)  
 Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012 -[www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-mexico/](http://www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-mexico/)*

<b>Location</b>	<b>Year 2012</b>	<b>Coordinator</b>			
Magdalena Construction	Jun 9-16	Steve Leuthold Peoria Bible Class 309-249-2141 sleuth@speerbank.com	Magdalena Construction	Jun 23-30	Jeff Roche 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



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# REMEMBERING

## *Our Spiritual Heritage*

*We are continuing the series on the life of Elder Earnest Graf, Akron, Ohio, who was a significant leader in the church in the early portion of the 1900s. He served as an Elder from 1922-1946.*

### **Returning Home From the Klopfenstein Farm**

My seven months terminated on November 1 (from my employer), so my father took me home. As I had been well supplied with clothes, I had drawn none of my wages, and brought \$42, my whole summer's wages, to my father intact. His renters having moved, we had the whole house again.

Our plan was for us two to keep house together which was not too enticing to me as I knew I would have to wash the dishes while father did the cooking. But it was otherwise decreed. After a very few days father took sick with Typhoid fever. My sister Rosa came home, and we took care of him as best we could. I was not 14 years old, but the cares and worry weighed so heavy on me that I slept scarcely any during the 9 days that my father was sick. This affected my heart badly so that I felt it for almost a year but outgrew it again.

### **My Father Passes Away**

On the 9th night my brother Adam came, which was a great relief to me and Rosa, and the following day our Father passed away. This was November 11, 1887. Adam now took charge of the funeral, which was held at the Amish church on Pleasant Hill. He disposed of the household goods except clothes and

bedding, intending to take me along to Ashtabula where he and John, Elizabeth, and Margaret now lived or worked.

Before John was ready to leave, two Amish spinsters, named Maria and Susan Yoder, came and said they were looking for a boy who could help them with the chores and go to school for his board. They seemed so goodhearted and kind, and as Adam left it to me to decide, I promised to go. Rosa was promised to marry soon, and Louisa was already married.

### **Living With An Amish Family**

So, I went to live with those two old girls and their mother, who was old and feeble and quite childish. I had a good home, a warm bed, and plenty to eat. They had one horse and seven head of cattle, which I fed morning and evening, and cleaned the stables. The women did the milking. They had old magazines, almanacs and books, out of which I had to read them every night, which was pleasure and pastime for me.

Always on a Saturday I hitched up old Dolly in the phaeton, and one of the maids and I would drive to Smithville to the Post Office and general store of Thomas & Huntsberger to buy the needed groceries for the following week. I went to the school which has now been remodeled and is now the home of Ed Mathis. Our teacher was Freeman Hoff, who walked from Sterling every morning.

### **Moving Again**

As spring advanced, my brothers and sisters in Ashtabula urged me to come there as they believed, and

rightly so, that I was too young to shift for myself. The Yoders hated to see me go, and said I would always have a home with them. But I obeyed my family and took leave about April 1st, going by train via Cleveland. I found that it had been decreed that I should work the first year for Albert Zollinger's, the second for Chris Roth's, and the third for my brother Adam. Albert had a chance to work for wages in Sam Steiner's swamp, and I was to do the farm work excepting seeding, haying, and harvest.

This scheme was carried out throughout the summer, and the following winter I went to school in East Trumbull, where I had gone three years before. Our teacher was Charles Parker, and his brother Clark was my seat mate and rival for first place. This proved to be my last term of schooling. On the last day I spelled down the whole school which has always been a pleasant memory to me. My teacher commended me as the only German boy in the whole school for having achieved this feat.

About this time my brother Adam left for Oregon and I have never seen him since, nor worked for him as I was supposed to. The last time any of us heard from him was in 1920 from Butte, Montana.

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

Next Issue:  
The Earnest Graf story continues.

# The Light Of Hope

## “Regret”

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

It has been said that we should live as we will have wished to live when we depart this life. That would be with no regrets. Most of us have some regrets but we must not let regrets destroy us.

David regretted his affair with Bathsheba. He wrote in Psalm 51:3 “My sin is ever before me.”

The prodigal son said in verses 18 and 19 of the 15th chapter in St. Luke, “Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.” He had many regrets. He should have known better. Most of us know better than what we do. I have heard it said that it isn’t that we don’t know what we should do and what we should not do, it’s that we don’t do what we know we should do, and sometimes do what we know we shouldn’t do. That brings regret.

In the story of the rich man and Lazarus, the rich man had regret because he hadn’t repented. He said “Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.” If we do not repent and live faithfully for Jesus Christ, we will have the greatest regret that will be eternally devastating.

What about believers in Jesus Christ, children of God? Maybe you don’t have any regrets but I do. Lois and I regret sending our children to a boarding school in Tokyo during their junior and senior high school days. They could come home on weekends so we thought it would be all right. However, we should have moved to the location of the school in Tokyo and had them at home with us. We could have commuted

to the Shioda Church on weekends. Life is full of “We should have,” or at least it is for me.

Maybe you fare better than I.

The Apostle Paul regretted persecuting the church. He wrote “For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.” I Corinthians 15:9.

The thought occurs to me that it may also be bad if we don’t have any regrets. If it means that we have been very prayerful and have always done the right thing, that’s good, but it may mean that we always think we are right and have no need to be corrected or admonished by anyone. This can be dangerous. We should always welcome advice from others as to how we can be more obedient to the Bible including how we can produce unity and peace in the Brotherhood.

Going back to the Bible characters who had regrets, Esau regretted selling his birthright for a morsel of meat or food. Hebrews 12:16-17, “Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.”

Moses surely regretted disobeying God as recorded in Numbers 20:7,8 and 11, “And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water. ... And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water

came out abundantly.” Because of this disobedience Moses and Aaron were not permitted to enter the promised land, teaching us that there are consequences for disobedience.


Jonah regretted refusing to obey God when he was told to go preach unto Nineveh that the people there should repent. It is written in Jonah 2:1,2 “Then Jonah prayed unto the Lord his God out of the fish’s belly, And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the Lord, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice.”

What do you think about regret? Do you have any regrets? What about the future? I believe we should be very careful and try to eliminate, as much as possible, having regrets. To do this we need the counsel of others. Proverbs 11:14 reads “Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety.” That is the reason we have an Elder Committee in our church to help solve problems in the church. None of us should ever go it alone. It is all right for us to take a stand alone for what we believe but we should not try to force it on others. That may bring regrets. The Bible says, “Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.” I Corinthians 10:12.

May God kindly guide us so that we have few regrets and may we humbly be obedient to His guidance. The Bible includes the teaching in Ephesians 5:16, “Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.” This helps to avoid regret.

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

A photograph of a waterfall cascading over mossy rocks. The water is white and frothy as it falls, creating a sense of movement and freshness. The surrounding rocks are dark and covered in vibrant green moss, adding to the natural beauty of the scene.

*Come and lead us full of gladness,  
Gentle Shepherd, by Thy hand,  
After all this pain and sadness,  
Into that true Fatherland,  
Where the living waters free  
Quench our thirst eternally.*

*Zions Harp 53 vs.4*