



The Silver Lining

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

March 2003

Sermon by Brother Byron Stoller, Gridley, IL
Acts 16 and Ephesians 5:1-21

I had to think, as I was reading that chapter, a little bit about the preceding chapter, as Paul was going through there. It was necessary for the Apostle Paul to give instructions to believers, even though they had the Spirit of Christ. We still need instruction and we still need reminders because of the flesh and blood that we carry.

He talked about Lystra in the first verse of the chapter in Acts 16, where the Apostle Paul was. If I am not mistaken, that is the city that I believe Barnabas and Paul went into and they were worshipping God. There was a man there that was crippled, I believe, and the Apostle Paul saw that he had faith to be healed. The Apostle Paul healed that man through the power of God.

The people came in and they were astonished that the man was healed so they were going to give praise and honor with garlands and worshipping Paul and Barnabas there. They called them Mercurius and Jupiter. They said, "...The gods are come down to us" Acts 14:11. So here they were exalted, and they tore their clothes, Paul and Barnabas did, because they said we are men and God has done this through the power of His Spirit. They were highly esteemed until the unbelieving Jews came down and they persuaded the people. We don't know what they said, but they persuaded the people and Paul was shortly stoned, after he had been exalted by these same people, and left for dead. (Acts 14:8-19)

What does it take to keep people focused upon the truth? Is it possible to be misled? Yes it is. That is why we need instructions. That is why we need to be pointed in the right way. Day after day, Sunday after Sunday, whenever we get to the Word of God and through the power of the Spirit, we need that instruction. That Spirit will teach us if we keep our heart open to it.

We are not supposed to fall asleep. We are not supposed to be taken with vain philosophies. We are not supposed to be going back into bondage with the rudiments of the world or the elements

of the world. Two different places, I think, the Apostle Paul warns about that. In Galatians and Colossians. He calls it elements of the world and rudiments of the world, both the same thing. (Galatians 4:9, Colossians 2:8) The foundations, fundamentals of what? Of the world. Don't go back to it. Telling believers, be careful.

What are some of the rudiments of the world? What is the bondage of the world? The bondage of the world is the things that - we know what they are, don't we, if we think about it a little bit. Exalting money and possessions and things that men have and the deceitfulness of riches. Don't go back to that. Don't get caught up in that. Putting Christ first. Don't be content with that. Don't be secure in that, because money is not the answer. The deceitfulness of riches is what it says it is. It is a rudiment of the world. When Christ says "Take therefore no thought for the morrow..." St. Matthew 6:34, and be content with food and raiment, that is what He means.

What is another rudiment, element of the world? He calls it here, "But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;" Ephesians 5:3. We are warned in other parts of the scripture that they turned the grace of God into lasciviousness (Jude 1:4). That is a bondage of the world. For the women, it would be adorning themselves, decking out, making themselves over. For what? To border on lasciviousness? Looks — the outward man? No! Holy women of God in the old time adorned themselves in modest appearance. Totally submissive as we read further in this chapter, to the order of God, for the wife to the husband and so on and so forth. Keeping our place. The bondage of the world is the big pride thing. That is another element or rudiment of the world. I. Me. Pushing away from the order of God.

Another bondage of the world, I think, is the inner man too. It is the emulation and the variance and the strife

that can come up from within us that says it is okay to carry a competitive spirit and be in the body of Christ. It is not okay. It says it is okay to have emulation in the body of Christ. It is not okay. That is a sin. That is a bondage, that is an element of the world.

He said "...fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you as becometh

Sermon continued on page 44

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

March 2003

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

Aligning Our Will With God's Will

"...O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt" (Mt. 26:39). Three times, as Jesus faced his trial and crucifixion, He prayed this prayer. Jesus wanted to do God's will, but He also wanted to escape the awful ordeal that He faced. By being totally submissive to God's will, Jesus won the victory over Satan and accomplished the mission for which He was sent to the earth. He paid the price for our sins and opened the way to salvation through faith in His shed blood for all who will come to the knowledge of the truth.

Jesus was in a battle of the will of the flesh versus God's will. As God's children we also often face a battle of our will versus God's will. How can we win this battle? How can we be sure we know God's will? How can we be sure we have our will in perfect agreement with God's will?

Human nature would have it that God would change His will to become more like our will. If we insist long enough, God may give us our will even when it is contrary to His will. When the children of Israel were dissatisfied in the wilderness, they complained and tempted God. "And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul" (Ps. 106:15).

Hezekiah was sick and was told to get his house in order because he was going to die. He pleaded with God to give him more time. God added fifteen years to his life. During that period of time he had a son Manassah who became king and did evil in the sight of the Lord. Would Hezekiah have been better off to have accepted God's will?

To learn God's will we must be teachable. "Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy Spirit is good;..." (Ps. 143:10). When Samuel was very young he was called to serve God. He didn't recognize God's voice because "...Samuel did not yet know the Lord, neither was the word of the Lord yet revealed unto him" (I Sam. 3:7). After the third call, Eli instructed Samuel to listen to the Lord and to answer "...Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth..." (I Sam. 3:9). Samuel was ready to learn.

Samuel's readiness to learn didn't all develop the night the Lord called. He spent years as Eli's servant learning about serving God. When the time came for Samuel to learn more about God's will, he was ready. The task that he was given was very difficult, but he was willing to carry it out.

Saul thought he was doing God's will. On the road to Damascus he had to learn a very difficult lesson. He was going in the wrong direction. After he was struck down and became temporarily blind, he was willing to listen. "...Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?..." (Acts 9:6). He wasn't given a full explanation of what was before him. He was to go to Damascus and receive further instruction. Although he began to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ almost immediately, he did need to take time to learn about God's will.

In his letter to the Galatians (Chap. 1:15-19), Paul explained that he learned to do God's will, not by flesh and blood but through God's revelation of His Son to him. He went to Arabia, then returned to Damascus, then after three years he went to see Peter. Throughout his Christian life he learned that he had to rely upon God in order to do His will.

To serve God and do His will, we must be willing to have a submissive attitude. We must be sure we are of a mind to say "Speak Lord, for thy servant heareth" rather than "Listen Lord, for thy servant speaketh".

There are some things we can do to help us align our will to God's. First of all, we must have the desire to do His will. This requires submission and to be "...in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;" (Eph. 6:5-6).

We can also learn to know if our will is in line with God's will by comparing our will with the Word of God. Does our will enhance the likelihood that the fruit of the Spirit will be evident in our lives or does it enhance the likelihood that one or more of the works of the flesh will be evident in our life?

If we feel we are being led of a spirit,

can we be sure it is God's will? First of all, we must be certain that it is God's Spirit that is leading us. Our emotions may cause us to think a certain course of action is God's will. Our emotions are not always reliable. There are many spirits in the world. Only God's Spirit will lead us to His will. Therefore, any time we may question which spirit is leading us we must discern the spirits. Christ chastised the people who could "...discern the face of the sky and of the earth; but how is it that ye do not discern this time?" (Lk. 12:56).

Since God's Spirit will never contradict God's Word, we have a guide that is steady and sure. If we feel led of a spirit, we can discern if it is God's Spirit by comparing it with His Word. This is neither easy nor is it fast. Sometimes we need to spend a great deal of time and effort in God's Word to guide us safely. Jesus instructed the Jews to "Search the scriptures;..." (Jn. 5:39). Paul instructs Timothy to "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (II Tim. 2:15). Searching and studying both imply that time and effort are required. Our "instant" society often does not encourage a thorough analysis of an issue.

If we go up against our nature and develop an attitude of humility and submission, by God's grace, we are more likely to be, in line with God's will. Who is it that we are trying to please? What are the likely results of our decisions? Are we likely to cast a stumbling block in our brother's way? We know that "...every knee shall bow to me (the Lord), and every tongue shall confess to God" (Ro. 14:11). We know from the Word of God that there are things of the world that will condemn us. If we keep these things out of our life, we will be happy. "...Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth" (Ro. 14:22).

Therefore, if we walk by faith, we can discern whether our will is aligned with God's will or if we are trying to align God's will to ours, for we are taught "...whatsoever is not of faith is sin" (Ro. 14:23).

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

Suggestions for subjects are welcome and can be sent to: Silver Lining Editorials, 1389 County Road 1600 N, Roanoke, IL 61561.



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN

Mission Committee

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

Being Sent to Mexico Marshall & Jan Heinold

"Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you."

(JOHN 20: 19-21)

The Scripture gives us the directive and our Mission Policy outlines the path by which individuals may be assigned to specific areas of mission work. With the unity of direction given by the Spirit in the heart of the individual and through the church, brethren that are directed by the Holy Spirit and are of good report will be sent by the church on assignments to particular areas of need. As stated in a previous article, we plan to share examples of brothers and sisters who have followed this biblical path and who have been assigned to labor in the harvest fields.

"Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest."

(MATTHEW 9:38)

A calling

Some years ago, Bro. Marshall Heinold and his wife, Sis. Jan, felt a calling to provide a boys' ranch for orphans in the impoverished areas of rural Mexico.

Bro. Marshall and Sis. Jan made several trips to Mexico to research and learn more about the possibilities for this work. Through these efforts they learned that members of the Apostolic Christian Church (Nazarene) had begun a mission in Ixtlan, Mexico. They held services as often as they could, and there were some converts. However, they experienced difficulties in maintaining and staffing this ministry.

In 1989, along with Elder Bro. Wendell Gudeman and his wife plus

five other brethren, the Heinolds visited Mexico City and then Ixtlan. There they met representatives from the Nazarene Church and shared concerns with one another. At that time, they looked at a piece of property for a ranch, but felt the price was too high.

God's guidance continues

The Heinolds became aware of a possibility for a ranch in the state of Puebla. They made a thorough investigation of the feasibility of this project. However, the Mission Committee did not see an open way to pursue it.

About the same time the Nazarene Church, with the assistance of some of our brethren, erected a small church building in Ixtlan. After the building was up, the Nazarene Church still found themselves unable to maintain services. They made an appeal that we would consider sending someone there to assume responsibility for the entire project. The Heinolds visited the area and held services on four occasions each year in 1993 and 1994.

Late in 1994, approval was given by the Mission Committee as well as the Elder Body for them to move into the facility as permanent residents. The Heinolds left home on January 16, 1995, with a small pickup truck full of essentials. They drove 2,195 miles in 6 days. By God's grace they arrived without incident or accident.

Regular services start

Although the original purpose was to develop a "home" for orphaned and abandoned boys, the spiritual work at Ixtlan presented itself much greater than anticipated and the focus shifted to providing for that need. The Lord has blessed His work in the hearts of the local believers. Much

time, prayer, and effort has been given toward nurturing their spiritual growth in the conviction and hope that this small group will be the "first fruit" of many churches throughout Mexico.

The first regular service was a Thursday evening service at 5:00 PM on January 27, 1995. There were six converts in 1996. After much prayer and deliberation, the Mission Committee and the Elder Body decided to ask the Nazarene elders to baptize these converts, and this was carried out. This decision was made because they already had two members in Ixtlan, and we needed additional time to consider our future spiritual involvement with the church in Mexico.



Ixtlan Church in 2001

Growth

In 1997, the gatherings grew, and the building became very crowded. In November of that year, Elder Brothers Roy Grimm and David Wiegand visited the Ixtlan area and evaluated the status of the entire situation. By mutual agreement of our elders and those of the Nazarene Church, the eight original believers and two recent converts were accepted into our church as members in full standing. During this same visit, for the first time, a Holy Communion service was held.

(to be continued next month...)



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
World Relief

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

Distribution Centers and Coordinators

The Distribution Center Coordinators' Board (DCCB) would like to thank each of you for all that has been done for the poor and needy of the world through the Apostolic Christian World Relief network.

There have been many changes that we want to bring to your attention. Please check the following information concerning distribution of aid through World Relief.

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Soap

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Grain

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Phone & Fax: 260/597-7494
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Meat

Keith Kaehr
6282 W SR 124
Decatur, IN 46714
Phone: 260/565-3332

Clothes

To be announced

If you would like to help

To become involved in activities at a center, visit with the coordinator of the center or someone who regularly volunteers.

The Lord has opened many doors of opportunity to serve and you will be richly blessed as you share of yourself and become involved in this labor of love.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

*"I will praise thee, O Lord, with
my whole heart; I will shew forth
all thy marvelous works."*

Psalm 9:1

As we look outside, the sights and sounds of winter can be seen everywhere. Although many may consider winter a lower point of the year, the residents and staff at the Home have remained very busy throughout the cold weather. Even though outside activities are limited, there is still much going on inside. This includes crafts, sporting events and family visits. The trees glistening in the snow and the ice hanging from the roofs remind us of the beauty of God's power and gifts provided for each of us. We are so blessed by the many caring and devoted staff who provide the same consistent care for the residents despite the potential for poor weather or their own personal issues. However, looking forward to the springtime activities like walks in the park, sitting in the sun, and enjoying God's beauty exploding around us is still an exciting element of life at the Home to be experienced.

APRIL birthdays at Timber Ridge, 2125 Veterans Road, Morton, IL 61550: Gail Kennedy (4), Jason Gingrich (7), Brett Johnson (8), Angela Poehlman (18), Kennan Knapp (19), Miriam Schulz (24), Lindsay Ball (26), Steven Steffen (26), Zita Palko (27), Jon Terhorst (30). At Oakwood Estate, 2213 Veterans

Road: Sonja Metzger (14), Mark Gundy (17). At Linden State, 1000 Linden Street: Jane Kohler (1), Nancy Jones (27).

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME Erik and Carrie Wiegand

What is the Christian's responsibility in the uncertain times we find ourselves in? Often, we feel powerless to stop the events of our world. It forces us as Christians to realize Who is really in control, and we find ourselves driven to our knees in prayer for our leaders and our nation.

The current unrest also reminds us of the battle that rages in the hearts of so many of our young people. Like the events of our world, we feel powerless to stop the events of their lives. We must trust God and pray for wisdom to counter-act Satan's plans for them. Please pray for them. Pray that the seeds that are planted will someday bring forth pleasing fruit.

Our new school has been such an asset and blessing to our mission here at Gateway Woods. We thank you for your prayers and support in this ministry. A dedication service will be held on March 22 at 1:30 p.m. (local time). Everyone is invited to come tour the building and join us as we dedicate the building to the service of our Lord.

Gateway Woods would like to wish Brooke E. farewell. May the Lord continue to work in her heart and life. We would like to welcome Patrick C. and Lindsay

H. to our campus. We thank the Lord for sending the right residents at the right time!

We would also like to welcome Andrew and Ashley S. to our Foster Care program. Please pray for our foster parents, who have a very difficult but rewarding job. If you live in the northeast Indiana area, and feel God leading you into Foster Care, please call Bro. Bill or Sis. Jan Baumgartner at 888- 443- 4283.

Gateway Woods welcomes two new Board Members – Bro. Joe Feller (LaCrosse) and Bro. Larry Banks (Columbus). We look forward to working with them. We would also like to offer our sincere thanks to Bro. Dave Metzger (Francesville) and Bro. Russ Manz (Junction) for their excellent work on our Board of Directors. They will be rotating off at the end of their terms.

Our annual Representatives Meeting will be held on March 22 at 9:00 a.m. (local time) before the school building dedication. Please remember that everyone is welcome to both the Representatives Meeting and building dedication.

We continue to thank God for your prayers, financial support and encouragement. You will never know how your sacrifice of time, talents, or treasures will bless the life of a hurting child. May God bless you all!

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL Athens, Alabama Melinda Matuch

U = Unto Thee, O God, do we

give thanks. – Psalm 75:1

V = Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in My name, he will give it you. – John 16:23

W = What time I am afraid, I will trust in Thee. – Psalm 56:3

X = Exceeding great and precious promises are given unto us. – II Peter 1:4

We welcome the much warmer and sunnier days of March. We are grateful to be able to play outdoors on a regular basis. It is a real blessing to hear the laughter and joy of children playing and running and swinging.

Our lessons have shifted to the out of doors as well. This month we will be using the theme of animals and will teach the children about God's creation and Noah's Ark. Our color for the month will be yellow.

We are looking forward with much anticipation to the preschool reunion which will take place March 29-30, Lord willing. Please try to attend if you can. The reunion is open to all former teachers, board members and volunteers. Please contact the preschool and let us know that you are coming.

The preschool could not operate without the help of our many sponsors. Sponsors help make up the difference between what parents can afford to pay for tuition and what it actually costs to operate the preschool. If you would be interested in becoming a regular sponsor or a one-time donor, please write to the preschool at 15284 Hastings Road, Athens, AL 35613. We are very grateful for your assistance.

The preschool is still looking for qualified teachers to come and serve here at the preschool. Please prayerfully consider our need and your ability to fill that need, then contact Bro. Tom Schrenk at (256) 232-0037 or Bro. Bob Walder at (309) 965-2965. You may also contact us through your local Elder.

ALABAMA, ATHENS **Louise Hall**

Love of all gifts is the greatest,
Which the spirit does bestow
Though I had a voice like angels,
Lacking love I'd truly know
That I'd be a tinkling cymbal
Or a wretched sounding brass
And although the sound were present,
Lifeless through this world I'd pass.

Serving us from the pulpit in recent weeks was Bro. Todd Stoller (Latty, OH) the first week in February. The next week we were joined by Bro. Art and Sis. Bonnie Ingold (Rittman, OH). The third weekend was our last Sunday with Bro. Sam and Sis. Linda Schlatter (Junction, OH) who came to spend a portion of their winter with us. Thank you and may the Lord bless you both for all your efforts while you were here. This weekend we were privileged to hear the Word from Bro. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL).

We have also enjoyed the fellowship of a number of visitors from Lester, IA; Bluffton, IN; and Eureka, IL. We are grateful for your attendance.

Athens has been experiencing a severe bout with the flu this win-

ter. Those who have been ill include Ola Mae Barnes, Olivia Coulter, Luke Moore and Matthew Moore.

We are pleased that Bro. Tom and Sis. Joan Schrenk have returned from their winter vacation in Zapata. Welcome home!

On Saturday, February 15, the teenage Sunday School class served a Valentine's Dinner for the adult members and friends. The decorations were very pretty and after a good meal we enjoyed a singing and fellowship.

ARIZONA, PHOENIX **Ron and Ev Hoerr**

"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we are able to ask or think according to the power that worketh in us."

Ephesians 3:20

God's amazing goodness goes on and on. As we write this on February 14, Sis. Linda Zollinger is escorting Sis. Dorothy Zollinger to the Rittman Nursing home, via a medical transport plane. Sis. Dorothy was hospitalized January 17. We are so thankful for the many miracles and blessings God has given in these weeks; and the strength and comfort as well. Sis. Linda plans to return to Phoenix for a time. We continue to pray for God's will to be done.

Sis. Verene Sutton and little Dakota Thorpe both had surgery recently, and we pray for their continued recovery.

Elder Bro. Jon and Sis. Nancy Kokanovich went to Bradford for the mid-winter Elder Conference.

Thanks to Bro. Kevin Knapp

(Bloomington, IL) who ministered to us this month.

Our junior and senior Bible classes enjoyed a weekend of fellowship as guests of the Tucson Sunday School. We extend thanks and appreciation to all of our teachers for their service to the Lord.

Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon Lawson will be moving to Texas for a job transfer. We pray God's blessings on them and their family; knowing that with God all things are possible, we look forward to their return.

After 23 years in Phoenix, Sis. Lucille Richardson is returning to Illinois. May God watch over and between us!

A large group of seniors gathered for a Valentine's Day brunch on February 8. Thanks to Sis. Marie Kieser and the committee and the Sunday School children for the beautiful place mats.

We received the most rainfall of any single storm in three years on February 13.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

Jane Hodges

After much anticipation, we welcomed the first born child of Sis. Bethany and Bro. Dan Dubach. Adelaye Elaine was born on January 23 and we are very thankful for her safe and healthy arrival. She is also the first grandchild for Bro. Jim and Sis. Rowena Furrer, Bro. Ken Dubach (Bluffton, IN) and Jodi Holloway.

April Furrer (Bro. Jim and Sis. Rowena) and Jason Kaufman (Prescott Valley) were united in marriage on February 14 in

Prescott Valley. We ask for God's blessings on their lives together and pray that their love for each other and their faith in the Lord will grow day by day and that they will continue to assemble with us.

Our visiting ministers this last month included Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN), Bros. Arnie Gerst (Taylor, MO) and Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL). May the Lord richly bless them and their families for their service of love.

Note of Thanks:

I want to thank everyone for the cards, phone calls, and especially for the prayers offered on my behalf during my stay in the hospital and since returning home, after my heart attack. May God bless each one of you.

Bro. Glen Furrer

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

Over the past month we have had three visiting ministers. Bros. Kenny Knapp (Taylor, MO), Tim Funk (Peoria, IL) and Warren Zahner (Rockville, CT) all traveled through Tucson and ministered to us. We want to thank them all for sharing their time and talents with us. May God add His rich blessing.

Our annual Pancake Supper was held on February 9. This year the weather cooperated making the men's job a lot easier. Sausage, applesauce and ice cream bars rounded out the menu. The sisters enjoyed watching the men swirl around us serving seconds and cleaning up dishes. I did hear one sister mention that she regretted not having her camera.

(There's always next year!)

