



The Silver Lining

*Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth:
and the heavens are the work of thy hands.*

April 2003

Sermon by Brother Brian Webb, Fort Lauderdale, FL

Genesis 11:1-9 and Revelation 2

The Old and New Testament dove tail one into another. We look at the Old Testament and we read the story of the tower of Babel. We wonder, well how does that apply to us today? What does that have to do with us here in the Apostolic Christian Church in Fort Lauderdale? What does the building of a tower have to do with our Christianity?

Then we open up to Revelation, and we find how Christ speaks to the church and we find out how the tower of Babel does have something to do with us. It is called the pride of man. It is called man trying to think that he is something that he is not.

In the tower of Babel, what they wanted to do is build the tower to heaven and become as God. God came down and He thwarted that plan. He made their language confused.

We turn in the New Testament and we can read about the New Testament church, and we can see that it is the pride of man that gets us in trouble. What was the intent of the heart of those at the tower of Babel? What was their intent? The intent was probably positive. It probably wasn't a negative intent. It probably was an intent to become - maybe they could see God, maybe they could understand God, maybe it would draw them closer to God. Those are noble types of things that we would say are very positive in the church. And yet it was the pride of their heart that drove them to build that tower.

Loved ones, if we turn to the New Testament and we read about these churches - and we only read about a few of them in this chapter - they had noble deeds. They had things that were very positive. They were very upbeat. But there was something lacking. In every instance, it was the pride of man. The heart did not want to surrender to God completely. The heart of man, the heart of us is we always like to keep back a little bit for us. We don't want to commit it to God.

That is where man gets into trouble. That is why we need a Savior. That is why Jesus walked this earth and experienced everything, loved ones, that we experience. From temptations to trials and tribulations to the suffering death on the cross. He has experienced everything. We just read not long ago, about the temptations of Christ and the things that He was tempted with. Those are the same things that we are tempted with today. It is the

pride of life and the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes that get us into trouble. Whether it is the tower of Babel in the Old Testament in the book of Genesis or we turn here to the New Testament and we read about the churches.

I started the service by saying, what do we take out of the book of Revelation, how does that apply to us today? We think of the book of Revelation as a prophecy. The book of Revelation is a clear warning to the church, what we need to do, how we need to believe, how we need to commit our lives to God so that we are found in righteousness. Not our own righteousness, but the righteousness of Christ.

This is what He says to the church at Ephesus. "I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil..." Revelation 2:2. Here we have a throw back to Job. You know I talk about Job a lot. But here we have a throw back to Job, where it says that Job eschewed evil. (Job 1:1) He did not want any part of it. He abhorred it. It was something that he hated. Here we have a very positive group of adjectives for the church at Ephesus. We would say, if we stopped at verse two, we would say this is a terrific church. This is a church that is on fire. This is a church that is ready to do God's work. Let's continue reading.

"...and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:" Revelation 2:2. They rooted out people who lied in the church. They would not tolerate evil. They would not tolerate sin in the church. Now we say this is terrific. Then we can continue to read.

"And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted." Revelation 2:3. Good works, positive outlook, things going the way we would consider a church to go. And then Jesus says this. This is Christ's words. These are written in red and this is what He says.

"Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love." Revelation 2:4. What is our first love? How do we define our first love? Let's think about it a little bit. When we were sinners and we understood the need for repentance, there was in our hearts and minds the Holy Spirit driving us to repentance. It made us understand that without repentance, without conversion,

we would be doomed to hell. We understood that and we reacted to that by - we call it repenting, because that is what the Bible says. We fell upon our knees to God. We asked for forgiveness. We confessed our sins. We made restitution. We made sure that the church was satisfied with our testimony, not with what we had done, but what God had done in our hearts. We submitted ourselves to baptism and we went about our Christian life.

However, this church was reprimanded.

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)*

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

April 2003

The House of God

"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord" (Ps. 122:1). Entering the House of God should be a special time for all of us. As we enter a building that has been dedicated to the worship of God, we would do well to remind ourselves just how special it is to be able to do so. The Lord reminded Solomon of the sacredness of a house that has been dedicated to the worship of the one true God. "And the Lord said unto him, I have heard thy prayer and thy supplication,...I have hallowed this house,...to put my name there for ever;..." (I Ki. 9:3). Jesus also reminded us of the importance of keeping God's house holy when He said "...Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? but ye have made it a den of thieves" (Mk. 11:17).

