



"Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."
Exodus 20:12

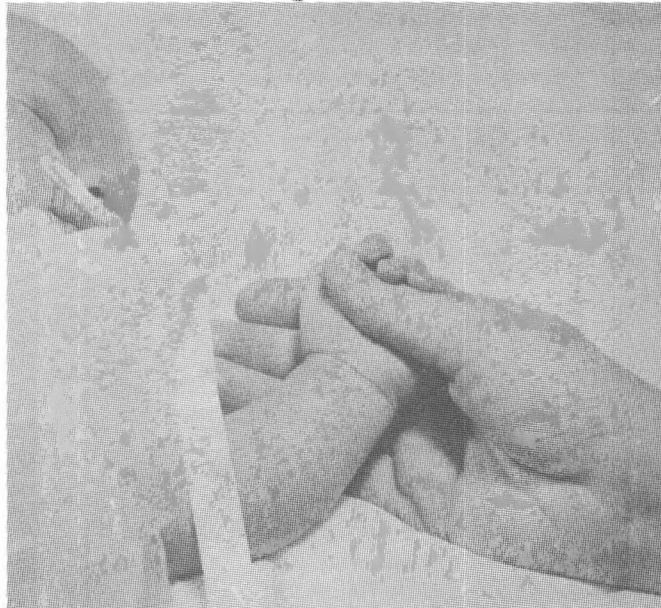
"... To be a JOYFUL MOTHER of children."
Psalms 113:9

VOLUME 39

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NUMBER 5

MOTHER



"My Mother's Prayer"

I never can forget the day
I heard my mother kindly say,
"You're leaving now my tender care;
Remember child, your mother's prayer."

I never can forget the voice
That always made my heart rejoice;
Tho' I have wandered God knows where,
Still I remember mother's prayer.

Tho' years have gone, I can't forget
Those words of joy -- I hear them yet;
I see her by the old arm-chair,
My mother, dear, in humble prayer.

I never can forget the hour
I felt the Savior's cleansing pow'r;
My sin and guilt He canceled there,
'Twas there He answered mother's prayer.

Chorus:
When-e'er I think of her so dear,
It seems her angel spirit's near;
A voice comes floating on the air,
Reminding me of mother's prayer.

Oh, praise the Lord for saving grace!
We'll meet up yonder, face to face;
The home above together share,
In answer to my mother's prayer.

Gospel Hymn #808

MISSION -- WORLD RELIEF -- WORKS PROJECTS

"RESPITE" CARE WORKS PROJECT

There is a need for a couple (brother and sister) or two sisters to live at the Home next to the Lexington church, to work with the "Respite" program of the city of Lexington, providing short-term care for the handicapped.

PURPOSE: Respite Care is a temporary rest from the daily challenge of caring for a family member who is disabled. Its aim is to serve the family as a unit, rather than only the disabled individual. It is designed to relieve families of the constant responsibility of caring for the disabled member for a few hours, weekends or longer, to allow the parents and other family members, some time to tend to other necessities of family life or deal with the stress, such as illness, death

in the family, hospitalization, job related problems or moving.

All parents need time away from their handicapped children to rest, regroup, temporary relief from the responsibility during times of stress, crisis or emergency. Often it is difficult or impossible for parents to find willing and competent caretakers for their son or daughter with special needs or handicap.

Respite Care can also have a very positive impact on the respite providers themselves. Besides affording providers the opportunity to earn some income, providers experience great satisfaction, blessing, personal growth and understanding through this work. Many providers feel it is important for their own children to get to know persons with special disabilities and

need. Frequently the disabled person's relationship with the provider extends to the friends, families and neighbors of the provider.

TRAINING: A couple or two sisters volunteering as providers would receive 30 hours of training for this work. They have developed a training course and manual, giving instruction on how to work with, handle, treat, give medications and recognize the many characteristics of the various handicaps. They have set up a treatment program and reporting system for reporting problems and results.

The Respite program provides all the recruiting, processing and assignment (2 days notice) of the disabled client.

(Continued on Page 4)

THE ENDOWMENT FUND OF THE APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA

The elder body has approved the formation of The Endowment Fund of the Apostolic Christian Church of America. This fund has been created for better stewardship of assets given to the church for the Lord's work.

In addition to outright gifts, the Endowment Fund would receive gifts from donors who want their gifts used over a period of years rather than immediately. The donor may designate how the gift should be used, or the use can be left to the discretion of the Endowment Fund management committee.

The Endowment Fund can also accept non-cash gifts and can provide advice on compliance with tax laws to provide more funds for the Lord's work than would be possible without following the tax guidelines. An example is a gift of real estate, securities or other properties on which the donor can receive all or part of the income during the donor's lifetime.

The Endowment Fund would use its assets in the following ways:

1. To assist existing church funds such as local and national charity, World Relief, Mission and Bible funds.
2. To provide a source of funds for ongoing projects, unusual or unexpected needs as deemed fit and proper by the Elder-supervised Endowment Fund Committee.
3. To provide emergency loans and grants for other funds or projects within the church.

Questions about the Endowment Fund or contributions to the fund can be directed to any brother on the committee (listed here with their home church) or by contacting the secretary at the address or phone numbers listed below:

James J. Stoller, Chairman -- Eureka, IL
 Jerry Banwart, Secretary-Treasurer -- Congerville, IL
 Ben Maibach -- Detroit, MI
 Bob Walder -- Congerville, IL
 Bob Grimm -- Goodfield, IL
 Roy Grimm -- Taylor, MO
 Jim Hoerr -- Peoria, IL

Jerry Banwart, 2400 N. Main, East Peoria, IL 61611
 Office: (309) 694-4251 Home: (309) 448-2416

THE SILVER LINING

Grabill, Indiana 46741
 USPS 496780

EDITORIAL STAFF:

David Bertsch
 Uriel Gehring
 Lester Stoller

The editorial staff wishes to acknowledge and thank all of the volunteers from the Leo Apostolic Christian Church who willingly give of their time to handle the many address changes, help mail the monthly issues and spend hours in editing. May God reward you.

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 c/o David Bertsch
 11520 Grabill Road
 Grabill, IN 46741

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IN MEMORY -- EDITORS:

HENRY SOUDER
 EDWARD SOUDER



Writings based
on God's Word

Light From The Word

"The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple" (Ps. 119:130).

The Believer's Relationship with Christ

We are taught in the Word that God is "rich in mercy" and because of the "great love wherewith he loved us," He gave His only Son, Christ Jesus to die for us, that we might be made alive in Him (Eph. 2:4-5).

A beautiful relationship is established with Christ for each individual who comes to Him in true saving faith: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works lest any man should boast" (Eph. 2:8-9). "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name," (John 1:12). This genuine saving faith leads to repentance and conversion (Matt. 3:8; Acts 3:19) and the individual is "born again" as explained by Jesus to Nicodemus (John 3:3-8). A blessed condition of righteousness is imputed by God to every soul that truly believes in Him (Rom. 3:22; 4:11). However, this cloak of righteousness is not endowed upon a sin-filled heart. Rather, by the miracle of conversion, a heart is cleansed: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Cor. 5:17).

The relationship between a believer and Christ is compared with that between a branch and a vine (John 15:1-11). Christ in His great love seeks this intimate union with every person who comes to Him in sincere faith. He wishes to share the unspeakable glory which He derives from His relationship with God. In His high priestly prayer, Christ entreated the Father on our behalf. "And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be perfect in one; and that the world may know that Thou hast sent me,

and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world" (John 17:22-24).

Christ also described His relationship with those who would follow Him in faith as that between a good shepherd and his sheep. He exemplified the fierce loyalty of a true shepherd, including a willingness to lay down His life for His sheep (John 10:15). He made it clear that no man could snatch away His sheep as long as they hear His voice and follow Him (John 10:27-28). The Apostle Paul reiterated this truth when he wrote, "neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 8:38-39). The only force not mentioned was self, and that ability to choose to reject Christ remains within every human being as long as he lives.

The relationship between Christ and His body of believers (the church) is compared to that between a husband and wife (Eph. 5:22-32). The church is to be sanctified and cleansed by the Word. The believers are "members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones" (Eph. 5:26, 30).

All of these examples clearly represent an extremely close and beneficial relationship, through which the child of God draws His spiritual lifeblood. When this true fellowship with Christ exists, it is also exemplified as a blessed fellowship among the believers in the church, walking together in the light (1 John 1:6-7).

The primary purpose of a close relationship with Christ is to enable

the believer to bring forth abundant fruit, to the glory of God (John 15:2, 5, 8). One's motive for bearing fruit must be love for Christ, not to gain acceptance or earn favors from Him or from fellow human beings. True love for Christ is manifested by sacrificial love for the brethren and obedience to the Word. "And this is his commandment, that we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment. And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him" (1 John 3:23-24). Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15). The proof of sincere love for Christ in bearing fruit and doing good works is evidenced by an attitude of giving all glory to God for every accomplishment. Even the most effective and sacrificial giving of self for others should be viewed only as "reasonable service" (Rom. 12:1).

Another important purpose for a very close and abiding relationship with Christ is to avoid being drawn away by Satan. Mature sheep huddle close to each other when threatened by a predator. Those who are immature and careless often drift away from the flock and are easy prey. A close relationship with Christ is manifested by a strong bond of fellowship within the brotherhood (Rom. 12:5, 1 Cor. 10:17, 1 John 1:7). If the believer sins willfully and continues to condone this abuse of grace, he can become blinded and again fall away from Christ (Heb. 10:26-31). This will not occur if the child of God remains in the safety of the hand of the Good Shepherd and follows His direction (John 10:28).

Finally, as a result of an abiding relationship in Christ, the believer experiences blessings untold, indeed a foretaste of Heaven here on earth (Eph. 2:6). "And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:7).

NEED: There is a longing on the part of the members to participate in this respite program. This project and the personnel would help the small congregation to grow. There is a three bedroom home next to the church that would be available for this work.

The family living in this home, prior to their move, the sister had participated in this respite program.

There would be a need for a married couple (brother and sister) or two sisters to live in this home, receive the training and become involved in

the program as providers. Those interested in this work would need to have an interest in helping the disabled/handicapped, stable, supportive and sympathetic toward the handicapped.

Anyone interested can call or write: Bro. Lester Huber, 3938 Becknerville Road, Winchester, KY 40391, phone: 606-745-2541; or Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman, Route 1, Box 4, Francesville, IN 47946, phone: 921-567-2798.

--NOTICE --

Repair and Distribution of Worn Bibles, Bible Story Books, Hymns of Zion, Tabernacle or Gospel Hymn Books

In 1984 we read in the Guideposts concerning the unfilled need for 10,000 Bibles. We wrote to the organization and started sending some repaired and some new Bibles. Since that time, we have sent over 500 Bibles, much Sunday school materials and song books.

During this past year, Sisters Becky Knapp (Dave) and Jane Huette (Curtis) from Goodfield, IL, have been helping in this work.

If our churches or individual members have Bibles, Bible story books, Hymns of Zion, Tabernacle or Gospel Hymns that are worn and in need of repair, please let us know or send them to us. We tape and repair the books and obtain names and addresses of people in foreign countries who want and need them, package and mail them in large canvas mailing bags. It costs 55¢ a pound to send books or \$1.10 for printed material of less than 30 pages. On a recent shipment to Africa, the cost to send a Bible was 72¢.

If you have any questions or wish to send material for repair, please call or write:

Jerry and Arlene Banwart
Box 132
Congerville, IL 61729
Phone (309) 448-2416

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

Bibles Distributed By Our Churches

First Year -- August 1983 thru July 1984 -- 13,890
Second Year -- August 1984 thru July 1985 -- 10,812
Third Year -- August 1985 thru July 1986 -- 18,247
Fourth Year -- August 1986 thru July 1987 -- 23,048
Fifth Year -- August 1987 thru July 1988 -- 25,969

Bibles Distributed -- Sixth Year

	MONTH	TO DATE
August 1988 --	3486	3486
September 1988 --	1365	4851
October 1988 --	1762	6613
November 1988 --	2655	9268
December 1988 --	1637	10,905
January 1989 --	2070	12,975
February 1989 --	2562	15,537
March 1989 --	2017	17,554
April 1989 --	2386	19,940

NOTE: Sets of Braille Bibles are available to give to the blind and KJV, Old and New Testaments, on cassette tapes for those who can no longer read the large print. Also, pocket testaments with Psalms and Proverbs are available.

WORKS PROJECTS Wycliffe Associates Building Project

The Work Projects Committee has approved a new domestic work project that has a two-fold purpose of giving opportunity to those who would want to volunteer their labor and talents on a construction project and to promote fellowship with our brethren and friends who live in the Dallas/Fort Worth, TX, area.

The project is with Wycliffe Associates, the construction arm of Wycliffe Bible Translators, a non-denominational organization whose objective is the use of the science of linguistics to give to those people who do not yet have their own language in writing, the Word of God in that language. Wycliffe Associates is a lay group charged with the responsibility of construction and maintenance of buildings throughout the world. Currently they are building apartments for elderly members who are returning from the mission field and who will be sharing their knowledge and experience with those students who are learning the translation techniques.

Skills are needed for all types of building construction and there are work assignments available at the center for women who would like to participate. Volunteers are asked to bring their own small hand and power tools. Large machinery and equipment will be on the site.

Living accommodations are provided. They have 10 spaces for RV's or trailers -- complete with sewage and electrical hook-ups at a cost of \$4.00 per day. There are showers and a coin laundry nearby. Others can stay in a room in one of the duplexes built several years ago. The rates for

these rooms are: single (\$25/week) or one couple (\$45/week). If children are included contact us for the additional cost. The construction center dining room is open for three meals a day at a cost of \$6.50 per day. Reservations have to be made ahead of time for living arrangements.

The Wycliffe building projects can use volunteers at any time and for any length of time -- whether it be one day or two weeks. The third Sunday of each month is being set as a target date for volunteers to either begin or conclude their volunteer work period. This third Sunday conforms to our regular worship service, which is held at the Holiday Inn in Desoto. This is nine miles from the work site. Services are normally scheduled for the 1st and 3rd Sunday of every month.

It is anticipated that there is a minimum of four years of work at this site; however, it is the desire of the committee that those who have a heart for this service consider putting this work effort into their plans as quickly as possible. You may contact either Bro. Arnold Gerst (217-223-8424) or Bro. Hoard or Sis. Dolores Rapp (214-867-4074), who reside in the Dallas area, for additional information.

**WORLD RELIEF/
WORK PROJECTS REPORT
Hopital Lumiere
(Hospital of Light)
in Haiti Needs Our Help
Bro. Robert Pflederer**

Lumiere Hospital, in contrast to Albert Schweitzer and Grace Children's Hospitals, is only twelve years old and serves an approximate population of 350,000 Haitians and consists of one community health dispensary, one outpatient clinic and one hospital. They have no major funding support outside of gifts directed through MEBSh and Lumiere Medical Ministries. Their major thrust is evangelical. Their goal is to minister to the spiritual needs of their patients as well as the medical. They have great difficulty meeting their budget requirements. For example, they need \$5,000 a month for pharmaceuticals and oftentimes get less than \$2,000 in terms of donations. Their pharmacy has never been stocked adequately with a base in-

ventory, and frequently they are out of drugs that are critical in their operation. They are doing an excellent job with the meager staff and resources that they have, but the need is great for additional support. Our goal through World Relief and the Jamaica-Haiti committee from Bluffton is to provide medical supplies and ship them to Haiti on a regular basis. We hope to be able to arrange shipments in small quantities more often, perhaps every two months or quarterly, depending upon available materials. Drugs and medical supplies need to be shipped as timely as possible after acquisition because of expiration dates.

The following is a list of capital expenditure items which we will be submitting to the World Relief Committee for their consideration over the next year or two. Some of these items might lend themselves well to a project for a Sunday school class, a potluck group or any other interested group who could supply one or more of these items and/or contribute monies toward them through World Relief. If you are interested, please contact Bro. Bob Pflederer (Morton, IL) and he will be able to tell you how you can become involved in assisting the Haitians in these worthy projects.

1. Two commercial washing machines.
2. One commercial dryer.
3. Diesel dump truck.
4. Twenty-passenger van, diesel powered.
5. Four-wheel drive land cruiser.
6. A new outpatient clinic for Lumiere.

After major capital items, we have also identified more general needs as listed below:

1. A variety of tools for the maintenance department.
2. Towels including terry cloth bath towels and linen hand towels.
3. World Relief sewing projects for patient gowns, glove holders, etc.
4. Bed sheets.
5. It was noted that for packing material and extras that can be included in the barrels, there is a high level need for clothes, shoes and small plastic bags such as plastic bread wrappers.
6. In regard to other personnel needs, it is emphasized that we need

to find ways of supporting and encouraging the staff of Lumiere including nurses, administrative clerks and maintenance people. One way is to provide low-cost items that they can purchase for their own use which would serve as extra benefits toward their personal maintenance. Christmas gifts for staff would be appreciated.

**NEWS FROM EASTER EUROPE
Andy Hunyady**

Greetings Beloved! May the love of God continue to bind our hearts into a strong spiritual union, so that, together we can more effectively serve God and our fellow men according to His holy will.

In the past few months we received a large number of cards, letters and even phone calls from brethren and friends in the East European countries. They all bring the usual Christian greetings and expressions of thanks and gratitude for your gifts of love and faithful support.

Most of these letters come from Romania, where the living conditions are getting worse. Suppression, hunger, poverty, disease and mortality rate of increasing among young and old alike. The authorities do nothing to improve conditions. Shipments of food and medicines are restricted and controlled by the government. Often the packages are delayed for weeks and even months, so that some of the items are spoiled in the boxes. All foreign agencies licensed to trade with Romania have been cut off and licenses cancelled as of December 1988, and gift packages can no longer be sent to Romania from the western countries.

The West German government is making every effort to send food to the German speaking families in Romania, but it too is running into a lot of opposition. One West German newspaper, "Welt Am Sonntag" reports that the Romanian agency "Ilexim", dealing with foreign trade, had offered to sell 66,000.00 U.S. dollars worth of food stuff to "Phenjan General Import - Export" agency at 40% discount, for hard currency. The irony of it is, writes the newspaper, that this food supply was sent from West Germany for the needy families in Romania. The West Ger-

mans were unsuccessful in their effort to see that these parcels went to the needy families indeed. As a result, the German government, in protest, recalled it's ambassador from Bucharest, for consultation, and so did the governments of France and Great Britain. After reading this above report, we have reasons to be concerned about our orders that are being shipped from Germany into Romania. We need to pray and hope, that these shipments will indeed, reach the intended destinations!

Here are some excerpts from a letter recently received from a sister in Hungary, who made several trips with groups visiting the brethren in Romania and taking in needed supplies: "Brethren from the various churches in Hungary make frequent trips, generally by 2, 3 or 4 cars and for three or four days. Cars are always fully loaded with food supplies, vitamins, clothes and medicines, when needed. For safety's sake, two cars

travel together in different directions, one goes towards the north, another towards the south, etc. Last weekend, for example, there were 3 groups and each went a different direction, one towards Tasnad, one towards Kolozsvár.

Generally we allow space in our cars so we can pick up local brothers or sisters to serve as guide and interpreters when we enter Romanian speaking communities. I was there 3 weeks ago. We went in 4 cars. One group of 2 cars went towards Dicsoszentmarton (Tirnaveni) where the Szabos live, the other 2 towards Temeszar and Dudesti. I was in the second group, but gladly would have gone with the other group towards Dicso, but there was no room in the cars. Now, this is what we had experienced: As we left the city of Arad, Elder Bro. A. V. and a local sister came with us. As soon as our cars stopped at the first little village in front of the home of an elderly couple

whom we wanted to visit, suddenly another car pulled up and stopped in front of us. A policeman stepped out. He came to us and asked many questions, who are we, where are we going and what do we want, etc. He collected our passports and ordered us to follow him to the police headquarters in the next village. The brother who lived in the home came out and invited us in, but the policeman ordered him to come along with us to the police station. We were kept there for four hours. They searched everyone of us, searched the car, inspected every package and everything you can think of out in the open courtyard. They treated us as criminals. Finally, when they found nothing on us that could accuse of wrong doing, they took more information from everyone of us and let us go, but told us to be sure and report to the police in the next village and hurry to leave the country as soon as possible. So, we did as we were told because we knew that if we failed to report, they would look for us. We arrived in the village of Fufesti and reported to the police. They told us it is not necessary to report as long as we leave the area within a few hours. Of course, they were notified and knew of our coming as we saw "guards" posted at every other gate in the village. We rushed to visit as many of the brethren and unload as fast as possible, so we wouldn't create any problems for the local brethren. We left the packages and the monies and asked them to distribute it to the needy in the area. We decided to leave the country that evening. We all wept as we hastily parted for each other. Later we learned that the local brethren were detained and held at the police station till after 11 o'clock that evening. We returned to Hungary crossing the border about 2 after midnight. Our plans did not work out as planned, but we are not discouraged. We are used to it. No major harm was done to us nor to our Romanian brethren. We felt the protective hands of our Lord watching and caring for us. In no way will these harassments stop us from returning again as long as there is hunger, thirst and misery in that country.