The Tucson church hosted the Arizona and California Bible Class ACYF activities over President's Day weekend. On Saturday after some miniature golf and games, the group headed out for a hayrack ride and western cookout at a local ranch. The theme of the weekend was Christian Fellowship and the Bible Class teachers focused on such topics as having our closest friends be Christians. Sunday School class on Sunday continued the theme and afterwards the kids enjoyed an afternoon of games and Mexican food at Bro. Brad and Sis. Sandy Bauer's house. As it always is, this was a special weekend where many wonderful memories were made.

We have had unusually cool, rainy weather for February which was thoroughly enjoyed by yours truly. Our winter visitors, however, probably didn't appreciate it as they came looking for sunshine. True to form, though, our sunshine returned and today was sunny and quite warm.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA

Robin Moser

"Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober."

1 Thess. 5:6

We have certainly been reminded of the brevity of life as our country faces threats of terrorism and the dangers of war. May we all keep our eyes on the Lord and not be anxious for the days ahead. He has promised His grace will be

sufficient.

Our congregation has had reason to be reminded of the grace of God as He daily provides for our loved ones who are sick. Our prayers go out for Sis. Judy Crockett (Bro. Bob) and Bro. Jeff Luthi (Sis. Shirley) as they continue difficult battles with cancer.

We are thankful for the visiting ministers who shared the Word here in Altadena this month. Bro. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL) led a Bible study on the Beatitudes and then Sunday services. Later in the month, Bro. Ron Kipfer (Sis. Linda, Bluffton, IN) shared a Bible study on evolution and Sunday services. In addition, we were grateful for Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL) and Bro. Mike Rieker (Sis. Carol, Peoria, IL), both of whom served our congregation on the pulpit this past month.

Our Bible class students enjoyed a fellowship weekend in Tucson, AZ. We are thankful they have the opportunity to enjoy Christian friendships across the miles.

Our prayers are with the Elder brothers as they gather for the mid-winter Conference in Bradford, IL. May His Spirit direct their paths and decisions.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO **Peggy Jevremov**

Once more we greet each of you in the name of our Risen Lord and Saviour, Jesus. It is only through His love and suffering for us that we can be a part of such a precious fellowship as ours. This past

month again we experienced the blessings of this fellowship through our many visitors. Visiting ministering brothers this month were Bros. John Grimm (Sis. Julie, Columbus, OH) and Mike Rieker (Sis. Carol, Peoria, IL). May the Lord reward them for their willing service to us.

We were so thankful to have Elder Bros. Art Nohl (Sis. Sandra, Morris, MN) and Tom Klotzle (Sis. Jody, Altadena, CA) come to assist our Elder Bro. Peter with the reading of the Memorandum. We have a crafty adversary and it is so beneficial for us to have these timely warnings and to be alerted of some of the areas in which he is trying to wound us in our spiritual battle. May our prayers always include our dear shepherds that they may be given the clear guidance of the Holy Spirit as they watch for our souls.

KITCHENER, ONTARIO **CANADA**

Ingrid Fortenbacher

Saturday, February 1, was a full and very blessed day for all, as we were able to hear the testimonies of five Nazarene brethren. Welcomed into our small congregation are Sis. Susan Kupa, Bro. Mark Livingstone, Sis. Myra Livingstone, Bro. Nick Livingstone and Sis. Natasha Livingstone. Saturday evening we were once again reminded that the trumpet call is still being sounded by our Elders, as we were able to hear the Memorandum read to us. Assisting our dear Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI) in this labor of love was Elder Bro.

Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN). May we always remember to "Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;" (Colossians 4:2).

Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Dwayne Reutter (Sis. Kay, Rockville, CT), Tim Gerber (Sis. Wendy, Mansfield, OH), Dan Stoller (Sis. Diane, Rockville, CT) and Clint Schmidt (Sis. Magdalena, Winthrop, MN).

We were happy to hear the engagement of Marlene Sauder (Edgar and Mary) to Stuart Martin (Landis and Alice). We wish them the Lord's richest blessings as they plan for a July wedding.

COLORADO, DENVER **Ann Gonglach**

We were thankful to hear the reading of the Memorandum on February 1. We appreciate our Elder brethren who take the time to put forth these doctrines and exhortations that are so beneficial to us so that we can strive, in all things, to show ourselves "a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, sound speech, that cannot be condemned." (Titus 2:7-8). It was a blessing to be able to have Elder Bro. John and Sis. Connie Lehman (Bern, KS) come and share in this special weekend, and to hear Bro. John bring us God's Word.

Welcome to Sis. Wendy Mathis, who has recently moved to Denver. We're glad to have Sis. Wendy worship with us.

Bro. Chuck and Sis. Naomi Wiegand have been blessed with

another child, a little girl, Alexandra Mae, born on February 14. She has joined her siblings, Demetrius, Sebastian, Gabriella, and Katharina.

"And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children."

Isaiah 54:13

CONNECTICUT ROCKVILLE Cherie Galat

Several families were blessed with bundles of joy. On January 14, Samuel John was born to Burt Jr. and Cherinne Wheeler. Courtney, Daniel and Christian have another brother to love. Grandparents are Burt Sr. and Margo Wheeler and Daryl and Sis. Norma Luginbuhl. On January 22, Nolan Thomas was born to Bro. Derek and Sis. Darla Reutter. Grandparents are Bro. Duane and Sis. Kay Reutter and Bro. John and Sis. Janet Schupbach (Elgin, IA). Faith Elizabeth was born January 29 to Bro. Brian and Sis. Cyndi Luginbuhl. She joins her four sisters, Harmony, Grace, Miriam and Sarah. Grandparents are Sis. Florine Luginbuhl and Bro. David Sr. and Sis. Marlene Galat. May each precious child learn about God and His Son, Jesus, as they grow in years and knowledge.

With joy we heard the news that two more souls are seeking the Lord in repentance. We rejoice with Rosanna Schneider (Bro. Ralph and Sis. Tina) and Sam Moser (Bro. Ben and Sis. Glenna) as each one begins a new

walk of faith in Him.

"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;"

Ephesians 5:25

Bro. Nathan Zahner and Sis. Sarah Crary were united in Holy Matrimony on February 2. Parents are Bro. Curt and Sis. Sally Zahner and Bro. Ken and Sis. Deb Crary. We pray for God's nearness as they walk together on life's pathway.

We so appreciate when our dear ministering brethren from our various beloved congregations have the opportunity to visit and preach unto us. We thank Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH), Bro. Brian Webb (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) and Bro. Ted Luginbuhl (Smithville, OH) for sharing with us out of God's Word.

May God heal according to His will our loved ones who have been hospitalized in past days: Owen Kloter (Bruce and Karyn), Sis. Alma Luginbuhl (Bro. Ed) and Bro. Duane Reutter (Sis. Kay). May He be with each one as they recover.

Our prayers are with many families who have experienced the loss of a dear loved one in death. Joseph Dombek, Sr. leaves his wife, Helen; sons, Joseph Jr., David and Mark; sister, Sis. Anna Lanz (Bro. Alvin); nephew, Robert Dombek, Sr. (Sis. Lorraine); niece, Sis. Jane Moser (Bro. Jim); and extended family.

Walter Erismann leaves his wife, Ruth; sister, Sis. Esther Gruenig; and cousin, Sis. Margaret Capello; and other family

members.

Bro. Werner Kupferschmid leaves his wife, Sis. Esther; daughter, June Scotti (Vince); and sons, Bro. Gene (Sis. Ellen), Stuart (Barbara), Wayne (Marcia), Dan (Terry) and Dean (Joanne); sister, Di Kupferschmid; sister-in-law, Sis. Betty Luginbuhl; and extended family.

Marion Streib leaves her husband, Richard; daughter, Karen Luginbuhl (Phillip); and son, Keith (Lisa); and extended family.

Bro. Ken Virkler leaves his son, Bro. Dan (Sis. Dorothy); daughters, Sis. Lynette Goric (Bro. Bob) and Karen Geiger (Don); a sister, Sis. Lois Schamback (Bro. Dave) of Rittman, OH, and extended family.

Bro. Clint Webb leaves his wife, Sis. Eloise; sons, Bro. Gerald and Bro. Brian (Sis. Jayne) of Ft. Lauderdale, FL; daughters, Sis. Maxine Bahler and Sis. Donna Bahler (Bro. Owen); and extended family.

Bro. Emanuel Zahner leaves his sons, Bro. Curt (Sis. Sally), Bro. Warren (Sis. Bonnie) and Bro. Scott (Sis. Nancy); his brother, Bro. Ed (Sis. Lora); and extended family. May each family feel the consolation that God can provide at this time of loss.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Henrietta Meyer

"This do in remembrance of Me."

Luke 22:19

Our congregation was able to

join the Philadelphia congregation to partake of Holy Communion on February 8. We want to thank Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumburg, NY) for assisting our Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand.

Ministers this month were Bro. Jerry Isch (Philadelphia, PA) and Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH).

Services are usually held the first, third and fourth Sundays of the month at the Tysons Corner Westpark (Best Western) Hotel, located about one-mile west of the Beltway (I-495) on Route 7. Song service begins at 10:15, worship service at 10:30; afternoon service begins at 12:15.

If you are planning to visit Washington, D.C. for vacation or business, please call Bro. Barry and Sis. Doreen Steffen (410) 569-3635 or Sis. Henrietta Meyer (703) 904-8301 for assistance and to let us know how many to expect for Sunday services. If you would like to get together on Saturday evening, please let us know that also. We would be happy to have an evening of fellowship and/or singing.

FLORIDA FORT LAUDERDALE Rene Mangold

Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) came and shared the reading of the Memorandum with us.

Our friend, Dalma Prohaszka, has moved to California where she plans to marry and start the next chapter of her life. We wish her God's blessings.

Bro. John and Sis. Holly

Zimmerman, who now live temporarily in Chile, recently had a healthy baby boy, Isaac David Zimmerman. Our congratulations to them!

Our prayers for comfort are with the Webb family (Bro. Brian and Sis. Jayne) upon the passing of Brian's father, Bro. Clinton Webb, of Rockville, CT.

As always, we are blessed to have many visiting ministers who bring God's Word and enrich our fellowship. Visiting were: Bros. Steve Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley, IL), Bill Dotterer (Sis. Sharon, Lamar, MO), Virgil Kaeb (Sis. SueEllen, Sarasota, FL), Everett Gerber (Sis. Nancy, Rockville, CT), Ron Steiner (Sis. Ruth, Rittman, OH), and Bob Beebe (Sis. Sue, South Bend, IN). We thank each one for their labor of love.

FLORIDA NORTH FORT MYERS Mary Masters

Our heartfelt thanks go to visiting ministering Bros. Wendell Gudeman (Sis. Marcella, Francesville, IN), Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra), Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane) and Everett Gerber (Sis. Nancy, Rockville, CT).

In one of the messages we learned what it means to be truly thankful, when we heard the story of a man who had lost much in a tornado. When inviting someone into his house, he stopped them from removing their boots with the remark, "We are just glad to have a floor to scrub."

We were also reminded that time must be taken in our busy lives to put on the whole armor of

God to prevent loss of life. The armor being prayer, reading, and meditating on God's Word. A policeman who stopped someone for speeding was shot by the stopped motorist. He fell to the ground, but was not killed because he had his bullet proof vest on. In the same area, another policeman was running down a robber of a convenient store and was shot and killed by the thief. Upon investigation, the bullet proof vest was found in the trunk of the policeman's car. The vest was maybe too uncomfortable and too time consuming to put on. The analogy was made from the vest to our armor. Are we too busy to put it on and is it too uncomfortable when we see areas in our lives that we need to change? Is it too inconvenient for us?

On February 16, our church had a barbeque. A men's choir blessed us by singing songs of praise and honor and a delicious meal was enjoyed by well over 300.

As we prepare our hearts for Holy Communion on March 2, Lord willing, let us ponder the question, "Am I following God's commands as laid out in the scripture?"

Following are just a few of the places in the Bible that gives direct commands:

I John 3:23 "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."

I John 4:21 "And this commandment have we from him, that he who loveth God love his brother also."

I John 2:4 "he that saith I know him and keepeth not his commandment is a liar and the truth is not in him."

Eph. 6:2 "Honor thy Father and Mother which is the first commandment with promise."

John 13:34 "A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another." Recently, our Sunday School class talked about what it means to love one another. The students decided that this is not an option, but a command, and as this verse in John 13 followed Jesus' example of washing the disciples' feet, we decided that the act of loving is not always going to be a pleasant duty, but never the less, a command. Some of the students' ideas of loving acts that were not pleasant to do were washing the dishes, cleaning their rooms, giving up something they wanted to do in preference for parent's wishes, and being a friend to someone that's not too lovable. Let's follow the example of our Lord and of our students, and love even when it may not be what we want to do.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA **Carol Koehl**

Bro. Jeff and Sis. Rachel Sabo are thankful first-time parents. Faith Alana arrived on January 31. Grandparents are Bro. Doug and Sis. Linda Sabo and Bro. Ron and Sis. Carol Koehl. May the Lord ever grant them His grace and wisdom as they raise their precious little daughter.

Much love and sympathy is extended to Bro. Doug Wiegand (Sis. Robin) in the loss of his

grandfather, and to Sis. Suellen Kaeb (Bro. Virgil) in the loss of her grandmother. Our prayers are also with Sis. Esther Kupferschmid (Rockville, CT) in the passing of her beloved helpmate, Bro. Werner. He and Sis. Esther spent their winters in Sarasota for many years.

Construction of our new Fellowship Hall is progressing. We wish to sincerely thank everyone for their volunteer efforts, whether it be with the construction, providing food, or cleanup.

A number of loved ones spent time in the hospital recently: Jim Zimmerman, Bro. Maurice (Moe) Schafer (Morton, IL), Bro. Ray Klopfenstein (Latty, OH), Sis. Sherrie Dietrich (Congerville, IL), Bro. Harvey Schieber (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Doyme Stewart (LaCrosse, IN).

Our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann was here recently to conduct our annual business meeting and also to share the Conference letter with us. Other visiting ministers that we would like to thank are Elder Bros. Joe Stoller (Princeville, IL), Tom Hoffman (Roanoke, IL), Bros. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN), Vic Bauman (Smithville, OH), Ron Steiner (Rittman, OH) and Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT).

We miss Bro. Jeremy, Sis. Melissa, David and Jonathan Miller. Bro. Jeremy is temporarily working as a traveling nurse near Iowa City.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA **John Brewer**

On February 17 we had our

first family night dinner and Bible study. Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley, IL) presented a study on our Christian heritage. The congregation enjoyed an informative night reminding us about our unique heritage and the reasons for our doctrines and traditions. We want to thank Bro. Clark for his time to expound on this topic.

We just recently had our business meeting in January and some of the results of this meeting were to install a new Sunday school teacher and a lead trustee to take care of the church buildings physical needs. Bro. Daren Yergler was elected as the new Sunday school teacher whom he will begin in June. Bro. Keith Kaufman was elected as the lead trustee. We are thankful for their willingness to serve.

If you plan to be in the Atlanta area we would invite you to worship and fellowship with us. We start song service at 10:15. We also gather on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 7:00 pm. Our church is in Fairburn, Georgia off I-85 southwest of Atlanta. We are 15 miles south of the airport on exit 64 (Jonesboro Rd.) 4 miles due west after you get off the exit. Please contact Bro. Tom Waldbeser 770-463-4788, Bro. Keith Kaufman 770-304-8335, Bro. Linn Stoller 770-631-4554 or Bro. John Brewer 770-304-8706 if you need more information.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE **Sheila McCoy** **Doreen Moser**

"Love of all gifts is the great-

est.”

Zion's Harp

We were thankful Bro. Dean Steffen was able to come to Madison, WI, for our monthly Bible study. The topic was “Spiritual Gifts”.

Our congregation is so grateful to have Sis. Peggy Bartz as part of our church family. Elder Bros. Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) were present for Sis. Peggy's testimony and baptism on the weekend of February 15-16. We also had our reading of the Memorandum and Communion exhortation the same evening. It was a blessed Saturday and Sunday, indeed.

Bro. Chad and Sis. Kristy Kaeb have been blessed with a baby boy, Josiah David, born on February 9. Josiah's older sister is Kelsy. His grandparents are Bro. David and Sis. Brenda Kaeb (Bloomington, IL) and Bro. Richard and Sis. Ann Hoffman, (Roanoke, IL).

Sis. Karen Spenser was in the hospital following an accident in her home. She sustained a neck injury. Sis. Alice Thompson (Bob) is also a hospital patient. May God be with them during this time of convalescence.

Bro. Shannon Stahl continues our monthly Bible study on the New Testament. We studied the books of I & II Thessalonians and I & II Timothy this month.

We are thankful that our church can have a monthly hymn singing at the nursing home. We enjoyed the fellowship of a pizza supper at the Mueller home after-

wards this month.

ILLINOIS BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL Ann Kellenberger Rebekah Kaufmann

Once again, our congregation was thankful to have several visiting ministers this past month. Bro. Garry Bucher (Valparaiso, IN) shared God's precious Word on February 9. Bro. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL) came for our Family Night, February 5. He gave us much food for thought, as he spoke of the difference between Jesus' message and that of Madison Avenue. We were told how material things can never bring lasting satisfaction to our hearts and minds. I Tim 6:6 “Godliness with contentment is great gain.” God's real message brings contentment through the knowledge of who Jesus is and what He will do in our lives.

We have two new babies bringing joy to their parents and grandparents. Bro. Clint and Sis. Jamie Kaeb welcomed little Paige Morgan into their hearts and home on January 24. Grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Brenda Kaeb and Bro. Gary and Sis. Marla Ringger (Gridley, IL). Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Amy Masters also welcomed a sweet little girl. Elise Ann was born on January 23. Thrilled for a new little sister are Jacob, Courtney and Audrey. Bro. Bill and Sis. Mary Masters (North Ft. Myers, FL) and Bill Custer and Judy Custer are the grandparents.

On February 9, the engagement of Sis. Sara Knobloch and Bro. Chris Hatten was made

known to us. Sis. Sara's parents are Bro. Dean and Sis. Jackie Knobloch (Goodfield, IL) and Bro. Chris's parents are John and Ann Hatten. We rejoice with them and wish them God's direction as they plan for a lifetime together.

Our prayers have been with Walt Fehr as he spent time in the hospital. Also, Sis. Pam Zimmerman is recovering from recent eye surgery. We trust that they will feel God's nearness during this time.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Steve Endress

We are thankful for our Bro. Lucas Gudeman (Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa) and Sis. Diana Beutel (Bro. Fred and Sis. Jeannette, Tremont, IL) as they were united in marriage. Our prayers are with them as they plan to reside in the Tremont area.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Kristal Stahl became parents of their first child, Ryan William. Grandparents are Bro. Lyle and Sis. Betty Stahl and Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Elaine Wagenbach, both of Princeville, IL. We pray that God will grant wisdom to them and all parents who have been entrusted with souls that will live forever.

Our congregation received a great blessing through the reading of the Memorandum. We appreciated having Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) with us for the weekend. It seemed that the Spirit reminded us more than once of the importance of being clothed with humility in all of our endeavors. Deception often begins with an exaltation of our-

selves and our ideas. We must always check our motives against the "wisdom that is from above." (James 3:17)

We also experienced a very blessed week hosting the mid-winter Elder Conference. Many Elder brothers were used throughout the week to bring the Word of Life to our congregation. They were Bros. John Lehman (Bern, KS), Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumburg, NY), Art Metz (Silverton, OR), Peter Petrovic (San Diego, CA), and Akito Inoue (Tokyo, Japan).

We count it as a priceless opportunity to have been able to facilitate the gathering of the Elder brothers. It was our desire during the week to follow the Lord's words as recorded in St. Matthew 10:8, "freely ye have received, freely give." How easy it is to give to those who work and labor on our behalf. Yet, we are instructed to also give to those who can not or will not repay us. May we, with joy, always strive to be faithful servants.

ILLINOIS CHAMPAIGN-URBANA Janelle Schlipf

We rejoice with Alan and Theresa Miller as they welcome Amelia Marie, who was born on January 17. She is the first grandchild of Bro. Orlan and Sis. Carol Miller (Gridley, IL) and Dan and Susie Boian (Chenoa, IL). Amelia's great-grandparents are Sis. Lulu Schlipf (Gridley, IL), Bill and Genevieve Boian (Chenoa, IL), and Jim and Dolly Haas (El Paso, IL).

Grant and Nelson Knobloch,

along with their parents, Bro. Neil and Sis. June Knobloch, are also very thankful for their new little sister, Kedron Rose. Kedron was born on February 9 and her grandparents are Bro. Ezra and Sis. Marie Knobloch (Lester, IA) and Bro. Art and Sis. Eula Mogler (West Bend, IA). Her great-grandma is Sis. Lucille Rumbold (Princeville, IL).

Sunday, January 26, was the day for our annual Sunday School winter potluck. The students enjoyed an afternoon of various activities, such as ice skating or sledding with their individual Sunday school classes. After a potluck supper back at church, Erin Metzger (Sis. Jeanne) and Aaron Walder (Bro. Art and Sis. Kim) shared a presentation on their trip to Mexico this summer.

Bro. Dennie Mangers returned from Haiti with a new appreciation for many of the resources that we often take for granted here in America. He and several other brothers from Michigan and Ohio shared their time and talents to roof schools in that area. Their team also had the opportunity to sing to residents at a nursing home supported by some of the Michigan churches. Imagine their surprise, when after the group had finished singing, the Haitians joined together and sang to them!