What does the House of God provide for us? Do we count it a special privilege to be permitted to enter the House of God? Undoubtedly there are many blessings we receive from attendance at God's House, and while we may not be able to address them all, it would appear that among the more significant are the following: it is a holy place sanctified for worship, a place of comfort, a place of instruction, a place of refuge, a place where we can receive special blessings, and a place where we can feel the examples of the life of Christ.

Many of us who have been privileged to attend the dedication services of one or more of our churches can remember the special feeling that we had as we felt God's Spirit sanctifying, or setting apart, that building for the specific purpose of worshipping God. We knew it was not to be used for entertainment, for business, nor for any other worldly activity. It was dedicated as a holy place that was not to be polluted by the world. As a result of this special sanctification by God, we know that when we enter His house our behavior must be that of a humble, "...meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price" (I Peter 3:4).

The House of God is also a place where one can seek comfort and solace. Hannah, Samuel's mother, was greatly distressed that she had no children. So "...year by year,

when she went up to the house of the Lord..." (I Sam. 1:7), she "...poured out (her) soul before the Lord" (I Sam. 1:15). Eli told her to "...Go in peace: and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition that thou hast asked of him" (I Sam. 1:17).

Anna, a prophetess of old age "...departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day" (Lk. 2:37). Both of these faithful women of God sought solace and comfort in the House of God. Both were rewarded. Hannah was blessed with a son and Anna was permitted to see the Savior.

We, too, can find comfort in the House of God by learning from the experiences of Hannah and Anna. They obviously spent more time in the House of God than was required for regular worship service. To get the full measure of comfort from being in the House of God, we would do well to make sure we are there well before the service begins and remain for some time after the service ends.

If we arrive early, we can enjoy the blessings of quietly communing with God and allowing God to prepare our hearts and minds to receive a blessing from God. Just sitting quietly in the sanctuary for a time before the singing begins can bring a peaceful and calm countenance. If we rush in at the last minute and leave immediately after the conclusion of the service, we will miss much of the day's blessings.

The House of God is a place of instruction. The prophet Micah wrote "...come, and let us go to ... the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways..." (Micah 4:2). As Jesus was being accused by the enemies of His doctrine, He told them "...I spake openly to the world; I ever taught in the synagogue, and in the temple..." (Jn. 18:20). The disciples also taught the Word of God in His house. Paul "...entered into the synagogue, and reasoned with the Jews" (Acts 18:19).

We also have the opportunity to be instructed out of God's Word when we are in His house. When we go to the House of God, do we go with a great desire to learn? Are we hungry? Are we thirsty for His Word? If we think we have no need or if we have no de-

sire, we will gain very little. When the children of Israel were "Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted in them. Then they cried unto the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them out of their distresses" (Ps. 107:5-6).

We can find refuge in the House of God. King Hezekiah was in deep affliction when his enemies threatened him. He "...rent his clothes, and covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the house of the Lord" (Is. 37:1). Just as Hezekiah was able to find refuge, so can we who are seeking to draw closer to God. Jesus told of two men who went to the temple. One went to boast of all that he accomplished. The other went to seek solace and forgiveness. He could only utter seven words: "...God be merciful to me a sinner" (Lk. 18:13). He went to his house justified because he went to the House of God to seek refuge.

In addition to seeking refuge, we can seek a blessing. David in Psalm 122 reminds us of blessings that are available in the House of the Lord. Among the opportunities we have include praying for peace and for faith, giving thanks, and seeking good for others. Certainly it is possible to pray for these things at home or elsewhere, but there is a special blessing in being permitted to seek blessings in the House of God.

A special blessing that we can have from being in the House of God is to fellowship with those who are trying to follow Christ's example and to encourage each other. Paul encourages us in "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together..." that we might exhort one another. As we fellowship together with loved ones of like mind and faith, we are reminded of how fortunate we are to have a brotherhood who cares for us.

There are many reasons why we would want to go to the House of God. Surely there are many reasons that are beyond the scope of a short article. As we contemplate going to church, a place that is dedicated to so great a God as we have, we should look forward to being in a holy place where the Spirit of God dwells, and where we can learn more about the special privileges we have.



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

The Gift of Water

Before wells were common in Haiti, the only source of water for most people was the nearest stream. The same stream was used for drinking water, bathing and washing clothes. A surface source like this is contaminated with harmful bacteria and often with diseases such as typhoid. Under these conditions, many children died from illness and disease that was so easily spread. The doctors in Haiti can testify of the great improvement in the health conditions in areas where wells have been drilled.