We heard of a case when a butcher had some "fresh" meat hanging from a rod that was in the open and was infested with worms, most people

URGENT PLEA FOR HELP IN JAPAN KINDERGARTEN TEACHER NEEDED IN JAPAN

Our church in Japan has a kindergarten where Sis. Kathy Jo Kieser and Sis. Renee Baurer are now teaching. Sis. Kathy Jo will be leaving the kindergarten next July and a brother or a sister who is qualified to teach kindergarten is needed to replace her. Anyone who has the faith and conviction to apply for this position should speak to his or her elder and if he approves, apply to the missionary committee for consideration.

All expenses involved in the two-year stay in Japan are paid by the church. The brother or sister is asked to give two or more years of his or her life in Japan at some sacrifice of compensation, although we do pay, in addition to expenses, a small monthly salary.

Bible stories are taught every day in the kindergarten. English is the language of instruction, but incoming teachers are encouraged to begin studying the Japanese language before coming to Japan. This is helpful in communicating with the Japanese people and in singing the hymns in Japanese.

The teachers are presently living in a new, modern apartment about a 10-minute walk from the church.

There may be a former teaching brother or sister who had served in Japan and was acquainted with the language, or a retired teacher who would be willing to give of himself or herself. Even one year would be appreciated. Anyone touched in heart should most prayerfully commit it to our gracious God, talk to his or her family and then to their local shepherd. May God provide for our need and may His will be done.

Anyone interested should contact his or her local elder, any of the brothers on the mission committee, including myself, or former teachers to Japan, including Bro. Willis Ehnle. Please note my new address and phone number are: 34050 Ramble Hills Drive, Farmington Hills, MI 48331; phone 313/478-3771; or Bro. Willis Ehnle, 692-2 Shioda, Ichinomiya-Cho, Higashi Yatsushiro-Gun, Yamanashi-Ken, Japan.

Your needy servant,
Ben Maibach, Jr.

wouldn't buy it, but some did out of desperation and the consumed it and the family became very ill. There is no medication for such. It is a very sad situation and I am sure you are familiar with it. We just can't give enough thanks to our God for how well off we are both materially and spiritually as compared with that in Romania. For this reason we feel it is our duty to return more often and do all that we can to help them as long as we have this blessed liberty!" (A. M.)

From Yugoslavia an elder brother writes, here are some excerpts: "I am thankful to the Lord who directs the hearts of his children and unites them in love. I pray to God to grant you his peace and blessings, so you can continue onward in faith and bear much fruit to the honor of His most holy name!

We heard that you brothers made an effort to intercede in our behalf and we thank God and you for it. I want to convey our heartfelt appreciation, not only in the name of our elder brothers, but in the name of all the believers in Yugoslavia, for your most generous and sacrificial contributions to support our elderly, sick and the needy. In this economic crisis which we are experiencing today, your support is most valuable to us in helping to solve some of our problems in this socialistic system.

I could not respond to your letter

earlier as I was very occupied and away from home. My wife, V. and I visited Israel in September and October. A new convert was added to the fold. There are a little over twenty members living in Israel. (formerly from Yugoslavia)

Please, accept our holy greetings from our elder brethren and myself. I greet you and your dear wife, and if you find opportunity, convey my sincere greetings to Bros. Ben Maibach, Wendell Gudeman and Roy Schrock and their dear wives. The Lord bless you and preserve you unto eternal life. His grace and peace be with you all!" (K. H.)

We had the privilege of having Elder Bro. Rudolf Metzger (Yugoslavia) attend the World Relief meeting in Detroit April 8. Bro. Metzger handles the prisoner funds sent by the World Relief. He spoke to the brothers and explained some of the current problems they face in that country. His talk was very interesting and informative as the brothers had some questions. He also thanked the brothers for the great help and support in behalf of the prisoners and their families.

The brethren in Czechoslovakia, in the city of Bratislava, are looking for a building to be purchased where they can hold services. Because the Nazarenes are not a legally recognized church, they can not own church

property. It is necessary to find a building that can serve as a home for a family, but also have room available and large enough to serve as a meeting room. Elder Bro. J. Z. wrote, in a letter that as soon they find such a building, and should they need assistance to buy it, he would write to us and let us know about it.

We have frequent contacts with the brethren in Budapest, Hungary, in connection with the church construction. Work is progressing at the normal rate of speed, according to East European standards. All the necessary equipment and supplies, such as, heating and air circulating, electrical and plumbing, have been ordered from neighboring Austria. Funds to pay for these supplies have been transferred direct to Vienna. Because these supplies are being paid for with monies contributed by the churches in the United States, the Hungarian government, through arrangement by the council of free churches of Hungary, granted special tax and customs duty exemptions. Approximate date for completion is set for December of this year.

It has been a common practice in recent years by many of us, American visitors to Hungary, to take large sums of money to be exchanged and, or turned over to designated persons for various purposes. Last year some individuals, not of our faith, have exchanged or turned monies over to individuals in such manner, that they, unknowingly, violated the monetary laws, that regulate the handling or transferring of currency, whether foreign or domestic. So, in order to avoid such possibilities in the future, which are regarded as serious offense and very costly, the elder brothers have decided to establish a special account in the church's name, in the local branch of the National Savings Bank of Hungary (O. T. P.). Thus making it possible to have various relief funds from the United States, transferred by wire and deposited directly into this special account. At their request, such funds should be directed to the Apostolic Christian Mission fund for further channeling. This method proved to be quick and safe. Funds for the Romanian, Ukrainian (USSR) and the Armenian relief were transferred and worked out well. Locally designated brothers do the

OPENING FOR HOUSEPARENT COUPLE AT THE CHILDREN'S HOME

We are very thankful for the many generous ways that our faithful brothers and sisters throughout the land support the Children's Home. Here is yet another opportunity that goes to the very heart of our work.

There is an immediate opening at the Children's Home for a married couple to serve as Houseparents for troubled children, ages 11 - 18 years old. We encourage mature couples with a heart for young people to seriously and prayerfully consider this calling to serve the Lord, the church and children. There are children waiting who desperately need and desire the stability, security and love of a Christian home.

For more information on responsibilities, salary and benefits, please contact either of the brothers listed below.

Bro. Tim Sauder
Box 151
Leo, IN 46765
219/627-2159, office
219/627-2606, home

Elder Bro. David Bertsch
11502 Souder Road
Grabill, IN 46741
219/627-2923

We solicit your support in praying that a couple will respond to the Lord's call to fill this important position.

distribution as instructed by the sender/contributor.

A Romanian language newspaper "Universul", published in Los Angeles, CA, told in an article that: "About 30 thousand refugees crossed the border illegally, seeking refuge in Hungary to escape the terrorist rule of the Romanian government." Most of these refugees are of the Hungarian and German speaking minorities from Transylvania. Among them are several young men, children of believer families who now attend our churches in Hungary. Two of these young men, attending the budapest church are now in repentance.

Both, the Hungarian government and several American-Hungarian churches are providing temporary help, food, clothing and housing for the refugees, until they are able to emigrate into one of the western countries.

The churches in the Ukraine, USSR, are enjoying more freedom now than in the previous years. More and more young people attend the worship services, which is very encouraging. Bibles and Bible-story books can be sent in from West Germany now. We were informed recently, that two young men after being inducted into the military service, gave a testimony of their faith and thus were given the special assignment where they don't have to train with firearms. The elder brother with whom we spent a week together in Hungary last year, is reported to be coming to the United States for a visit in the near future. Indeed a good evidence of the new openness. We thank God and praise Him for it!

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Tim Sauder

"Blessed be ye poor . . . Blessed are ye that hunger . . . Blessed are ye that weep . . ." Luke 6:20-21. Who is Jesus talking to here? Is He talking to us? It hardly seems like it when we look at our lives: our close families, our comfortable homes, our profitable businesses, our abundant land, and our bountiful nation. We have been so blessed! But are these blessings due to the things Jesus described -- because we mourn, hunger and thirst

after righteousness, show mercy, are pure hearted, make peace or are persecuted for righteousness sake? Regardless, let us count our blessings and praise God.

The Lord has a special place in His heart for the poor and the oppressed in this world. A quick review of Proverbs reveals His burden. "He that hath pity on the poor lendeth unto the Lord . . ." 19:17, "He that oppreseth the poor reproacheth his Maker: but he that honoreth him hath mercy on the poor." 14:31, "Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard" 21:13, and "For the Lord will plead their cause, and spoil the soul of those that spoiled them." 22:23.

In this land of plenty and affluence, who are the poor and oppressed among us? They are everywhere. What are their needs? They are endless. No matter what the circumstances that brought them, the children in our care at the Children's Home have serious needs. They need mothers and fathers -- someone to show consistency, commitment, and love. They need the hope of a better future with someone who can help them to know they are wanted and have a place to belong. They need the hope of a better future with someone who can help them to know they are wanted and have a place to belong. They need education, guidance, and consistent, responsible, adult examples lived out right before their eyes and reaching into their hearts. Most of all, they need the Lord.

Let's look at our lives. What do we have? We have resources, homes, finances, energy, health, security, and warm and close families that have exemplified stability for generations. Most of all, we have faith in Jesus Christ and the fruit that flows from it. We have the spirit "of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." I Timothy 1:7. We have the power of prayers. We have an eternal hope and perspective that can put our priorities in God-honoring order.

What will we do with these things, these blessings? Will we share this fruit, let it rot or let it burn? What about the poor of this world? Who will plead their cause? Who will relieve the oppressed, who will defend, who will lend? Who will hear their cry?

What about the poor of this "children's home world?"

For the past few months, there has been a notice in the Silver Lining explaining our need for Houseparents. That need still exists and our children's needs still exist. This is difficult, but extremely rewarding and growth-producing work. Present and former staff will each testify of the changes and maturing that result from their experiences in working with children and a staff team of believers. Possibly you or someone you know is being led to serve in this ministry. "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth laborers into His harvest." Matthew 9:38. "But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ . . . and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ." Philippians 3:7-8. We trust God to move in the hearts of a couple to respond to the need and the call.

Spring brings a newness in nature and a newness in people. Our former resident Penny Gordon began a new life of marriage as she was united with Tim Den Hartog March 25. Barbara B. (Lafayette, IN) began a new chapter in her life when she moved into the West House April 6. Finally, a new life was welcomed into the family of our counselor, Bro. Jeff Thames when his wife, Brenda, gave birth to a Joshua Daniel April 19.

Our Annual Representatives meeting was held April 22. We had a full house with over 125 brethren, friends, and children present to hear presentations about the Home and its different programs by kids, staff, board members, and local church representatives. Topics included On-Grounds Group Homes, Transitional Living Program, the new Foster Home Program, Planning and Program Expansion, the Annual Auction, Finances, and the Role of the Representative. Opportunities for volunteers that were presented included weekend work projects, summer volunteers, Auction preparation and clean up, plus organization of charter buses to the Auction.

A reminder: Auction and Sale day is Saturday, August 19, just after the General Conference. Consider attending both.

"Defend the poor and fatherless:

do justice to the afflicted and needy.
Deliver the poor and needy: rid them
out of the hand of the wicked. They
know not, neither do they under-
stand; they walk on in darkness: . . ."

Psalms 82:3-5

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

THE SHADOW OF THE ALMIGHTY

I wanted to live in the sunlight of
God,
But He placed me in shade instead.
And bitter repining was on my
tongue
And many the tears I shed.

But now my heart knows a deep
content
My Father has made it clear;
That if God's shadow is over me
Then God Himself must be near!

Last month it was reported that
Oakwood Estates are enjoying their
time of sharing and growing together
in the love of God, by studying in His
Word. We are also starting classes at
the ACHH, which are well attended
and much joy is experienced in study-
ing the Word together.

There have been several groups
who have taken turns spending an
overnight outing at Jumers, in Peo-
ria. This is a great experience of din-
ing out and sharing new things to-
gether. We come back home feeling
refreshed and excited of having shared
a good time with friends.

Our Sunshine Club has experi-
enced a new growth in its member-
ship. We have just doubled the num-
bers of our group, so it was decided to
divide our groups and have named
them the Golden Sunshine Club and
the Bright Sunshine Club. The Golden
Sunshine group will meet on the third
Thursday of the months of May, July
and September. The Bright Sunshine
group will also meet on the third
Thursday of the months of June,
August and October. These meetings
are special, as they are held in the
home of some good friend who has
volunteered to have them come as
guests. In November, December,
January and February, they will all

meet together in the multi-purpose
room at the Home.

The Special Olympics competition
is going to be very active in the follow-
ing weeks and months. The State
Games will be held June 16 and 17 in
Normal, IL. If anyone would be inter-
ested, call Lynn Yordy. This is a very
touching event and very important to
a number of our residents. A group of
our residents also enjoy horseback
riding every Saturday.

PATTERN OF LIFE

As we live we are weaving a
pattern;
We must make it beautiful, too.
We use the sunshine and shadows
To bring out the design clear and
true.
Our bright days are threads of
silver;
Here and there we need a dark
line.
Don't worry over disappointments,
They only bring out the design.
It takes heartaches, pain and
sorrow,
Dark days, and days that are
bright;
We must weave them all together
To bring out the design -- just right.

The volunteer dinner will be held
June 10. Information will be forth-
coming.

May birthdays at the Home for
the Handicapped are: Judy McRoy
(2), Sam Grimm (2), Melinda Crouch
(3), Terry Stoller (6), Anna Stickling
(13), Steve Slagel (13), Ray Virkler
(17), Ruth Klopfenstein (19), Mar-
lene Moser (22) and Jackie Barton
(26).

Birthdays for June are: Aldine
Winger (15), Donnie Parks (18),
Sharilyn Rowell (19), Janet Wilt (21),
Chip Johann (22), Lyle Steffen (24),
Willis Belsley (25) and Edwin Gehrig.

Birthdays for Oakwood Estates
are: May 11 - Herb Stieglitz; June 7 -
Harold Miller and June 18 - Doris
Hutchison.

Several trips are being planned
for the people at Oakwood. Rock-
home Gardens at Arthur, IL, is com-
ing in the near future and a trip to
Springfield is planned along with
shopping at the Mall.

A small garden plot has been
prepared for those who like to work

outdoors. We are reminded of a little
poem:

MAKING A GARDEN

Man plows and plants and digs and
weeds;
He works with hoe and spade;
God sends the sun and rain and
air --
And thus a garden's made.

He must rejoice who tills the soil
And turns the heavy soil.
How wonderful a thing to be
In partnership with God!

Ida M. Thomas

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL OF ATHENS, AL

We have been studying the five
senses during April. It has been a lot
of fun as there are so many interest-
ing activities to do. We have been
enjoying the beautiful sunshine also
and are glad that spring weather is
here.

We participated in a bike-a-thon
to raise money for a Children's Re-
search Hospital. The children enjoyed
learning bicycle safety rules and then
practicing them during the bike-a-
thon. This was a good opportunity for
us to do something for children not as
fortunate as we. One of the children
even gave some money from her own
piggy bank.

If you are interested in volunteer-
ing some time here this summer, please
contact Sis. Julie Bauer at Route 11,
Box 333, Athens, AL 35611 or call
205-233-0591. We need some help
while the staff are on vacations. God's
blessings will be yours.

ALABAMA, ATHENS Marilyn Walder

We are rejoicing with our new
sisters-in-Christ, Sis. Neoma Hall,
Ola Mae Barnes, Elaine Perry and
Amanda Glass, who were baptized
March 19. Elder Bro. Norbert Steiner
(Croghan, NY) was here to help our
Elder Bro. Lavoyd.

Other visitors this month were
ministering Bros. Virgil Metzger
(Chicago, IL) and Elmer Schrenk (Alto,
MI) and their wives and visitors from
Bluffton, IN, Forrest, Princeville and
Congerville, IL, and Toledo, Smith-

Congerville, IL, and Toledo, Smithville, Rittman and Akron, OH.

We enjoyed an early morning singing and breakfast on Easter morning. This was a first for us and we had a great turnout. Our Sunday school children also presented a short Easter program during Sunday school.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Corrine Thomas and her family at the sudden death of her husband Buddy (James). May they all feel the prayers and support of those who love them.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Ron and Ev Hoerr

"Draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to you." James 4:8. We heard the testimonies of Bob and Jan Farney April 1. We all remember something special happens when Christ comes into your heart yet, how refreshing and wonderful He still is calling if ye but come. Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger came from Gridley, IL, to help Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach and deacon Bro. Jon Kokanovich with the testimonies and the Sunday baptisms.

Later in the day we enjoyed a delicious fellowship dinner and singing.

Relatives came to be with Bro. Bob and Sis. Jan for their special, happy occasion, while Bro. Jim and Sis. Lyola Ringger flew to Bradford for the baptism of granddaughter, Cheryl Ringger. Bro. Greg Gramm flew to Morris, MN, for brother, Rick, and wife, Julie's, baptism. What a blessed time.

"When he had given thanks, He brake it and said, Take eat: this is my body, which is broken for you; this do in remembrance of me."

I Corinthians 11:24

Holy communion is a very, very special privilege for God's children. A peaceful time of reverence, knowing Jesus Christ died for our sins. Taking the cup and breaking the bread quickens our hearts even more, possibly to see several of our new brothers and sisters partake their first holy sacraments. Elder Bros. Richard Schupbach, Edwin Ringger and deacon Bro. Jon Kokanovich served us the bread and wine. We are thankful for all our

ministering brothers.

We are indeed grateful also for visiting ministers Bro. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO) and Bro. Loren Knapp (Tucson).

Timothy James Kokanovich was born April 7 to Bro. Jon and Sis. Nancy. T.J.'s siblings are Mark, Heidi and Holly. His grandparents are Bro. Allan and Sis. Edith Freed and Bro. Dan and Sis. Doris Kokanovich.

Bro. Herb and Sis. Joanne Knochel welcomed granddaughter, Suzanne Marie Klotzle, April 5. Her parents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Jody Klotzle.

Sis. Shirley Mohrman flew to Morris to be with husband, Herbert, who suffered a heart attack on a visit to his mother.

Your prayers will be appreciated for the ongoing health problems of Sis. Marjorie Rebbec (Bob), Manny Stetzler (Annabelle), Ed Harmon (Ella), Bro. Dan Kokanovich has been hospitalized.

ARIZONA, TUCSON
Lisa Knapp

Ground breaking ceremonies were held Sunday, April 16 for our church addition. We sincerely appreciate the prayerful and financial support we have received from our brethren and friends across the land. However, a need still exists for both and we are asking for your continued prayers as we being this project. If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact Bros. Jay Knapp, Don Bauer or Fred Funk, c/o Apostolic Christian Church, 954 S. Magnolia, Tucson, AZ 85711, 602-577-8685.

We would like to report the birth of a beautiful, healthy baby girl to Bro. Steve and Sis. Maria Bauer. Stephanie Lorraine Bauer made her presence known April 6 and is a welcome addition to a church filled with little boys! Grateful grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Gloria Bauer and Nick and Carol Pazzi.

We are also joyously reporting the baptisms of two dear sisters. Sis. Janeen Hari and Sis. Lucy Knapp are now truly sisters-in-faith. Parents are Daryle Hari and Bro. Loren and Sis. Evelyn Knapp.

Bro. Noah Herman wishes to extend his heartfelt love and thanks to

everyone who sent cards and remembrances for his recent 80th birthday. He truly appreciated all the love and prayers sent his way.

Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and his wife, Sis. Judy, were with us the day of the baptisms and what a blessing it was. Also, Elder Bro. Edwin Ringger ministered to us recently and we were able to fellowship with him and his wife, Sis. Geraldene, and, of course, our Elder Bro. Richard and Sis. Barb Schupbach were with us as Bro. Richard presided over the testimonies and baptisms of our two sisters. We thank them all for their love!

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA
Lisa Steiner

"He that liveth and is baptized shall be saved . . ." (Mark 16:16. On March 11, we were blessed to hear the testimony of Sis. Carol Graf and we witnessed her baptism the next day. Following the baptism, a communion service was held. And on April 22, our congregation heard the testimony of Bro. Keith Klotzle and rejoiced with him at his baptism. May God bless them and guide them in their walk with Christ. We are thankful that Elder Bro. Richard Schupbach (Phoenix, AZ) could be with us for these occasions, as well as many other visitors.

Several other ministers have been with us also to preach God's Word. They are Bro. Bill Dotterer (Phoenix, AZ), Bro. Curt Kaufman (Tucson, AZ), Bro. Leland Hirschey (Naumburg, NY) and Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO).

On April 5, Bro. Tom and Sis. Jody Klotzle were blessed with a baby girl, Suzanne Marie. Welcoming her home were her brothers, James and John. She is a sweet addition to our congregation.

In February, we learned of the death of Bro. Albert Kaisner (Fairbury, IL). Bro. Albert lived in California for many years, and was a minister at Maywood, later attending church in Altadena. Funeral services were held for him in Whittier, CA.

Sis. Melva Alexander needs our prayers as she is ill and has not been able to attend church for a while. Bro. Bill Witzig is hospitalized as of this writing, and little Lydian Luthi (Bro.

Jeff and Sis. Shirley) was also hospitalized briefly. May God strengthen each one of them.

COLORADO, DENVER
Marlene Leman

We welcome Austin Eric Huber, newborn son of Bro. Eric and Sis. Marcel Huber, to our little congregation. His sister, Tara, is excited about having a new brother. May God be with them as they guide him through this life. Grandparents are Bro. Sam and Sis. Jeannette Huber and Bro. Eli and Sis. Lois Meyer (all of Sabetha, KS).