A special thanks to Bro. Kevin Knapp (Sis. Dixie) from Bloomington, IL who shared with us a fascinating study on the cities of Jerusalem and Babylon. As we look to the Word in the midst of uncertain times, may we always be thankful that we serve a sover-

eign God!

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO Jill Rager

February 15, Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT) joined our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann in the reading of the Conference report to the congregation. At one point in the evening Bro. Kevin addressed the topic of keeping our thought life pure. He used the illustration of a bird flying through the branches of a tree. Just as the tree cannot stop the bird from flying into it, we cannot completely control what thoughts and images come at us. We can, however, keep the thought from stopping in our mind, building a nest and taking up residence.

"...and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;"

II Corinthians 10:5

Of course, this was only one of the many good thoughts brought out that evening. We thank Elder Bro. Kevin for his willingness to minister to us.

January 25-26 was a weekend of testimonies and baptisms for our new Bro. Charles and Sis. Ella Mae Stoller. It was such a blessing to hear how God continues to patiently work in the hearts of men. It was also a blessing to have many visiting ministers with us for the weekend. Our thanks go to Elder Bro. Ron Schambach, Bros. Tom Schambach and Gary Anliker (all from Elgin, IL) as well as retired Elder Bro. Wes Knapp (Goodfield, IL) for serving us through a sermon, offering a

prayer or some other avenue.

We also express appreciation to Bros. Scott Schafer (South Bend, IN) and Walt Rager (Toledo, OH) for sharing in the ministry on the other Sundays this past month.

Our annual business meeting was held on January 22. We express our thanks to Bro. Matt Gudeman, Sis. Jaron Montgomery and Sis. Tammy Zimmerman for their willingness to accept new duties in serving the congregation.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK

**Susan Waldbeser
Denise Walder**

We were thankful to hear of the engagement of Sis. Stephany Anderson (Bro. Jon and Sis. Cyndee) to Bro. Fred Wiegand (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Rosemary) of Goodfield. We pray that God will be with them during their engagement and bless them in their marriage.

We extend congratulations to Jodi Rudin (Bro. Gerald and Sis. Joan) and Justin Sinn (Loren and Nita) as they were married on February 14. We pray God will direct this new couple.

Sis. Deb Gudeman was hospitalized for a few days. We are thankful she is back home and feeling better.

We were sorry to hear of the death of Mark and Sis. Dinah Wilkening's father, Vernes Wilkening. We also have Bro. Mark and Sis. Janie Waldbeser in our prayers as we were saddened to hear of the sudden death of her father, Bro. Fred Edelman, of Sabetha, KS. May God comfort

each one at this time of loss.

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Arlene Banwart

We are encouraged to count our blessings "when we are discouraged, thinking all is lost," when we seem "burdened with a load of care," or "when our cross seems heavy." And then it says we will be surprised at "what the Lord hath done" and we'll be "singing as the days go by!" Angels will come to help and comfort us, even to our "journey's end." Isn't this what we all need to do all the time?

We count our visiting ministers among our blessings this past month: Elder Bro. Art Metz (Silverton, OR), who helped read the Memorandum, and Bro. Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL).

Sis. Margaret Ott, mother of Bro. Glenn (Sis. Mardel) and Sis. Mary Lou Ott passed away February 6. It was a blessing to have our first funeral in our new church be that of one who faithfully served God many years.

It is a blessing to work peacefully together in our church. At our annual business meeting, Bros. Alan Roth (Sis. Joanne) and Chuck Zimmerman (Sis. Ginny) and Sisters Sandy Dietrich (Bro. Tim) and Linda Knobloch (Bro. Jerry) were chosen as Sunday School teachers. Bro. Ernie Stahl replaces Bro. Steve Schrock as trustee. Bro. Jared Schieber takes Bro. Bruce Knapp's place as usher. Working in Bro. Max and Sis. Susanne Hoerr's place on the food committee will be Bro. Ed and Sis. Gail Leman. We thank these many brethren for their

faithful work and pray God's nearness to the new workers.

In times of illness, it's a blessing to go to God in prayer and feel the care of the church. Sympathy goes to Jackson Jean Baptiste, whose brother died in Haiti. Presently, Jackson lives with Bro. Mike and Sis. Susie Zobrist and is recovering from heart surgery. Bro. Ed Steffen (Sis. Mary) is recovering from pneumonia and slowly improving. Following surgery for a fractured leg, Sis. Pauline Roth (Bro. Keith) is recuperating at home. At the time of this writing, Sis. Esther Miller (Bro. Merion) is hospitalized.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to express our sincere thanks to everyone who remembered us with cards, food, gifts of love, and especially prayers at the loss of our mother and grandmother. May God bless you for your kind deeds of love.

The family of Sis. Margaret Ott

Note:

On February 9 at Sis. Margaret Ott's funeral, a light tan colored man's overcoat with a fuzzy lining was taken by mistake. A similar coat was left. Please call (309) 448-2463 if found.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Amy Gasser

Elder Bro. Gerry Hertz (Sabetha, KS) was with us February 1 to assist Bro. Ron in the reading of the Memorandum. Other visiting ministers this month were Bros. Randy Gasser and Keith Beyer (Detroit, MI).

Thank you, brothers, for your willingness to serve.

The Detroit Choir visited our congregation on February 15-16.

We are very thankful that Bro. Don Schambach and Sis. Shaena Dietz are doing well and again assembling with us after their surgeries. Hospitalized this past month were Sharon Kinsinger (Bro. Bill and Sis. Sandy) and Sis. Betty (Bro. Sam) Bachtold. We are thankful that both are at home and seem to be recuperating. May God grant complete healing and renewed strength.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA **Janet Zimmerman**

Bro. Brian and Sis. Tina Wiegand welcomed their fourth son into their hearts and home. Konner Briant was born on February 1. Welcoming Konner into the family are Keith, Kaylene, Kelton and Kendall. His grandparents are Bro. Lewis and Sis. Arletta Martin and Bro. Elton and Sis. Loretta Wiegand.

Bro. Lester and Sis. Ruth Martin have experienced the special blessing of sharing 50 years of married life. We rejoice with them as they have reached this milestone in their lives.

We were thankful to hear the testimonies of Jake Fehr (Bro. Ken and Sis. Sandy), Aaron Hoerr (Bro. Norman and Sis. Connie), Jarod Leman (Bro. Chris and Sis. Marlene) and Ross Blunier (Bro. Ted and Sis. Donna) on February 8. The following day we witnessed their baptism and welcomed them into the fold as our brothers in the Lord. We are thankful Elder Bros. Joe Stoller (Princeville,

IL) and Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL) could be with us for this very important work. Also, visiting us for the weekend were ministering Bros. Richard Plattner and John Hartman (Fairbury, IL), Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL), Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL) and Craig Martin (Princeville, IL).

Our thoughts and prayers are with Adam Garber who has begun his walk with the Lord in repentance. May God grant him grace to build a firm foundation on the solid rock, Jesus Christ.

With thankfulness we report that Darci Gerdes (Erik) has made a beginning in her walk with God. We wish her the Lord's grace and guidance as she begins this most important step in her life.

Those who have been hospitalized, undergone surgery or confined to their homes have been Bro. John Hartter (Sis. Bev), Sis. Ida Pfaffman and Sis. Louise (Bro. Ray) Rocke. Our prayers are with all those who are sick or suffering various afflictions of the body. May God be ever by their side.

We appreciate the blessings of ministers who stand and preach the Word each Sunday. We thank Bros. Greg Lehman (Wolcott, IN), Beirne Messner (Morris, MN) and Wes Moser (Lester, IA) for visiting us and sharing the duties of ministering with our home ministers.

Our prayers have been with our Elder brethren who met recently for the winter Conference in Bradford, IL. May we continue to pray for them that they will be

given much Godly wisdom in making decisions regarding our precious faith.

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to Bro. Terry and Sis. Shirl Leman on the recent death of her brother, Walter Knepp, of Baytown, TX. We likewise extend our heartfelt sympathy to Bro. Rick and Sis. Brenda Wuethrich on the recent death of her grandmother, Marie Kindig, of Roanoke.

We warmly welcome Bro. Dave and Sis. Eva Rocke and their family home after a lengthy visit to Sis. Eva's homeland in Hungary. We are glad that they had the opportunity to visit their family and are thankful to God for His protection during their travels.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY **Joann Zehr** **Tammy Hinrichsen**

We thank our Elder Bros. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) for helping in the reading of the Memorandum to our congregation. Other ministers visiting us in this past month have been Bros. Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN) and Gary Brown (Forrest, IL). May God richly bless each of you and your families for sharing the Word of God with us.

Two from our congregation have been in the hospital this past month. Our Sis. Gwen Knapp (Bro. Kirby) and Dale Mowery (Sis. Elaine) have been in our thoughts and prayers as they recover. We look forward to having them worship with us again soon.

Many prayers of thanksgiving are given for the safe arrival of a

precious little one named Ashley Kay Young. Her parents are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Beverly Young. She has a big sister, Lori, and a big brother, Evan, at home anxiously waiting to help dad and mom take care of her and smother her with love. Ashley's grandparents are Bro. Norman and Sis. Lola Young and Bro. Tom and Sis. Dianne Steidinger.

On February 2nd and 9th we enjoyed having the Bible Classes come and sing for ACYF. A lot of time and effort goes into each of these events, not only by the teachers, song leaders, and parents, but also from the students. We pray for everyone that puts forth an effort to make each of the evenings such a joy will receive a blessing.

Our deepest sympathy goes to Sis. Elna Nussbaum, Bro. Rollin Nussbaum, and Bro. Richard and Sis. Betty Wiegand on the death of their brother and uncle, Bro. Bill Wiegand (Washington, IL). We also extend sympathy to Bro. Henry and Sis. Lola Steffen and Troy, Bro. Neil and Sis. Tami Bahler, and Craig and Tricia Curry on the passing of Sis. Lola's mother, Sis. Margaret Ott (Congerville, IL). Our prayers and sympathy go to Bro. Alan and Sis. Wendy Edelman on the loss of a dear father, Bro. Fred Edelman (Bern, KS). May each of you feel our Saviour's abundant love at this time of loss.

It is with very sad hearts that we say farewell to two of our families in Fairbury. On January 24, we had a farewell singing for Bro. James and Sis. Carrie Tate and Bro. James and Sis. Brenda Fehr.

Bro. James, Sis. Carrie and their family will now be worshipping in Congerville, IL, while Bro. James, Sis. Brenda and their family will be worshipping in Tremont, IL. None of us know what our tomorrows bring or where the Lord may lead us. However, we can rest in the knowledge that He wants only what is best for us and that if we follow and obey Him, our lives will be blessed. We will be looking forward to each of these families visiting us as often as they can.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Linda Anliker
Lori Dotterer**

"and when they had gathered the multitude together, they delivered the epistle:"

Acts 15:30

As in the early church when the apostles delivered the conclusions of their meeting at Jerusalem by letter to the "brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia" (Acts 15:23), we still today uphold this tradition by gathering together to hear the reading of the Memorandum. On Saturday evening, January 18, we gathered with our Fairbury brethren in listening to the exhortations so lovingly given by visiting Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI) and our home Elder Bros. Art Bahler and Wayne Anliker. We thank our Elders for so willingly giving of themselves as they stand as watchmen on the wall for our spiritual well being.

Offering themselves in the service of our Lord, we thank visiting

ministers, Bros. Rick Plattner and Paul Kilgus (Fairbury, IL) and Tom Stock and Sid Kaufmann (Cissna Park, IL) for sharing God's Word with us.

Enjoying a new baby boy in their home are Earl and Krista Leman and big brothers Collin and Drew. Corbin Thomas's grandparents are Steve and Cindy Edwards of Forrest, Roger and Charon Brydon of Cullom, IL, and Sis. Donna Leman.

Spending time in the hospital were Sis. Aldine Wackerle, James Steidinger (Sis. Marlene), Bro. Larry Bachman (Sis. Donna), Sis. Margaret Kupferschmid, Sis. Lavonne Lanz (Bro. Elmer), and Sis. Mattie Kaeb (Bro. Nick). It is our prayer these loved ones will feel the Lord's nearness.

Funeral services were held February 11 for Bro. Ben Traub. We extend sympathy to his wife, Sis. Irene, who lovingly sat by him in his days of declining health, and to his daughter, Sis. Judy and Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker and their family.

As the Lord has promised to comfort those who sorrow, it is our prayer that Bro. Levi and Sis. Donna Edelman will feel His comforting Spirit as they have experienced a loss in the passing of his brother, Bro. Fred Edelman (Bern, KS).

Notes of Thanks:

I would like to thank my family and also my church family for the prayers and kindness shown through the years. Also, the monetary gifts, cards, and letters that were sent were very much appreciated. May the Lord bless each

one richly.

Sis. Marie Hohulin

We thank each one for your prayers and every kind and thoughtful expression and deed rendered during this time of our loss and in the past. May God bless each one.

The Family of Bro. Ben Traub

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

Heather Hohulin

Rita Bauman

Visiting ministers who have shared the Word with us recently were Bros. Greg Stoller (Sis. Jill, Forrest, IL), Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucy, Eureka, IL), Dale Zeltwanger (Sis. Rachel, Morris, MN), Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North, IN), and Tim Hohulin (Sis. Cathy, Roanoke, IL). We truly appreciate those who are willing to be used by the Lord for our benefit.

Hospitalized this past month was Callahan Bauman (Bro. Dan and Sis. Holly). We pray that God will touch him with His healing hand.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Don and Sis. Caroline Ott in the loss of his mother, Sis. Margaret Ott. We also want to remember our Sis. Clementine Joos in the passing of her sister-in-law, Emma Ackerman. May each family find strength in "God of all comfort; who comforteth us in all our tribulation." (II Cor. 1:3-4)

On February 9, the engagement of Bro. Fred Wiegand was made known to Sis. Stephanie Anderson (Bro. John and Sis. Cyndee, Cissna Park, IL). Also announced was Sis. Sara

Knobloch (Bro. Dean and Sis. Jackie) to Bro. Chris Hattan (John and Anne), Bloomington, IL. May God bless them as they look to Him for further guidance in their lives.

On February 23, we witnessed the marriage of Sis. Hope Knapp and Bro. Matt Sauder. Parents of the couple are Bro. George and Sis. Fern Knapp and Bro. Bob and Sis. Jan Sauder (Roanoke, IL). We wish them God's blessings as they start their new life together.

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry A. Klopfenstein

We are living in very trying times with a lot of uncertainty. There is much danger, not only for the security of our nation, but for the welfare of our soul. We are taught to cast our care on the Lord. An Elder once said that when the cares of this life bear down on us, we should go into our bedrooms and commit them all to God. There is no better advice.

It often is necessary to pray for power, for protection and for peace. We are to pray for power (to overcome sin and temptation); for protection (in body and soul); and for peace (of heart and mind). God is still in heaven, and He hears and answers prayer. The Bible says to pray without ceasing, and to be instant in prayer.

The oldest brother in our Gridley congregation, Bro. Elmer Meiss, 92, passed away on February 25. He had been married for 60 years to Sis. Hulda Meiss, who died June 7, 1999. He is survived by three daughters: Beverly Buckley, Normal; Sis. Joyce Waibel, Peoria, and Sis. Chris

Zeller, Gridley; and a son, Bro. Pete Meiss, Gridley.

Also surviving are three sisters, Carolyn Aeschleman, Highland, IL; Sis. Viola McKinley and Sis. Alice Rose Gilmore, Gridley; and a brother, Ed Meiss, Eureka. Surviving too are 20 grandchildren, 54 great-grandchildren, and six great-great grandchildren.

Bro. Elmer was a man who appreciated people, and his friendly manner at church will be missed. His family is to be commended for their devotion in caring for him these last few years.

Jill Leman became our sister in faith on February 23. She is the daughter of Bro. Terry and Sis. Shirley Leman, Secor. May she feel the nearness of God in her new life.

A first child (a daughter) was born to Alan and Theresa Miller, Leroy, IL, on January 17. She was named Amelia Marie. Grandparents are Bro. Orlan and Sis. Carol Miller, Gridley; and Dan and Suzie Boian, Chenoa. Great-grandparents are Sis. Lulu Schlipf, Gridley; Bill and Genevieve Boian, Chenoa, and Jim and Dolly Haas, El Paso. Thanks be to God for this wonderful blessing.

Mason David Ringger was born on February 3. His parents are Bro. David and Sis. Kate Ringger. He is their first child. Grandparents are Elder Bro. Earl and Sis. Dixie Ringger and ministering Bro. Steve and Sis. Donnalou Baner, Gridley. Great-grandparents are retired Elder Bro. Edwin and Sis. Pat Ringger, Gridley; and retired Judge Rich-

ard and Janet Baner, Eureka. Great-great grandparents are Esther Eastman, Eureka; Charles and Mary Baner, Decatur; and Sis. Sarah Frank, Morton. Our sincere best wishes are extended to this dear young couple.

We offer our condolences to Bro. Bernie Ferneau over the loss of his brother. Also, our prayers are for Sis. Sonia Endress and Sis. Jill Schlipf for the loss of their grandfather and uncle, respectively, Bro. Bill Wiegand.

The concerns of illness continue with us. Sis. Marge Meiss is continuing treatment for a serious illness. Sis. Jessica Gramm was hospitalized for surgery. And Sis. Wava Kaupp had surgery. Burt Grusy's knee replacement has been delayed.

Marine Corporal Eric Harris, son of Bro. Ron and Sis. Barb Harris, has been dispatched overseas with his unit. May God watch over him.

Amanda Harris was recently married to John Perry. He is in the Marine Corps, and they live in Jacksonville, North Carolina. She is the daughter of Bro. Ron and Sis. Barb Harris. May the Lord watch over John Perry, too, in his military capacities. We offer our best wishes to this couple in their wedded life.

Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) was here on Wednesday evening, February 26, to assist in reading the annual Memorandum to the church. Bro. Steve Frauhiger accompanied him on this trip.

We surely thank the Elder brothers for their labors of love for God's flocks. The Bible

teaches we are to "obey them." May God give us submissive and humble hearts to do so. Bro. Samuel Froehlich wrote, "A humble heart is an abode of God."

Our congregation has begun participating (along with Forrest and Fairbury) in sending brothers to the Livingston County Jail, Pontiac, IL, for a Sunday service and visiting. May God bless these efforts as the Word of God is taken to souls in distress.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

Julie Bahr

Christie Zeller

"Ring the bells of Heaven" ...

Two more dear souls have repented of their sins and were baptized on January 22. They were Bro. Matt Kupferschmid (Sis. Wendy) and Bro. Ken Stevig. May God continue to walk beside these dear souls as they walk with Him.

Sis. Katie Sinn celebrated her 100th birthday with an Open House at Apostolic Christian Restmor. May God continue to bless this dear sister.

Our invite-a-friend all church singing was held on February 1. A blessed evening of fellowship was had by all.

Our annual Young Group Pork Chop Supper and singing was held February 8 at the Fellowship Hall. It was another blessed evening of food, fellowship and of singing praises.

Bro. Fred Funk brought us our Family Worship on February 5 entitled "What Doth God Require of Thee?" Micah 6:8 reminds us "to do justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with thy God." May we all remember this as we step

out in faith.

Lois Trimble passed away. She is the mother to our Sis. Margie (Bro. Roger) Ackerman. Sis. LaVerne Heiniger passed away February 12 at Restmor. May our Heavenly Father comfort these dear families.

Our visiting ministers for the month were Bros. Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN), Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL), Ed Sauder (Sis. Bonnie, Roanoke, IL), Ron Heiniger (Sis. Kaylene, Bloomington, IL), Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL), and retired Elder Bro. Don Sauder (Roanoke, IL).

Notes of Thanks:

Words cannot express our sincere thanks for the kindness shown to us at the loss of my husband, our father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. Thank you for the prayers, visits, phone calls, food, cards, flowers and memorials. Also thanks to the many carolers. He enjoyed it so much. Everything was sincerely appreciated.

Sis. Dorothy Roeschley and family

May our great God richly bless all those who thought of Alice and I during our health problems. The many cards, expressions of love and kindness, thoughtfulness and many, many prayers are deeply appreciated. May God bless you all.

Bro. Moe and Sis. Alice Schafer

ILLINOIS, PEORIA Lou and Marjean Lonteen

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

John 3:16.

We appreciate our visiting ministers this past month. They were: Bro. Marshall Heinold (Ixtlan, Mexico), Bro. Ron Joos (Pulaski, IA), Bro. Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN), and Bro. Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL). Thank you and God bless you.

They have laid aside their armor
for the robe of spotless white,
And with Jesus they are walking
where the river sparkles bright.
We have labored here together, we
have labored side by side,
Just a little while before me they
have cross'd the rolling tide.
They are calling, gently calling,
sweetly calling me to come,
And I'm looking thro' the shadows
for the blessed lights of home.

*The Lights of Home, #791,
Gospel Hymns*

Deaths:

Irene Coburn (Bro. Bob and Sis. Michelle, Sis. Tina and Heath)
Bro. Walter Merkle (Sis. Margaret Tanner and Bro. John, Sis. Nancy Stoller and Bro. Herb)
Sis. Betty Purdom
Bro. Les Wagenbach (Bro. Don and Sis. Marie, Sis. Jan Blumenshine and Ron).
Sis. Martha Wagenbach (Bro. Don and Sis. Marie, Sis. Jan Blumenshine and Ron).

We extend our heartfelt sympathy and prayers to those who

have had to say good-by to those near and dear to them.