For several years, brethren from Tremont representing Apostolic Water Aid (AWA), have helped drill water wells for communities, churches, and schools. The typical well is drilled in either the yard of a school or church or in a central place in the community. A six foot square concrete pad is poured around the well and a hand pump mounted on it. Women and children walk up to a mile with a five gallon bucket or a couple plastic jugs to get water. Many of these wells are pumped nearly all day long. It is rewarding to see their appreciation for a healthy source of water.

Hundreds of wells have been drilled

A Haitian drilling crew manages the day to day operations, drills the wells, and installs the pumps. World Relief provides technical assistance, drilling equipment, and the supplies such as casing and pumps. Pumps are produced by brethren in the Francesville, IN area. Hundreds of wells have been drilled in the Les Cayes area and many doctors report the health of the Haitian people has improved considerably since this

effort was begun. They currently have 2 cable tool rigs, 1 rotary rig, and a set of forms for pouring cement walls in hand-dug wells.

God has blessed the effort in the last couple years by helping the crew to keep a spiritual focus and remembering that they are serving Him by helping their own people. In 2002, twenty wells were drilled and an additional twenty three existing pumps were serviced or replaced. Considering the resources we have to work with, there is a lot to be thankful for. We can testify that when we are trusting the Lord and serving out of the proper motives, the work has been blessed.



Well drilling rig

The role of work teams

We typically send three AWA work teams per year to Haiti to assist the drilling project. The first objective of the teams is to provide technical assistance and training for the drill crew. Second, we repair the drilling equipment and spend time reviewing their future equipment and material needs. Third, we visit wells that have been recently drilled to provide accountability and ensure that our funds are being used wisely.

Looking to the future, there are still plenty of opportunities for us to assist the Haitian people. The focus of new drilling will shift to more rural areas a further distance from Les Cayes. The drilling also

becomes more difficult as much of the effort in early years was put into areas that are easier to drill. In order to make this a possibility, we are in the process of purchasing and rebuilding a newer rotary rig with capability to drill deeper and easier in mountainous terrain. The rig will be mounted on a 4x4 truck to facilitate transport over rough mountain roads.

Opportunities to serve

We have a need for interested brethren to become involved in the project. There is an abundance of mechanical work to be done both here at home preparing equipment for shipment, and in Haiti repairing the existing equipment. Due to the ongoing nature of the project and the specialized equipment, we send a couple of experienced team members on every trip. There is always plenty of maintenance work to utilize the abilities of other volunteers such as mechanics and welders.

We would like to thank everyone who has encouraged us to keep the project going. At times the challenges look overwhelming and it is helpful to be encouraged by those who have seen the results of this project. For those who are unable to become directly involved, your prayers are certainly appreciated. Very little good happens in Haiti without the blessing and provision of the Lord. Working with the Haitian people has reminded us of how we must daily pray for the work.

If you would like further information or have an interest in going on a future team, contact:

Derek Sauder

Tremont, IL

Phone: (309)925-7502

Email Address:

derek.sauder@precisionplanting.com



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN

Mission Committee

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

Being Sent to Mexico

Bro. Marshall & Sis. Jan Heinold
(...continued from last month)

The Vision

The vision for the church in Mexico is to bring the Gospel message to the lost and unreached multitudes to free them from the bondage of sin and false religion. The desire is to nurture the new believers, and then to send out laborers into the harvest. The greatest blessings are the converted lives and reunited families with renewed spiritual focus, which are evident in the church in Ixtlan.

A new facility

Approval was given by the Elder Body at the August 1997 Conference to build a modest church building next to the existing one. World Relief work teams assisted with this construction. The new church building in Ixtlan was dedicated on January 24, 1999. Many brethren and friends participated to bring this about and the building is the center of many activities that are a blessing to everyone.

After the construction of the church, Bro. Marshall wrote, "Truly we have experienced the salvation of the Lord as others turn their lives over to the Lord. We have also seen His mighty hand as His people come together to build a house of worship. The spiritual blessing they brought even surpassed the physical help they provided. The example and encouragement they gave to the men who had started coming to the services cannot be measured in earthly terms. The support we have been receiving financially, spiritually, and in prayer has been a real outpouring of God's love through His people to those here in Mexico. God's

blessings to all of you!"

A new guesthouse was completed in 2001 to accommodate individuals working in this ministry as well as others who are visiting the work. It provides a place for young group activities and to teach English and computer skills. There is currently a need for older mature couples to manage the guesthouse for 2-4 week time periods during the summer.