Bro. Mike Leman underwent surgery this month. We are thankful he is recovering quickly. God's healing power is truly great.

School: whether beginning or ending, activities, curriculum, etc., seems to take a lot of our attention. Let's not forget that the schooling (or training) a child receives at home has a more far-reaching effect on his/her life than any outside influence. Are we being good teachers?

CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE
Martha Hany

Over a period of months, we have seen a big change in dear souls, weary of this world and its sin, who through repentance sought and found a better way. The weekend of April 1, we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Dana (Moser) Schneider (Bro. Jim and Sis. Jane), Maxine Bahler (Bro. Corbin and Sis. Ginny) and Carole Bahler (Bro. Ken and Sis. Aline). Sunday evening, we partook of holy communion as Christ directed in Luke 22:19. "... This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me." We were privileged to have Elder Bros. Bud Klopfenstein (Fort Lauderdale, FL) and Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) with us and thank them for helping Bro. Corbin. It was a blessed weekend and we were left with many good thoughts with which to begin the ensuing week.

A victory was won April 10 when, after a long illness, Sis. Pauline (Virkler) Luginbuhl, 65, finished her life offaith. Our sympathy is with her family, especially Bro. Robert who will miss his helpmate and yet is thankful she is now at rest. She leaves

three daughters: Sis. Bonnie Zahner, Sis. Susan Rufener (Orrville, OH) and Luanne Hills; a brother and sister, Bro. Ken Virkler and Sis. Lois Schambach (Beaver Falls, NY); and 10 grandchildren. Also, our sympathy is with Bro. Alden and Marion Reutter in the loss of her sister, Bernice Warner, 50, who died recently.

A newborn baby brings a smile to our lips as we gaze with love and tenderness at the perfect example of purity and innocence. Bro. Ron and Sis. Bonnie Bahler welcomed a son, Seth Ronald, March 20, to join Marci. Grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Aline Bahler and Bro. Wilbur and Sis. Marge Schneider. On April 12, Ryan Edward was born to Bro. Scott and Sis. Joanne Luginbuhl. Big brother, Benjamin, now has an in-house playmate. Grandparents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Alma Luginbuhl and Bro. Ed and Sis. Beverly Gerber. After a few years of waiting, the hope and expectation of Bro. Leo and Sis. Sherri (Ludwig) LaPlante became a reality as they embraced a daughter, 5 1/2 months old, newly arrived from Korea. They have named her Susan and I am sure brothers, Steven, Douglas and Thomas, will not spare her from being pampered a bit!

We were again forcibly reminded that the old must die and the young can, when we heard of the car accident in which Jeff Treub, 23, was killed. Surely a shock for all of us and our prayers and sympathy are with his grandparents, Bro. Jacob and Sis. Bert Treub; his parents, Wayne and Peg Treub; and the surviving three brothers.

Sis. Esther Kupferschmid is now able to walk on crutches after several months in a nursing home where she daily received physical therapy. We are thankful she is now at home and able to attend church services. Sis. Tina Rumpt, Sis. Shirley Luginbuhl and Bro. Gerry Ludwig are all home again after several days in the hospital. Sis. Charlotte Trench's mother, Hazel Ludwig, 96, is now in Vernon Manor and our prayers include her well-being as well as others confined to nursing homes. We have many brethren who are along in years and daily feel the afflictions of the body. May their faith in God and His healing powers sustain them

until they, too, will be called home.

Visiting ministers were Elder Bros. Robert Beyer (Naumburg, NY) and Norbert Steiner (Croghan, NY) and we thank them for sharing the Word with us.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
WASHINGTON
Catherine Klopfenstein

Our most recent visiting ministers have been Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL) and Bro. Frederick Knapp (Congerville, IL). We sincerely appreciate the Word of God brought to us through their ministry.

Recent visitors have been from Bloomington, Congerville and Goodfield, IL; Rockville, CT; Morris, MN; and friends from Hyattsville, MD.

The world famous Washington cherry blossoms are gone for this year, but the dogwood and azaleas are just coming into full bloom. It is indeed a beautiful time of year in this area.

Services are held the first and third Sunday of each month at the Westpark Hotel (Best Western) located on Route 7, about 1 mile west of I-495. Services begin at 10:30 a.m. followed by a time for refreshments and fellowship, then another worship service at 12:30 p.m. For further information or assistance, please call the Ralph Klopfensteins at 703-979-3476. Visitors are always welcome.

FLORIDA, FT. LAUDERDALE
Terri Huber

I apologize for not submitting a column in March. Our visiting ministers for that month were Elder Bros. Leo Moser (Lester, IA) and David Bertsch (Leo, IN) and Bro. Doug Sabo (Sarasota). We were also blessed with the presence and service of Elder Bros. Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL) and Robert Beyer (Naumburg, NY).

April 15 was the wedding day of Sid and Sue Troxel. Their parents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Joyce Troxel and Bro. Ed and Sis. Vi Gerber. There were many visitors in town and it was a beautiful, sunny day. We wish them God's blessings and a lifetime of joy.

In April our visiting ministers were Bros. Wendell Gerber (Bluffton North, IN) and Jack Bollier (Leo, IN).

Our prayers go out to Elder Bro. Bud Klopfenstein, as his father has

been diagnosed with cancer.

Many of us have had family and friends as guests over the past three months and we want to thank each of them for the encouragement and fellowship their visits provide for our otherwise isolated church.

Bro. Noah Clauss wishes to thank the Lauderdale church for the prayers, beautiful flowers, cards, calls and visits he received during the time he was in the hospital and while he was convalescing at home.

FLORIDA, NORTH FT. MYERS Kay Eisenmann

We are thankful to have shared communion, as shared by Elder Bro. Ben Maibach and our ordained deacon, Bro. Doug Sabo. It gives us courage to fight the onslaughts of the devil for we always have the Holy Spirit with us. As the brothers and sisters partake of the remembrance of Christ's suffering, it strengthens our faith and increases our longing for the only true goal in this life -- to be faithful till death and spend eternity with God.

Eternity is sure! Do you have a real promise of where you will spend eternity? For the Word of Life, the Bible, tells us to repent, be converted and baptized, to enter in that eternal goal, the heavenly home.

May our prayers ever be with the sick, for Lena Misaras, as her beloved husband, Ted, has been ill. They are thankful for the prayers, cards and kindness during this time of illness.

Bro. Vic and Sis. Dottie Beer traveled to Francesville, IN, for her mother's 100th birthday.

Our visiting ministers this month were Elder Bro. Ben Maibach (Detroit, MN), Bro. Doug Sabo (Sarasota), Bro. Homer Renick (Toledo, OH) and Bro. Gary Tonner (Bluffton, IN) and are thankful for their ministry.

Dathan had his 13th birthday in March and seems to be doing fine.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA Suellen Ott

We shared in holy communion Good Friday. We were reminded of Christ's suffering in our stead. It reminds us of the beautiful verse in Zion's Harp #25, vs. 5:

"And ye, the Church's members, truly are folded in my heart's embrace! In Christ ye are my brethren duly; We share salvation through his grace. We drink one cup; we break one bread; One Savior suffered in our stead."

We are thankful for the visiting ministers who shared so tenderly God's precious Word. Elder Bro. Robert Beyer (Naumburg, NY), Bro. Mark Barr (Detroit, MI), Bro. John Bollier (Leo, IN) and Bro. Duane Farney (Croghan, NY).

Thanks be to God for His healing powers. We are happy to see Bro. William Cottrell in our midst after being absent from fellowship due to illness.

For all the goodness in her heart, and for all the kindness she has shown, may God truly bless our dear sister on her birthday and always. Sis. Marie Butikofer was able to celebrate 90 years. We find much strength in Sis. Marie's Christian walk of life, and can be encouraged by her loving example. May God continue to bless her each day and continue to use her daily in His service.

ILLINOIS, BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL Marcia Bauer - De Anderson

Christ is Risen, Hallelujah! On Palm Sunday we had the privilege of hearing our children tell us the story of Easter. As our little three and four-year-olds enthusiastically sang, "Jesus Loves Me," we realize how important it is for them to keep that love for Jesus in their hearts as they grow older. What a responsibility for us as parents and Sunday school teachers!

Early Easter morning we were fortunate to come to God's house to attend sunrise services and a breakfast. We enjoyed the various groups singing, the readings and the inspirational message of Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Morton). We appreciate Bro. Joe and Sis. Shirley sharing their "early" Easter morning with us.

On April 2 the engagement of Sis. Sara Steffen (Bro. Earl and Sis. Betty) to Bro. Dennis Brummitt (Dave and Sis. Karen) was announced. Our prayer for them is that they can grow in love for each other as they grow in love for the Lord. Our congregation rejoices with them and their families!

Our hospital patient this month was Kendra Knapp (Bro. Charlie and Sis. Paula). We are thankful she's back home and back in church with us.

"THIS IS THE TIME I MUST SING"

"I have tasted of freedom, I can go where He's leading for shackles can hold me no more. I have learned of life's essence and I stand in His presence and sing with my heart 'He is Lord!'"

"There are days filled with sorrow and plans for tomorrow, but this is the time I must sing. And I know there's a reason why in His own season God gives me a song I can sing."

"If the roses would cry out, should His praises die out, and the stones must keep silent as long, as I breath for the singing his praise will keep ringing and I will keep singing my song."

Chorus:

"Keep silent ye mountains, ye fields and ye fountains for this is the time I must sing. It's the time to sing praises to the Rock of the Ages, and this is the time I must sing."

William Gaither

This was the beautiful song the Morton Choir opened with at our April Hymn Sing. After hearing their beautiful songs and voices we knew that this was the time for them to sing. We thank them for their time and effort as they praised the Lord in song!

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Karen Ringger

"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

It was our congregations blessed portion April 1 and 2 to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of five dear souls. Those precious new lambs are Sis. Kim Joos (Bro.

Robert and Sis. Becky), Sis. Cheryl Ringger (Bro. Bill and Sis. Karen), Bro. Kurt Kieser (Bro. Verle and Sis. Vonnie), Bro. Wendell Stahl (Sis. Charlotte), and Bro. John Ehnle (Bro. Roy and Sis. Donna). We rejoice with these dear ones and wish them much grace to stay humble and keep their robes clean and white. We truly want to thank Elder Bros. Wendell Gude-man (Francesville, IN), Bob Walder (Congerville) and Joe Stoller for helping carry out God's holy work. Ministering Bro. Dave Kieser (Princeville) was also with us.

Our hearts are thankful that God has called Lisa Kieser (Bro. Loris and Sis. Martha) unto repentance. May God grant her much grace to build a firm foundation.

We thank ministering Bro. Don Manz who came this past month to visit and proclaim God's Word to us.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN LaRae Dill

We were blessed with a Wednesday evening visit from Bro. Dave Kieser (Princeville, IL) and his wife, Sis. Ruth. Bro. Dave's enthusiasm and zeal for the Lord were an inspiration to everyone.

Sis. Verna Roth was surprised one Sunday morning to find her family, children and grandchildren from various places, gathered in church to worship with her and celebrate her 80th birthday. Sis. Verna has been a blessing to our church, serving in many ways, from kitchen duties to World Relief projects. We've all appreciated her generosity and hospitality. We hope God will bless her with happy years ahead.

April 16, many from our congregation gathered for a housewarming in the new home of the Manger's family, Dennie, Sis. Cheryl, Doug, Melissa and Scott. It has been inspiring during the past year to watch this family work together on their home. We're thankful with the Mangers for God's blessing to them.

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO Kathy Schlatter

Monday morning rush time: I put my arm into the coat sleeve and thought, "A collar?" One should know one's own coat, but on Monday morn-

ing? By the time I had it on, I asked the family, "Whose coat is this?" It was too late to check the places we had been, one over a hundred miles away, so I wore the coat to work. It wasn't uncomfortable though it didn't fit well. The style was actually much different from that of my coat, though the colors were similar. Actually the worst part was my wondering who had ended up with my coat -- which probably worked less well for her than hers had for me. And I felt embarrassed, wishing I hadn't caused such difficulties. There is a parallel for me in the spiritual realm. Each day being a special gift but ever so busy, I may have put on someone else's role or taken the joy of giving or doing from someone else because I was just grabbing a garment instead of praying that I would wear His will for me that day. On the other hand, in my hurry, I may have neglected some deed, some compliment, some listening because I had the coat with the "collar." Regardless, the point is this, that the Lord has work for each of us, minute by minute, that we only can perform best and only as ourselves. Putting on someone else's goals or personality garbles the message. We each need to be true to Him and to what He has for us individually to do. (That means I don't even need to look at my neighbor's coat, much less take it for my own. In the center of His will, there is no competition and no covetousness. He expects us to report in our own garments.)

Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield) and Bro. Art Baurer (Princeville) visited us, lending the Lord their talents, that His message might be proclaimed once again. We are grateful that they were willing, Spirit-filled ministers and prayerful that they will continue to be.

The most precious of earthly gifts, a baby, has been granted to Bro. Brent and Sis. Kay Stoller. Daniel James was born April 5. He has changed his parents' lives and intensified their Christian roles and responsibilities, and they are joyous. We rejoice with them and we are prayerful for them, as are grandparents, Bro. Keith and Sis. Pauline Roth (Congerville) and Bro. Joe and Sis. Emily Stoller (Princeville).

Barbara Grimm has been our friend and church supporter for a

number of years. Because of family and health considerations she was unable to worship with us. Nevertheless we appreciated her love and prayed for her in her afflictions. We want to express our sympathy at her death. She was buried at Taylor, MO, next to her late husband, Leo. May the Lord, Whose name she revered, grant her His haven and peaceful rest.

We were at a wedding in a crowded church balcony, singing "The Christian Home" out of the Hymns of Zion. My daughter found it interesting that the parents of the bride and groom often walk in to that song. She examined the idea in a bemused way. Yes, she knows her home is different in numerous ways from those of her friends. But what does it mean? It took me some time to appreciate my Christian home, but I am more and more thankful as I get older (and hopefully more spiritually mature) for my beloved Christian parents. Mom and Dad, through their prayers and their attention to their walk of life and creation of a Christian home, have been wonderful influences, guides and examples for my brothers and myself and others in the church family and without. The Lord has blessed us so. Mom and Dad would first of all give the Lord the credit and then their parents and grandparents. We must also be aware that the choices we make as Christians, parents or no, affect not only ourselves, but also our children, our children's children, and so on. To put it another way, the posterity of the church is in our hands. We are decision-makers every day about the future holiness, sanctity and passionate devotion to Christ and His Word of our beloved faith. Lord, may we be true and more obedient.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK Karol Stock - Mary Knapp

How uplifting it was to hear the message of the youth of the church brought us with their program Palm Sunday. The following weekend, on Good Friday, we were served communion by Elder Bros. Don Sauder and Art Bahler. "And did all eat the same spiritual meat; and did all drink the same spiritual drink. I Corinthians 10:2, 3

The Bible Class has been quite

active this spring with various activities. Easter morning they enjoyed Easter breakfast served by their teachers and spouses; the eve of April 13th there were 70 senior citizens guests of students in grades 3 thru 12, teachers and spouses for a supper, both meals at the fellowship hall. Sunday, April 17, the Goodfield Bible classes were guests of Cissna classes for the day. Are we aware of the efforts and time put forth by the leaders to involve the youth of our churches in these activities? May they be richly blessed for their selfless efforts as well also as Bro. Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield) and Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley) for being present with the Goodfield class and sharing with us.

Just recently Cissna also hosted the Young Adults Central Illinois singing at the fellowship hall.

There were many present to help with the annual clothing drive and then also the full church cleaning. Many hands make light work.

Bro. George and Sis. Caroline Gudeman were guests of honor for their 50th anniversary with an open house at the fellowship hall hosted by their six children and spouses; they also have 18 grandchildren.

Bro. Jay and Sis. Dawn (Krumweide) Martin are new in the fold being baptized at Peoria April 2. Their parents are Ron and Shirley Krumweide and Bro. Vernon and Sis. Rosie both of the Cissna congregation.

The eve of April 12 Bro. Bob Pfledera (Morton) was with us for the last of our topical Bible studies. He spoke on depression and the many signs and pitfalls and how through Scripture readings we may be directed. Our thanks to Bro. Bob for the message.

Those on the sick list this past month have been: medical, Steve Kupferschmid (Sis. Margaret); and surgical were Sis. Anna Sauder (Bro. Phil), Bro. Bob Kaufmann (Sis. Marie), and 12-year-old Anthony Kaufmann (Bro. Sis and Sis. Sandy). It is also good to have Bro. Ed Alt back after his recent knee surgery. We extend our prayers to each of them and also the many shut-ins that they may receive the healing touch of God's hand.

It is saddening when loved ones are taken from among us. April 10 Bro. Harry Walder (Sis. Leona) was

taken to his heavenly home after much suffering. He leaves behind his wife; three sons, Ralph and Larry (Cissna Park), Roy (West Ridding, CT); and two daughters, Mary Kay Fitzhenry (Garland, TX) and Sally Ludwig (Fithian, IL); six brothers, Bro. Melvin (Urbana), Bro. Don (Sterling, OH), Bro. Les and Bro. Dale (Hoopeston), Charles (East Lynn) and Robert (Carlock); and two sisters, Sis. Lillian Maiback (Wooster, OH) and Sis. Delores Maiback (Sterling, OH), and 13 grandchildren.

April 16 Bro. Eugene Hauptli passed away at St. Francis Hospital, Peoria. He was preceded in death by his wife Sis. Irene in 1982. Surviving are three sons, Bro. Wayne (Cissna Park), Gerald (Mesa, AZ), and Dean (Morton); a daughter, Sis. Shirley Krumweide (Ron, Cissna Park), eleven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

We will miss these brothers in our congregation and extend our sympathies to them and their spouses and families.

Even as there is sadness -- we also witness the joy of new life as a new little girl was born to Bro. Anthony and Sis. Patsy Blades. Little Emma Rose was welcomed by big brother Landon, 13 months. Grandparents are Bro. Lowell and Sis. Karla Bahler (Wolcott, IN) and Everett and Alice Blades (Assumption, IL).

In only a few weeks we will be observing and honoring mothers on Mother's Day -- let's each take a moment to think how we could make this a special day for that special person.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE **Sandy Knapp - Deb Dietrich**

We are so thankful that another soul has answered God's call. Jane (Steffen) Studebaker is repenting and we pray that God will grant her much grace.

"Dearest child, we bid thee welcome
In our blessed brotherhood;
From the wild tree thou are grafted
On this holy tree and root."

Zion's Harp #34

We were greatly encouraged as we witnessed four new souls brought into God's family. Bro. Bob and Sis.

Lisa Hartman, Bro. Jim Hartman, and Sis. Crystal (McClure) Remart have truly been converted by God and we pray that they can always stay humble and submissive to His will.

This month we have had God's Word brought forth to us from many kind brethren across the land. Visiting ministers were Elder Bro. Loren Stoller (Latty, OH), and Bros. Tim Zimmerman (Gridley, KS), Wes Knapp (Goodfield), Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO), John Rowell (Burlington, IA), Steve Martin (Eureka), and Jim Vierling (Eureka). May our prayers of thanks be first of all to God and then to these faithful brothers who lend themselves.

Our prayers and sympathy go to Sis. Shari (Hart) Dietrich and her family with the death of her mother, Delores (Hart) Wright. May God's Holy Spirit bring them much comfort at this time.

Dear Mothers,

May God keep you in His care always. May He answer your prayers and be there when you need Him, and may He always bless you for being the wonderful mothers you are.

God gives this world many blessings - mothers are one of the blessings dearest to us all. How often we are ungrateful for all our mothers have done for us. Let us all show our love and appreciation to our mothers, beginning today.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN **Elizabeth Schambach** **Betty Bachtold**

We felt richly blest as our congregation here in Elgin hosted the biennial meeting of Apostolic Christian Rest Homes of America Saturday, April 1. A special thanks to all our visiting ministers. These include Elder Bro. John Lehman (Bern, KS), Bros. Randall Gasser (Detroit, MI), Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL), Wayne Miller (Fort Scott, KS) Ed Fritz (Washington, IL), Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL) and Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL).

Wedding vows were spoken by Donna Schifferer and Brooks Boyce Saturday, March 25. Their parents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Pat Schifferer, and Guy and Barbara Boyce (all of Elgin).

Love and joy has been multiplied at the home of Bro. Dean and Sis. Carol Steffen as they welcome their fourth son, Troy Matthew March 20. Jordan, Joshua and Trent are also delighted to have a baby brother. Grandparents include Bro. Earl and Sis. Kay Steffen (Elgin) and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Pearl Miller (Fort Scott, KS).

Bro. Greg and Sis. Debbie Kellenberger are also rejoicing and thankful for the arrival of their first child, Miles Nathan, born March 30. Happy grandparents are Elder Bro. Nathan and Sis. Marilyn Steffen and Sis. Marilyn Kellenberger and the late Bro. Gerald.

Happy grandparents also include Bro. Delbert and Sis. Jeanette Schmidt. Brian Joseph was happily received April 16 by Keith and Debra Schmidt (Elgin).