"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Joshua 24:15

Sis. Molly Meister (Bro. Spark and Sis. Rhonda) and Bro. Gabe Stickling (Bro. Ben) announced their engagement. He who began a good work in you will be faithful to complete it with God at the center of your lives and plans.

"O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee."

Psalms 63:1

Erin Aupperle (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Cindy) has made known her desire to walk with the Lord. There is no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey. We rejoice with Erin and her family. We pray God's grace, mercy, and peace will flood your soul, Erin, as we remember you in our prayers.

"He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength."

Isaiah 40:29

Sis. Martha Bittner, Sis. Ardith Herrmann, Sis. Judy Martin, Bro. Francis Meier, and Sis. Rose Staley have endured illnesses recently. We are thankful they are each seeing health improvements.

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Proverbs 22:6

Grace Angela Meister was born on February 7. Thankful parents are Bro. Nick and Sis. Mary Meister. Gabriel Nicholas is happy to have a new little sister. Grateful grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Jane Suttor and Bro. Eddie and Sis. Dana Meister. Great-grandparents are Elder Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marian Hemmer and Bro. Ed and Sis. Bernie Meister.

"That the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me."

John 17:23

God's blessings certainly were with the Jamaican Work Team on their trip in January. The work team included 43 people from 12 churches. Bro. Greg Herman (team leader), and Bro. Ken Hoerr (spiritual leader), worked with CCCD at the Montego Bay Campus. The theme for the week was "Grace". The highlight of the week was the 60-plus deaf children presenting a beautiful program to the group prior to departure. Souls are being changed forever because of this campus for the deaf in Jamaica. Thank you to all those who served God's children.

The Bible Class annual pancake and sausage supper was held at the fellowship hall. The food and fellowship were a blessing. Thank you to all who helped support this project.

Special singers for our monthly hymn sing were the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students. The men's quartet, "Let there be

Praise" ministered to us in song, too. Thank you to each one for your part in a very inspiring evening.

The Peoria congregation welcomes Sis. Taunya Rumbold to our church family.

"As servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart."
Ephesians 6:6

Newly elected Sunday School teachers for the next school year are as follows: Sis. Judy Metzger and Sis. Stephanie Wieland, Bro. Dean Ramseyer, Bro. Tim Reinhard, and Bro. Kyle Scholl. Bro. Ken Ober is the new trustee. Our church supports you in prayer as you teach the students of God's love for each of them.

"With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men."
Ephesians 6:7

On behalf of the Peoria congregation, we extend our thanks to Bro. Peter and Sis. Mabel Weber for their dedicated service in reporting the Silver Lining news for the past six years.

Note of Thanks:

A very gracious and special thank you to all my wonderful brethren and friends. You were so good to me when I had my surgery. Prayers were offered, I received lovely cards, beautiful flowers, phone calls, visits, help with my care, and delicious food. I was overwhelmed by your kindness and compassion. My love and blessings to each of you.

Ardith A. Herrmann

"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen."
Revelation 22:21

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE **Phyllis Knobloch** **Crystal Streitmatter**

Holy Spirit, faithful Guide, Ever
near the Christian's side,
Gently lead us by the hand, Pilgrims in a desert land.
Weary souls for-e'er rejoice, While
they hear the sweetest voice,
Whisp'ring softly, Wand'rer come!
Follow me, I'll guide thee home.
Hymns of Zion #220

We have many loved ones suffering illness or accident recently. During these times, the encouragement, prayers, and visits of brothers, sisters, and friends are helpful and needful. Likewise, the presence of the Holy Spirit gives courage and comfort, even beyond the help of man. Sis. Kathleen Stoller (Bro. William), Sis. Julie Drapper, Raymond Rumbold (Joan), and Bro. John and Sis. Lillian Elsasser are all recovering at this time.

Our sympathy and prayers go out to Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Donna Gehrig and their family in the death of Bro. Kenneth's father, Robert Gehrig.

A baby boy, Camden Michael, was born February 8 to Sarah Streitmatter, daughter of Bro. Alan and Sis. Janet Streitmatter. Our prayers and love are with her as she seeks to care for and raise this child. Great-grandparents are Bro. Alfred and Sis. Virginia Streitmatter and Bro. Bob and Sis. Helen Wiegand (Eureka, IL).

Note of Thanks:

Thank you to all who remembered me at Christmas. The gifts, prayers, and visits to the Home were all appreciated. Thanks, too, for the people who take me to church on Sundays. God bless you all!

Love, Sis. Arlene Knapp

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE **Joan Leman** **Jenell Hodel**

"Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow."

Isaiah 1:18

We had quite a winter storm over the weekend – a lot of blowing and drifting snow. When we awoke on Sunday morning, the wind had calmed, the sun was shining, the sky was blue and the ground was beautiful, covered with pure, white snow. It is such an example of our lives – how we can be in a storm of sin drifting here and there. God's love and forgiveness can calm our hearts and speak peace to us and leave that pure, cleansed heart through the blood of Jesus Christ.

We were thankful to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of four precious souls on January 25-26. We welcome Bros. Jared Stoller, Travis Leman and Samuel Sauder and Sis. Olivia Wuethrich to the family of God. May the Lord ever bless them and encourage them as they walk this path of life with Him.

There were many visiting ministers with us this month and we

appreciate each one. They were Elder Bros. Chuck Hemmer (Peoria), Mike Leman (Denver), Art Metz (Silverton) and Tom Klotzle (Altadena) and Bros. Walt Herman (Princeville), Ralph Garber (Morton), Mike Rieker (Peoria), Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington), Greg Lehman (Wolcott) and Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park). Our prayers are with them that they will be blessed for their service to us.

We rejoice with Bro. Matt and Sis Jennifer Feucht as they welcome Joshua Matthew as their firstborn son. His grandparents are Bro. Randy and Sis. Carol Feucht and Bro. Bob and Sis Mardel Dotterer (Rittman).

Our prayers are with those who have spent time in the hospital this past month. They are Sis. Anna Bradle, Sis. Ruth Scherer, Sis. Jane Schumacher, and Bro. Rich Fehr. May God grant them healing and strength and may they feel the prayers of their church family.

Our prayers are also with the family of Donald Leman as he passed away on February 17. May the Lord comfort his wife, Sis. Pearl; his children, Russ and Sis. Joan, Bro. Don and Sis. Colleen, Barbara and James Ely, Alice and Gary Mical, and Delores; and his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

Heather Rassi

LaVonne Wagenbach

We were blessed with many visiting ministers last month, including Elder Bros. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) and Gerry Hertz

(Sabetha, KS). Other ministers were Bros. Brad Gudeman and Gary Endress (Bradford, IL), John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Jon Zeller (Morton, IL), Dave Oberghel (Peoria, IL), Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL) and Matthew Rassi (Chicago, IL). May they be blessed for their labors of love.

We rejoice with three newly married couples. Bro. Michael Rassi (Bro. Curt and Sis. Kathy) and Sis. Carman Kaiser (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Marcia); Bro. Tom Haas (Joe and Doris) and Sis. Lisa Koch (Bro. Dan and Sis. Julie); and Bro. Lucas Gudeman (Bro. Brad and Sis. Teresa, Bradford) and Sis. Diana Beutel (Bro. Fred and Sis. Jeannette). We wish them God's blessings as they begin their new life together.

We are happy to welcome three new brothers in faith. Our new brothers are Nicholas Sauder (Bro. Gregg and Sis. Cindy), Craig Koch (Bro. Earl and Sis. Marsha) and Bradley Huette (Bro. Dave and Sis. Susan). We rejoice with our new brothers and their families.

Andrew Dale was born to Bro. Kevin and Sis. Tammy Schaefer. Mary and Emily helped welcome their brother home. Grandparents are Bro. Maurice and Sis. Marge Schaefer and Bro. Gene and Sis. Joyce Strunk (Morton, IL).

Our dear Bro. Albert Aberle was called Home on January 29. Our prayers are with his wife, Sis. Emma; daughter, Sis. Mary Jane (Dean) Leuthold; and son, Duane (Barb). Bro. Al was also the grandfather of Sis. Gwen Leuthold of Nashville, TN. Bro.

Al was not able to assemble with us for quite some time, but we look forward to a wonderful reunion with him in Heaven.

The engagement of Bro. Tim Ropp (Ken and Joyce) and Sis. Jenny Sauder (Bro. Howard and Sis. Janice) was made known to our congregation. We wish them God's blessings as they make their wedding plans.

We welcome Bro. James and Sis. Brenda Fehr and their children, Larissa, Kendall, Lynelle and Klayton to Tremont. We feel privileged to have them worship with us.

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

Marcia Koch

Dianne Wyss

Safe in the arms of Jesus,
Safe on His gentle breast,
There by His love o'er shaded,
Sweetly my soul shall rest.

Our Bro. Bill Wiegand has gone to his heavenly Home. We shall miss him and pray for our Father's comfort to his wife, Sis. Lorene, and his family. We also pray for God's nearness for Bro. Don and Sis. Marie Wagenbach and their family as Bro. Don's parents, Bro. Les and Sis. Martha Wagenbach, have gone to their eternal reward within a few weeks of each other. It is a blessing and a comfort to know that they are "Safe in the arms of Jesus."

We thank our visiting ministers, Bros. Greg Lehman (Sis. MaryBeth, Wolcott, IN), Doug Wagenbach (Sis. Lillian, San Diego, CA) and Craig Martin (Sis.

Terri, Princeville, IL).

Our Sis. Ida Pfaffmann spent time in the hospital this past month as well as our Bro. Bob Prather (Sis. Marlene). May they both receive the blessed gift of restored health.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Tiffany Aschliman
Elizabeth Aschliman

"Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment."

Matthew 22:37-38

We rejoice this month with Bro. Lester and Sis. Martha Heyerly as they celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary. We are thankful for their continued service for the Lord.

Our congregation has also been blessed with several new babies this month. Little Delaney Joy was born to Rob and Jenny Fosnaugh on January 21. Delaney joins her sister, Darci, at home. Her grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Carmon Bertsch.

Bro. Dan and Sis. Bethany Dubach (Prescott, AZ) welcomed their firstborn, Adelaye Elaine, on January 23. Her grandparents are Bro. Ken Dubach, Jody and Jodi Holloway, and Bro. Jim and Sis. Rowena Furrer (Prescott, AZ).

Hunter Anthony was born into this world on February 5 to Ryan and Brandy Aschliman. His grandparents are Sis. Carla Girod, Jack and Judy Girod, and Bro. Ralph and Sis. Rosie

Aschliman.

Bro. Kris and Sis. Heidi Reinhard rejoiced in the birth of their daughter, Lydia Suzanne, on February 6. Lydia joins sister, Julia, at home. Her grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Suzie Fiechter and Bro. Ken and Sis. Ann Reinhard.

We also rejoice with three young men who have decided to turn their backs on the world and serve Jesus as their Saviour. They are Zach Reinhard (Bro. Gene and Sis. Dar), Brandon Geisel (Bro. Chuck and Sis. Marcia) and Dustin Ringger (Bro. Ked and Sis. Shelley). We pray that their walk with the Lord may be fruitful.

Our prayers are with several in our congregation who have spent some time in the hospital this month. They were: Bro. Denny Gore, Sis. Marie Gerber, Sis. Dorothy Fiechter, and Bro. Charles Fiechter (Sis. Maxine).

Our congregation had the opportunity to hear the Word brought forth from three visiting ministers this month. They were: Bro. Nile Bucher (Sis. Phyllis, Bluffton North), Bro. Jeff Thames (Sis. Brenda, Washington, IL) and Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North).

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Barb Pfister in the passing of her sister, Phyllis Mann, on January 16. We are also prayerful for Bro. Harry Longenberger (Sis. Devona) and Bro. William Longenberger (Sis. Betty) in the death of their sister, Helen Redding, on February 2.

We are thankful for four young souls who were baptized this

month. Bro. Aaron Gerber (Bro. Darryl and Sis. Jinny), Bro. Shaun Leman (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Val), Sis. Amy Gerber (Bro. Greg and Sis. Joan) and Bro. Clint Gerber (Bro. Greg and Sis. Joan) shared their testimonies and were baptized this past month. We ask God's direction and blessings as they continue in their walk with Him.

"For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil."

I Peter 3:12

INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Tiffani Schladenhauffen
Ann Meyer

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

St. Matthew 11:28

Greetings of love from Bluffton North. May our Christian fellowship with one another warm our hearts on these cold winter days. We are rejoicing to have a convert, Philip Bertsch, who is seeking the Lord in repentance. His parents are Bro. Lonnie and Sis. Becky Bertsch. May he learn the riches of God's grace.

We were blessed this month to have Bro. Ron Kipfer (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Ben Manz (Junction, OH) visit and share God's Word with us. We really enjoy visiting ministers.

Elder Bro. Ron Messner

(Washington, IL) came on a Saturday and shared a presentation on the Apostolic Home for the Handicapped at Morton, IL. We appreciated learning more about what the Home offers and how it functions.

Our Sis. Nora Gilliom heard the Master calling her Home, at age 86, on February 3. She will be missed at church and especially by her sister, Sis. Vi Isch (Bro. Roger) and several nieces and nephews.

"For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the Lord..."

Jeremiah 30:17

We're thankful that Bro. Vic Gerber (Sis. Julia) is better again after undergoing heart surgery. We hope Sis. Carolyn Gerber (Bro. Bill) also heals quickly from her knee surgery.

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Pam Huber

"Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them."

Psalms 139:16

What a comfort to know God sees the plan of our life before we were even born. Bro. Ben and Sis. Deana Cook welcomed baby Isaiah Robert into this world on January 24, along with sisters, Michaela and Megan. Sis. Debbie Cook and Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet are thankful as grandpar-

ents. We rejoice with you and pray you may see the day when your little son would follow God's will for his life.

We "rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep" (Romans 12:15). Two in our congregation's extended family have left this life behind them recently. Ralph Rohloff of Francesville, the uncle of our dear Sis. Donna Westfall (Bro. Karl), passed into eternity. Also, Sis. Linda Beer of Milford, IN, the mother of Sis. Sherri Huber (Bro. Gene) and daughter to Bro. Elmer and Sis. Emilie Anliker, has gone on to her eternal reward. Our hearts ache with you at your earthly loss and we pray you find comfort in God's strength and love in the days ahead.

Our Sis. Betty Huber has had hip surgery and is recovering well, for which we are all thankful. We look forward to seeing her in church again and pray her recovery continues as such.

Bro. Joe and Sis. Esther Gray have temporarily moved to the Pulaski Health Care Center to receive more specialized care. We hope they feel comfortable there and pray it is a healing time as well.

It was a joy to have our Bros. Jim Rinkenberger (Bluffton, IN) and Chris Wuethrich (LaCrosse, IN) and their families with us this past month. May God bless you as you continue to serve the Lord in this way. It blesses us more than you may ever know!

INDIANA INDIANAPOLIS Sandy Lichtle Gail Bradford

"And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes..."

Ezekiel 36:27

A crowd of witnesses gathered in January to hear the testimony and observe the baptism of a new brother in Christ, Bro. John Waibel. John said that the loving example of family members and friends helped encourage him to make his commitment to the Savior. Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) and ministering Bro. Dan Kilgus and Bro. Alan Schambach (Remington, IN) rejoiced with John's parents, Bro. Clyde and Sis. Mary Sue Waibel and all who were there.

Daughters and mothers spent a happy time together at a recent mother-daughter tea. The Bible tells us of the blessings of love between parent and child. These occasions celebrate that bond.

At the annual business meeting the following were elected to join others already serving the congregation in important ways: Bro. Jerry Leuthold - trustee, Sis. Karen Aeschliman and Sis. Sue Levy - kitchen committee, Bro. Ken Martin - usher, Bro. Greg Baumgartner - sound system, Bro. Lee Hoffman - missions coordinator, and Sis. Gail Bradford - Silver Lining correspondent. There is much joy and precious fellowship in shared tasks.

In a recent sermon, we heard a minister state that attending church is an act of humility. We

come empty and needy, and leave filled with the good news of the gospel. Each time we worship together, we hear God's Holy Word, gathering strength against the ever-increasing worldly turmoil that surrounds us.

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea..."

Psalms 46:1-2

INDIANA, LACROSSE **Eric and Bobbi Ann Heinold**

When we walk with the Lord
In the light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds on our way.
While we do His good will,
He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.

Hymns of Zion #186

On February 8, we gathered to hear the Conference report. We wish to thank Elder Bro. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kansas City, MO) for helping Elder Bro. Curt bring us the conclusions from the Elder Conference.

Sis. Andrea Schneider (Bro. Dale) was hospitalized briefly last month and we are thankful for her recovery. Megan Heinold (Bro. Glen and Sis. Sandy) had minor surgery and is doing well.

We rejoice with Emily Elcock (Bro. Keith and Sis. Ruth) as she has recognized her need for repentance. May God bless and strengthen her as she learns to

trust in Him.

INDIANA, LEO **Ethelyn Schlatter**

March:

Even though the winds still blow,
the buds will soon appear,
Then we look for the fruit, even so,
our lives fruit should bear,
As the Lord commanded us.

"Herein is my Father glorified
that ye bear much fruit; so shall
ye be my disciples."

John 15:8

"Now ye are clean through the
word which I have spoken unto
you. Abide in me, and I in you. As
the branch cannot bear fruit of it-
self, except it abide in the vine; no
more can ye, except ye abide in
me. I am the vine, ye are the
branches: He that abideth in me,
and I in him, the same bringeth
forth much fruit: for without me
ye can do nothing."

John 15:3-5

Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN) spent Saturday evening with us to help Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz read the Memorandum from the Elder Conferences. We are thankful for the reminders from the Word and grateful for our shepherds' watchful care. God's blessing on Elder Bro. Dan for sharing his time with us. Bro. Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN) ministered to the congregation on Sunday, February 2. It was a blessing to have him assist on the pulpit. Blessings continued to flow as Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL), Bro.

Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL), Bro. Bob Meyer (Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Larry Bahr (Fort Scott, KS) all visited this month accompanied by their families. The messages were very inspirational and we thank the Lord for bringing them to us.

Bro. Gene Stoller has returned to Indiana and is now receiving therapy at Covington Manor in Fort Wayne.

Sympathy is extended to Sis. Lavada and Sis. Imogene Stieglitz, Sis. Joan Stieglitz and her family in the loss of their sister-in-law, Miriam Stieglitz, who passed away on January 28. Her husband was Russel.

Note of Thanks:

I appreciate all the cards and letters I received during my recovery. May the Lord bless you for your thoughtfulness.

Sis. Katherine Norr (new address: 14409 Sunrise Ct., Leo, IN 46765)

INDIANA, MILFORD **Carlton Beer**

Our congregation experienced joy and sorrow in the past month. Seth Beer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie) gave his testimony and was baptized at the West Lafayette church. Regg Beer (Bro. Fred and Sis. Pat) has received peace. He was announced to the congregation to encourage him or help him in any way we can. As the hymn says, it was the grace that taught them to fear and grace relieved that fear. So now we wish them much grace to live faithfully.

Our Bro. Morrie Beer spent some time in the hospital and is now at home making a gradual recovery.

Our Sis. Debbie (Dan) Beer's grandmother passed away. Her funeral was in Phoenix, AZ. She reached the age of 99. She enriched all who knew her by her positive Christian attitude.

We were saddened by the death of Sis. Linda (Bro. Bob) Beer. Our sympathy certainly goes to her husband and family. Three children survive: Bro. Brent (Sis. Pam), Sis. Sherri Huber (Bro. Gene) and Sis. Sonya Beer. She was a wonderful asset to our congregation and had a very positive Christian influence in the community.

We welcome Sis. Tricia Wuthrich back to Milford. Tricia has spent several years using her talents at the Galilean Home. She will be a help to us with her cheerful nature and her love of children.

We were blessed and encouraged by several visiting ministers: Bros. Mark Gerber, Jim Rinkenberger and John Reinhard (Bluffton, IN) and Virgil Metzger (Chicago). We also had Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington, IN). It is so helpful to know that others have the same faith as we do and care enough about us to come and minister to us.

Rick and Kathy Holderbaum were blessed with a baby girl on February 7. Baby Heidi Daniele has a brother, Jacob, and a sister, Sarah.

We were sorry that Sheryl Piper suffered a broken leg and has not been able to assemble

with us for a few weeks. We look forward to her recovery and we certainly look forward to her being back with us.

Sis. Sue Bowerman received word of the death of her sister who lived in Hawaii. We hope both Sis. Sue and Bro. Bob feel our sympathy and love.

Note of Thanks:

We want to thank each of you for your outpouring of love, prayers, and concern for us during Linda's illness and death. We praise God that she is now at home, safe in the arms of Jesus.

Bob Beer

Gene and Sherri Huber and family

Brent and Pam Beer and family

Sonya Beer

INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Beth Virkler
Rochelle Ward**

"Blessed is he that considereth the poor; the Lord will deliver him in the time of trouble."

Psalms 41:1

A group from Remington took their turn at the Bluffton food packaging on January 30. Despite the cold, it was inspiring to know that many turned out to help those in need, for that truly is our duty while here on earth.

In a similar effort, our young group at their last potluck took the time to tear sheets for World Relief. May they each feel God's blessing for their caring attitudes.

A special thank you to Bro.

Matt Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago, IL) for sharing with us at our topical Bible study. The topic "Maintaining a Godly Home" is one we all need to work hard at. Thank you again, Bro. Matt, for your kind instruction.