Sis. Ruth Schurter (Bro. Harvey) was a surgical patient this past month and is recuperating at home. We are thankful for the mercies of God extended to her.

"Mother and Father"
words that mean
many different things -
warmth, kindness, understanding
and, above all, love.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

Kathy Leman

We want to remember those who have spent time in the hospital this past month. May God's healing balm be upon Elder Bro. Leroy Huber, Bros. Gary Huber (Sis. Karen) and Henry Frey (Sis. Cora). May we remember them in our prayers and also those who are confined to their homes. It takes so little effort to send a card and it can mean so very much to someone who cannot go in and out as those who have no afflictions.

We are thankful that we could gather together Saturday evening, April 1 to hear the testimonies of Doug Knepp (Bro. Gary and Sis. Nancy), David Rocke (Bro. Richard and Sis. Marge) and Gloria Zimmerman (Bro. Earl and Sis. Elsie). We appreciated having Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke) to assist Bro. Walter in this very important undertaking. The following day we were privileged to greet our converts as our

brothers and sister-in-the-Lord. May they take their place in our family and be good stewards for our Lord.

Two families were blessed with new additions this past month. Bro. Bruce and Sis. Sheri Martin welcomed Brett William March 28. Bradley and Stephanie are happy for a new brother. Brett's grandparents are Bill and Sharon Grubb (El Paso, IL) and Bro. Lewis and Sis. Arletta Martin (Eureka).

Bro. Neil and Sis. Leesa Gerber welcomed a little girl, Emily Sue April 1. Emily's brothers are Joshua, Andrew, Matthew and Alex. Grandparents are Vernon and Barb Tietje (Napoleon, OH) and Roger and Sis. Eunice Gerber (Latty, OH).

We have nine high school graduates this year. We want to wish them God's guidance as they venture out into the world for higher learning or occupations for which they have prepared themselves. They are John Cottrell, Sis. Jill Eastman, Jim Knecht, Bro. Keith Knepp, Brad Kupferschmid, Jason Kupferschmid, Duane Rocke, Charles Wiegand and Matt Zimmerman.

We have been blessed with many visiting brethren who have shared the Word of God with us. Elder Bro. Lavoyd Moore and Bro. Tom Schrenk (Athens, AL), Bros. Virgil Metzger (Chicago), Russell Wuthrich (Pulaski, IA), and Carl Wyss (Washington). May the messages brought forth bring the proper fruit.

April 16 was the wedding day of Sis. Evie Blunier (Henry and Sis. Wilma) and Bro. Randy Mogler (Bro. Andy and Sis. Frieda, Lester, IA). May God bless them as they walk this earthly pathway together and as they will be assembling with the Washington congregation.

NOTE: A woman's long black winter coat was taken by mistake. Will exchange. Telephone (309) 467-2596.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

Jean Bachtold - Crystal Fehr

SWEETEST MOTHER

She's a little old-fashioned, That
sweet mother of mine,
There are many whose beauty will
my mother's outshine;

She's a little old-fashioned As I
plainly can see
But she is forever Sweetest mother
to me.

She's a little old-fashioned, She
stays closely at home,
So calm and contented Although
others may roam;
And in tender young childhood
'Twas a shelter for me
And she who so graced it, Dearest
ever shall be.

She's a little old-fashioned, But
she's sweeter each day,
I adore her plain features And her
thin locks of gray;
There's a glory around her, God
abides it may be
And she is forever Sweetest mother
to me.

Gertrude Stoddard Dennstedt

As Mother's Day approaches, we are reminded of a mother's love and her tender care. We thank God to be brought up in a God-fearing home.

A precious baby boy was born to Bro. Sam and Sis. Valla Broquard March 22. Seth Thomas has three brothers, Jarrod, Joseph, and Jordan, and two sisters, Elizabeth and Rachel. Grandparents are Bro. Donald and Sis. Ione Broquard and Mr. and Mrs. Ira Grandon. May God bless their family circle.

On April 1, Carmen Hartman (Bro. John and Sis. Rosemary) and Paul Kilgus (Bro. Duane and Sis. Arlene) exchanged vows and began their lives as one. We pray for God's blessings as they begin a new life together.

Sis. Louella Sohn was hospitalized this month, but we are thankful she is at home now.

Our retired Elder Bro. Joshua Broquard laid down his cross and went to his eternal reward April 2. He served as a minister around 47 years. He was an elder from 1946 to his retirement in 1984. We can see Bro. Josh labored many years and cared for his flock faithfully. Precious memories will linger on. Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to his family of four sons, Earl and Ralph (Watseka), Kenneth and Dean (Fairbury); two daughters, Sis. Margaret Feucht (Princeville), and Doris Cottrell (Chenoa); three brothers, Bro. George and Joe (Fairbury) and Ben (East

Peoria); five sisters, Sis. Perseda Moser, Kathryn Broquard and Sis. Leona Broquard (Fairbury), Sis. Ella Kuernth (Gridley) and Sis. Esther Herrmann (Princeville).

Sis. Martha Steffen passed away April 10. We can be thankful that she had set her "house" in order many years ago and that she was prepared for her mansion in heaven. Sympathy is extended to her family of one brother, Bro. Jacob Bahler (Franceseville, IN); three sisters, Sis. Nina Steffen (Fairbury); Sis. Eliza Getz (Franceseville, IN) and Sis. Leona Gerber (Bluffton, IN).

Our sympathy is also extended to Sis. Elna Nussbaum and Bro. Dick Wiegand over the death of their brother, Bro. Ray Wiegand (Peoria).

We thank Bro. Earl Kilgus and Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Frederick Knapp (Congerville), Ralph Garber (Morton), and Randy Gasser (Detroit, MI) for lending themselves in the Lord's service. May we always remember our ministering brothers in prayer as they stand to speak the truth.

ILLINOIS, FORREST
Sherri Kelson
Sandra Schneider

How blessed are we who have a mother,
 Who cares and loves us like no other,
 Her faith and concern are constant
 through the years,
 She shares our joy and even our tears.
 In a quiet way she makes us aware
 There is a God and He is always
 there.

Author Unknown

May we thank God for having the precious gift of a God-fearing mother.

We experienced a blessed weekend April 1 and 2 as four dear souls gave their testimonies and become our brothers and sisters-in-Christ. We welcome Rod (Micki) Zimmerman, Cindy (Warren) Edelman, and Terry and Deb Nussbaum into the brotherhood. Elder Bros. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) and Art Bahler (Fairbury) were here to assist our Elder Bro. Perry. Other visiting ministers for the weekend were Bros. Earl Kilgus (Remington, IN), Walter Steffen (Milford, IN), Bill Hodel (Roanoke), Merle Kaisner (Fairbury), and Jim Plattner

(Princeville). Bro. Elmer Schmidt (Winthrop, MN) spent a Sunday with us also. We thank them for coming and sharing God's Word with us.

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Dorothy Bachtold, as her brother, Bro. Ray Wiegand (Peoria), has passed away.

Bro. Art and Sis. Velda Huette and Julie and Mark Shambrook wish to thank everyone for the prayers, love, cards, gifts, and words of encouragement during Julie's illness. May God bless each one.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD
Trish Gerber

A MOTHER GIVES THANKS

Thank you, Lord for clothes to wash
 Or dirty dishes in the sink,
 For little voices in the night
 Calling for another drink.

Thank you, too, for stains and dirt
 Smeared on towels that once were clean;
 For that stack of mending, Lord,
 Piled high upon my sewing machine.

Thank You for those sticky spills
 Upon the floor that I just scrubbed,
 For toothpaste tubes without lids
 And dirty rings around the tub.

Forgive me, Lord, if I should complain
 Of these; instead use them to remind
 Of the one You've placed within my care --
 Thank You, Lord, for this child of mine!

Ann S. Doutherty

When Mother's Day approaches, it's a time for all of us mothers to thank God for each of our precious children. Each time we are privileged to hold a new baby in our arms; and marvel at the wonder of each little dimpled finger and toe and the petal-like lashes that lay on soft pink cheeks, we know God's given us a glimpse of heaven. It's our wish and desire to being each child up to know the Lord and to gain their salvation through Him some day. What a responsibility,

but what a privilege!

We wish to thank the visiting ministers for preaching the Word in love to us this past month. These brothers are Elder Bros. Jesse Beer (Milford, IN), Lavoyd Moore (Athens, AL), Edwin Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Bro. Walt Anliker (Eureka, IL).

Our sympathy and love is extended to Bro. Bill and Sis. Terry Hart and their family on the passing away of Bill's mother, Delores Wright.

Hospital patients this month were Sis. Phyllis Zobrist (Bro. Howard) and Martha Knapp (George). May God heal and comfort according to His will.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY
Perry A. Klopfenstein

Our congregation has rejoiced over the recent wedding announcements of four of our young people. Bro. Eric Zehr, son of Bro. Paul and Sis. Wilma Zehr was engaged to Sis. Mindy Meiss, daughter of Bro. Pete and Sis. Jan Meiss. Bro. Jake Schlipf was announced to marry Sis. Amy Witzig. He is the son of Sis. Lola and the late Bro. Carl Schlipf. Sis. Amy is the daughter of Bro. Jerome and Sis. Mary Witzig. As the Bible instructs, we "rejoice with them that rejoice".

On April 9, Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest) and Bro. Walt Anliker (Eureka) were here to minister to our congregation. Bro. Elmer Witzig was scheduled to be alone in the pulpit that day due to the traveling commitments of our other ministers, and these two brothers lovingly came and preached to us.

The brotherhood concept serves our church well in that co-workers in the ministry can be summoned on short notice to fill in when the need arises. Our church was the beneficiary of these efforts.

In March, our dear and most senior brother, Bro. Joe Rinkenberger, reached 100 years of age. He resides in the Eureka Home and his special anniversary was observed with ice cream and cake in the presence of all his children and many friends. Bro. Joe is still clear in mind and enjoys visiting -- one of his talents in which he is most congenial and engaging. Awhile back, when being interviewed, he was asked what advise he would give to young people of this genera-

tion. He replied, "Watch your step!".
 Sis. Anna Miller was a hospital patient this month.

**ILLINOIS,
 ILLINOIS STATE UNIV.
 Brenda Huber**

The things that I love and hold
 dear to my heart
 Are just borrowed, they're not mine
 at all;
 Jesus only let me use them to
 brighten my life,
 So remind me, remind me, dear
 Lord.

Nothing good have I done to
 deserve God's own Son,
 I'm not worthy of the scars in his
 hands;
 Yet he chose the road to Calv'ry to
 die in my stead--
 Why he loved me, I can't
 understand.

Roll back the curtain of mem'ry
 now and then,
 Show me where you brought me
 from and where I could have
 been;
 Remember I'm human and humans
 forget--
 So remind me, remind me, dear
 Lord.

Dottie Rambo

Each one of us are chosen vessels
 with a specific purpose. God has
 designed us, with our many gifts and
 talents, for the express purpose of
 glorifying His holy name. In Acts we
 read of a man who used his gifts
 without reverence and humble grati-
 tude to the Giver.

"And upon a set day Herod, ar-
 rayed in royal apparel, sat upon his
 throne, and made an oration unto
 them. And the people gave a shout
 saying, It is the voice of a god, and not
 of a man. And immediately the angel
 of the Lord smote him, because he
 gave not God the glory: and he was
 eaten of worms and gave up the ghost.

Acts 12:21-23

Yet because of the Father's om-
 nipotence, "the word of God grew and
 multiplied". Acts 12:24. Let us first of
 all recognize that we have talents

and that those talents were bestowed
 on us for a mission. Then, let's rejoice
 in humble thanksgiving for the op-
 portunity to be counted worthy to
 serve our King.

**ILLINOIS, MORTON
 Phyllis Farney
 Cheryl Wuthrich**

Once again we had the privilege
 to partake of holy communion and to
 be reminded of God's great love for
 us. We wish to thank Elder Bros. Bob
 Grimm (Goodfield) and Chuck
 Hemmer (Peoria) for coming and
 helping to serve the Lord's Supper.
 We would like to take this opportu-
 nity to thank all the elder brothers
 across the land for serving us, their
 congregations, so unselfishly and
 prayerfully.

Bro. John Herrmann was called
 home with his funeral services held
 April 1. May our heavenly Father
 comfort his wife, Minnie; his chil-
 dren, Edwin, Donald, Gary, James
 and D'Ann Rowell; his grandchildren
 and great-grandchildren; his sisters,
 Emma Schrock and Irene Isch; and
 his brothers, Raymond and Ralph.

We also pray for strength for the
 family of Marie Schmidgall whose
 funeral was held April 8. May God's
 comforting arms rest on Roy, her
 husband; her son, Alvin; her daugh-
 ters, Mildred Bennet and Lucille Morr;
 and her sisters, Emma and Esther
 Vierling.

We are excited along with Bro.
 Bruce, Sis. Lisa and Joshua Schoen-
 bein as they welcome Andrew Kaiser
 into their hearts and home. Andrew
 was born April 6. His grandparents
 are Lydia Schoenbein and Bro. Lester
 and Sis. Irene Kaiser (all of Morton).

Another occasion for rejoicing
 comes in the form of the wedding
 announcement of our Sis. Jan Dom-
 nick (Sis. Joyce and the late Bro.
 Dale) and Bro. Mark Hohulin (Bro.
 Vern and Sis. Marie) of Peoria. Let us
 all remember to pray for them during
 their engagement period.

The following poem appeared in
 the Silver Lining at least 14 or 15
 years ago. It behooves each of us to
 make each moment with a child count
 for the Lord.

I took a piece of plastic clay
 And idly fashioned it one day,

And as my fingers pressed it, still
 It moved and yielded to my will.

I came again when days were past;
 The bit of clay was hard at last.
 The form I gave it still it bore,
 And I could fashion it no more!

I took a piece of living clay,
 And gently pressed it day by day,
 And moulded with my power and art
 A young child's soft and yielding heart.

I came again when years had gone;
 It was a man I looked upon.
 He still that early impress bore,
 And I could fashion it no more!

I regret I did not save the author's
 name. But it was written for all of us.
 For whether we are mothers or not,
 we are all teachers and examples.

**ILLINOIS, PEORIA
 Joe and Jackie Herman**

"Enclothed in all Thy righteous-
 ness and innocence I'd be, that I might
 stand before my God, from sin made
 pure and free."

Zion's Harp #163

On March 26, six new souls were
 added to the fold: Bro. Dave Wieland,
 Bro. Michael Rieker II, Bro. Dennis
 and Sis. Becky Unsicker and Bro.
 Gary and Sis. Gina Kempf.

On the following weekend, April 1
 and 2, we heard the testimonies and
 witnessed the baptisms of five more
 souls: Sis. Crystal Klopfenstein, Sis.
 Rachel Geyer, Bro. Dave Hoerr, and
 Bro. Jay and Sis. Dawn Martin.

May God bless each one of them
 and keep them close to Him.

Bro. Craig and Sis. Jacki Stick-
 ling welcome into their hearts and
 home their first child, Leah Janae.
 Her grandparents are Bro. Gene and
 Sis. Carrol Zobrist (Eureka) and Ben
 Stickling.

We were blessed by the teachings
 we heard from visiting ministers, Bro.
 Don Wagenbach (Washington), Bro.
 Jim Plattner (Princeville), Elder Bro.
 Don Sauder (Roanoke), Bro. David
 Kieser (Princeville), Elder Bro. Joe
 Stoller (Princeville), Bro. Nelson Beer
 (Milford, IN), Elder Bro. Joe Braker
 (Morton), Bro. Ron Kipfer (Bluffton,
 IN) and Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton

North, IN). We are thankful for those brothers who give so willingly of themselves to bring forth God's Holy Word.

May the Lord comfort those who have spent time in the hospital: Sis. Marie Musselman, Bro. Luke Heller, Sis. Lois Eberhardt, Sis. Lois Hamann and Sis. Sarah Baer.

We extend sympathy to the families of Bro. Ray Wiegand (Sis. Francis) and Bro. Ernest Klaus (Sis. Vera) as they passed away recently. "I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you." John 14:18.

We enjoyed having the Brothers-In-Faith Quartet at our April hymn sing.

LOOK TO EACH NEW DAY

A blaze of light
streaks through the darkened
sky
melting grayness into pink.
A new day begins . . .
a new day to walk into life.
Thank You, God, for Your gift of a
new day
a new opportunity to do,
to feel . . . to be.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Marjean Lehman

"The grass withereth, the flower
fadeth; but the Word of God shall
stand forever."

Isaiah 40:8

Our thanks we again want to extend to our visiting ministers this past month. They were: Bro. Nelson Beer (Milford, IN), Bro. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH), Bro. Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS), Bro. Walter Steffen (Milford, IN), Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), Bro. Don Wagenbach (Washington). May God bless them and their families for their willing service to us.

On April 5, Wednesday evening, Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Oakville, IA) assisted Elder Bro. Joe Stoller in serving holy communion. We extend our thanks to them for serving us in this most solemn occasion.

On April 7, Friday evening, an all church Bible study was held. Bro. Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS) spoke on "Measuring Our Love Towards God".

We thank Bro. Al for his service to us also.

On March 19, our Sunday school students presented our annual Easter program. Palm Sunday seemed appropriate for the program entitled "The Week Before Christ's Crucifixion". They reflected on the suffering, death, and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. May God bless each student for their willingness to tell us the "wonderful story of love"!

On February 18, Becky Martin and Troy Varvil were joined in holy matrimony. Parents are: Bro. Ellsworth and Sis. Donna Martin and Tom and Lois Varvil (Dunlap). May God bless them as they walk life's pathway together.

The engagement of Todd Martin and Laurie Knotts was made known. July 29 is the date they have planned to be married. Parents are: Bro. Ellsworth and Sis. Donna Martin and William and Lynne Knotts (Frankfort, IL).

On March 24, little Kelsie Jo Stahl was born to Cathy and Rod Stahl who are first-time parents. Grandparents are: Sis. Betty and Bro. Lyle Stahl and Janice Grayson and James Cable. May they find God's help in nurturing this dear little soul.

"And as thy days, so shall thy strength be." Deuteronomy 33:25. Hospital patients have been: Bro. Dana Regier and Bro. Daniel Feucht. Both have returned home. May they be blessed with God's strength.

Our congregation expresses sincere sympathy to Sis. Margaret Feucht in the death of her father, Bro. Josh Brokhart (Fairbury). Our sympathy to Sis. Esther Herrmann in the death of her brother.

Our congregation expresses sincere sympathy to: Hilda, Helen and Andrew (and Bernice) Streitmatter in the death of their brother, Rudy Streitmatter.

"Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart."
Psalm 27:14

A MOTHER'S PRAYER

"I wash the dirt from little feet, and
as I wash I pray,
"Lord, keep them ever pure and
true to walk the narrow way."

I wash the dirt from little hands,
and earnestly I ask,
"Lord, may they ever yielded be to
do the humblest task."

I wash the dirt from little knees,
and pray, "Lord, may they be
The place where victories are won,
and orders sought from Thee."
I scrub the clothes that soil so soon,
and pray, "Lord, may her dress
Throughout eternal ages be Thy
robe of righteousness."

E'er many hours shall pass, I know,
I'll wash these hands again;
And there'll be dirt upon her dress
before the day shall end.
But as she journeys on through life
and learns of want and pain,
Lord, Keep her precious little heart
cleansed from all sin and stain;
For soap and water cannot reach
where Thou alone can'st see.
Her hands and feet, these I can
wash -- I trust her heart to
Thee."

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

Sandy Leman - Patsy Kaeb

As we start planting our seeds in our gardens and our fields, and new life springs forth, it is also a joy to know the seeds that are planted in our young children's hearts will some day bring forth fruits towards repentance.

Our congregation rejoices to have four dear souls answer their Saviour's call, Linda Blunier (Wayne and Sis. Marge), Crystal Fischer (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Marge), Wally Knecht (Kay), and Sally Hodel (Willis and Margaret).

As we see the miracles of God's creation, several precious babies have been born. Jon and Jill Fehr were blessed with their first child, Justin Daniel born March 3. Grandparents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Helen Fehr and Steve and Sally Onnen.

Ed and Karen Gerber welcomed Ashley Danielle into their home March 4. Ashley has a big sister, Nicole. Grandparents are Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Malinda Gerber and Anita Waldschmidt (Roanoke) and Don Phillips (Morton).

Gary and Pam Martin were blessed with a baby boy, Joshua Daniel, born March 13. His grandmother is Sis. Dorothy Martin.

Little Andy Pfister got a new baby sister, Jamie Nicole April 2. The proud parents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Linda Pfister. Grandparents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Ila Pfister and Eugene Zimmerman (Eureka) and Carol Zimmerman (Peoria).

Our congregation was able to partake of the holy sacrament of communion Sunday, March 19. We thank Elder Bro. Ed Lance (Oakville, IA) for giving his time to help serve us. Also, we were blessed this month to have Elder Bro. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria) to conduct our April Bible study, and Bro. Everett Hari (Bloomington-Normal) and Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford) who shared God's Word with us.

We have had several hospital patients this month, Roy Beer, Sis. Mildred Aeschleman (Bro. Clarence), Bro. D.B. (Happy) Hodel (Sis. Jane), Bro. Bob Hohulin (Sis. Marie), and Elmer Wiedman (Virginia). We hope they can feel the prayers of the congregation on their behalf.

Our sympathy to the family of William "Pete" Legel, who passed away March 16. He is survived by five brothers, John, Bro. Art, Lewis (Roanoke); Phillip (Metamora); and Alvin (Buffalo Grove); and three sisters, Sis. Emma Legel (Roanoke); Sis. Ida Mae Klaus (Morton) and Marelee O'Sullivan (North Little Rock, AK).

Sally Hodel and her family would like to say a big thank you for all the prayers, the many cards, and kind expressions of love and support during Sally's recent stay in the hospital. It was truly appreciated and may God richly bless you all.

Sincerely,
The Willis Hodel family

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Marsha Koch
Carolyn Bolliger

Our congregation was shocked and saddened with the sudden death of our Bro. Keith Pflederer. We express our deep sympathy to his wife, Sis. Lynne (Elsasser) and their small son, Neil. We remember too his grieving parents, Bro. Chris and Sis. Ruth Pflederer and brothers, Kevin, Bro. Kurt and Sis. Karen.

On a happier note, we congratulate Russell and Terrie Ehnle on the birth of their first child, a little son,

Cody Russell, born March 27. Happy grandparents are Robert and Eleanor Hanning (Bradford) and Bro. Ed and Sis. Verla Ehnle (also of Bradford).

April 14 was the wedding day of Karen Austin and Sam Joslin (Champaign, IL). Karen's parents are Byrl and Christine Austin (Tremont).

Bro. Harlan and Sis. Carolyn Bolliger are announcing the engagement of their daughter, Sandra (Indianapolis) to Sam Bedwell (also of Indianapolis). An August 19 wedding is planned.

We wish these young couples God's blessings as they start this new phase of their lives.

A special thank you to our visiting ministers this month. They were Bro. Ed Fritz from Washington and Bro. Vernon Wettstein of Congerville.

MOTHER'S DAY IS REMEMBRANCE DAY

Mother's Day is remembrance day
And we pause on the Path Of The Year

To pay honor and worshipful tribute

To the Mother our heart holds dear . . .

For, whether here or in heaven,
Her love is our haven and guide.
For always the memory of Mother
Is a beacon light shining inside . . .

Time cannot destroy her memory
And years can never erase
The tenderness and the beauty
Of the love in a Mother's face . . .
And, when we think of our Mother,
We draw nearer to God above,
For only God in His Greatness
Could fashion a MOTHER'S LOVE.

Helen Steiner Rice

INDIANA, BLUFFTON Jean Moser - Shari Fiechter

"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."

Isaiah 53:5

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS), Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo), and Bro. Steve Ringger (Bluffton North). We

are thankful that the Word was expounded to us in truth and purity.

In one of our sermons we heard that we must have a priority in life. Without it is like a ship without a rudder. Kip Gerber, Jay Bertsch, Lonny Moser, Dan Moser and Tonya Purdy have decided to make Jesus their priority and let Him guide their lives. We pray that God's abundant grace will be with each one as they battle against the powers of darkness.

Our Sunday school children once again brought us the beautiful Easter story through song. What a joy to praise our risen Lord knowing that through the giving of his life, we can live eternally.

"Whoso eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."

John 6:54.

On Saturday, April 1, Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Phil Stettner and Bro. Bob Meyer (Bluffton North) assisted Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz as we were privileged to partake of holy communion. We were reminded of Christ's love for us and how we likewise should love one another.

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

Galatians 6:2

Bro. Sylvan (Sis. Doris) Frauhiger is still hospitalized but is improving. Let us not forget to remember our sick in prayer.

Believing that children are a heritage of the Lord, we rejoice that God has blessed several families with new babies.

Our congratulations go to Bro. Dale and Sis. Glenda Meyer and Bro. Dwight and Sis. Lucille Gerber on the arrival of a new granddaughter, Kayci Suzanne, born to Bro. Greg and Sis. Beverly Meyer (Indianapolis).

Bro. John and Sis. Pam Reinhard welcome another son, Joel Andrew, born March 24. He has three big brothers, Michael, Mark and Ben. Grandparents are Bro. Aaron and Sis. Irene Reinhard and Bro. Claire and Sis. Mary Jane Yergler.

First-time parents, Bro. Jeff and

Sis. Rhonda Gerber, were blessed with a son, Jacob Gottlieb, born April 6. The happy grandparents are Bro. Leon and Sis. Mary Kay Gerber and Bro. Larry and Sis. Jane Nuest (Francesville).

Bro. Brad and Sis. Shawn Gerber are rejoicing over the birth of their first son, Abraham David, born April 12. The proud grandparents are Bro. Leon and Sis. Mary Kay Gerber and Bill and Karen Burke.

A precious little girl, Emma Marie, arrived April 8. Bro. Keith and Sis. Martha Stoller are her happy parents. A brother, Isaac, and grandparents, Bro. Ben and Sis. Arlene Habegger and Bro. Ramon and Sis. Flossie Stoller, welcome her.

Bro. Kevin and Sis. Beth Aschliman were blessed with another healthy baby boy, Nathaniel Lee, born April 17. Mitchell, Cory, and Kreigh and grandparents, Bro. Harry and Sis. Betty Steffen and Bro. Bob and Sis. Ida Aschliman, welcome him home.

Like a beautiful bud, not yet in full bloom, but full of fragrance, little Seth William Kipfer, five and one-half months, was picked by an unseen hand and lifted up to his heavenly home to be with Jesus. Sudden Infant Death Syndrome being the possible cause of his death. His parents are Bro. Troy and Sis. Brenda Kipfer and his grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Sue Kipfer and Howard and Judith Hess (Wilshire, OH). We sorrow with this young couple as this was their only child. We trust that the Lord is able to turn ashes into beauty. How precious each moment becomes when there are so few to share.

As we recently heard in a sermon, "let us all take heed," for we know not what tomorrow holds, but we know Who holds tomorrow.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON NORTH
Lois Drayer
Debbie Aeschliman

Our Sunday school Easter program was Sunday afternoon, March 26. As our children sang their songs, God was surely sitting up in heaven smiling down, with Jesus by His side. We're so thankful that God sent His Son to die on the cross for us so that we could be forgiven for our sins.

Likewise, our children will have this hope to learn to know God as we know Him, and someday be able to go to heaven.

We are always grateful when we have visiting ministers. Ministers who came to share with us are Bros. Al Langhofer (Wichita, KS), Ron Kipfer (Bluffton) and Kent Ringger (Bluffton). We thank them and their families for coming.

There is joy in our midst because another soul, Kelly Manges, is repenting. We wish her much grace in her new walk of life.

Bro. Vernon and Sis. Carole Meyer are the grandparents of little Abigail Theresa, born to Bro. Pat and Sis. Annie Meyer (South Bend) March 28. Emma Marie was born April 8 to Bro. Keith and Sis. Martha Stoller. Grandparents are Bro. Ben and Sis. Arlene Habegger and Bro. Ramon and Sis. Flossie Stoller (Bluffton). Congratulations to all the parents and grandparents.

Our hospital patients are Bro. James Geisel (Sis. Dorothy), Bro. Vernon Gerber (Sis. Dorothy), Bro. Ted Kipfer (Sis. Theresa) and Sis. Leona Gerber (Bro. Obed). May they feel our prayers and the Lord's presence.

With the coming of May, our thoughts turn to our mothers. Our mothers do so much for us, so let us remember to appreciate them.

As the weather is getting warmer, the air smells so clean and fresh. Farmers are in the fields, women are working in the gardens, and children are playing outside. The next time you are outside, here is a little saying to think about: "The love of God surrounds us like the air we breathe around us." Helen Steiner Rice.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Jacki Huber

A MOTHER'S LOVE

A Mother's love is something
that no one can explain,
It is made of deep devotion
and of sacrifice and pain,
It is endless and unselfish
and enduring come what may
For nothing can destroy it
or take that love away . . .

It is patient and forgiving
when all others are forsaking,
And it never fails or falters
even though the heart is breaking .

It believe beyond believing
when the world around
condemns,
And it glows with all the beauty
of the rarest, brightest gems . . .
It is far beyond defining,
it defies all explanation,
And it still remains a secret
like the mysteries of creation . . .
A many splendored miracle
man cannot understand
And another wondrous evidence
of God's tender guiding hand.

Helen Steiner Rice

"Thanks" to all our mothers and grandmothers who have shown us this love. May we, in turn, share it with others, following Christ's example.

Early Easter morning many gathered at the fellowship center to rejoice in the hope we have in our hearts since Christ arose nearly 2000 years ago.

Also rejoicing on Easter morning were Bro. Jerry and Sis. Janice Gutwein, as a baby boy, Albert John, was born to them. Three sisters, Tricia, Sandra and Joy, lovingly welcomed Albert home. Grandparents are Bro. Harold and Sis. Maxine Gutwein and Bro. Elmer and Sis. Hazel Schmidt (Winthrop, MN).

We had a special day Easter with Bro. Vernon Schwab (Wolcott) ministering to us in the morning, and our children sharing verses and songs in their Sunday school program that afternoon.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon Denton rejoice at the birth of a grandson, Corey Alan, born April 6 to Greg and Tina Reinhold (Jacksonville, NC). Mr. Don Reinhold (Winamac) is also a grandpa to Corey.

Melissa Cook (Herb and Sis. Suzanne) and Tim Whitaker (Mr. Jerry Whitaker and Mrs. Sharon Kleppe) were united in marriage in Greenwood, IN, Saturday, March 25. Tim and Melissa are now residing in Indianapolis. May God's love warm their home.

Dale Cook, the son of Herb and Sis. Suzanne Cook, and Deborah Jones (West Lafayette, IN) recently an-

nounced their plans to be married in July.

Also engaged recently were Bro. Brad Neihouser (Bro. Andre and Sis. Lois) and Sis. Barb Putt (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Paulette). A June 18 wedding is being planned. We rejoice with these couples.

On Wednesday, April 5, Sis. Katie Gutwein observed her 100th birthday. 85 family members and friends gathered for a carry-in dinner in her honor.

Among the guests was ministering Bro. Victor Beer (North Fort Myers, FL) who shared God's Word with us. May God bless him for serving us.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Karl Westfall and his children in the death of his father, Walter Westfall (Monticello). May God comfort them all.

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INDIANA, INDIANAPOLIS
Miriam Gudeman - Kathy Freed

"Thy Word is a lamp unto me feet,
and a light unto my path."

Psalms 119:105

Congratulations and best wishes to all the graduates this year! It is a wonderful accomplishment to have completed this aspect of your life. May God's Word have the final say in every decision you make, to keep you wise, to keep you strong and to keep you true. "But, seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." Matthew 6:33. To our graduates, Wendy Smeltzer (daughter of Bro. Dave and Sis. Betty), Tobi Cox (daughter of Tom and Cindy) and Beth Isch (daughter of John and Mary). God bless you always!

As always, we want to warmly extend our appreciation to our visiting ministers, Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington), Bro. Michael Thomas (Valparaiso), Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington-Normal, IL) and Bro. Wayne Lehman (South Bend).

Our Easter program was held March 24. We always enjoy being with family and friends, and appreciate their support.

We rejoice with our dear friends, Melissa Cook (daughter of Herbert and Sis. Suzanne, Francesville) and Timothy Whitaker, who were united

in marriage March 25, and with Sylvia Ortiz and Brent Troxel (son of Bro. Dwight and Sis. Bev, Bluffton), who were united April 8. May God richly bless their lives together.

On March 22, Bro. Greg and Sis. Bev Meyer joyously welcomed into their family of boys, a little girl, Kayci Suzanne. We are happy to have this little addition to our congregation, for we know that without children there would be no Mother's Day!

Thank you, God,

For pretending not to notice one of Your angels is missing and for guiding her to me. You must have known how much I would need her, so You turned Your head for a minute and allowed her to slip away to me. Sometimes I wonder what special name You had for her. I call her "Mother."

To think of not having her with me is unbearable. I don't know what I would have done without her all these years. She has loved me without reservation -- whether I deserved to be loved or not. Willingly and happily, she has fed me, clothed me, taught me, encouraged me, inspired me, and with her own special brand of gentleness reprimanded me. A bit of heaven's own beauty, her eyes reflect hope and love for You and her family. She has tried to instill that love in us. She's not the least bit afraid of work. With her constant scrubbing, polishing, painting and fixing, she has made every house we've lived in a beautiful home. When I'm confused, she sets me straight. She knows what matters and what doesn't. What to hold on to and what to let go. You have given her an endless supply of love. She gives it away freely yet never seems to run low. Even before I am aware I have a need, she is making plans and working to supply it. You gave her great patience. She is the best listener I have met. With understanding and determination she always seems to turn a calamity into some kind of success. She urges me to carry my own load in life but is always close by if I stumble under the burden. She hurts when I hurt. She cries when I cry. And she will not be happy until she has seen a smile on my face once more. Although she has taught me to pray, she has never ceased to invoke your richest blessings upon me.

Thank the other angels for filling in for her while she is away. I know it hasn't been easy. Her shoes would be hard to fill. She has to be one of Your greatest miracles, God, and I want to thank You for lending my mother to me.

By Bernice Maddux

Happy Mother's Day, Mom!

—————
INDIANA, LACROSSE
Mary Lynn Massner

I was guilty with nothing to say,
And they were coming to take me away,
But then a voice from heaven was heard that said,
"Let him go! Take Me instead!"

Crown of thorns, the spear deep in His side,
And the pain should have been mine;
The rusty nails were meant for me,
Yet Christ took them -- and let me go free!

And I should have been crucified!
I should have suffered and died!
I should have hung on the cross in disgrace,
But Jesus, God's Son, took my place!

Gordon Jensen

Jesus took our place! Can we ever realize the tremendous sacrifice He made for us?

On Palm Sunday, we enjoyed a beautiful Easter program with our Sunday school children. The death and resurrection of our Lord was vividly told to us through verse and song. There were many visitors sharing the day with us including ministering brothers, Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN) and Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN).

We shared the sacrament of holy communion together April 15. Elder Bro. Ken Sauder (Mansfield, OH) assisted our Elder Bro. Ed Frank in this work. As children of God, we truly receive a blessing in breaking bread and tasting wine in remembrance of our Savior. "For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come." I Corinthians 12:26.

Other visitors this past month included ministering Bro. Mike Rinkenger (Congerville, IL). We are thankful for all the brethren who minister to us.

INDIANA, LEO

D. Kellenberger

As the grass and "things" start to grow, our work load automatically increases 2 or 3 hours per week. Springtime brings growth. Growth requires maintenance.

Growing in grace requires extra responsibility also. That growth is commanded in II Peter 3:18. But it requires a willingness on our part to stretch and to change. That's what our special Saturday evening topic "Whosoever Will," was all about this month -- being willing to give in to the Lord's way. Our speaker gave us several verbs to pursue taken from James, chapter 4: submit, resist, draw nigh, cleanse, purify, humble yourself. We appreciated Bro. Ron Kipfer (Bluffton) for ministering to us that evening! The Lord seems to be trying to comfort us and simplify our lives by saying, "Just give in to my way, I'll carry all the rest -- the anxiety, the cares and the stress."

Many of our brothers and sisters attended the annual Children's Home representative's meeting. It was exciting to see all those cars lining the driveway. Everyone was really moved by the testimony of the staff and some of the former children.

The Leo church really appreciates the influx of people that the Children's Home brings to our community. Thank you all for coming.

A boy, Joshua Daniel, was born to Bro. Jeff and Sis. Brenda Thames. Jeff is the new counselor and administrative assistant at the Children's Home.

INDIANA, MILFORD

Marguerite Hoerr

Sue Schieler

We've just spent an uplifting weekend, April 15 and 16, as we welcomed a new brother and three new sisters into the family of God. Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman (Francerville) was here to help share in this joyous work. Our new brother-in-Christ is Brent Beer (son of Bro. Bob

and Sis. Linda) and our new sisters-in-Christ are Rita Beer (daughter of Bro. Nelson and Sis. Shelby), Tricia Wuthrich (daughter of Bro. Stan and Sis. Linda) and Jenny Beer (daughter of Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb). May God be especially near these young lambs.

Ministering brothers visiting us recently have been Bro. Vic Beer (North Fort Myers, FL) and Bro. Bob Beebe (South Bend) and we appreciate their willingness to come share God's Word with us.

On April 8 and 9, our choir traveled to Princeville, IL, and received a rich blessing fellowshiping with the brethren there.

Our sympathy is conveyed to Bros. John and Roy Lehman and Esther Welty as they recently lost their brother, Chris (Columbia City).

Sis. Helen Baumgartner was hospitalized, but has now been transferred to the Lakeland Loving Care nursing home located behind our church. She would appreciate any cards or letters. Her address is: P. O. Box 767, Milford, IN 46542.

Two more souls are turning their lives to Christ and we rejoice with them and their families. They are Brian Wuthrich (son of Bro. Stan and Sis. Linda) and Renee Beer (daughter of Bro. Nelson and Sis. Shelby).

INDIANA, REMINGTON

Beth Virkler

In March, our topical Bible study was centered on "Biblical Principles in Business". Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francerville, IN) shared with us some timely thoughts on how our business ethics need to be imbued with Biblical principles if we want to be an effective witness for Jesus Christ in our daily occupation.

As the first tip of the tulips break through the soil and the first hue of color bursts forth from the opening flower, we are reminded of God's promise of spring. (Genesis 8:22) Even so, the Easter season so commonly commemorated during this season of "new beginnings" gives renewed hope in the power of the resurrection to continually bring a new heart to us who are striving to be Christ-like. Likewise, what a fitting "season" it is to be a part of the anniversary of Christ's death for us through holy

communion. We understand the effort that is put forth to celebrate a special anniversary in our family. Well-laid plans are made several months in advance for the purpose of helping us to remember, to focus on this couple's life together. Even so, shouldn't our spiritual preparation have as much effort put into it as we prepare to be a part of the most timely anniversary of all? Elder Bro. Loren Stoller (Latty, OH) gave of himself to help Bro. Alfred in serving communion to the Remington and Wolcott congregations.

After worshipping with us for approximately seven years, Mike and Sis. Janet Campbell have moved to the Bluffton area due to change of jobs and plan to attend Bluffton North.

The Saturday before Easter, we bade a final farewell to Marvin Nussbaum, 74, who passed away March 22. He had been ill for nine months as a result of injuries suffered in an accident. He was the son of the late Bro. Andrew and Sis. Emma (Troxel) Nussbaum, who served our congregation in the ministry. Surviving are his wife, Essie; two sons, Neal and Kent; one sister, Esther Woodruff; two brothers, Edward and Jack; and three grandchildren. One brother, Robert, preceded him in death. We will greatly miss his cheery smile and kind disposition.

The Marvin Nussbaum family wants to thank all of our friends at the Remington and Wolcott churches for their prayers and help and support in so many ways during Marvin's long illness and at the time of his death. Our thanks, too, to our relatives the Troxels at LaCrosse and Bluffton, the Bolliers at Leo and our many other friends for their cards, notes and encouragement during this very difficult period.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

Sue Beebe

We gathered together Easter morning for a sunrise service. Later in the day, the Sunday school children eagerly told of our Lord's victorious resurrection. It is always inspiring to listen to them as they so sweetly tell of Jesus.

On April 12, we were privileged to be able to partake of communion.

"Come then to the feast of His New Covenant,
Members of His church, your faith renew;
Thank the Founder of this precious Covenant
Through the chalice He pours out for you."

"Communion Hymn"
Zion's Harp #26, vs. 6

We thank our Elder Bro. Jesse Beer (Milford) who came and so willingly served us.

We also thank Bro. Will Schieler (Milford) for ministering unto us this past month.

Bro. Pat and Sis. Annie Meyer, Amanda and Jennifer welcomed a sweet little daughter to their family circle March 28. They have named her Abigail Theresa. Abigail's loving grandparents are Bro. Vernon and Sis. Carol Meyer (Bluffton) and Sam and Shelby Greenberg (Indianapolis).

Bro. John Schuch remains hospitalized in the Bremen Community Hospital.

Sisters Mildred Meister and Mae Schumacher remain confined to their homes.

A Thank You Note:

I want to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and many deeds of kindness. Also for the visits from people from far and near. It was all appreciated so much. I hope to be able to assemble with our dear ones in church again within a few weeks. God bless you richly.

Sis. Mae Schumacher

INDIANA, VALPARAISO Beth Heinold - Anjie Heinold

Hail! My Redeemer liveth.
All hail. I live with Him!
New life to me He giveth
And saves from death and sin.
Hail me, no more repining.
The Prince of life arose.
And after death and sorrow
The homeland's sweet repose!

Author Unknown

We're reminded again this Easter season of the debt Jesus paid that each of us owed. May we be inspired

and thankful throughout the year by His eternal love.

Our congregation was abundantly blessed with visiting ministers this past month. Our sincere thanks to these brethren: Bro. Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL), Bro. Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL), Bro. Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN), Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) and Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), who willingly shared God's Word with us.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Karen Schulz - Deyona Massner

On Good Friday evening, the brothers and sisters gathered together to partake of holy communion. Our first love was renewed as we pondered upon the greatest sacrifice given to mankind.

We extend our sympathy to the Heiniger family at the sudden loss of their niece, Almagene Salvage. Memorial services were held April 16.