Our sincere sympathy goes to Sis. Charlene Getz (Bro. Eldon) and family at the passing of her sister, Sis. Linda Beer (Bro. Bob, Milford, IL). May the comfort of God supply their every need.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**Samantha Gramm
Kara Beebe**

Haste, while yet His grace is offered;

Waste no time in worldly thought;
Now begin your pilgrim journey,
Cleansed from ev'ry stain and spot.

You will find by faith, revealing
Full redemption in His blood;
For each sinner there is healing,
Baptized in this cleansing flood.

Zion's Harp #52, vs. 4

We rejoice with Rachel Selof as she has found grace to overcome the evil one and now expresses that she has found peace with God and man. May the Holy Spirit continue to be with her as she eagerly awaits baptism.

We are thankful to God as yet another engagement was announced in our small congregation. Bro. Caleb Schafer (Bro. Scott and Sis. Gigi) and Sis. Laura Kipfer (Bro. Lynn and Sis. Val, Bluffton North, IN) believe the Lord has brought them together and are anticipating a May wedding. We pray that they will feel the Lord's blessings and guidance

as they prepare to be joined as one in the Lord.

Kirk and Celise (Frank) Beckham welcomed home a healthy baby girl, Adre Rose. She joins her two older sisters, Mia and Remy. Grateful grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Carolyn Frank.

We marvel at God's continued grace and goodness to us. May we ever be truly thankful for all He has done for us and continue to shine our lights in this dark and lost world.

INDIANA, VALPARAISO **Edward Lester**

Greetings and grace be unto you. The Valparaiso church held its annual meeting on January 29. As a result, I was asked to provide the monthly articles for the Silver Lining. We would like to thank everyone who served the Lord faithfully in his or her positions and welcome those that will take on new responsibility.

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

Psalm 23:6

On February 9 we had the pleasure of hearing God's Word from Bro. Todd Feller (LaCrosse, IN). Later, Bro. Todd and Sis. Karen joined us for our annual supper and singing. A wonderful time was had by all who attended. We were also blessed with the Word by Bro. Ron Bollier and Sis. Edie (Indianapolis, IN).

INDIANA **WEST LAFAYETTE** **Diana Houston** **Nettie Haab**

"Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered."

Psalm 32:1

We enjoyed a blessed weekend February 1-2 as we heard the testimony and witnessed the baptism of Seth Beer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Connie). Elder Bros. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN), Ray Sinn (Sis. Ann, Latty, OH), and Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville, IN), and Bros. John Reinhard (Sis. Pam, Bluffton, IN), Robert Meyer (Sis. Ann, Bluffton North, IN) and Dan Beer (Sis. Deb, Milford, IN) along with many other visitors were with us to welcome Seth into our fellowship.

We were happy to hear the engagement of Sis. Amber Heimer (Elder Bro. Kent and Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO) to Bro. Tim Lehman (Elder Bro. John and Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) and pray God's blessings on them as they prepare for their life together.

Our prayers are with Sis. Diana Houston as she has spent time in the hospital recovering from surgery.

A special thank you to our Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN) and Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Sis. Suzanne, Fairbury, IL) for bringing us the Conference report.

Once again we are indebted to our visiting ministers who so faithfully come and bring the inspired Word of God to us. They

have been Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Sis. Francis, Wolcott, IN), and Bros. Ron Kipfer (Sis. Linda, Bluffton, IN), Ron Bollier (Sis. Edie, Indianapolis, IN), Kenneth Weerts (Sis. Myrna, Cissna Park, IL), Andy Moser (Sis. Diane, Valparaiso, IN) and Randy Gudeman (Sis. Becky, Francesville, IN).

INDIANA, WOLCOTT **Luann Gerber** **Heidi Bahler**

We feel very thankful to our Heavenly Father for His Spirit to guide us in finding two new ministers for our congregation. Joining our Elder Bro. Alfred, Bro. Gene and Bro. Greg on the pulpit are Bros. John Lehman (Sis. Ruth) and Dale Banwart (Sis. Missy). We lift them and their families up in prayer as they take on this important work for the Lord. Thanks to Elder Bros. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville, IN) and Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN) for coming on a Sunday evening to help in this endeavor.

Another reason to rejoice was hearing the testimony and witnessing the baptism of Brittany Gerber (Bro. Bob and Sis. Luann) the first weekend of February. What an encouragement to hear of God's peace in her life, and may He be her strength as she goes onward in the light of His love. Ministering Bro. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City, IA) was here for the occasion. Also serving us recently for a topical Bible study was Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago, IL) who spoke on the Christian Home.

Submitting to surgery was Bro. Gene Lehman (Sis. Verna). It is so good to see him in church and doing well, surely a sign of the Master's healing touch! And He was merciful to our Sis. Erica Blume (Bro. Brent) and baby Dustin, in sparing them of serious injury during a car accident. We so appreciate the Lord's protection!

Our heartfelt sympathy to Sis. Merri Schieler (Bro. Dave) and family after the passing of her sister, Dee Murray (Indianapolis, IN), and also to Sis. Shirley Furrer (Bro. Irv) and family since the death of her sister, Sis. Linda Beer (Milford, IN). We pray God's comfort will be with you each in the days ahead.

The winter Elder Conference was held in Bradford, IL. We trust each shepherd who attended felt God's inspiration and gentle guidance to care for His sheep.

IOWA, BURLINGTON

**Lana Metzger
Brenda Schulz**

Greetings! This month Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall came down for our annual meeting. Sis. Sandy Schaer is our new Kitchen Committee member, and Bro. Bob Kuntz is our new Trustee.

We also had two visiting ministers. Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Taylor, MO) and Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA) were here one Sunday. We thank them for coming and may God bless them according to their labors.

IOWA, ELGIN Gloria Frieden Heidi Butikofer

"...He saith unto the snow, be thou upon the earth..."

Job 37:6

Here in the "Little Switzerland of Iowa" we are finding the snow shovels being put to good use. Though we may not appreciate the cold temperatures and undependable road conditions, we have to admit that in it's pure whiteness it brings a spectacular beauty that can only come from God our Father.

As I see this beauty of whiteness out my window, I am reminded that God can also put this pure whiteness within us. In the Psalms we read, "...wash me and I shall be whiter than snow." How many out in the world today are resorting to drugs, alcohol, etc. to cover up their problems or to help them cope with struggles and disappointments instead of just humbly seeking God's help, grace, mercy and forgiveness? Only He can give this perfect peace and make the heart whiter than snow.

One of our converts, Sharla Schneider (Bro. Charles and Sis. Sue), has completed her R.N. training and has moved to Flagstaff, AZ, for employment. We certainly miss Sharla, but have confidence that she is following the Lord's direction. Sharla's address is:

1912 N. San Francisco St.
Flagstaff, AZ 86001

We rejoice with Bro. John and Sis. Janet Schupbach at the birth

of their grandson, Nolan Thomas Reutter (Bro. Derreck and Sis. Darla - Rockville, Connecticut) on January 22nd.

Our thanks to Elder Bros. Leroy Messner (Winthrop, MN) and Wayne Fehr (West Bend, IA) and also to Bro. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA) for sharing with us the reading of the Memorandum. How much we need these loving words of encouragement. May God's Spirit ever abide with our beloved Elder body as they care for their flocks and also the leaders of our nation as they make decisions that affect so many, in these most trying times.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE Willa Clark

"As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

Romans 10:15

We are so thankful for visiting ministering Bros. Glenn Funk (Wichita, KS), Clark Stoller (Gridley, IL) and Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO) and their families who traveled many miles to preach the gospel of peace and bring the glad tidings this month. May God bless each one.

IOWA, IOWA CITY Diana Butikofer

"Ring the bells of heaven, there is joy today for a soul returning from the wild."

Tabernacle Hymns #202

We are thankful that Erica Bruellman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Teresa, West Bend, IA) has turned her life to the Lord. We will continue to offer our prayers on her behalf as she finishes her education at the University of Iowa.

We send congratulations to Ryan and Beverly Eland (Bro. Brad and Sis. Joyce, Rolando and Cresencia Ello, Port Charlotte, FL) as they were married last weekend. We pray they will continue to seek God's will in their lives and strive to live for Him each day.

We appreciate Bro. Gene Metzger's (Sis. Dolores, Lester, IA) willingness to serve on our pulpit last Sunday as he used the talents the Lord gave him even as he shared this parable with us.

IOWA, LESTER
Dawn Knobloch
Dawn Metzger

The weekend of January 25-26, many from our congregation traveled to West Bend, IA, to hear the testimony and witness the baptism of Bro. Cory Leman. We trust he will let his light shine and be a witness for Jesus.

Sis. Julie Knobloch and Bro. Nick Schmidt (Winthrop, MN) are engaged and planning a March wedding. Their parents are Bro. Melvin and Sis. Wilma Knobloch and Bro. Verle and Sis. Jamie Schmidt (Winthrop, MN).

Sis. Emma Meyer had a short hospital stay this month. We hope that she is feeling better again.

Our congregation has two new babies this month. On January

30, Kirk Franklin was born to Bro. Brad and Sis. Gloria Moser. Welcoming him home are Tyler, LaChelle, and Heather, along with grandparents, Bro. Ezra and Sis. Marie Knobloch, and Bro. Frank and Sis. Verna Moser. Bryna Grace Knobloch came into a loving family on February 5. Bro. Travis and Sis. Kathy are her parents and her sisters are Tyra, Kiana, and Dayra. Bryna's grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet Knobloch, Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie Heinold (LaCrosse, IN) and Sis. Zelma Knobloch is her great-grandmother.

It is always wonderful to share news of new converts. Dustin and Michelle Knobloch have heeded the call to repentance. We certainly pray for them as they begin to walk according to the Word of God in true obedience.

Bro. Rex Frieden was our visiting minister on February 16. We thank him for being with us and sharing the Word through the inspiration of God.

Sis. Gail Hartter will be finishing Sis. Jill Meyer's term as Sunday School teacher. We wish to thank Sis. Jill for her service and give our support to Sis. Gail.

On January 24, Bro. Bill Wiegand (Washington, IL) passed from this life into eternity. Those who grieve this loss in our congregation are his daughter, Sis. Marjorie Feucht, and her husband, Bro. Ray, along with his granddaughter, Sis. Jeanette Feucht. We extend our sympathy to the family of Bro. Les and Sis. Martha Wagenbach of Peoria, IL. This husband and wife went to their reward within a few weeks

of each other. Bro. Les passed away on January 27 and Sis. Martha on February 17. Family members in our congregation are Emily and Ruby Feucht, Sis. Emma Gerber, Paul and Jo Feucht, Bro. Raymond and Sis. Marjorie Feucht, Sarah Feucht, Sis. Emma Feucht, Sis. Martha (E.A.) Feucht, Sis. Martha (Gus) Feucht, and Bro. Phil and Sis. Donna Mogler.

IOWA, OAKVILLE
Melody Steiner
Debra Wagenbach

We rejoice with Bro. Dan and Sis. Amanda Frank on the birth of their first child, Isaac Steven. Isaac was born on February 18 and is a welcome addition as grandchild number two to Bro. Dale and Sis. Tina Frank and a first to Steve and Barb Mark of Mediapolis. We have been blessed with several new babies in our congregation. May God bless our new parents as they trust in Him to raise their precious little children in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

Note of Thanks:

Thank you for the many cards, letters, gifts and good wishes you have shared with me. It is truly a wonderful, heartwarming feeling to know I have so many caring and thoughtful friends. I'd like to thank my wonderful family for making my 90th birthday celebration so memorable. God bless you all.

Bro. Richard Anliker

IOWA, PULASKI **Katrina Knobloch**

"Show me thy ways, O Lord;
teach me thy paths."

Psalm 25:4

We are very thankful that Bro. Tim Hohulin (Sis. Cathy, Roanoke, IL) shared God's Word with us this past month. May God bless him and his family for their willingness to travel here to share God's Word.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Jamie Townsend (Danny and Sis. Lynn) as he has announced his engagement to Jan Lynch and they are planning a spring wedding.

Our sympathy goes to Bro. Dave Wiegand (Sis. Mary) and family in the loss of their father and grandfather, Bro. Bill Wiegand, from Washington, IL.

IOWA, WEST BEND **Lori Skoglund** **Berniece Banwart**

The wise counsel of the Elder Conference was brought to us this past month with the assistance of Elder Bro. David Graf (Sis. Barbara, Akron, OH). It will be well with our souls if we apply this encouragement to faithfulness in our lives.

Heartfelt convictions were shared during the testimonies of our dear converts who were then baptized and are our dear brothers in faith: Cory Leman (Bro. Dale and Sis. Lezlee), Greg Fehr (Bro. Dan and Sis. Eunice), and Kent Fehr (Bro. James and Sis. Sharon). Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA)

shared in the responsibilities at this blessed event. Also assisting in different capacities were Bros. Leland Plattner (Zapata, TX), Floyd Frieden (Sis. Jan, Elgin, IA), and Rod Bajema (Sis. Twyla), Wes Moser (Sis. Esther) and Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky), all from Lester, IA.

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

Hebrews 11:1

Relying on faith, Bro. Jaylin Dahlhauser (Bro. Ken and Sis. Ellen) and Sis. Anne Schmidt (Bro. John and Sis. Paula) took their vows as they became one in Christ on February 2. May their home be full of godliness and contentment. Sharing this special time were several ministering brethren: Bros. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN), Don Gudeman (Sis. Mary, LaCrosse, IN) and Tom Schambach (Sis. Connie, Elgin, IL). We have been blessed with so many visiting ministers and we want to extend our heartfelt appreciation to each one.

Sis. Rosene (Bro. Clifford) Grimm and Lynn (David) Petersen were short term hospital patients. Many of our loved ones have suffered various illnesses and we are thankful when they can again worship with us.

Bro. Les Wagenbach (Peoria, IL) recently passed away. We extend our sympathy to his brother-in-law, Ervin (Nettie) Banwart, along with several other relatives from our congregation.

JAPAN, TOKYO **Jana Klaus**

Greetings from Japan! It has been nice sharing the duty of writing this article with Sis. Marie. A big thank you to her and I do believe a change in writers was appreciated by all.

As for news, February is typically a slow month here, but this year was different. First of all, on February 9 we were blessed with another visit by ministering Bro. David Steffen (Elgin, IL). He had a very busy work schedule, but came many hours to worship with us. We thank him for his labors of love to us here where we have few visiting ministers.

Then, our Elder Bro. Akito Inoue went to the States to attend the winter Elder Conference held in Bradford, IL. It was his first time there, and on a personal note, Bradford is where I was raised, so I was very happy he could be in our beloved church there and see the area where I grew up. On the particular Sunday he was there, many of the congregation were gone to a wedding and he was told the gathering of only 50 some was very small. But, he commented that it seemed large to him as he is used to 20 some here in Tokyo! Thank you to our dear Bradford brethren for kind hospitality to all.

We were very thankful Bro. Akito arrived back safely on February 21 with news of a blessed Conference, but what a shock to him to hear upon returning of the death of Bro. Uchida-san, who faithfully attended our Shioda church for many years. He passed

away on February 19 at 89 years. Even in the midst of a non-Christian family and community, he had a very strong faith in the true and living God and was not ashamed of it. He had a very giving heart, and will be fondly remembered and missed by many here and in America. His funeral service on February 22 was very peaceful and the message of hope and joy in the midst of sorrow for a believer in Christ Jesus was strongly brought out by our ministering brothers here. Please join us in praying for his family, that his firm faith in the true God would be passed on.

Just one day after that funeral, we were shocked to hear of the death of Mrs. Nagahashi, 69 years old, and a friend who had been attending our once-a-month ladies meeting at church. Sisters Marie and Onoda-san attended that funeral, and what a contrast – no message of hope and joy and such deep sadness of the family. How it tears at our hearts and once again vividly reminds us of the urgency of telling the salvation story of blessed hope and joy. May we all strive earnestly to be doing for the Lord that which will matter eternally.

KANSAS, BERN
Lori Baumgartner
Sally Strahm

Amazing Grace, how sweet the
 sound

That saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost but now am found,
 Was blind but now I see.

Waymer Esslinger (Pauline)

has realized his need for repentance. We are so thankful and pray God will be with Waymer as he starts his journey with his Lord and Saviour.

First-time parents, Bro. David and Sis. Shari Edelman, are thankful Kari Marie arrived safely on February 6. We rejoice with them and pray God will be with them in raising their blessing from Heaven. Grandparents are Bro. Nathan and Sis. Marlene Edelman and Elder Bro. Don and Sis. Eileen Braker (Kansas City, MO).

We likewise rejoice with Bro. Matthew and Sis. Helen Edelman that Natalie Rose arrived safely on February 10. Excited siblings are Marvin, Diana, Marissa and Shari. Grandparents are William and Helen Fehr (Forrest, IL) and Bro. Fred and Sis. Joann Edelman. (Bro. Fred was able to share a few days with his new granddaughter before his passing.)

Words cannot express the sympathy we have for the family of Bro. Fred Edelman who passed away on February 16. We pray God will comfort and stand by their side in the days ahead. Our prayers go to his dear wife, Sis. Joanne, children and grandchildren. His children include Dwight (Vicki) Edelman of Sabetha, Bro. Matthew (Sis. Helen) Edelman, Sis. Janie (Bro. Mark) Waldbeser of Cissna Park, IL, Roger (Michelle) Edelman of Sabetha, Ronnie (Stephanie) Edelman of Morrill, KS, Bro. Alan (Sis. Wendy) Edelman of Fairbury, IL, and Sis. Cynthia (Bro. Todd) Fehr. We likewise

send our heartfelt sympathy to his siblings and the rest of the extended family.

Our hearts rejoice when two souls, led by faith, have been drawn together to become one in the Lord. On January 26, Bro. Timothy Lehman (Elder Bro. John and Sis. Connie) was announced to Sis. Amber Heimer (Elder Bro. Kent and Sis. Jan) of the Taylor, MO, congregation. Bro. Timothy, formerly from the Bern congregation, is employed in the Kansas City area so he attends the Kansas City, MO, congregation. Sis. Amber is currently attending school in West Lafayette, IN.

A wedding reception was held for Thatcher and Anne Reist at the home of Thatcher's parents on January 18. Parents of the couple are Dave and Marci Reist of Highland, KS, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hanzlick of Colby, KS. We wish this couple God's blessing on their marriage.

Our visiting minister this month was Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Deb, Denver, CO). We appreciate his willingness in bringing to us the true Word of Life.

We gathered with the Sabetha congregation to hear the Memorandum on January 25. The Elder brothers giving us many kind exhortations were Bros. Gerry Hertzell (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha), Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield, OH), John Lehman (Sis. Connie) and ordained deacon Bro. Galen Rokey (Sis. Nancy). May we as a body of believers be encouraged to press onward and strive aright as we

would do that which would be pleasing to the Lord.

Our Elder brothers met in Bradford, IL, for the mid-winter Conference in February. As many prayers were offered on their behalf we pray that they felt the unction of the Holy Spirit guiding them and directing them.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT **Ruth Bahr**

Last month I inadvertently left this out: the Sunday School children gave a moving Christmas presentation adapted from Hurlbits Story of the Bible and from St. Luke Chapter 2. An adult group stood at the side and sang appropriate songs with the children as the story progressed.

Serving on the pulpit were Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL), Bro. Bill Emch (Sis. Susan, Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Bro. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend, IA). Our sincere thanks goes out to them.

KANSAS, KIOWA **Jenny Stewart** **Laura Wagenbach**

Spending time in the hospital during the past month were Sis. Alice Tanner and Joshua Stewart (Bro. Kelly and Sis. Jenny). Sis. Alice remains in the hospital and needs our loving prayers for strength and health. Joshua broke his arm during recess at school. He is taking it easy to let the healing process begin.

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Proverbs 22:6

Tyler Van was born on November 26, 2002, to John and Shawna Schupbach. His grandparents are Bro. Kent and Sis. Darcy Kisling and Roger and Janet Robison of Kiowa.

Chandler Ray was born on January 29 to E.O. and Kristen Flavell. He is welcomed home by brother Brayden. His grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Gay Farney of Kiowa.

We held our annual business meeting this past month. We would like to thank the brothers and sisters who hold positions and the responsibilities they have undertaken for the congregation.

We appreciated having a visiting minister among us. Bro. Arnold Gerst (Taylor, MO) shared the Word of God with us. We want to thank him for his labors and the precious message to us all.

KANSAS **LAMONT-GRIDLEY** **Eileen Bahr**

I was shocked that I was elected correspondent – when you're 72 years old and your memory never has been good especially with names, I wonder "why" when there are younger people. So please forgive me if I goof up!

We missed Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) when he came for mid-week services as Rudy and I took the "longest vacation – 2 ½ weeks" in our 48 years of marriage. God's mountains are magnificent but I'm glad to be driving at the edge of the Flint Hills!

Bro. Ivan and Sis. Ada Beyer celebrated their 60th anniversary quietly on January 28. Sis. Ada is fighting cancer.

Elder Bros. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) and Lawrence Luthi (Lamar, MO), and Bros. Max Reimschisel (Wichita, KS), Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS) and Jeff Bahr (Kiowa, KS) blessed our February 8-9 weekend when we heard the testimonies of Aaron and Marie Luthi, son and daughter of our Elder Bro. Jay and Sis. Jane Luthi, and joyfully greeted them as our brother and sister in faith. Each soul is precious, especially in a small church.