IOWA, ELGIN Gloria Frieden

A busy mother was one day regretting that she could do so little church work and take so small a part in Christian enterprises. "I shall have only a life of housework to show at last," she said rather sadly to a friend one day. "Why mother," exclaimed her little daughter, who overheard the words, "all we children will stand up and tell all you've done for us -- everything! I shouldn't s'pose they'd want anything better than good mothers up in heaven." And the friend answered, "The child is right! Earth will send to heaven no better saints than the true Christian mothers who have done their best."

The Homer Messenger

MOTHER'S INFLUENCE

I took a piece of plastic clay
And idly fashioned it one day,
And as my fingers pressed it still,
It moved and yielded at my will.
I came again when days were past,
The form I gave it still it bore,
But I could change that form no more.
I took a piece of living clay,

And gently formed it day by day,
And molded with my power and art,

A young child's soft and yielding heart,

I came again when days were gone,
It was a man I looked upon,
He still that early impress bore
And I could change it nevermore.

Author and Source Unknown

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE

Dawn Moser

We have been reminded again of how much we have to be thankful for.

This past month we celebrated the remembrance of Christ's suffering and death and His victory over the grave on that glorious morning many years ago. Our Sunday school children had a song service for us Easter morning. They sang many of our favorite hymns that praise God for the love He has for us and for Jesus and His paying of "the debt I owed."

The weekend of April 16, Elder Bros. Sam Huber (Sabetha, KS) and Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL) were with us. They read the conference conclusions to us. We were encouraged to be steadfast in our walk of life and to teach our children of God and encourage them to remain sin-free. We thank them for spending this time with us. We also would like to thank Bro. Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA) for ministering to us this past month.

In our household we are thankful for the safe arrival of Clint Thomas March 19. Britany is an excited big sister and tries to be a helper to me. Grandparents are Ken and Eunice Mengler and Bro. Earl and Sis. Jeanette Moser (all of Elgin, IL).

IOWA, IOWA CITY

Janette Schulz

Greetings to all! A heartfelt "thank you" to Sis. Bonita Frank who has willingly been our Silver Lining correspondent in the past. We rejoice with her, Bro. Bruce, and daughters, Bethany and Bonnie, as they welcome little Belinda Lea, born April 3.

God has blessed us with many visitors this month, including ministering Bro. Walter Herrmann (Princeville, IL) and Elder Bros. Paul Butikofer (Elgin, IA), Ed Lanz

(Oakville, IA) and Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL). May God bless them and their families for giving of themselves for us.

In exhorting us for communion, Bro. Paul kindly reminded us that when Jesus talked to His disciples before the Last Supper and told of His upcoming betrayal, each of them asked, "Is it I?" The time of preparation before communion is meant for self-examination, not for the examination of others.

We later enjoyed partaking of holy communion, a blessed time of remembering the great price paid for our salvation and an opportunity to renew our vows of faithfulness to Him.

As the school semester draws to a close, we bid farewell to several of our students. Susan Fehr plans to transfer to another college after getting married and moving to Kansas this summer. Her roommate, Heather Grossnickle, also plans to transfer out of state. We will miss them and the other students who will be away from Iowa City for the summer. We are thankful that God has led two of our graduates to remain in the Iowa City area -- Sis. Donna Teubel and Sis. Janette Schulz.

We look forward to welcoming Bro. Matt Musselman (Pulaski, IA) who has summer employment plans in this area and Sis. Juanita Gerst (Alto, MI), who hopes to attend the University this fall.

IOWA, LESTER

Kathy Metzger - Mary Knobloch

"The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?"

I Corinthians 10:16

It was our blessed privilege to have Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend) to help serve communion March 18. On March 19, we were thankful to God for the messages of Elder Bros. Wayne Fehr and Gene Pamer (Akron, OH). Others who lent themselves to speak God's Word to us were Bro. Doug Grimm (Sabetha, KS) and Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Easter weekend. On April 2, we heard the Word ministered by Bro. Lawrence

Luthi (Lamar, MO). We thank everyone who spoke the Word. May we strive to consecrate our lives in obedience to our Lord and God.

We rejoice as do the angels in heaven with two new converts. Joni Gerber (Bro. Bill and Sis. Erma) and Doug Leuthold (Bro. Art and Sis. Emily) have felt the need of surrendering their hearts and lives to God.

God has blessed two families with new babies. Bro. Bruce and Sis. Harriet Metzger welcomed Martha Rose April 10. She is welcomed by Katie, Christopher and Sam. Grandparents are Bro. Eli and Sis. Alice Metzger and Bro. Irvin and Sis. Alma Mogler (West Bend).

On April 6, Dean and Linda Meyer welcomed their first child. Alvie Dean is a grandson of Bro. Raymond and Sis. Twyla Meyer.

We have had loved ones who suffered bodily afflictions recently. Surgical patients were Bro. Andy Mogler and Bro. Chuck Leuthold and Sis. Marge Feucht (Bro. Ray). Hospitalized for medical treatment was Sis. Linda Kellenberger (Bro. Verlyn). May God continue to heal and provide for each one.

"When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also." II Timothy 1:5. We would pay tribute to our mothers and thankful we are to God that He has given us believing parents and that enduring mother's love.

A MOTHER'S LOVE

A Mother's love is something that no one can explain,
It is made of deep devotion and of sacrifice and pain,
It is endless and unselfish and enduring come what may
For nothing can destroy it or take that love away . . .
It is patient and forgiving when all others are forsaking,
And it never fails or falters even though the heart is breaking . . .
It believes beyond believing when the world around condemns,
And it glows with all the beauty of the rarest, brightest gems . . .
It is far beyond defining, it defies all explanation,
And it still remains a secret like the

mysteries of creation . . .

A many spended miracle man cannot understand

And another wondrous evidence of God's tender guiding hand.

Helen Steiner Rice

IOWA, OAKVILLE Debbie Wagenbach

We are thankful that Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) was able to spend the weekend of April 8 and 9 with us to assist Elder Bro. Ed with communion service Saturday evening. What a blessed occasion this is to dine with our Savior. Let us renew and strengthen our vow to serve our God and be thankful to Jesus for the terrible price He paid on Calvary for our sins.

IOWA, PULASKI Teresa Schock Ginny Wuthrich

We thank Bro. Jon Schmidgall for bringing the Word to us this past month. May he be richly blessed for all his efforts.

OUR MOTHER

We had a precious Mother
Who truly loved the Lord.
Thus she taught us right from wrong
In belief and action.

And she made sure that we know
The way of salvation,
And that we should walk with God
Each day until He called
Us to His habitation.

She gave us abundant love,
E'er upheld us in prayer,
And made our home a haven
Of richness of blessing
Just because she was there.

She also cared for others
Her love to them did show,
And she did all that she could
They, too, might come to know.

But when her body grew frail
As many years passed by,
Her heart cry became: "Please come,
Lord Jesus, and take me
To Your Home on high."

And in His appointed time
The Lord answered her heart-cry
By taking her in His arms
And bearing her upward
To His home in the sky.

Oh, our home seems so empty
Since she's no longer here;
But what joy must now be hers
Up in that Glory-land
With her Lord ever near.

But she is not lost to us.
She's just gone on before
While we still wait for God's call
To come share His glory
And His home evermore.

But we know it won't be long
United we shall be,
If we keep our faith in God
And ever walk with Him
Till we, too, His face see.

Mildred Schnur

May our mothers be blest this
Mother's Day and all year through
for all their cares and concerns for
our eternal welfare.

IOWA, WEST BEND

Phyllis Banwart - Mary Gerber

"Glory be to God in heaven, Praise to Christ, our Saviour great! By the power of Thy Spirit, A new man Thou didst create." Zion's Harp #35. Our hearts were filled with joy as we witnessed the testimony and baptism of June Mogler (Bro. Art and Sis. Eula) April 9 and 10. We wish her the blessings of the Lord as she begins her life in Christ. Elder Bro. Ed Frank (LaCrosse, IN), Bros. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH), Marshall Heinold (Washington, IL) and Jim Knobloch (Elgin, IA) came to be with us on this special occasion. May they be blessed for sharing God's Word with us. We also thank ministering Bros. Dale Moore (Elgin, IA) and Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN) for being among us Easter Sunday.

We have several recent hospital patients and are thankful to report all are recovering or are well enough to assemble with us again. They are Sis. Edna Banwart (Bro. Earl), Clark Bruellman (Bro. Dave and Sis. Yvonne), Sis. Ida Schmidt (Bro. Earnie), Bro. Oscar Zaugg (Sis.

Frances) and Katie Zaugg (Bro. Bill and Connie).

Bro. Larry and Sis. Carole Fehr welcomed a new granddaughter March 19, as Jessica Lynn was born to Terry and Linda Fehr. On March 24, Bryan and Melinda Traub became parents of Derick Robert. Also welcoming him are his sister, Amber, and grandparents, Bro. Larry and Sis. Carole Fehr and Robert and Eunice Traub.

We extend congratulations to Lance Banwart (Bro. Vic and Sis. Marilyn) and Christy Thompson (Daryl Thompsons, Luverne) on their engagement. A June wedding is being planned.

Our sympathy is extended to Sis. Anna Schmidt and Sam Mogler as their sister, Sis. Bertha Gehring (Elgin, IA) passed away recently, as well as to Bro. Lyle and Sis. Irene Rick in the passing of Bro. Lyle's mother.

As Mother's Day is approaching soon, it seemed the following words remind each of us as mothers of our responsibility.

On this Mother's Day and every day, let me remember my responsibilities rather than my privileges as a mother . . . Above all, let me remember that these children of God have been graciously loaned to me so that together we may find the Christ in one another.

Ruth Tubia

JAPAN, SHIODA

Kathy Kieser

Spring in Japan is: blossoming fruit trees, rows of regal dolls displayed for Girl's Day in March, flying fish kites for Boy's Day in May, graduation from kindergarten to first grade for many students (including our church's kindergarten students here in Shioda), entrance into kindergarten for tiny four-year-old students (including those who entered Sis. Renee Baurer's class), Easter sunrise service and breakfast along a river (with majestic Mt. Fuji's snow-covered peak in view), Sunday school Easter program and, later on that day, a church dinner together at Bro. Frank and Sis. Kathy Sauder's home.

Tom Ehnle, son of Elder Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois Ehnle, has been transferred temporarily to Japan by his company. Although he lives and works

in the Tokyo area, we're looking forward to his visits to the country to be with us.

JAPAN, TOKYO

Frank and Kathy Sauder

Spring is a time of new beginnings. In Japan, this is true not only in nature but in the school system as well. For several of our students, the new school year means an entirely new beginning as they have graduated recently. Congratulations and God's blessings to our graduates: elementary school, Ayako Inoue (Elder Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie); junior high school, Keiko Sakuta (Sis. Yoshiko) and high school, Kenichi Urushino (Sis. Shizuko) and Yuichi Onoda (Sis. Haruyo).

As the world around us blossoms into new life, it seems so fitting to commemorate Christ's death and resurrection. Our Sunday school presented a program that told the Easter story. A special lunch at church together was also enjoyed that day.

Our annual spring Sunday school trip for Shioda and Tokyo churches was well-attended this year. The students seemed to enjoy a trip to the zoo, but the greatest blessing was seeing their friendships and bonds deepen as the day went by.

Bro. Hisato and Sis. Kathie Inoue were able to travel to the United States recently for Bro. Randy Mogler and Sis. Evie Blunier's wedding. Our thoughts, prayers and hearts went along with them.

We welcome Masato Hirose (Sis. Kiyoko) to our congregation. He has moved from the Shioda area to Tokyo to continue his education. We're thankful that he has chosen to live in the church neighborhood and to assemble with us.

KANSAS, BERN

Kathy Strahm

Lori Baumgartner

It was recently announced to our congregation that we will be partaking of communion Saturday evening, April 29. We were exhorted that we, as Christians, have a duty to examine our lives and purge out the hidden extra weights in our lives however small or great they may be.

"Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us."

I Corinthians 5:7

It is so important that we, as Christians, rid ourselves of every little grudge that does burden us down. Ironically, it is often the accumulation of many "little things" rather than great indignities that tear down and weaken our spiritual lives. I am reminded of an account told by Dr. Emerson Fosdick -- a story about the battles won and lost by a giant of the forest:

On the slope of Long's Peak in Colorado lies the ruin of a gigantic tree. Naturalists tell us that it stood for some four hundred years. It was a seedling when Columbus landed at San Salvador, and half grown when the Pilgrims settled at Plymouth. During the course of its long life it was struck by lightening fourteen times, and the innumerable avalanches and storms of four centuries thundered past it. It survived them all. In the end, however, an army of beetles attacked the tree and leveled it to the ground. The insects ate their way through the bark and gradually destroyed the inner strength of the tree by their tiny, but incessant, attacks. A forest giant which age had not withered, nor lightening blasted, nor storms subdued, fell at last before beetles so small that a man could brush them between his forefinger and thumb.

Oh, if we, as Christians, would only take heed to the cause of ruin in that great tree.

As in our spiritual body so it is in our physical body that we at times must endure storms and attacks. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Sis. Ella Hartter (Bro. Lester) who at the present time is undergoing radiation treatments in Topeka. May our heavenly Father provide the needed strength for both Bro. Lester and Sis. Ella throughout these difficult days. Hospitalized this past month was Ryan Hartter (Bro. Neil and Sis. Evelyn) with a broken leg. We are glad to see him out and about again.

On March 24 we assembled with the Sabetha congregation in Sabetha for Good Friday services.

As this is the month of May, our

thoughts turn to Mother's Day and graduation. May we remember to show our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for our dear mothers not only on their special day, May 14, but all through the year. It is so easy to take for granted the many hours our mothers spend in service for us, their families.

We have seven high school graduates this year: Brian Rokey (Bro. Allen and Sis. Glenda), Allan Meyer (Bro. James and Sis. Jeanne Meyer), Bro. Adrian Strahm (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Claudia), Ron Edelman (Bro. Fred and Sis. Joann), Diane Menold (Bro. James and Sis. Lou), Staci Hartter (Bro. Steve and Sis. Lois) and Mimi Miranda, the exchange student from Spain, staying with Bro. Steve and Sis. Lois Hartter. We have one college graduate this year, Sis. Kim Meyer (Bro. Robert and Sis. Janet). It is our hope that each graduate will seek the Lord's guidance as each begins a new chapter in their lives.

Jeri Meyer (Bro. Leroy and Sis. Helen) and Darcy Stanley (Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Stanley, Bennington, KS) will be starting a new chapter in their lives as they recently announced their engagement. They plan to be married August 5.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT Karen Sinn

COMMUNION HYMN

O, Spirit of God's strength and
might,
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!

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

We were blessed with several visitors the weekend of April 14 - 16. Bro. Ed Bahler (Remington, IN) was with us Friday evening. We appreciate the words of encouragement he spoke to our children. On Saturday evening, Elder Bro. Ron Nelson (Kiowa, KS) assisted our Elder Bro.

Raymond Banwart with the reading of the conference report. Then on Sunday we renewed our vows to the Lord as we partook of holy communion. We thank these brothers as they continue to labor in God's service.

KANSAS, KANSAS STATE UNIV. Camille Strahm

Spring at last! Campus is certainly beautiful with many of the trees in bloom. Those of us who go to school here are thankful for the bloom of God's love in our hearts as we strive to do His will.

Once again there have been many ministering brothers who have shared God's Word with us -- Bros. Al Langhofer (Wichita), Harvey Grimm and Alpha Strahm (Bern), Ben Wysong and Roger Aberle (Sabetha), Bill Emch and Sam Anliker (Lamont) and Tim Zimmerman and Loyd Kraft (Gridley). We are grateful for their service and for the fellowship of their wives and families.

I do not wish to be repetitious, but each time I write this, I feel compelled to express the joy and comfort that fills our hearts when our family and friends make the effort to worship with us here. May God richly bless them for their love and support.

KANSAS, KIOWA Darcy Kisling - Janice Bahr

All the way my Saviour leads me;
Cheers each winding path I tread;
Gives me grace for every trial,
Feeds me with the living bread;
Tho' my weary steps may falter,
And my soul a-thirst may be,
Gushing from the Rock before me,
Lo! a spring of joy I see.

Fanny J. Crosby

How wonderful it is to have Jesus to lean on and guide us every step we take! If only we will allow Him, and not get carried away with life's burdens. It seems that just when we are most discouraged, we can look up and see that wonderful glow on the horizon.

Many gathered at the rest home this month as we sang songs and shared God's Word with the residents. The smiles that the hymns

bring to their faces is wonderful to behold.

KANSAS, LAMONT
Mary Isch

MOTHER

To be a mother is the greatest vocation in the world. No being has a position of such great power and influence. She holds in her hands the destiny of nations; for to her is necessarily committed the making of the nation's citizen.

Hannah Whitall Smith

We are happy to have Sis. Hulda Jacobs assemble with us again after being absent for some time. We are thankful the Lord has again healed and restored health to her.

Lydia Fankhauser, wife of Clarence, has moved to the Golden Age Lodge in Burlington, KS, to make her home. We wish them both God's divine grace and nearness.

Bro. Edwin Bahler and Sis. Lois (Remington, IN) visited us this month. We thank them for their visit and wish them God's divine guidance in their pilgrimage here below.

KANSAS, SABETHA

Julie Edelman - Beth Hartter

This is such an exciting time of year when the outdoors reveals the beauty and miracles of God's handiwork. Such a hopeful time it is as the tiny seeds are planted in the earth -- knowing that only God can prosper their growth.

Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Keim (Valerie Wenger) are pleased to welcome little Austin Reed into their family. He was born March 2. Austin is also cherished by his grandparents, Bro. Harvey and Sis. Arleta Wenger.

We enjoyed a solemn evening in the recent past, partaking of the Lord's Supper. As unworthy as we may feel, it is our privilege to enjoy this special sacrament. May we each one go forth with a new zeal and desire to be obedient to His will and His Word. Helping our Elder Bro. Sam with communion was Elder Bros. Bob Walder (Congerville, IL) and John Lehman (Bern). We thank them for being with us.

We thank Bro. Harvey Grimm (Bern) for a heartlifting message Good Friday evening. May we daily kneel at the cross and allow Jesus to roll the burdens of our hearts away. Other visiting ministers among us this month included Bro. Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) and Elder Bros. Leo Moser (Lester, IA) and Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL). May those who labor for our soul's benefit never become discouraged in well doing.

We have come to the time of year when we discontinue our midweek services, and instead, gather with the Bern congregation for Sunday evening singings. What an opportune way to praise our Lord!

Once again there have been those with the trials of bodily illness among us. Medical patients this month included Bro. Joe Steiner, Sis. Julie Edelman, Sis. Hulda Bieri and Sis. Lydia Wenger. We are thankful Sis. Tillie Wenger was not seriously injured when involved in a car accident. Sis. Evelyn Steiner is now in therapy after a fall that injured her shoulder. Bro. Phil Metzger was a surgical outpatient. May God's healing powers be manifest in those who are ill.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

I had no news to report from our congregation, and surely the Lord knew my predicament. He inspired a sister to bring me the following verses, hoping that I would share it through the Silver Lining.

I asked God to take away my pride,
 and God said, "No."
 He said it was not for Him to take away,
 but for me to give up.

I asked God to make my handicapped child whole,
 and God said, "No."
 He said her spirit is whole,
 her body is only temporary.

I asked God to grant me patience,
 and God said, "No."
 He said that patience is a by-product of tribulation; it isn't granted, It's earned.

I asked God to give me happiness,
 and God said, "No."
 He said he gives blessings,
 Happiness is up to me.

I asked God to spare me pain,
 and God said, "No."
 He said, "Suffering draws you apart from worldly cares and brings you closer to Me."

I asked God to make my spirit grow,
 and God said, "No."
 He said I must grow on my own,
 But He will prune me to make me fruitful.

I asked God if He loved me,
 and God said, "Yes."
 He gave His only Son who died for me,
 And I will be in heaven someday because I believe.

I asked God to help me love others,
 as much as He loves me,
 And God said,
 "Ah, finally you have the idea."
 Author Unknown

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Glendoris Huber

"Behold thy Mother" John 19:27.
 We are reminded of Mother's Day in this month of May. How interesting it is to note that in the depth and agony of Calvary, Jesus did not forget His Mother and instructed John to care for her. From this He would remind us to not forget our mothers, another lesson from the "last words" of His ministry. "Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised." Proverbs 31:30

How thankful we should be for our God-fearing mothers and fathers who brought us up in Christian homes and taught us the ways of the Lord.

May the Lord continue to richly bless and inspire our ministering brethren for their untiring efforts in bringing forth the Word of God in truth and by the Holy Spirit. We especially want to thank Bro. Henry Dotterer (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Harold Schmidgall (Gridley, IL) who came and shared God's living Word with us in the past few weeks.

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Denise Oesch
Michelle Oesch

THE PROMISE OF EASTER

The stone is rolled away;
 Behold the empty tomb!
 The resurrection dawn
 Dispers the earth's deepest gloom.

Victorious over death;
 He rose to bless mankind
 With radiant hope and faith
 In glory undefined.

Anew the promise comes
 With all the joy it brings;
 Across the centuries
 The Easter message rings.