KANSAS, SABETHA **Jeanette Plattner** **Mary Kay Wenger**

Our annual church business meeting was held on January 21. As we listened to the reports and updates from the past year, we can all certainly say that we are a blessed people. With prayerful hearts, we sought out brothers and sisters to fulfill the various responsibilities in our congregation. We thank all those who have completed their terms and give our support to those who will give of themselves in the upcoming year.

We wish to thank Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) for assisting with the presentation of the Conference Memorandum on January 25. We also offer our sincere thanks to our neighboring Bern servants, Elder Bro. John Lehman and Bro. Galen Rokey, for their willingness to help with the responsibility of reading this important letter.

May the many warnings and instructions that we heard be an encouragement as we strive for our heavenly goal.

Finally, we remind the Sabetha congregation that April is the month for our annual Silver Lining collection.

KANSAS, WICHITA

Emma Miller

Bro. Tim and Sis. Barbara Zimmerman (Lamont-Gridley, KS) spent Sunday, February 4, with us in Wichita. We appreciate the fact that they were willing to sacrifice the time and effort to worship with us. Bro. Tim shared the pulpit duties with our ministers here. Then, on February 16, Elder Bro. Jay Luthi and Sis. Jane and their family were present. We in the Wichita congregation had the privilege of greeting their two children, Aaron and Maria, as brother and sister in faith for the first time. We know that driving to Wichita means getting up earlier than usual on Sunday morning and getting home later than usual in the afternoon. Thank you, not only to Bro. Jay, but to his family as well, and to the Zimmermans.

Bro. Cory and Sis. Jodi Metzger and little Harrison have purchased a home at 4800 North Glendale, Belle Aire, KS 67220. Belle Aire is a suburb northeast of Wichita, therefore their telephone number remains the same as it was at their Lulu Street address.

We are rejoicing with Sis. Kathleen Gallatin in that her daughter, Laurie, is home on a six month assignment from her work

in South Africa. We are happy to see her in church and to witness her getting acquainted with her two nephews.

KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON

Glenda Neukomm

On January 31, Brianna Emily was born to Bro. Tom and Sis. Elaine (Baltic) Hill (Mansfield, OH). We rejoice with Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty Baltic as they are grandparents again. May the Lord richly bless this little granddaughter who has been added to their family.

Our ministering Bro. Lester Huber had a fall this month, breaking his left leg. We pray for the Lord's healing and patience for a good recovery.

Saturday evening, February 1, we had a farewell for Sis. Tricia Wuthrich. She is a nurse and has been working at the Galilean Home in Liberty, KY, for the past three years. As she moves back to her home in Milford, we will surely miss her, but pray the Lord will richly bless her for the many labors of love here in Kentucky. That evening we also did a World Relief project, packing school kits for school children. Everyone received a rich blessing as we worked together.

On February 15-16, the Lexington area was paralyzed by an ice storm. Many were without power for most of the week. The following weekend, February 23-24, a World Relief team arrived in Lexington from Tremont. They helped do clean up work on Saturday, removing fallen trees and limbs from elderly folks' homes, yards and

driveways. We appreciated their willingness to come and serve. A group of young people from La-Crosse and Francesville came also and joined us for a potluck and singing Saturday evening at the church. We enjoyed a blessed weekend.

Ben and June Huber's son, Jonathan, is serving in the marines and left this month for Kuwait for six months. We covet your prayers for him for the Lord's protection and safety during this time.

Bros. Dale Frank (Sis. Christine, Oakville, IA) and Dan Koch (Sis. Julie, Tremont, IL) were our visiting ministers for February. We are so grateful for their coming to bring us the inspired Word of God. It is our prayer the Lord will richly bless them.

As many of you may be traveling, we extend a welcome to you to visit us in Lexington. Please contact Bro. Lester Huber (859) 745-2541 or Bro. Jan Neukomm (859) 273-8574.

MEXICO, IXTLAN

Penny Stahl

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

Colossians 3:17

We joyfully welcomed Sis. Sandy Leman into our congregation this past month. Sis. Sandy recently completed her Physician Assistant degree and is working with the local doctors here in Ixtlan. She will have the opportunity to provide for physical needs

of the people here, as well as be a light for Christ.

Meet Bro. Javier Avina:

My name is Javier Avina (Salvador and Sis. Luz Avina). My twin brother and I are 19 years old and the youngest of nine children. My mother and two sisters are also members of our church. I live with my parents in Corea, which is about one mile from Ixtlan. I have been attending church since I was a child. My initial experiences were in Sunday School. The Bible stories and activities captivated my attention and I was always eager to return the following week.

My mother and sisters became converted in my early teenage years. The lifestyles of my father and brothers were in sharp contrast to those of the church members. It was obvious to me at that time that I wanted my life to reflect the love and joy I saw within the church. I was 17 years old when I started repenting. Although I had refrained from becoming involved in the activities of my brothers, I knew that I was a sinner and needed to repent. I was baptized on January 20, 2002.

As I continue in my Christian walk, I am still faced with temptation and at times it is difficult. The examples of the Christians around me provide much support. I also lean on the Holy Spirit and the promises in the Bible for help. I want to see all my family and friends come to know Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour, so I realize my example is important.

"And may God meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:19

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Sarah Knochel
Janelle Ramseyer

Safe in the arms of Jesus,
 Safe on His gentle breast,
 There by His love o'ershaded,
 Sweetly my soul shall rest.

Hymns of Zion #218

In the past month the Bay City congregation experienced the departure of several loved ones and the illness of many others. We pray that each of them will find themselves "Safe in the Arms of Jesus".

Millie Wackerle was called Home in January. Our prayers are with her family, especially her husband, Clyde, and son, Doug, that the Lord would be their Comforter and faithful friend.

Sis. Marie Waibel was called Home this month after a lingering illness. Our thoughts and prayers are with her children, Eugene, Mark, Joy (Don), Jill (Ron) and Ned, and also her grandchildren, and great-grandchildren as they adjust to her passing and look forward to meeting her again one day in Heaven.

Our prayers go out to Bob (Sis. Maureen) and Ron (Jill) Weiss as they have lain to rest their mother, Mary Weiss. May God continue to walk with them and comfort them in their sorrow.

Several from our congregation have spent time in the hospital this past month. We pray that the

Lord's healing powers will be with each of these dear ones, Clinton (Sis. Lula) Meier, Sis. Eleanor Munsel, Bro. Earl Ramseyer, Sis. Sue (Bro. Derrell) Steffen, Clyde Wackerle, Bro. Sam (Sis. Lorraine) Wackerle, Sis. Esther Waibel, and Bro. Jerry (Sis. Lois) Wieland.

In the midst of heartache and sorrow, our congregation also rejoices at the birth of Hallie Grace Jackson. Hallie's parents are Bro. John and Sis. Peggy Jackson. Grandparents rejoicing in Hallie's birth are Bro. Richard and Sis. Yolanda Jackson and Bro. Bill and Sis. Carol Waibel. May the Lord be near unto Hallie and protect her as she grows in the nurture and admonition of her Heavenly Father.

Alan Schlatter (Vicki) has professed peace with God and man. We are thankful that the Lord is still converting the hearts of men and look forward to welcoming Alan into the brotherhood.

What glorious state, to be a lamb
 of Jesus,
 To feel the faithful Shepherd's loving grace.
 In all the earth there is no higher standing
 Than this, to follow in the Saviour's ways.
 What all the world could never give,
 A lamb of Jesus from its Shepherd will receive.

Zion's Harp #16

MICHIGAN, DETROIT
Krista Wieland
Jamie Bahr

We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein and Sis.

Linda (Francesville, IN) to share the Conference letter with us. How thankful we are to see the willingness of our shepherds to submit to the Holy Spirit's leading. We were uplifted by their exhortations and trust that God will continue to draw His children together.

Our sympathy goes to Bro. Guy and Sis. Rose Wieland in the loss of his sister, Marie Waibel (Bay City, MI). She was also the sister-in-law to Sis. Perseda Wieland. Bonnie and Ernie Jermo are also mourning the loss of his mother, Clara Jermo, a resident of Woodhaven.

As the Lord takes life away, we also have recently experienced the blessings that He promises as He gives new life. Carson Lohrman Moilanen was born to Todd and Jennifer Moilanen on January 14. He is welcomed home by siblings, Chase and Taylor. Grandmother is Kay Moilanen.

Bro. Tom and Sis. Cindy Hitz and Bro. Scott Bahr (Sis. Jamie) have returned home safely from a week-long trip to Port-au-Prince and Puit Sales, Haiti. The choir also traveled this month, spending an enjoyable weekend in Elgin, IL.

The Detroit Church is eagerly anticipating hosting a Homecoming Reunion for all those who previously lived and/or worshipped in the metropolitan Detroit area. The weekend is June 7-8. Please join us in acknowledging God's blessings for 25 years at the Livonia location and for 55 years in the metropolitan Detroit area. The Saturday meal is at 5:00 p.m. and the Sunday meal is at 2:30

p.m. Please R.S.V.P. by May 1 for meals and/or overnight accommodations by contacting Bro. Randy or Sis. Sue Gasser at (734) 261- 9000 or:

rsgassser@juno.com.

Earlier this month the 5-12 grade Sunday School students came together for an evening of World Relief Activity. Over 100 health and education kits were assembled for underprivileged students living on one of the Caribbean islands. The cloth draw string bags were handcrafted by Sis. Ella Schlatter.

Plans are underway for the Woodhaven Retirement Community's 15th Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. That event is scheduled for Saturday, April 12, at Woodpointe at 1:30 p.m. and will include a Spring buffet. We so appreciate our many volunteers and look forward to honoring each and every one who has helped in any way with activities and/or outings, church services, and/or hymn sings, choir benefits and/or musical entertainment or as a member of the Board of Directors. Your spouse is also welcome and encouraged to attend. Please let one of your local Board members know by April 1 if you are able to attend.

The Vacation Bible School Committee has set the week of June 22-28 for Summer Vacation Bible School. The Directors this year are Sis. Pamela Gleichman and Sis. Kristine Krieger. Other committee members include Bro. Keith Beyer, Sis. Amy Hodel, Bro. Dana Knochel and Sis. Kelly Ramseyer. We invite you to pray for God's continued blessings on

their endeavors.

MINNESOTA MINNEAPOLIS Diane Stewart

Our Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Sis. JoAnn) faithfully visited our congregation again. God bless him and his wife for their steadfastness in serving.

Two new babies recently brightened everyone's lives. Especially blessed are Aric and Rae Lynn Leenerdts. Koye Albert arrived October 14. Bro. Bob and Sis. Rosella Metzger (Lester, IA) and Allen and Bonnie Leenerdts (Hills, MN) are the happy grandparents.

Little Anthony Duane, born December 18, joins the family of Bro. Duane, Sis. Bonnie, Adrian and Allison Rocke. Delighted grandparents are Bro. Curt and Sis. Beth Rocke (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Norman and Sis. Lola Young (Fairbury, IL). God bless these families and their new additions.

We're so thankful Sis. Brenda Messner is again regularly assembling with us after being hospitalized.

For 2002 our congregation grew by three births, one baptism and two souls are in repentance. We still have plenty of room to grow in all ways, with God's grace.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS Katie Koehl Cheryl Messner

We are grateful to the visiting ministers who shared God's Word with us. They were Bros. Dale Wulf and Rod Bajema (Lester, IA)

and Bro. Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN).

Our best wishes to Howard and Edna Goll in the birth of their first grandchild, Blake Ryan. However, sadness was mixed with this joy as little Blake's twin brother, Noah John, died shortly before birth. Parents are Chad and Melanie Solvie. Our prayers are with this family.

On February 9, Bro. Matt Koehl and Sis. Katie Messner were united as one in the Lord. Our prayer for this dear couple is that the Holy Spirit will ever dwell in their hearts, granting heavenly wisdom and guidance. Parents are Bro. Beirne and Sis. Joyce Messner and Bro. Karl and Sis. Marilyn Koehl. Ministering Bros. Darrel Stoller (Bern, KS) and Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN) were present for the weekend. We appreciated their words of exhortation.

We offer our love and sympathy to Sis. Linda Wulf (Bro. Jerry) in the passing of her father, Raymond Ebnet.

Sis. Verna Schaefer (Bro. Anton) and Bros. Gene Schmidgall (Sis. Dorothy), Leonard Wulf (Sis. Vi) and Leo Dogotch (Sis. Thelma) were hospitalized this month. We must pray for those with bodily afflictions and be thankful for the blessing of good health.

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Marilyn Messner
Ginny Stoll

As our Elders gathered for the mid-winter Conference, many prayers were offered for God's wisdom in these troubled times.

We are so thankful God has provided faithful brethren to be shepherds over His flock of believers.

We rejoice with the angels as Shayla Messner (Bro. Dean and Sis. Wanda) has found peace with God and man. May she continue on the narrow way with grace and peace from God above.

The engagement Sis. Julie Knobloch (Bro. Meff and Sis. Wilma, Lester, IA) to Bro. Nick Schmidt (Bro. Verl and Sis. Jamie) was announced. May the peace and love of God reign in their hearts as they take this step of faith in the Lord.

Our hospital and surgical patients this month were Bro. Paul Messner (Sis. Jan), Sis. Sophie Miller, Ann Lind (Dan), and Sis. Marilyn Messner (Bro. Bill). May each one feel God's healing hand.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY
Garry and Marty Rokey

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

John 1:1

We are thankful to our Creator for the preservation of the Word and are very appreciative of brethren who are willing to share the Gospel, the Good News of Jesus Christ, with us. Recent visiting ministers were Bros. John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Burlington, IA) and Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL) and Elder Bros. Wayne Anliker (Sis. Judy, Forrest, IL), Marvin Leman (Sis. Jane, Bradford, IL) and Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Cham-

paign, IL). We are also thankful for the local ministers who Sunday after Sunday and Wednesday after Wednesday break the Bread of Life with us. Glory be to God for the wonderful privilege of assembling together around His Holy Word.

On February 1, Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Don Braker in the reading of the Memorandum. We are reminded of the loving epistles written by the Apostles and pray that the efforts by our Elder brethren can be blessed by our Lord.

Our annual business meeting was held January 26. We pray for the Lord's guidance for the following newly elected brothers and sisters: Bro. Brent Kellenberger (Sis. Beth) for Sunday School; Sis. Joan Fehr (Bro. Joe) also for Sunday School; Bro. Ron Strahm (Cindy) for trustee; Bro. Joe Fehr (Sis. Joan) for treasurer and Sis. Janelle Sinn for the food committee.

We were pleased by the recent engagement announcement of Bro. Tim Lehman (Elder Bro. John and Sis. Connie, Bern, KS) and Sis. Amber Heimer (Elder Bro. Kent and Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO). May God richly bless them as they walk the pilgrim journey of life on earth together.

MISSOURI, LAMAR
Becky Marti
Wendy Braker

Bro. Roy and Sis. Judy Braker have received another blessing from God. A son, Brad Robert, was born January 23. He is welcomed home by siblings, Sis.

Carol, Sis. Sarah, David, Ben, Kristi, and Doug. His grandparents are Bro. Raymond and Sis. LuEtta Braker and Bro. Gerald and Sis. Velma Leman (Eureka, IL).

Sis. Vera Frieden (Bro. Rex) was hospitalized this month for surgery. We remember their family in our prayers.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS Betsy Schrenk

May God bless our visiting ministers: Bro. Dave Marquart (Sis. Lori, Taylor, MO), Elder Bro. Charles Sauder (Sis. Miriam, Tremont, IL) and Bro. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL). We thank them and the visitors who accompanied them to worship with us.

Our church was blessed when we visited the Harvester Retirement Home to sing and give a Valentine's gift to each of the 26 residents on February 2 after church. We have large-print songbooks containing the familiar old hymns that we use and hand out to the residents who can see well enough to use them. Many of the residents sing along with us. Their faces were filled with smiles when the children sang "Jesus Loves Me" by themselves. Each gift bag, filled with commonly used personal items and a small box of candy, also had a heart shaped valentine with the following message:

A Valentine From God
John 3:16
"For God so loVed the world,
that He gAve
His onLy begotten Son,
That whosoEver
Believeth iN Him
Should noT
PerIsh, but have
EverlastiNg
LiFE."

We bade farewell in mid-February to Sis. Wendi Mathis, who lived and worked in St. Louis for five years, and was like one of our family. She is now living in Denver. We wish her well in her new ventures.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR Susan Haerr

We extend our appreciation to the Goodfield choir for spending the weekend with us in January and blessing us in song and in fellowship. Thank you so much for your time spent in practice, travel and in just being here with us. May God bless you. Please come back soon!

We were excited to hear of the engagement of Sis. Amber Heimer (Elder Bro. Kent and Sis. Jan) to Bro. Tim Lehman of Kansas City, MO (Elder Bro. John and Sis. Connie, Bern, KS). God bless you as you build a relationship centered on Him. We love you and look forward to your special day in July.

Our visiting ministers in the last month were Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS), Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL) and Bro. Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis, IN). Thanks for taking

the time to be here with us and for blessing us by allowing the Holy Spirit to speak through you.

Hospital/medical patients in the last month include Bro. Keith Pflum (Sis. Tami). We are thankful that you are feeling better, Keith, and pray that God will continue to be with you.

The weekend of February 15-16 was an extra special one here in Taylor. We were privileged to hear the testimonies and witness the baptisms of four of our converts: Bro. Josh Sutter, Sis. Lindsey Yackley, Sis. Heidi Heimer and Sis. Jenae Sutter. It really blessed us to hear how God had worked in each of their hearts to draw them to Him. We continue to pray for each of you and we feel very blessed to have you as our brother and sisters in Christ.

NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Hope Graves

We gathered together in the church basement on February 7 to assemble school kits and roll bandages. We are thankful that in some small way we can fulfill the scripture that Jesus taught saying "When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." (Matthew 25:38-40). Our prayers then go out to our many work teams that travel to these needy areas to provide the people with the goods and

services that we have in abundance. Most importantly, may the light of Christ shine through each one to bring the gospel of salvation to these areas as well. "And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward." (Matthew 10:42)

Our prayers were with the Elder brethren that gathered together for the regional Conference in Bradford, IL. May we each do our part to support them in doing the Lord's work.

OHIO, AKRON **Joyce Gasser**

Our Akron congregation had "Family Night" which also included "the day". Everyone at church was invited. Various projects were worked on during the day, and then a supper was served. There were many projects to do and anyone who wished could have a part in helping with doing something for World Relief.

We appreciate our brothers and sisters in various church offices and duties and thank those retiring, and welcome those coming on:

Sis. Arliss Pamer retires from the kitchen committee and Sis. Judy Gal comes on.

Sis. Michelle Steidl and Bro. Eric Graf retire from Sunday School teachers and Sis. Diana Vidakovics, Bro. Roger Gal and Bro. Tim Schar come on.

Bro. Mike Palitto retires from usher and Bro. Emery Gal comes on.

Bro. Bryon Palitto retires from

Sunday School Superintendent and Bro. Dan Graf comes on.

Bro. Randy Miller retires from a trustee and Bro. Don Steidl comes on.

Bro. Wayne Klotzle retires as delegate for the Home for the Handicapped and Bro. Glenn Greenbank comes on.

Sis. Lynell Palitto retires from the World Relief Activities Committee and Sis. Carolyn Miller comes on.

Sis. Joyce Gasser retires from the Nursing Home auxiliary and Sis. Rosanne Graf comes on, and Bro. Mike Palitto is our Representative for Gateway Woods.

Sis. Martha Palitto (Bro. John) was hospitalized and is recovering at home. We hope for her a speedy recovery.

We appreciated Bro. Jerry Bauman's visit and ministering to us.

OHIO, COLUMBUS **Nancy Banks**

February was a busy month for our little congregation. Our last World Relief meeting of the year was held February 7 and our work was completed, thanks to the help and support of our college students. It is such a blessing to work together for the good of those in less fortunate countries.

The same weekend was our Invite-a-Friend weekend and on Sunday, we had the Mansfield youth group as visitors. Visiting ministers that weekend were Bros. Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH) and Ted Luginbuhl (Smithville, OH).

Other visiting ministers for the month were Bros. Mike

Baumann (Mansfield, OH), Ben Manz (Junction, OH) and Steve Pamer (Akron, OH). We look forward to our visitors so much.

OHIO, JUNCTION **Cindy Schlatter**

With gladness in our hearts we welcome our new Sis. Kari Manz (Bro. Lester and Sis. Karen) and new Bros. William Manz (Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen) and Justin Gherian (Bro. Paul and Sis. Sharon) into the fold. February 8-9 was the weekend that we were blessed as we listened to these dear souls' testimonies and witnessed their baptisms. We thank Elder Bro. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) for being with us on this weekend along with Bros. John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Matthew Rassi (Chicago, IL) and Todd Stoller (Latty, OH). May God richly bless you for your labors.

OHIO, LATTY **Kathy Sinn** **Bonny Wenninger**

On Sunday, January 19, the wedding engagement of Bro. Ross Stoller (Bro. Craig and Sis. Ruth) and Sis. Joy Bahler (Bro. Mark and Sis. Benita, Remington, IN) was announced. We pray that the Lord will lead and guide this couple as they make plans for their wedding and life together.

Bro. Doug and Sis. Bonnie Wenninger became first-time parents this month. Makaela Joy was also welcomed by grandparents, Bro. Larry and Sis. Joyce Wenninger and Bro. Mike and Sis. Pat Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL). We wish them God's

richest blessings as they strive to raise her in the fear of the Lord.

Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL) ministered from our pulpit during the month. We thank him for his visit and trust that the Lord will be his rich rewarder.

We pray for the recovery for Dan Sinn (Goldie) who has spent some days in the hospital during the month. Sis. Emma Jean Stieglitz (Bro. Oliver) was also hospitalized and submitted to surgery. We pray for God's healing hand so that she can again worship with us.

We extend sympathy to Sis. Mildred Stoller and Sis. Florence Stoller for the passing of their sister-in-law.

OHIO, MANSFIELD **John and Marci Pfeiffer**

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

Numbers 6:24-26

Doug Domka (Bro. Dan and Sis. Mary Ann) and Elizabeth Ramsey (John and Dawn) have found peace with God and man and desire to be baptized.

Bro. Tom and Sis. Elaine Hill were blessed with a daughter, Brianna Emily, on January 31. Her grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty Baltic (Lexington, KY) and Bro. Chip and Sis. Sieda Hill.

Bro. Marlin Miller (Bro. Mike and Sis. Norene) and Sis. Tonya

Domka (Bro. Fred and Sis. Connie) were united in marriage on February 2. We ask God's blessings on this union.

We are thankful for the ministers and other brethren who visited Mansfield this past month. Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) and Bro. Art Ingold (Rittman, OH) kindly shared God's Word with us.

Our prayers have been with those hospitalized this past month. We remember Bro. Steve Domka (Sis. Ruth), Sis. Carolyn Sauder, Sis. Becky Vent (Richard), Bro. Bill Green (Herta), and Sis. Alice Graszl (Bro. Frank).

OHIO, RITTMAN **Anna Schar** **Sandy Zollinger**

We welcome Sisters Dorothy and Linda Zollinger back to the Rittman area. Even though a couple of months ago they probably didn't expect to move back to Rittman at this time, we hope they trust that the Lord knew what was to come and what was ahead. May the Lord always prepare our hearts for the future!

You are writing a scripture, a chapter each day,
By the deeds that you do, by the words that you say;
Men read what you write, faithless or true;
What is the gospel, according to you?

—John Hartman

Thanks to our home ministers and visiting minister, Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), for preaching the true gospel to us.

Saturday, January 25, the

brethren from Smithville gathered with us for the reading of the Memorandum. Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH) assisted our Elder Bros. Merle Hartzler and Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) in exhorting us, as believers, to a more sanctified walk with our Lord.

Bro. Marlin Miller (Bro. Mike and Sis. Norene) and Sis. Tonya Domka (Bro. Fred and Sis. Connie, Mansfield, OH) were joined together in marriage on February 2. We wish them the Lord's continued guidance and welcome Sis. Tonya to Rittman.

My apologies as I missed reporting the birth of a girl, Ahna Constanzo, to Tiffany Bauman, on November 29. Ahna has a brother, Madison, to help take care of her. Grandparents are Bro. Allen and Rose Bauman.

On January 17, Jackson Augustus Maag was born to Dennis and Jeanette Maag. Grandparents, Bob and Sis. Martha Maag and Fred and Kathy Troucone are thankful for the safe arrival of their new grandson.

Bro. Bob and Sis. Mardell Dotterer gained a second grandson when Joshua Matthew was born on January 29. Joshua's first-time parents are Bro. Matt and Sis. Jennifer Feucht (Roanoke, IL).

Bro. Tom and Sis. Elaine Hill welcomed their first child, Brianna Emily, on January 31. Brianna's grandparents are Bro. Chip and Sis. Sieda Hill (Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty Baltic (Lexington, KY).

A second son arrived on Febru-

ary 5 to Bro. Gary and Sis. Michelle Stoller. Samuel David has a brother, Ryan, and grandparents, Bro. Bob and Sis. Mardel Dotterer and Bro. Dale and Sis. Jeannette Stoller.

We wish each of these parents a sincere desire to raise their children with godly fear and wisdom, even as we all need desire to carry out the duties the Lord gives to us.

Those hospitalized this past month were Sis. Kathy Ryan (Bro. Jeff), Sis. Helen Kerstetter, Julia Hartzler (Bro. Sam and Sis. Gail) and Sis. Peggy Tieche (Greg). Bro. Jerry Gasser (Sis. Ellen) had surgery on December 30 and seems to be recovering well.

OHIO, SARDIS Terry Zollinger

"Whoso keepeth the fig tree shall eat the fruit thereof: so he that waited on his master shall be honored."

Psalm 27:18

January 19 was our annual business meeting. We are thankful for the brethren who are willing to work for the Lord keeping our church functional. The departing and incoming officers, consecutively, are trustee, Bro. Bob Dotterer/Bro. Milan Indermuhle; usher, Bro. Alan Blough/Bro. Eric Indermuhle; kitchen committee, Sis. Alice Ramsier/Sis. Laura Dotterer; Lead Song Leader, Bro. Bob Indermuhle/Bro. Alan Blough. A new secretary was voted, who is Bro. Bob Dotterer. May the Lord bless each one who serves the Lord unendingly.

"When we see God's wisdom through the unique lens of a child's life, we will be reminded that children are indeed a blessing from the Lord."

—Unknown

"Children are an heritage of the Lord."

Psalm 127:3

Many blessings were received from all when some of the Akron Sunday School visited on the weekend of February 1-2. Saturday afternoon and evening was a time of fellowship, a meal, and a singing afterwards. Then on Sunday, before departure, another meal was prepared. We would like to thank the brethren that brought the group of children, and we appreciate the Akron Sunday School for a blessed weekend. Thank you to the Sardis brethren that helped to make this an enjoyable weekend. May the Lord bless you all.

"The Lord will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing: thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness."

Psalm 41:3

Many have been homebound with illness lately and missed at church services. Two have been hospitalized and are back at home: Bro. Dennis Miller (Sis. Doris) and Ben Zollinger (Kelsey). May the Lord abide and continue to heal each one.

"And the priests and the Levites that were in all Israel re-

sorted to him out of all their coasts."

II Chronicles 11:13

The mid-winter conference was held in Bradford, IL, on February 12-14. We appreciate the Bradford congregation for opening their homes and church so the Elder brethren could meet in like faith. May we be thankful for the ministry and for our own dear Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda). We are thankful Bro. Ken and Sis. Linda are home safe from their travels.

"For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of the birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land; The fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell."

Song of Solomon 2:11-13

It's hard to believe spring is around the corner, due to all the snow we received recently. A winter wonderland with all the snow on the ground and even on the trees which is a sight to see. May we rejoice with the beautiful scenery from God's making and nothing man could imitate. May we also remember Christ's suffering and promise to resurrect in three days. May we look forward to His coming and join Him in heaven and eternal life.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Carrie Stoller
Ruth Gasser**

"For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?"

I Corinthians 14:8

We are grateful that our Elder brethren are diligent to give counsel and admonition to live faithfully amidst the evil around us. Our prayers were with them as they met in Bradford, IL, this past week, and we hope we can always be receptive and supportive.

We thank Elder Bro. Ray Sinn (Latty, OH), who assisted our Bro. Andy and Bro. Merle Hartzler of Rittman in reading the Memorandum in Rittman on January 25. We also appreciate the ministry of Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH) as he visited us in Smithville.

Bro. Seth Miller and Sis. Lori Nester became one in the Lord before many witnesses on January 19 in Lester, IA. Parents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Edith Miller and Bro. Eugene and Sis. Shirley Nester (Lester, IA). We extend a warm welcome to Sis. Lori and pray for the Lord's rich blessing to this union.

Bro. Dean and Sis. Mary Lou Marty became grandparents on January 31 with the arrival of Garrett Allen. Scott and Deana McCune are his parents, and Trent is his older brother. May God bless this family, and may each parent seek His blessing on their little ones.

Sis. Kay Nieman (Bro. Denny) has been hospitalized and is now recovering at home. We pray she

be strengthened by the Great Physician.

OHIO, TOLEDO

**Rebecca Beard
Dee Beard**

"For the word of the Lord is right; and all his works are done in truth. He loveth righteousness and judgement; the earth is full of the goodness of the Lord."

Psalms 33:4-5

Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter visited us recently to share in the reading of the Memorandum. May God bless him for doing the Lord's will in service to our congregation.

"Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Proverbs 23:6

Katelyn Riley was born on February 1 to Jesse and Gina Beard. At home to welcome her in the family are brother, Wyatt, and sister, Brooklyn. Happy grandparents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Geri Beard and Fred and Linda Leshner. We rejoice with them in the arrival of their new little one.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Louisa Gallup

This past month, Bro. Ray Moser (Sis. Barb) suffered multiple injuries in an accident and had to undergo surgery on his shoulder. We are so thankful the Lord protected him from more severe damage. Our prayers for strength and healing are with Bro. Ray and

Sis. Barb during this time of trial.

We are very pleased to have Bro. Denny and Sis. Lori Martin assemble with us again, as they moved back to Oregon from the Rockville, CT, area. May the Lord bless them as they move into their new home in Redmond.

Our thanks to all the visitors who came to Portland this past month. It was, as always, a tremendous blessing to us. We wish to thank the Silverton congregation for sharing their ministers with us on such a steady basis. The following ministering brethren served from the pulpit this past month: Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty), Bros. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie), Harvey Kuenzi (Sis. Jennifer) and Todd Zollinger (Sis. Michele). Your loving support is much appreciated. May God bless you all.

OREGON, SILVERTON

Kelsey Kuenzi

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

Hymns of Zion #46

On Saturday, February 1, we held our annual business meeting. During this meeting, several brethren were called upon to take up duties within the church. Our prayers and support are with Bro. Nick Kuenzi (Sis. Mary) who was elected as a trustee, Bro. Ryan Hari (Sis. Regina) who was given sound system duties, Bro. Nelson Kuenzi (Sis. Lisa) was chosen to be an usher, and Sis. Mary Kuenzi (Bro. Nick) was elected to serve as the head of a dinner com-

mittee. Also announced was the election of Sis. Ann Kuenzi (Bro. Terry) for assistant World Relief sewing coordinator. Many thanks to those who have completed their terms in these positions and for their labors of love on behalf of the Silverton congregation.

We also remembered the Elder brethren this month as they gathered for their winter Conference. Our heartfelt prayers and thankfulness were with them as they discussed the many issues that face our brethren across the land. Let us continue to support them and hold their arms up in faith, believing that God will fight the battle for us.

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

Philippians 4:7

We rejoice this month with Shannon Dettwyler (Gary and Sis. Tami) as she has found the precious gift of peace with the Lord. May the Lord be ever near her as she prepares for baptism, and His peace always found within her heart.

Karl Dettwyler (Bernie and Margaret) and Emma Vachter (Joe and Liz) recently announced their engagement. They are planning to be married on September 27. We wish them God's blessings as they prepare to join their lives in marriage.

This month we had a few within our congregation in the hospital for surgery. Our prayers for God's healing are for Paul Jensen (Marie) and Sis. Cindy Metzger (Bro. Dale and Sis. Chris

Metzger from Lester, IA). Our prayers are with Bro. Clarence Dietrich (Sis. Bess) in his continuing recovery from surgery.

PENNSYLVANIA PHILADELPHIA

**Nathan and
MaryElizabeth Gasser**

This month we rejoiced with our Bro. Adam Luginbuhl (Daryl and Sis. Norma) as he and Sis. Jami Walter (Bro. Jim and Sis. Juanita; Fairbury, IL) were joined in marriage in Fairbury, IL, on February 23. Many from our congregation were able to attend and share this blessed occasion with them. We wish them God's richest blessings as they begin their new life together, and we look forward to welcoming Sis. Jami into our congregation.

We also had opportunity to partake in Holy Communion this month, and thank Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Croghan-Naumburg, NY) for being with us and serving us in this way. We always welcome the opportunity to reflect on our Lord's life and death, and to join in unity as a congregation and as Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

We were also pleased to have many visitors this month despite the cold and snow! We were grateful to have Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI) visit and share the Word with us and invite all who would be traveling out east to join us in worship.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE Mike and Monica Fritz

We are thankful that Sis. Gwen Leuthold came safely

through surgery and is recovering well. Our prayers are also with Sis. Gwen and her extended family over the recent loss of her grandfather, Bro. Al Aberle (Tremont, IL).

The Lord has richly blessed us from His Word, so ably brought to us this last month by willing ministering brothers: Bros. Jim Ramseyer (Sis. Marlene, Bay City, MI), Ron Heiniger (Sis. Kayleen, Bloomington, IL) and Ed Fritz (Sis. Sally, Washington, IL). We have also appreciated the loving fellowship of many brethren and friends from Rockville, CT; Bradford, Cissna Park, Fairbury, Gridley, Princeville, Tremont and Washington, IL; Bluffton North, IN; Lester, IA; Bern, KS; Bay City, MI; and Junction, OH.

If you are traveling in or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. The following churches are scheduled for services in the near future: Kansas City, MO (3/16), Alto, MI (3/23), Bluffton North, IN (3/30), Indianapolis, IN (4/6), Junction, OH (4/13) and Detroit, MI (4/27). We do not have a visiting minister scheduled for Easter Sunday, 4/20. We also usually meet on Wednesday evenings for a song service. If you are planning to worship with us, please call ahead to confirm our schedule. Contacts are Bro. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928; Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz (615) 952-9933; and Sis. Gwen Leuthold (615) 662-2946.

TEXAS, SAN MARCOS**Carrie Beyer**

While people in other areas may still be experiencing the winter's chill, we're enjoying the gradually warming weather. "For, lo, the winter is past...The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come" (Song of Solomon 4:11,12)! The coming of spring reminds a Christian to rejoice in the power of the Lord, who "[makes] every thing beautiful in his time" (Ecclesiastes 3:11).

Our church wishes to thank Elder Bros. Lawrence Luthi (Sis. Sandra, Lamar) and Bruce Hohulin (Sis. Charlene, Goodfield) as well as Bros. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley), Nile Bucher (Sis. Phyllis, Bluffton North), and Tim Zimmerman (Sis. Barbara, Lamont-Gridley) for serving as ministers throughout the past month. We were also happy to welcome visitors from Zapata, Eureka, Kansas State, Rockville, and Sabetha.

In April, the following churches are scheduled to send ministers to San Marcos: Philadelphia (4-6), LaCrosse (4-13), and West Bend (4-27). (Due to Easter celebrations in other congregations on April 20, San Marcos will not have services that Sunday.) We extend a hearty welcome to anyone else who may be in the area to worship with us.

Please call ahead to help us plan for serving lunch and other activities. If you are available for fellowship on Saturday evening, Sunday evening, or during the week, we'd be happy to plan something then as well. Please see the ministers' book for contact information.

We continue to meet for services at the Quality Inn in San Marcos, TX. San Marcos is located on IH-35, approximately 20 minutes south of Austin or about 50 minutes north of downtown San Antonio. Take Exit #206; the hotel is on the southwest side access road.

TEXAS, ZAPATA**Joyce Nohl**

Oh what a fragrance meets us as we open the door and smell the blossoms on the flowers and fruit trees. We know spring is in the air as we breathe in the sweet fragrance. It puts us in remembrance of God's promise to us for a new life.

Out on to Calv'rys hill,
Where Jesus died I'll go.
To hear the words He speaks,
To see Him in His woe.

Zion's Harp #89

On February 23, we took a trip to Calvary's hill to remember the suffering and death of our dear Lord Jesus Christ. It is good to re-

member the price that was paid for each one of us. Retired Elder Bro. Ken Sauder (Sis. Sue, Mansfield, OH) assisted our Deacon Bro. Leland Plattner in this service.

We continue to lift Sis. Sandra Kipfer (Bro. Aaron) up in prayer as she has been hospitalized and since been battling an illness. We are so thankful that she has been able to assemble with us once again. May she continue to gain strength and we pray for a full recovery.

We bid farewell to Bro. Thomas Schrenk and his wife, Sis. Joan (Athens, AL), as they left for home for another season. May God richly bless you for your service in the Lord while you were here. We pray that God will provide for all your needs and keep you in His care.

May now the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
The peace and love of God,
The fellowship of His Holy Spirit
Abide with us all, Yea, with us all!
Amen.

Zion's Harp #213

Any visitors planning to visit the Valley for Sunday worship may want to contact Bro. Leland Plattner (956) 765-5612 or Bro. Lloyd Nohl (956) 581-8266 for location and schedule.



Sermon continued from page 2

saints;" Ephesians 5:3. Whenever there is a little bit of jealousy coming up within our heart because of some other talent or some other possession or some other thing that somebody else has that we want, be careful. That is not of God. That is a rudiment of the world. That is the deceitfulness of the devil.

God will take care of provoking us to good works. God will take care of that if we do that in the right spirit. But outside of that, it is for good works. It is not for ourselves. It is not for our pride and we need to be able to separate it in our lives. And we all have to fight against it. Crucifying, mortifying our members. Even with the Spirit of God, God warns us through the Apostle Paul that we need that encouragement. Mortifying your members which are upon the earth. One of these is what? Fornication. Illicit, intimate relationships. The lust of the flesh. The lust of lasciviousness. He warns against it.

How thankful I am that we are in a body of believers that strongly insist that we do not have dating within our church. "...make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof." Romans 13:14. Because the flesh is very, very powerful. The flesh has strong desires. The Apostle Paul warns in different places, different times, to the believers, the body is not for fornication. Make no provision for the flesh to fulfil the lusts thereof. And I know our young people hear that, but we need to hear it again. Guard your bodies, which are the temple of the Holy Ghost, against fornication, against lasciviousness, against uncleanness. Not only for our young people, but for all of us, that we keep our bodies pure.

He says, "Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks." Ephesians 5:4. We are here as a people to be sober. Not that we can't smile, not that we can't laugh. Not that we can't enjoy ourselves. But jesting and foolish talking are not to be a part of us at all. Don't let it be what? "...once named among you, as becometh saints;" (or that is good for the saints,

that is uplifting of a saint of God.) Ephesians 5:3

Life is serious. We are to "...walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil." Ephesians 5:15,16. I remember Brother Tom Leman said he believes that God is not against a decent joke. But when somebody becomes the brunt of your joke, then that turns into jesting. And our speech is to be edifying, not foolish talking. So we need to be careful. We need to be warned.

He said, "For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience." Ephesians 5:5,6. In Colossians he does say, "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." Colossians 2:8. "Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances," Colossians 2:20.

Don't let any man spoil you. When we talk about a spoil, we are talking about something that is - when a conquering country went into another country, they spoiled it. It says, don't let any man spoil you through philosophy. Philosophy, I think a lot of times, can be defined as coming to a general understanding through speculative rather than observational means. In other words, you try to reason things through. Rather than from observational point of view. Rather than from actually what is the truth. That is speculation. And that is philosophy. When you philosophy about something, you start using your own reasoning.

Faith does not necessarily go along with reasoning. Most of the time it does not. But through the observation of holy people, through the observation of Christ working in the lives of yourselves and other people, that is where the truth is. Through the observation of

the Word of God. That is the truth! But philosophy is defined as I defined it, when speculating through general understanding of reasoning of man, be careful. Because when we walk on that path, that is not according to what the Lord directs us to do.

He says vain deceit, self justification. Exalting of our own knowledge and our own abilities. So therefore brothers and sisters and friends, humility is always the key. Humility.

He says, "Be not ye therefore partakers with them. For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret." Ephesians 5:7-12. Have no fellowship. Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness.

What is fellowship? How can we have fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness? Having fellowship with them is what? It is communicating with them. Having fellowship with them is being with them. Having fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness can come through person to person. Activities that we partake of. Through communications, through the media. We can have fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness. We can have fellowship with darkness, can't we?

Those of us with television in our home, we can turn it on and have fellowship with darkness. Those of us with radios in our home, we can turn it on and have fellowship with darkness. We can get a book, most of us, maybe out of our bookcase, and have fellowship with darkness. We can do it. He says, have no fellowship with darkness. Sometimes it is very easy in our society, to have fellowship with darkness.

Don't be partakers with them. Hate sin and abhor it. Recognize what sin is. Because we are serving the living God and supposed to be walking in true holiness. We won't see God if we don't.

"For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is." Ephesians 5:12-17. Do we understand what the will of the Lord is? How many of us pray that the Lord would guide us every day in His will? Do we truly understand what the will of the Lord is? The Bible says to understand it. To be fruitful in good works. To be careful to maintain good works. These are scriptural directives. Redeeming the time. Being busy with good things and right things.

I remember Brother Willis Ehnle was exhorting our young people through an exhortation at a Brotherhood Conference. He told the young people to do activities that would be edifying and above all to be above reproach, above reproof. Even if it meant digging a sewer, he said make sure it is above reproach. And beloved, the same with us.

Here are a few items we could be doing. "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; (Singing) Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God." Ephesians 5:19-21. What is another rudiment of the world? It is non-submission. What is another element of the world? It is non-submission. What is another problem in the work place? It is non-submission. What is a problem in the church? It is non-submission. Non-submission. But the Bible tells us, submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

What is another rudiment of the world? Esteeming yourselves higher than somebody else. It is just the oppo-

site in the Word. There are so many good teachings, beloved, that we need to take to heart as a believer in Christ Jesus, right here. May you and I take them seriously in our lives. To think, we sang together what is ten, what is twenty, what is thirty? It said there in thirty about coming into full understanding. (O What Is Mortal, #131 Hymns of Zion.) Well, I think we can come into full understanding before then. The Bible tells us, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom..." Psalm 111:10. "...to depart from evil is understanding." Job 28:28. When we apply ourselves unto that, then we are in wisdom and understanding and it does not matter what age we are.

Here the Apostle Paul was in Derbe and Lystra. "...and, behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timotheus, the son of a certain woman, which was a Jewess, and believed; but his father was a Greek: Which was well reported of by the brethren that were at Lystra and Iconium." Acts 16:1,2. Obviously, even though the Apostle Paul had a number of people turn on him from that first time and they stoned him, yet there was a group that believed. They received the gospel and believed it and stayed with it. Even though there were others that came in and tried to disannul it. Because there was a church there that was growing and Timothy was part of that church. He was of the believers.

That is the way it is, isn't it? Some choose to believe and some believe not. That is the way it was with Christ. Some believed and some believed not. Some went away. It was too hard for them. But God's Word went forth regardless.

I thought it was interesting here in this chapter. It says he was forbidden to go to Asia. He was forbidden to go to Bithyma. The Spirit didn't allow them to do that. "And they passing by Mysia came down to Troas." Acts 16:8. And he was supposed to go over to Macedonia at that time. Now did the word ever get into - "...forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia." Acts 16:6. The word got there but not at that time. There was a calling by God to the Apos-

tle Paul to go this route. And the Spirit directed him at this particular time.

That is the way it is in our lives, I believe, isn't it? At this particular time, at this particular station in life, I am supposed to be here. Maybe it is a student. Maybe it is a mother, maybe it is a father. Maybe I am placed right here. This is my spot for right now. But there maybe will come a time when I will be directed someplace else. But it is very important that we listen to the Holy Spirit. That we pray about these things. That we pray for the Lord's guidance. Because they obviously needed them over in Macedonia and Philippi. And the Word spread there.

Then this jailor: after he cast out the devil out of the damsel and healed her of the evil spirit, he was cast into prison. It says, "...Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them." Acts 16:25. So the prisoners heard Paul and Silas singing praises and praying to God. What a light and what a testimony! Brought on by God through tribulation and through struggle, the apostles were lights to all around about them. There was a jailor there that saw all of this. He saw it. He saw them praying. He saw them singing in the midst of pain and struggle. That jailor, because he saw that, was moved. And what did he ask? Did the jailor have any kind of faith before? Probably not. Didn't know a thing about it. But he came in trembling because it was a conviction. He came in and he said, "...what must I do to be saved?" Acts 16:34.

Our life, walking in truth, guided by the Spirit, through the trials, through the tribulations, through our life, a simple walk, talks very, very loud. And he was able to find his salvation. May that encourage us, beloved. "...be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." I Corinthians 15:58. Let's try to be content, let's try not to ask questions, let's try to be submissive unto the will of God without complaining. Bearing what He has put before us to further His work and to be a fruitful child in the vineyard of the Lord.



Scholarships Available

Gateway Woods offers four \$1,500 scholarships to stu-

dents enrolled in undergraduate or post-graduate work leading to a degree in a social services field (this unfortunately does not include Nursing). The scholarships are available to any member of the Apostolic Christian Church or friend who attends on a regular basis. A description of the scholarship and application are available by writing or calling Bro. Joe Gerber at 888-443-4283. Applications need to be returned to Gateway Woods by June 1, 2003. We encourage all eligible members or friends to apply.



Gateway Woods Building Dedication March 22, 2003

Gateway Woods - Apostolic Christian Children's Home would like to invite everyone to a dedication ceremony for the new Gateway Woods School Building on March 22, 2003, at 1:30 p.m. (IN time). The ceremony will take place at the new school building on the Gateway Woods Campus in Leo, IN. A lunch will be served from 12:15 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. Please contact your local church Representative or call Gateway Woods at 888-443-4283 for more information. This building gives Gateway Woods a greater opportunity to "turn lives around" by the power of God's Word. We invite all to attend!

*My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments:
For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.
Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:
So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.
Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.
In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.
Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil.
It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.
Proverbs 3:1-8*



Mark your calendar to attend:

Tennessee Fellowship Singing (and Auction) Memorial Day Weekend 2003 May 24-25, 2003

(Singing and Auction located at the Apostolic Christian Tennessee Fellowship Area in Southern Tennessee, Sunday Worship Services in Athens, AL)

More details to follow in subsequent issues of the Silver Lining and in your local congregation.

Detroit Homecoming Reunion June 7-8, 2003

For everyone who was ever a part of the Detroit Apostolic Christian Church.

We're gratefully acknowledging 25 years at our Livonia location and 55 years in metropolitan Detroit.

Sat. Meal 5:00 p.m.
Sat. Hymn Sing 7:00 p.m.
Sun. Meal 2:30 p.m.

RSVP by May 1, 2003
for Meals and/or overnight accommodations
By contacting
Sue or Randy Gasser
(734) 464-6245 or rsgasser@juno.com

CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 2002, 2003

All volunteers should contact the project coordinator. Should you not be able to contact the coordinator, for Haiti direct your inquiry to Bro. Tom Hitz, Ph. 734-454-9229, Fax 1-734-454-9259 or E-mail thitzhome@juno.com. For Jamaica, direct your inquiry to Bro. Kevin Sauder, Ph./Fax 309-925-2409 or E-mail ksss@dpc.net.

HAITI					
ORG.	DATE	AREA	COORDINATOR	PROJECT	CAPACITY
SEED	Mar. 13-21, '03	Les Cayes	Bob Beebe	Agriculture Aid	9
Palm Grove	Mar. 28-Apr. 5, '03	Puit Sales	Mike Reinhard	Grade School	11
AWA-FRW	May 8-16, '03	Les Cayes	Rick Wuethrich	Vocational School	4
AWA-T	May 8-16, '03	Les Cayes	Derek Sauder	Water Aid	5
AWA-B	May 8-16, '03	Les Cayes	Bill Rager	Vocational School	2
MEBSH	May 5-23, '03	Les Cayes	Phil Isabel	Grade School	9
JAMAICA					
CCCD	Mar 7-15, '03	Kingston	Terry Miller	Deaf School	40
CCCD	May 23-31, '03	Deaf Village	Ted Hirstein / Kevin Sauder	Work Place	40
CCCD	Jun 28 - Jul 5, '03	Deaf Village	Smithville, Akron, Rittman BC	Work Place	70

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Mike Reinhard	248-477-2287	248-427-0396	mlreinhard@msn.com
Rick Wuethrich	219-567-9488	219-567-2542	topnotch@home.ffi.com
Art Mueller	608-676-4365		

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

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

Attention: Sunday School Superintendents: Now is the time to reserve your place for a 2003 Sunday School work project at the Caribbean Christian Center of the Deaf in Jamaica, which is already filling its 2003 project calendar. We do not want you to be disappointed by not getting the schedule date you want. All interested in scheduling a project should feel free to contact Bro. Kevin Sauder, PO Box 354, Tremont, IL 61568-0345. Phone/Fax (309) 925-2409 or e-mail: ksss@dpc.net.

- NOTICE -

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

**WE DO NOT ACCEPT ZION'S
HARP HYMNALS SINCE WE DO
NOT HAVE ANY PLACE TO DIS-
TRIBUTE THEM.**

Please get your books to us or
the Goodfield World Relief Cen-
ter.

Books are mainly distributed to
India, Philippines, and Africa.

Jerry and Arlene Banwart
307 First St
Congerville, IL 61729
(309) 448-2416

Apostolic Christian Counseling Services

73 East Queenwood Rd,
Morton, IL 61550
309-263-5536 (local#)
309-263-6841 (fax)

877-370-9988 (toll free)

*Counseling for depression, anxi-
ety, relationship problems, etc...*

- Information about mental
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area
- Telephone consultations with a
counselor
- Staffed by professional counsel-
ors and registered nurses
- All calls are strictly confidential

USED EYEGLASSES ARE NEEDED FOR FREE IXTLAN CLINIC

A free eye clinic is being estab-
lished in Ixtlan, Mexico, by Bros.
Dr. Loren Schrenk and Dr.
Bryan Stoller. Used eyeglasses
are needed to support this effort.
Please send your used prescrip-
tion eyeglasses (with cases if
available) to:

Bryan Stoller
817 S. Locust
Pontiac, IL 61764



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
World Relief

At the recent elder conference, the
elder body approved a request for a na-
tional World Relief Office. The staff at
the office will perform the following
duties:

- 1) Perform administrative duties
for World Relief.
- 2) Answer questions concerning
World Relief and work teams.
- 3) Warehouse and ship World Relief
brochures, forms, and literature.
- 4) Provide information and vision
of World Relief to visitors.

Everyone is welcome to contact this
office if they have World Relief related
questions or needs. The office is lo-
cated in the lower floor of the
Remington Fellowship Hall.

Contact Information:
Administrative Coordinator
Stan Virkler

Apostolic Christian World Relief
16448 S US Highway 231
Remington, IN 47977-8822
219-261-3200 (phone)
219-261-3280 (fax)
information@acwr.org (e-mail)

BIBLE DISTRIBUTION

*The Bible Distribution Center which
was formerly in Leo, IN has been
moved to Bluffton, IN.*

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

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

To order, contact,
Apostolic Christian Church
Bible Distribution

PO Box 30
1254 S. Main Street
Bluffton, IN 46714
Phone and Fax 219/824-5587
E-mail: babledist@parlorcity.com

Volunteer Needs For the Navajo Project

There is an immediate need for installers for floor tile, kitchen cabinetry, and bathroom components. Finish carpenters are also needed. Please contact: Bro. Arnold Gerst, 1107 Madonna Dr., Quincy, IL 62305-7149, phone 217-223-8424, or via e-mail: agerst@rnet.com.

Mexico Work Teams 2003

Location	Date	Project	Coordinator	Phone & (e-mail)
Juarez	Mar. 8 - 15, '03	Construction	Kurt Ifer kurt@stevesconstruction.com	260-824-2829
Imuris	Mar. 8 - 15, '03	Construction	Jerry Tooley jtooley@mcdavisco.com	480-460-4531
Agua Prieta	Mar. 8 - 15, '03	Construction	Wayne Lehman socks@bnin.net	574-773-4373
Juarez	Mar. 15 - 22, '03	Construction	Rick Yergler ryergler@yahoo.com	260-824-4513
Agua Prieta	Mar. 15 - 22, '03	Construction	Wayne Lehman socks@bnin.net	574-773-4373
Rio Bravo	Mar. 15 - 22, '03	Construction	Ron Kellenberger kberger@mtco.com	309-383-2325
Juarez	Mar. 20 - 27, '03	Medical	Cheryl Herrmann cherylh@mtco.com	309-385-1082
Agua Prieta	Mar. 22 - 29, '03	Construction	Denis Fry dfry@adamswells.com	480-460-4531
Imuris	Mar. 22 - 29, '03	Construction	Jerry Tooley jtooley@mcdavisco.com	480-460-4531
Rio Bravo	Mar. 22 - 29, '03	Construction	Pete Aberle dpabfrms@hotmail.com	309-925-5969
Rio Bravo	Jun. 14 - 21, '03	Construction	Chad Kaeb gal220@jvlnet.com	815-962-0612
Rio Bravo	Jun. 28 - July 5, '03	Construction	Joe Maller jmaller@adamswells.com	260-565-3211
Rio Bravo	July 5 - July 12, '03	Construction	Timothy Lehman timothy.lehman@ey.com	913-236-5721
Juarez or Creel	Sept. 17 - 24, '03	Medical	Cheryl Herrmann cherylh@mtco.com	309-385-1082

If anyone would desire to go to Mexico at a time not listed on the schedule, please contact Bro. Mike Fiechter at 260-597-7330 or e-mail: mfiechter@parlorcity.com



REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

As he was establishing the new churches, Bro. Samuel Froehlich faced many hurdles. Exiting the State Church was often a perilous venture, and he had to appeal to authorities many times. In this, he articulated his beliefs. He did not relent. Rather, he stood firm and articulated his Bible-based beliefs.

Contending for the Faith

The new believers in Switzerland, having found the new doctrines of repentance and conversion, banded together under the leadership of Bro. Samuel Froehlich. Their common goal was to read the Scriptures, and then follow them in a practical way. They vowed to do this "whatever the cost might be." They were under the watchful eye of the Swiss government, which was one with the Swiss State Church.

On August 24, 1851, Bro. Froehlich petitioned the Aargau government pleading for tolerance. Following are excerpts from Reugger's History of the Apostolic Christian Church, Volume I:

"The Apostle Paul has admonished us that first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions be made for all men; for kings and for all that are in authority that we might through the providence and heart-directing power of God have our wish fulfilled and it be granted to us to lead a quiet and peaceable life, under the protection of the established government, in all godliness and honesty (I Tim. 2:1-2).

We have been of the opinion that we are doing something good and not evil when we follow the apostolic rules. But it is not so; for, although the government should not be a terror to good works but to evil (Romans 13:3), we have been persecuted unceasingly for twenty years, and oppressed, for try-

ing, according to his precept, to lead a quiet life in all godliness and honesty. No one can bring any other charge against us, for we cannot be accused of evil works which the government, as God's minister, must punish.

Might it not please the established government to make arrangements so that we may live a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty?

For we have not always had the power of godliness and to lead an honorable life, but first received it when we heard the good, powerful, and living Word of God, which has become in us a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart, in order to turn us to the living God and to give Him our heart's obedience. This Word of God is become our spiritual mother (Hebrews 4:12-13), whom we duly honor, and in this we would, unhindered, mutually edify ourselves.

If you would reply that there are no hindrances in the way, then we would say: Yes, we are hindered just in this respect, for when we together would edify ourselves in our holiest faith in Jesus Christ our Lord, then we are attacked by the police, persecuted, accused and punished, as if we had done something evil, while at the same time what we ask for is permitted in other Swiss cantons.

Nowhere more than in Canton Aargau is, since 1831, appeal made to an old prohibition, in order to persecute and punish the participants in a Christian meeting. In the abovementioned years a new constitution was adopted which gave freedom of faith and conscience. If the constitutional council had wanted to apply this article only to the Roman and Protestant parties, it would, without a doubt, not have been added to the new constitution, for such freedom was enjoyed

previously without such an article.

But the constitution meant it otherwise, namely, that no one should be forced in matters of faith and conscience, but that everyone would, in this, enjoy the protection of the laws of the land so long as he was a good citizen. If one would apply this freedom only to the Roman and Protestant parties, then the apostolic rule would have no validity any more, in all godliness and honesty. For those who enjoy undisturbed freedom truly do not live in godliness and honesty, but rather in ungodliness and dishonesty.

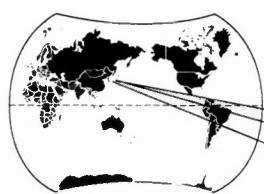
If one would ask and enter into a contest about it, as to which faith is the right and true one, we would answer as the Prophet Elias: 'The god that answereth by fire, let him be god.' That is, over which faith God in heaven answers with His Holy Spirit and with fire, that is the only true faith in our Lord Jesus Christ (Matt. 3:11; Acts 11:16), but the fruit of the Holy Ghost is evident in all godliness and honesty. So we have the true faith, in which the government, without danger, may and should protect and shield us for God's sake. We shall never abuse the freedom of the Spirit as a cloak of maliciousness and for the caprice of the flesh.

With all due respect, we wait for the granting of our petition for freedom of faith and conscience and the mutual edification."

By: Perry Klopfenstein

Next Issue:

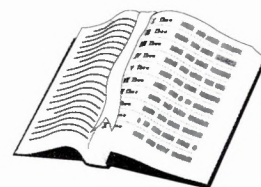
**The Religious Influences
Bro. Froehlich Came Out Of**



The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

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"Helping Others"

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

What is the purpose of our living here on earth? I have considered Revelation 4:11 to be the answer. "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."

We are a part of God's creation so it can be said that we were created for God's pleasure. The trouble is, we have a tendency to try to please ourselves instead of God. Repentance and conversion should cause us to put Him first in our lives. God is not opposed to our being happy. Let's be happy with unquestionably good activities.

If we live for God's pleasure, then we live to bring glory to God, which is included in the above verse. The next question is, "How do we bring glory to God?" One very good answer is, "By living a holy life." However, if we shut ourselves up in a monastery and separate ourselves from the world, literally, it is pretty difficult to be the salt of

the earth. "Ye are the salt of the earth." (Matthew 5:13)

Perhaps you could live in a monastery and be the salt of the earth by what you write, but human contact is better. Nothing can quite take the place of a pacifying tone of voice, the glisten in your eyes as we meet, nor the loving facial expression of love and respect. Somehow, we must "Step out from the surging crowds and make ourselves a master," by God's grace a master of holiness, a master of love and respect, and a master of helping others.

I put forth the hypothesis that the purpose of our living here on earth is to help others. If I understand the Bible correctly, this brings glory to God, and pleases Him very much. That's not all; even the smallest deed of kindness, be it for our spouse, our children, our church family, or someone else, brings such a wonderful feeling of fulfillment to the doer of such a deed. In that sense, "It is more blessed to give than to

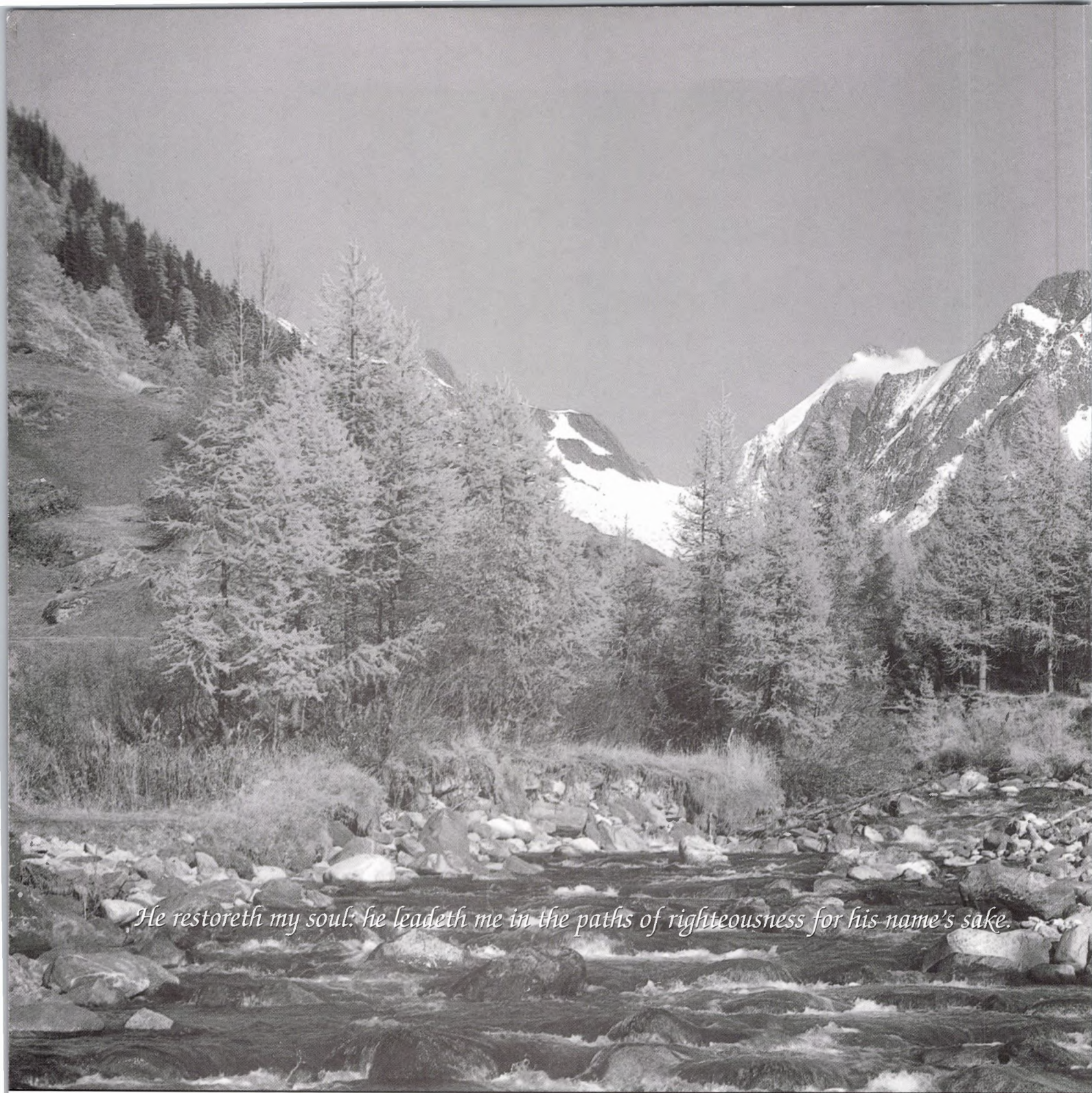
receive." (Acts 20:35)

It behooves us to keep our eyes and ears open for opportunities to help others. If we have such an opportunity and the recipient says, "Thank You," let's respond by saying, "That's what I'm living for; to help others." Our whole church needs to have that reputation. We may not succeed but at least we want to try to help others, spiritually and physically. People are precious in the sight of God.

Now, some of you who are elderly and not in good health may say, "What's he talking about? Others are taking care of me and I am no longer able to help others." In days gone by you have probably helped others more than you realize, and you can still pray, and you can still try to be kind to those who care for you.

May God give each of us the grace to say and to do only those things which are helpful to others. In this way we also help ourselves and bring glory to God.

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He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

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