Edith Shaw Butler

We were treated to the sounds of our children's voices raised in song at an Easter program put on by our Sunday school Palm Sunday evening. They all did a great job and we are grateful to the Sunday school teachers who teach our children with such love and dedication. This is the second year we've had an Easter program and I have to say my favorite part is hearing the younger ones sing "At the Cross." The older classes sing the verses and then at the chorus, all the little ones join in. You can see their little faces light up when it's their turn to sing and you just automatically smile with them. They radiate such joy as they sing their songs for Jesus. It's the joy that we pray will radiate from our own lives, to the world, as we walk a Christian life.

We welcome back our minister, Bro. Elmer Schrenk and his dear wife, Sis. Delila, from their winter home in Texas. We are thankful for their safe return and pray the Lord will continue to bring them thus each spring.

Our minister, Bro. Bill Gerst, had surgery recently and we pray that he has a complete recovery.

Our long time faithful and precious sister-in-the-faith, Sis. Mary Wingeier, will celebrate her 91st birthday April 26. We love you Mary, and may you know how much you inspire us all to walk ever closer to our Lord. Happy birthday and God bless you!

—————
 Give Your Address Changes
 To Your Reporter

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Pam Schlatter

We were thankful as we heard of the demise of Al Wieland, that he had expressed his concern for his soul and sought his Saviour. Though his last weeks were not pleasant, he was able in his physical distress to call upon a higher being. Earthly partings are so much easier when we can hope to reunite with our loved ones.

Bro. Henry Meylan, Bro. Lawrence Wieland, and Sis. Leonore Knochel have each been on our hospital list. When our physical bodies are in need of repair and help, we anticipate more keenly the time when we will be given new bodies not subject to decay.

Visiting ministers Sunday morning are always a pleasant treat. Bro. Rod Huber (Valparaiso, IN) visited our congregation this past month. We thank him and his family for the labor in our congregation.

The family of Sis. Eldine Wacklerle wishes to express their appreciation for the prayers and acts of kindness on their behalf during Eldine's sickness and death.

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MICHIGAN, DETROIT
Sue Gasser

"Where could I go, but to the Lord? (Gospel Hymns #806, J. B. Coats). How often we sing those words! And yet, is that always the first place we go for answers to our questions and for help in our times of need? There certainly can be no more reliable source, nor any so capable and easily accessible as our Lord. Let's readjust our focus and keep Him in view.

"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth." III John 1:4. We, like the Apostle John, rejoice when we hear of souls turning from darkness to light. We're thankful that Miriam Fortenbacher (Kitchener, ON, Bro. Walter and Sis. Margaret) has heeded the Lord's call to repentance. God bless you and help you lay a firm foundation on Jesus Christ.

On April 2, the engagement of Sis. Maggie Fortenbacher (Kitchener, ON, Bro. Walter and Sis.

Margaret) and Bro. Kevin Rufener (Rittman, OH, Bro. Chet and Sis. Roma) was announced to our congregation. An August 6 wedding is being planned in Rittman, OH. God's rich blessings to both of you!

We enjoyed having Bro. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH) and his family with us for a weekend and we thank him for bringing us a message from God's Word.

Detroit hosted meetings of the World Relief Work Projects Committee April 6, 7 and 8. We appreciate the efforts of the brethren and their wives, and enjoyed the weekend of fellowship. Special thanks to Elder Bros. John Klotzle (Altadena, CA) and Nathan Steffen (Elgin, IL), and Bros. Ed Aeschleman (Philadelphia, PA), Jim Hoerr (Peoria, IL), Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO) and Vernon Leman (Eureka, IL), who shared God's Word with us.

Our prayers are with Bro. Joe and Sis. Martha Szilagyi and with their son-in-law, Gary Hellems (Donna) who is hospitalized at this time with newly diagnosed cancer. Cancer seems like such a powerful enemy to our health, and yet, we know that God in Whom we trust is all-powerful.

Akron, OH, will host services in Kitchener, Ontario, June 18.

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MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS
Carol Strassheim

We rejoice with Bro. Perry and Sis. Carol Virkler as they became new grandparents of a set of twins April 14. Eric and Bridget Virkler (Lakewood, CO) named their new little bundles of joy Amanda and Adam. Little Nicole welcomes them home too!

Shelly Lawson has felt the peace of God and is awaiting baptism. We pray that she will always feel God's nearness and love as one of His children.

We extend our appreciation to Elder Bro. Harold Messner (Winthrop) and Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris) for joining together to present the conference report to us.

On April 15 we joined hands to take care of our annual church spring cleaning. The following day we experienced spiritual renewal as we shared holy communion. It was a real blessing to have Elder Bro. Charles

Hemmer (Peoria, IL) and Elder Bro. Harold Messner (Winthrop) remind us of the special opportunity we have as part of Christ's church to share in His body and blood.

Arletta Bragg has been ill and has not been able to be with us and we miss her in our small congregation. She needs our love and prayers.

Sis. Vera Schmidt wishes to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, gifts, and telephone calls and food that were brought during her stay in the hospital and after she returned home. May God be your rich rewarder. Continue to remember her as she is still in recovery and needs our prayers daily.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS

Christa Sauder - Ruth Nohl

We have enjoyed many spiritual blessings this past month. The weekend of April 1 and 2 was a special time for our congregation and especially for Bro. Rick and Sis. Julie Gramm, as they shared with us their testimonies of faith, and were baptized into Christ's death. We welcome them as a brother and sister-in-the-Lord.

The evening of April 2, we gathered to partake of holy communion, and to remember our Lord's suffering and death. This is truly a precious time in the life of a believer. What a blessed way to end this very special weekend!

We want to thank those visiting brothers who ministered God's Word to us. They were Elder Bro. Bob Grimm (Goodfield, IL), Bro. Elmer Witzig (Gridley, IL), Bro. Greg Gramm (Phoenix, AZ), and Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO).

Announcement has been made, and we rejoice with Rachel Knobloch (Bro. Jack and Sis. Nancy, Bradford, IL) as she has found that precious gift of peace.

"Peace! Peace! Wonderful peace,
Coming down from the Father above;
Sweep over my spirit forever, I pray,
In fathomless billows of love."

Chorus of "Wonderful Peace"
Gospel Hymns #746

Our heartfelt congratulations and sympathy is extended to Randy and LuJean Thielke. Precious twin daughters, Tara Jean and Tiffany Marie,

entered their lives March 22. Only two days later, little Tiffany died. Tara was quite small but is gaining in strength. Our prayers go out to this family at this difficult time. Grandparents are Bro. Noah and Sis. Shirley Nohl.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have been in the hospital for various physical afflictions. This month they were Bro. Shane Jones, Bro. Ben Greiner, and Herb Mohrman (visiting from Phoenix, AZ).

Note of Thanks:

Sis. Eileen Nohl wishes to express her thanks and appreciation for all the prayers, cards, gifts, food brought in, and love shown her during her surgery and stay in the hospital. May God bless you for your kindness.

Sis. Eileen Nohl (Bro. David)

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

Ella Mae Schmidt

Georgia Messner

We were privileged to hear Elder Bro. Charles Hemmer (Peoria, IL) with us for holy communion. Bro. Charles reminded us that when coming together to church, each individual person loses his or her identity. It can be likened unto a loaf of bread, in which all ingredients are mixed together, each one making up a portion of the total loaf, and so there should be no divisions among us.

He also pointed out the importance of taking communion, it is not an option but a commandment of our Lord and Savior Jesus. In I Corinthians 11:24 it says, "Take eat this is my body which is broken for you; this do in remembrance of me." The 25th verse says, "this cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye as oft as ye drink it in remembrance of me." So the words "this do" is a commandment of our Lord.

Our thoughts and prayers are offered in behalf of those who have been hospitalized. We remember Sis. Florence Messner and Darrel Redman who has had back surgery. Our prayer is that God will heal with His almighty hand.

Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) assisted our Elder Bro. Harold Messner in reading the memorandum from the brotherhood conference. It reminded us to guard

our spiritual body through obedience.

It was a special day for Sandra Messner (Bro. LeRoy and Sis. JoAnn) and Tim Jacobson (Gaylord) when they were united in holy matrimony April 15. May the Lord's blessings abide in their new home.

We wish our graduates, Cory Schmidt, (Bro. Dick and Sis. Mary Lou) and Kari Messner (Duane and Mona) God's blessings as they graduate from high school. May they choose God to lead and guide them on life's journey.

We appreciate and want to thank the Bible class and their teachers for serving a delicious Easter breakfast.

We experienced a special love that bound our hearts together when the junior and senior Bible class hosted the Pulaski Bible class.

We want to extend our sympathy to Sis. Celina Schmidt in the loss of her brother, Albert Wirtz.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

Carole Kellenberger

How thankful we are for children who will tell us the story of Christ's death and resurrection! We enjoyed the Easter program by our Sunday school and thank the teachers and children for their efforts.

We were privileged to have the Sabetha Bible class and teachers with us one Sunday. Visitors bring us so many blessings.

We thank Bro. Jim Vierling (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Russell Wuthrich (Pulaski, IA) for ministering to us on separate Wednesday evenings. Also thanks to Bro. Wayne Miller (Fort Scott, KS), Bro. Ben Wysong (Sabetha, KS) and our Elder Bro. Gene Marti for assisting our brothers on the pulpit.

We miss Jack and Mamie (Baumgartner) so much. Jack had further surgery and we ask your continued prayer for them.

"I want my friends to pray for me,
To bear my tempted soul above,
And intercede with God for me, I need the
prayers of those I love."

Hymns of Zion #201

MISSOURI, LAMAR

Becky Marti

We enjoyed having Elder Bro. Paul

Butikofer and Bro. Dale Moore (Elgin, IA) and Elder Bro. Raymond Barwart (Fort Scott, KS) with us recently. We thank them for ministering God's Word to us and especially appreciate that Bro. Paul was here to assist our Elder Bro. Gene Marti in serving holy communion. May He ever bless them for their service.

Bro. Carl Engle and Maranda Luthi (Bro. Troy and Sis. Vannessa) have had to spend time in the hospital recently, but are home recuperating now. Hazel Kibler has also been able to return home. We pray that God will continue to heal them that they may be able to assemble with us again soon.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR
Loida Hodel - Lori Marquart

**ASK -- THAT YOU MIGHT
 RECEIVE**

When life's road seems too rocky
 and you struggle in vain,
 Ask our Saviour to help, He, too,
 suffered pain.

Just kneel in prayer and your
 needs reveal
 The Father will hear, He'll comfort
 and heal.

When spirits are low and your faith
 seems to wane
 Ask our dear Lord to help and
 sustain --

When troubles pile up and you
 can't seem to cope
 Ask our dear Father to help you
 find hope.

When the blues take over and there
 isn't a cure,
 Ask the Master, He'll help you
 endure.

When in tears you see your dreams
 go wrong,
 Ask our Saviour to help you be
 strong.

Jesus has promised, He'll help 'til
 the end
 Things must turn out right
 When we have such a Friend!

M. Catron

Little Zachary Riney (Steve and Marsha) was a medical patient in St. Louis. Bro. Jeff Gramm (Sis. Louanne)

continues with monthly treatments at Mayo's. Bro. Gerald Sutter (Sis. Marge) had heart surgery in Peoria, IL and is now recuperating at home. We're thankful we have access to God through prayer and can commit all our loved ones to Him who understands each one's trials.

Bro. Scott, Sis. Anna and little Ashley Hoerr welcome a new little sunbeam into their home. Anna Katelyn was born March 26 and happy grandparents are Bro. Robert and Sis. Emma Dee Hoerr (Taylor) and Bro. Victor and Sis. Anna Jevremov (San Diego, CA).

Elder Bro. Harold Messner (Winthrop, MN) assisted our Elder Bro. Roy in reading and explaining the conference deliberations Saturday evening, April 1. Bro. Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL) was also a guest minister April 2. Thanks to these brothers and all who traveled with them, for sharing of themselves which was enjoyed and appreciated.

"Marriage consists not in two people looking into each other's eyes -- But in two people standing shoulder to shoulder. Both looking in the same direction, to God." We are happy to announce the engagement of Bro. Kim Sutter (Bro. James and Sis. Lois) and Sis. Vonette Leinweber (Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Leinweber). May God bless, guide and direct Kim and Vonnette as they plan their important day.

Funeral services for Barbara Grimm (the late Leo, Chicago, IL) were held here April 4 by Bro. Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL) assisted by our local ministers. Barbara had suffered a long time because of several infirmities and for her we could say: "Home at last, my labor done, Safe and Blest, the victory won; Jordan passed, from pain set free, Angels there will welcome me." Anonymous

Final progress is well under way for the completion of our new church. We were blest to have several from Ohio to lay carpet the week of April 10. Thanks to each of them and to everyone else who has given of themselves to help see the fulfillment of this special project.

We are once more enjoying the beauty of springtime. "Let everything that hath breath, praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord." Psalm 150:6

NEW JERSEY, UNION CITY
Sally Dotterer

We appreciate the efforts of those ministers and their families who came to visit and share the Word with us during the past two months: Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cheryl Ryan, Bro. Al and Sis. Gladys Schneider, Bro. Everett and Sis. Phyllis Gerber, Bro. Dan and Sis. Diane Stoller (all from Rockville, CT), Bro. Will and Sis. Sue Shielder (Milford, IN), and Bro. Duane and Sis. Karen Farney (Croghan, NY).

Over the Palm Sunday and Easter holidays we were blessed with many visitors, and we would like to thank all of those who came to fellowship with us and invite them to return again.

We also understand that Sis. Mary Diggelman (Rockville, CT) spent some time in the hospital this month and wish for her, and Bro. John, God's blessing and a speedy recovery.

NEW YORK, CROGHAN
Alice Virkler

On Easter Sunday our Sunday school children presented a short program of song and verse. May these teachings remain with them throughout their coming years, and may God grant a special blessing to the brothers and sisters who take the time and use their talent to teach our children.

Our midweek services have begun for the season. We meet each Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m. and visitors traveling through New York are welcome to assemble with us.

Sis. Polly Grau and Sis. Hazel Schneider have been medical patients at the hospital and as of today Sis. Hazel has been admitted again as a medical patient. Our prayers are with her.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Sis. Lois (Bro. David) Schamback and their family at the time of the passing of her sister, Sis. Pauline Luginbuhl, from this life. May they each feel God's nearness and strength in their time of sorrow.

OHIO, AKRON
Joyce Gasser

"Take eat; this is my body, which is broken for you; . . . this cup is the

New Testament in my blood . . ."
I Corinthians 11:24, 25

We plan to partake of this remembrance of Jesus this month, discerning the Lord's body. In gratefulness we remember that His body was beaten with stripes, as "Himself took our infirmities and bare our sicknesses," Matthew 8:17, and that "... with His stripes we are healed." Isaiah 53:5 and I Peter 2:24. In gratefulness we remember His blood was shed so that our souls can be set free of sin and be saved. Two times are recorded that Jesus said He was the light of the world, in John 8 and 9. The first time was when He set one free from sickness, and the second time was when He set one free from sin. We're grateful for the remembrance of His body beaten with stripes, and His side pierced with His blood being shed, and that Jesus is the same today, and can set us free of sickness and of sin.

Bro. Eric and Sis. Erika Graf became a dad and mother with the birth of their first baby, a boy, Andrew Eric. Grandparents are Bro. and Sis. Leon Graf and Bro. and Sis. Sandor Bako.

Congratulations to our graduates: A college graduate is Melinda Bako, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Zoltan Bako, graduating from Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English. She plans to continue her education there in post graduate school. High school graduates are: Sandy Graf, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Carl Graf, who plans to attend Akron University; Heidi Graf, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Art Graf; and Phil Gasser, son of Bro. and Sis. Don Gasser, who plans to attend Ohio State University.

We appreciated guest minister Bro. Merrill Laukhuf (Latty, OH).

OHIO, COLUMBUS

John Grimm

We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Loren Stoller (Latty, OH), Bro. Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH), and Bro. Art Ingold (Rittman, OH) minister God's Word to us. May God bless them and their loved ones.

We are thankful for the many visitors we have had lately and welcome all to come visit us.

OHIO, JUNCTION

Laurie Schlatter

We thank our visiting ministers for bringing the Word unto our congregation. They include Bros. Fred Knapp (Congerville, IL), Clarence Dietrich (Silverton, OR), Bill Brake (Sardis, OH), and Vic Bauman (Smithville, OH). The Lord will surely bless them for their labors of love.

Our hospital patient this month was Sis. Viola Manz. We are thankful she is recovering well from recent surgery.

"Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her."

Proverbs 31:28

As we honor our mothers at this time of year, may we always remember their constant love, and the God who put that love in their hearts.

OHIO, LATTY
Marlene Reinhard
Rhonda Stoller

TOOLS FOR THE TRADE

If you are a father, You are a builder, And your children will become what you've made, Please do your best. And please don't forget, God gave you the tools for the trade.

He gave you eyes to see where your child might go wrong, And feet to lead them safely through. Hands to hold their hand, and lips to say I love you

He gave you arms to hold them when they are afraid, And time to wait until they're calm, Ears to hear between their lines, And tears to cry when they're gone.

And your knees are for playing, And they're also for praying that God will watch over the child. And in those times you can't say it, But they still need to hear it, You can say "I love you!" with your smile.

Steve Chapman

Bro. Don and Sis. Karen Steffen have been blessed with a new baby, Michelle. Amanda, Nichole, and Samuel welcome their new sister. We pray for God's help in Bro. Don and Sis. Karen's lives to use their tools in raising these dear little souls.

God still moves, God still moves, In the hearts of people, God still moves. He does not sleep, nor does He slumber. God still moves, God still moves.

Our hearts were moved with joy as we welcomed Bro. Tom and Sis. Kim Sinn and Bro. Roy Klopfenstein (Deb) into our family of God. What peace it brings to see God's love still winning souls from the world.

Does Jesus care when I've said goodbye to the dearest on earth to me ... Oh yes, He cares, I know He cares. His heart is touched by my grief. Our love goes to Sis. Emma Klopfenstein over the death of her sister, Sis. Nettie Stoller. Sis. Nettie lived a good life and will be missed by all of us.

The words of Bro. Doug Harmon (Toledo, OH), Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN), Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), and Elder Bro. Andy Virkler (Bay City, MI) touched our hearts as God spoke thru them. We really appreciate your service dear brothers and pray for God's strength in your lives each and every new day.

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Linda Morrison

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God."

Ephesians 2:8

Rejoicing in God's gift of love and salvation is our new sister, Julie Sauder (Elder Bro. Ken and Sis. Sue). Elder Bro. Joe Ramsier (Rittman) assisted Elder Bro. Ken with Julie's testimony and baptism.

"Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it: For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." (Matthew 26:26-28). Elder Bro. Joe Ramsier helped Elder Bro. Ken Sauder serve the Lord's supper.

The children presented an Easter program in song and verse reminding us of the joys of resurrection which followed the suffering of our dear Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Hospitalized has been Sis. Marcella Sauder (Bro. Charles) surgery and Veronica Sauder, infant daugh-

ter of Mark and Dianne Sauder. Also needing our prayerful support is Sis. Alice Graszl (Bro. Frank) and Kimberly Fairchild, infant daughter of Bro. Ron and Sis. Sheli. Matthew Damka (Bro. Dam and Sis. Mary Ann) received emergency treatment for a broken finger. "God is our refuge and our strength, a very present help in trouble." Psalm 46:1.

Bro. Joe Sabo has been able to return to his home and wishes to thank everyone for their cards, visits but most of all for their prayerful support during his time of illness. Bro. Joe and Sis. LaVersa rejoice that so many have encouraged them during this time. "A new commandment I give unto you, that ye also love one another. By this shall men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." John 13:34,35.

Gary and Elaine Yokem rejoice in the birth of their daughter, Jennifer. Jordan is happy to have a new sister. Mildred Dolce is the prayerful grandmother.

OHIO, RITTMAN

Diane Gasser - Lois Stoller

The author of #122 in the Hymns of Zion expresses "We'll never say goodbye in heaven." Several families have lost loved ones and have said their parting words.

Sis. Betty Winkler has gone to her eternal home, and her family has painfully bid her farewell on earth but can anticipate a reunion in heaven. May her children, Eugene, Charles, and Sis. Charlene, feel God's comfort. We also sympathize with her brother, Bro. David Emch; a sister, Mary Jane Winkler; her stepmother, Sis. Caroline Emch; and four grandchildren.

We extend our condolences to Sis. Elizabeth Musser whose brother, David Bauman, unexpectedly passed away. His wife, Lucille; a brother, Roy; and two other sisters, Dorothy Schaad and Catherine Burns survive.

Also, we wish to remember Sis. Debbie Steiner with sympathy, for her grandmother, Ethel Riggs, has departed from this life.

Our sympathy is offered to Bro. Don Walder, Sis. Delores Maibach, and Sis. Lillian Maibach on account of the death of their brother, Bro. Harry Walder (Cissna Park, IL).

The engagement of Bro. Kevin Rufener (Bro. Chester and Sis. Roma) and Sis. Maggie Fortenbacher (Bro. Walt and Sis. Margaret Kitchener) was announced. We wish them many blessings as they plan for their marriage.

Bro. Alpha and Sis. Denise Maibach welcome a newborn son, and Amos, Joanne, and Eric, a brother, Matthew Paul, into their family. Happy for another grandchild are Bro. Alpha and Sis. Helen Maibach and Bro. Rudy and Sis. Brenda Zollinger.

Those hospitalized recently were Sis. Elizabeth Musser, Kevin Steele (Bro. Ken and Sis. Martha), and Dawn Miller (Mervin).

April 8 marked the beginning of a new path for Kathy Stoller (Bro. Dale and Sis. Jeannette) and David Ault (Mr. and Mrs. Melvin) as they were married. May the Lord continually lead them.

April 16 was a joyous day for Bro. Ted Ludinbuhl (Bro. Marvin and Sis. Rose, Smithville) and Sis. Stephanie Baltic (Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty) as they were united in marriage. May they be blessed abundantly as they serve God together.

Michele Winkler (Glenn and Mary Jane) and Richard Holcomb (Jim and Charlene) exchanged marriage vows. We wish them happiness.

We're thankful we could assemble for communion services along with the Smithville congregation and are appreciative of Elder Bro. Gene Pamer (Akron) for assisting with these duties.

Ministering the Word to us recently were Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron), Bro. Dave Graf (Akron), and Bro. Roy Luginbuhl (Fort Lauderdale, FL).

OHIO, SARDIS Paula Figel

"A time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted."

Ecclesiastes 3:2

Our entire congregation was saddened by the death of our dear Sis. Willetta Indermuhle, who peacefully passed from this life to that eternal home she was awaiting March 30. Memorial services were held April 2

with Elder Bro. Joe Ramsier and Bro. Merle Hartzler officiating. Sis. Willetta was such a good example of meekness and had a gentle loving spirit which will be missed by all. Sis. Willetta had two daughters, Sis. Rosella Figel and Sis. Almeda Brake; one son, Bro. Delbert Indermuhle; eight grandchildren and twenty-five great-grandchildren (all of Sardis). Her husband, Bro. Carl Indermuhle, preceded her in death in 1972.

At this time of the year, it is so appropriate that a day is set aside to remember our Mothers and for the many of us, our Christian Mothers. As we stop to think about our Mothers various phrases enter our minds; loving, patient, tireless, God-fearing, God-trusting, unselfish, and many more. Let's pause a moment and thank God for our God-fearing Mothers. And, of course, a word of encouragement should be offered to today's mothers who are struggling to see their children, young and old, through the struggles and temptations they are no doubt facing.

We want to congratulate our only student that will be graduating from high school this May. Robert Figel, son of Bro. John and Sis. Paula, has been accepted at Devry Institute of Technology at Columbus. Robert will be majoring in Electrical Engineering starting in July. We whisper a deep and fervent prayer that God, the giver and creator of all knowledge, will bless and guide him in all he strives to do.

The family of Sis. Willetta Indermuhle wishes to express their deep appreciation for the prayers, love, cards, and flowers that were offered on their behalf. May God bless each one.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE Kim Stoller - Gwen Stoller

One thing, O Lord above all will I
covet and cherish,
Rest for my soul and may all other
vain objects perish.
My only joy! All other pleasures
destroy,
In me Christ only shall flourish.

"Appeal to the Saviour"
Zion's Harp #6

Myron Weber (Sis. Marjorie) has

turned to the Lord in repentance. We wish him God's grace and blessings as he walks through life.

Another Christian home has been established. Bro. Ted Luginbuhl (Bro. Marv and Sis. Rose) and Sis. Stephanie Baltic (Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty, Rittman) were married April 16. We welcome Sis. Stephanie into our congregation.

Jonathon David was added to Bro. Dave and Sis. Luanna Dotterer's family. Jessica and Juliet are happy to have a little brother. Grandparents are Joe and Wilma Davis and Bro. John and Sis. Betty Dotterer.

Taylor Jeffrey was born to Jeff and Deb Gasser. Brooke is glad for a playmate. Taylor's grandparents are Bro. Leroy and Sis. Janita Koehl (Forrest, IL).

Bro. Dan and Sis. Kim Stoller became first-time parents with the birth of Lydia Kim. Her happy grandparents are Bro. Joe and Sis. Lucille Blough and Bro. Dan and Sis. Luzelda Stoller.

Bros. Bruce Maibach (Sis. Lois), Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann), and Arthur Gasser (Sis. Bertha) spent time in the hospital. We pray that God will continue His miracles of healing and are glad when they can again gather with us.

OHIO, TOLEDO Josephine Rehklau Frances Laidig

During the past month we were privileged to have as our visiting minister, Bro. Clarence Dietrich (Silverton, OR). We thank him for including us in his travels and bringing to us the Word of Life.

Our Sunday Easter program brought to us the message of the great love which God had for His creation by reminding us of the crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ that we, through Him, might have a hope of everlasting life.

We are grateful that Bro. Walter and Sis. Freda Rehklau arrived home safely after spending the winter in Tucson, AZ.

Sis. Connie Sancraint (David) has been in the hospital for surgery. We are glad that she can again assemble with us and may God's blessings be with her.

With Mother's Day approaching,

we ask ourselves why it is so difficult for most of us to find the energy, the time or inspiration to take care of our own needs? Yet mothers still find ways to share themselves with others. We may wonder why this is? -- only because God in His wisdom knew that we needed the special gift of loving mothers.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Jane Rocke - Brenda Knobloch

On March 19 the Sunday school children gathered with the Silverton Sunday school for their Easter program. The true meaning of Easter comes forth in simplicity through the lips and hearts of our youth.

Saturday, March 25, the Oregon churches were together for a supper, and singing for Mark and Kelly Ramseyer. We wish them God's blessings throughout their married life. Their presence among our small flock is so appreciated.

Thanks to Bro. Ed Knecht (Silverton, OR) for ministering to us.

Mother is the name of God in the lips and hearts of little children. William M. Thackery. May all mothers be blest on Mother's Day and always for their endless labors of love.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Rosa Lee Kuenzi

"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is , and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty."

Revelation 1:8

We have had both beginnings and endings recently and it is evident that the Lord is in each and we are so thankful that it is so. Without His strength we would not have the courage to raise the little ones and without His strength we would not have the courage to lay away our loved ones.

First, as is only fitting, the beginnings: born January first was Brandon Scott Moser, whose parents are Stan and Dana Moser. Little brother, Nicholas, and sister, Brittany, welcome him into the family. Grandparents are Bro. Ray and Sis. Barbara Moser and Linda Pierce (Colton, OR). First-time parents are Todd and

Melissa Kuenzi. Their dear little Audrey Ann arrived February 23 at Salem Memorial Hospital. Both sets of grandparents, Bro. Bob and Sis. Linda Kuenzi and Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Kathy (West Bend, IA), are first-time Grandpa and Grandma. We join these families in their prayers that little Brandon and Audrey will grow up to know and serve the Lord.

And the endings . . . endings on earth but with high hopes of endless joys in heaven. In February, Bro. Clarence Dietrich flew "home" to Elgin for the funeral of his sister, Sis. Florence Fuecht (Bro. John). Our sympathy to the family and especially to Bro. John. Then in March, while Bro. Ed and Sis. Judie Knecht were there visiting in Eureka, IL, Bro. Ed's mother, Sis. Emma Knecht, suddenly passed away. Sis. Emma had been planning to move to the church home to be near her husband, Bro. Fred, and all the while the Lord was planning to call her to her heavenly home. She leaves husband, children and grandchildren who will miss her but will be comforted with their precious memories and the hope of heaven. And most recently, in April, another sudden death brings a mixture of real sorrow at their loss and joy at the victory of a battle well fought, to the family of Bro. David Metz who passed away April 21, 1989. Bro. David has long been a resident of the Home for the Handicapped and was an inspiration to all who knew him, facing adversity and pain and discomfort with obvious Christian patience, love and even cheerfulness. Bro. David was a brother to Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty) of our Silverton congregation. Our heartfelt sympathy to Bro. Art, Sis. Betty and all of the family.

Some weeks ago our Bible class received an invitation to visit the Bible class at Wolcott, IN, for the long weekend following spring break. After some fund-raising and the generous support of both congregations, seven teens and Bro. Nick and Sis. May Kuenzi were able to fly round trip to Indianapolis, IN, via Chicago's O'Hare airport to spend several days with the Wolcott Bible class and their teachers and parents. The enthusiastic report upon returning was that they all enjoyed the experience and want to thank all who helped make

this opportunity possible.

An interesting, involved and hands-on fund-raising project that the Sunday school is now working on is called "Growing Friendships." With the help of Sis. Brenda Knobloch they have planted thousands of seeds in seed beds in a greenhouse and are now in the process of selling trays of bedding plants, gardening starts, herbs, hanging baskets and patio pots of blooms. It is an ambitious project and will fund part of the trip already enjoyed and future projects that will include all of the various Sunday school classes. May God bless their efforts; learning to work together, to be responsible, and to serve the Lord with a cheerful heart.

Our thanks to visiting minister Bro. Curtis Kaufman (Tucson, AZ) who shared the Word with us recently. Bro. Curtis, Sis. Carolyn and children were in Oregon visiting relatives and it is always a joy to have them fellowship with us.

—————
**PENNSYLVANIA,
 PHILADELPHIA**
Franz Soni

"Be ye therefore followers of God,
 as dear children;"

Ephesians 5:1

We are rejoicing with Matthew Aeschleman (Bro. Edward and Sis. Nancy) who has heeded God's call to repent. May he submit his life to God's protecting hands.

We appreciate our visiting minister Bro. Floyd Graves (Croghan, NY) in his service to help the body of Christ. May God bless him and his family.

"Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her."

Proverbs 31:28

To all mothers, "God bless you!"

—————
Sermon . . .

(Continued from Page 36)

disciples, really. Thomas wasn't any one special, and we sometimes put a burden on Thomas because he said, "Unless I see those nail prints and thrust my hand in his side, I am not

going to believe that He is risen from the dead." (See John 20:25).

The other disciples were just as guilty. When Mary Magdalene found Christ had arisen, she went to the disciples and not one of them believed her. That is awfully hard to believe that He would be risen from the dead and not one of them believed until they saw.

But what does Christ say? "... blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed." John 20:29. We are never going to see those nail prints in Christ's hands. We are never going to be able to thrust our hand into His side where the spear went. But in our mind's eye, we can.

I think Friday night we did that very well, didn't we? We saw Christ hanging on the cross and now it is high time, that as His disciples, we see Him arisen. We see not the weak Christ who was crucified, but we see the strong Christ that has been glorified.

Do you know what it says in Revelation? Do you want to know the definition of power? Christ says, "I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death." Revelation 1:18. That is power!

We just crucified Christ a few days ago, but now we see a powerful Christ arise . . . a resurrection that all of us hope someday we can take part in. This resurrection that Christ has come through means two things to me.

When we go through repentance and conversion, we are baptized. When we arise out of that watery grave, that is reminiscent of Christ being resurrected from the dead.

We went down in that baptismal trough a sinner, condemned to hell, and we arise with the power of God to overcome sin and to someday be in heaven. That is what resurrection is all about. We need to take part in that resurrection while we are here on earth, and take part of that power.

If Christ has the keys to death and hell and has that power, surely He is going to give some of it to his brothers and sisters to be able to live a meaningful life . . . one that is full of joy and hope. Hope for eternity!

We talk about the whole story of Christ . . . His death . . . His resurrection . . . and it is concluded so well in this last verse that we read in John

twenty, "But these are written," these words are written, "that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name." John 20:31. That is what it is all about.

If we go through this Easter season without personally accepting Christ as our Saviour . . . without repenting, this whole Easter season has gone to naught. It hasn't really meant anything to us. It hasn't done anything for us. We can get emotional about it, but unless we take hold of the power that Christ had when He was resurrected, it hasn't done us any good.

We maybe remembered a few more things about the crucifixion. We may be touched with His pain and agony. We may think it was quite a miracle that He arose from the dead. We may think it was neat that He revealed Himself to Mary Magdalene before anyone else, but unless we take hold of that power that Christ offers to us, it doesn't do us any good. It is an absolute worthless weekend that we have just gone through.

But Christ has that promised to us. This is why it is written down, "That ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ." John 20:31. This is not a story. Ask any born-again believer here and they will tell you about rising from the dead. They will tell you about that resurrection from baptism. They will tell you about that peace that God puts in their heart about that hope of eternal life. This isn't a story any more.

This is a story that has meaning for those of us who want it to have a meaning. This is a story that can have an affect on our lives if we want it to.

So we have two choices: We can walk away from this day again and scoff at the Lord. Yes, quite a story. Or we can let it penetrate our hearts and let it mean something to us. We can let it affect our lives. We can turn ourselves over to Christ.

But what is the whole purpose? We read in I Corinthians about resurrection and about arising from the dead. It says in here that it is a mystery, and it is quite a mystery! This is the other side of resurrection. We are going to rise from this watery grave and live a new life, but that is

only half of it. If we didn't have the other half, we may be a bit discouraged. The other half is that we are going to arise someday from grave to be with the Lord forever.

Now some people think that is a little funny. How can this old body, after it is all decayed, arise from the grave? It doesn't make sense. Medically, it is impossible. It is true. After this old body decays, it is not going to rise

We are going to arise in a different body! It tells us here, "There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body." I Corinthians 15:44. We are being sown in corruption. If we had to live eternity in this body, there would be a lot of us that wouldn't be real happy. But we are going to arise from that grave in a different body . . . in one that is glorified!

We could talk forever about Christ's body. When He arose, it was a little different. He could appear through closed doors. He could appear and disappear. This is a mystery to me. I don't understand it.

But let us suffice it to say, that when we arise from the dead, when that last trump sounds, we are going to be different. We may still recognize each other, but we are going to be different. It is going to be a glorified body. It is going to be that we can't even imagine.

I Corinthians explains very much the difference between being earthy and being spiritual. What we are talking about this morning is very spiritual in nature . . . not at all earthy in nature. It is medically impossible to arise from the dead. My mind can't comprehend it in the physical sense. We have to think of it in the spiritual sense. That is what it is all about . . . a spiritual regeneration so that someday we can take part in that resurrection.

I get excited when I read verse fifty-two, "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." I Corinthians 15:52. That is excitement! That's the power of God! That's the most exemplary thing we have of God's power, is that He raised up Christ from the dead, and He is going to do that to us someday . . . raise us all from dead!

As we live here on earth, it is kind of moving to think of growing old, as we talk about our grandparents and our parents getting up in years. We laid my grandfather to rest a few months ago. He was one of those men that I thought would never die.

Do you know what excitement we have when we lay a beloved brother to rest like that? This verse that we read says, "O death, where is thy sting?" I Corinthians 15:55. Yes, we can stand at that grave and we can weep because we know they are gone and we will never see that body again. We can be sad because we will never be able to visit with them again. Never again will a grandfather or a grandmother be able to give us advice. Never again can we console ourselves with a spouse that may be gone. That is why we weep.

But spiritually, isn't it exciting to lay someone to rest? "O death, where is thy sting?" I Corinthians 15:55. There is no sting when we lay someone to rest because we know someday they are going to rise like Christ did.

"O grave, where is thy victory?" I Corinthians 15:55. That is going to be a sight someday when all those graves are opened. We think we seal them pretty well in a casket, but it is going to open someday and that soul is going to rise in a body that we have never seen. That is the power of Christ . . . the power of God to resurrect His children!

"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." I Corinthians 15:57. Only through Christ can we have this victory!

The last verse has special meaning and sometimes we have a tendency to forget this aspect of resurrection and this aspect of living. It is kind of like going to school. It is rewarding to get good grades. You study for a certain period of time and you really do your best and you get a good grade out of it, and you feel good. It is kind of a mini-reward system.

But what is the real reward in going to school? If you go until you are a Junior in High school and quit, you don't have that diploma. How many employers, as you go out to get a job, will say, "Do you have a high school education?" "No." "Then I am sorry, I can't offer you a job."

So even though we go through

school and get these little rewards along the way, the diploma is what we are after. That is what makes school all worthwhile. You can go out and hold that piece of paper and say, "I made it through school. I am now qualified to get a job." That is probably why we go through so much pain a suffering in school. We look towards the end.

What does God say through Paul? "Therefore, my beloved brethren . . ." I Corinthians 15:58. Let us look toward this resurrection. This is the concluding verse to an entire chapter that is dedicated to the resurrection. This tells us how we should view the resurrection . . . as a reward . . . as a promise that someday it is coming.

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast . . ." I Corinthians 15:58. Do you ever get wavering? Do you ever wonder what is around the bend? Do you get nervous about tomorrow? Do you ever think you are not qualified for this or that? Do you ever get hurt? Be steadfast! That is what God wants us to do . . . hold a steady course . . . unmovable. Nobody is going to move us from believing in Christ that someday there is going to be this resurrection. Nobody is going to move us from this spiritual peace that we have in our heart.

"... always abounding in the work of the Lord," I Corinthians 15:58. That is what our life is about . . . abounding in the work of the Lord . . . being excited to work for a God that is going to reward us.

Let's read the whole thing again. This is the reward system. "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." I Corinthians 15:58. Your labour is not in vain!

Someday God is going to reward His children with a resurrection. To what? . . . A resurrection to eternal life. . . A resurrection to a home that was not made with hands. . . A resurrection to a heavenly home where we can live in peace and in love for eternity.

"... be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." I Corinthians 15:58.

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SERMON BY BRO. DENNIS KAUFMANN OF BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL, IL

"Our Victory Is In Jesus" John 20 and I Corinthians 15:35-58

On Sunday morning, you can imagine, they went back to the tomb with sorrow that had to fill their hearts as they went to see where Christ lay. How confused they had to be when they got to the tomb and found Christ missing.

Let us remember that they did not understand yet the Scripture . . . that Christ must rise again. They didn't understand that Christ was going to rise to form His Kingdom in a spiritual sense. They didn't understand any of that. (See John 20:9)

So they went back to the tomb, sorrowful, looking for Christ. Instead, they met with confusion. He was gone! What happened? Someone surely took Him away. It wasn't enough that the Jews had to kill Him, but now they had to take Him away and hide Him somewhere. They were probably a little angry and a little frustrated.

Mary Magdalene was very touched. She was very sad. Did you ever wonder why Mary Magdalene was the first to see the Lord? I thought maybe it would be Peter. Peter was a "rock". Peter was a good friend of the Lord. Maybe it would have been John. John was His most beloved disciple. John was full of love more than any of the others, but He didn't choose either one of those two. He chose Mary Magdalene to be the first to see Him after He arose.

What was so special about Mary Magdalene? Today a lot of us have trouble seeing Christ, and a lot of us have trouble recognizing Him. If we study Mary Magdalene, we may find the way to Christ.

Now it tells us that Mary Magdalene once had seven devils that lived in her. Now I don't know exactly what that means and the Scripture doesn't go into detail. But Christ cast out those seven devils from Mary

Magdalene. Can you imagine how she must have felt towards Christ? To have felt free finally from those seven devils who had possessed her and probably caused her to do things that she would not have normally done?

We find ourselves in that same state today many times . . . doing things that we don't want to do . . . doing things the devil tells us to do.

Christ cast them out of Mary Magdalene's life. She was free . . . she was finally free from this entrapment. Now what did Mary Magdalene do? Did she leave Him? No. My guess is that there were a lot of people that Christ healed. There were a lot of people who He cast devils out of. But what was different about Mary Magdalene? What was different from all the others?

We read in Luke that Mary Magdalene, and some other women also, ministered to Christ during His ministry with all their substance. That means they left everything. They left everything they had and ministered to Christ.

Now we can say, "So did Peter. So did John." After all they left everything they had and followed Christ and they probably had dynamic personalities that could preach and teach.

Let us follow Mary Magdalene a little further. Mary Magdalene not only stayed with Christ all through His ministry, but she stayed by Him when He died. Mary Magdalene was at the foot of the cross when Christ was dying. Was Peter there? No. Was John there? He was there for awhile. Mary Magdalene had a special love . . . a fervent love for Christ . . . a love that a servant can only have for a master . . . a love knowing that Christ was of God. That was the fervent love that Mary Magdalene had!

Who do we read about on Sunday morning . . . the first day of the week . . . before the sun is up . . . coming to the grave to weep? Mary Magdalene! There was something special in her heart for Christ. She recognized the Son of God and she had full intentions of following Him forever. That is what was special about Mary Magdalene!

Peter and John fled from Christ when He was confronted. Remember when they were in the Garden? They ran away and He was all by Himself. Everyone forsook Christ in the Garden. His disciples were probably very scared at that point . . . afraid . . . having second thoughts about whether they should be following Christ or not. But we have this promise that those who follow Christ with a sincere spirit, that is who He is going to reveal Himself to.

Sometimes He talks to us just as He talked to Mary. Notice it was only one word, but it was the most precious word in the English language. It was her name! That is the way Christ can talk to us . . . quiet . . . in the stillness of our own room wherever we might be. He can say that magic word to us. He can call us by name. He doesn't talk about us in a generic sense. He knows each one of us by name and when we come weeping like Mary Magdalene did, we are going to see Christ too. He is going to speak that name to us and we are going to recognize Him and we are going to respond. That is the love of Mary Magdalene that we need to strive for today.

Later on Christ revealed Himself to His disciples. When He revealed Himself, Thomas wasn't there. So many times we are exactly like Thomas, aren't we? We are like all of His

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