Guesthouse in Ixtlan

Bringing the Gospel to other areas

The Ixtlan church reaches out into four other communities in the area with Bible studies during the week. People are brought in vans from these villages to the church for regular services on Sunday.

Services are also being held once a week in a house in Morelia (approximately two hours drive from Ixtlan), which was purchased for this purpose. There are 5 members in this area and a group from Ixtlan and a minister go to Morelia every other Sunday.

Employment and training

Bro. Marshall has planted several fields of strawberries to help provide employment for our church people and others in the Ixtlan community. Strawberries are harvested each day (except for Sundays) for about 8 months of the year. This requires much labor and organiza-

tional skill. English and computer classes are being held for young people in the church and in the community.

Medical work

Bros. Loren Schrenk and Bryan Stoller have worked to establish a clinic where eye care services can be provided to those who otherwise would have none. Room for this clinic has been provided in the second floor of the Ixtlan Church.

Some of the people who were treated at the clinic left with tears in their eyes as they said they could see well for the first time in years. People who need help often come to the door of the facility wanting to know when the doctor will be here again.

The blessings

On October 27, 2002 five more souls brought their testimony of faith and were baptized. It was a time of blessing and encouragement for the church. Currently the church has 35 members, one convert and many friends that benefit from this "work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ". Vacation Bible School each year is a wonderful opportunity to invite children to learn to know about the Lord while seeds of faith are planted. This past year there were over 180 children per day in attendance. Young believers from Ixtlan taught the children.

The Mission Committee as well as the Elder Body stands united in support of mission work which follows the scriptural pattern of approved brethren being sent to live and teach the true faith. When brethren follow the pattern established in the Word, the blessings of God come forth.

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED

On a hill far away stood an old rug-
ged cross,
The emblem of suffering and
shame;
And I love that old cross where the
dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was
slain.

Hymns of Zion #168

At times there is much suffering; physically, mentally and emotionally within the walls of our facilities. That suffering is not comparable to the pain and shame Jesus had to bear in taking on all of our sin even though he had none of His own. Don't you just love Him so much for becoming what we were, sin, so that we could become what He is, blameless!

With the return of spring, the timber and surrounding areas here become so beautiful. We are grateful for those who did the initial planning more than 30 years ago for a home for the developmentally disabled. They had the vision to build it in an area where each season puts on a special display. Spring days will bring the planting of flowers in our courtyards, winter coats and mittens are stored away, Special Olympics practice resumes, bikes come out of the garages, and the coloring of Easter eggs.

MAY birthdays at Timber Ridge, 2125 Veterans Road, Morton, IL 61550 are: Yvonne Arbuckle (1), Allison Given (14), Marjorie Feller (30); Ruth Klopfenstein (19), Garth Boyer (26), Raymond Virkler (17),

Marlene Moser (22), Steven Slagel (13), Terry Stoller (6), Jacob Terhorst (22), Judith McRoy (2). At 650 Detroit, Morton, IL 61550: Jacqueline Barton (26). At Oakwood Estate, 2213 Veterans Road, Morton, IL 61550: Kristi Knapp (29).

GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Tim Sauder

"He must increase, but I must decrease." John the Baptist said this in John 3:30 about Jesus as his ministry of preaching and baptism was coming to completion. It's a pretty good reminder to all of us that Jesus should increase as the "I" and "me" decreases in our lives. He is preeminent. (Col. 3:18)

My time as the Administrator of Gateway Woods is coming to a close and Bro. Jeff Schumacher has taken over at the helm. As you may know, I have struggled with serious back problems for years including two major surgeries. In recent months an injury has set me back even further. My wife and I are quite at peace about my change to a different position in Public Relations and Program Development. I am thankful to continue to represent a ministry I know and love.

At our recent Representative's Meeting and School Dedication we held a ceremonial "Passing of the baton". We were reminded that the baton (the ministry) in the only thing that completes the entire course and that we are just stewards and messengers to carry the message of Gateway Woods that is not ours, but the Lord's. I

am thankful to be able to pass on what was never mine in good shape into good hands that will carry it further.

I am also so very grateful to the 164 staff members, 52 Board Members, and hundreds of kids, volunteers, professionals and supporters who made this an exciting and blessed journey. I am thankful for the chance to grow and learn my strengths, weaknesses, and blind spots, and to see how God equipped and provided others to fill my gaps, lift my arms and sharpen my iron over the past 17 years. It's really quite satisfying to see how the home has grown into a stable and responsive multi-service agency.

Bro. Jeff has been with us here in Leo for over 13 years in various capacities and has had a big hand in many of our programs, plans and treatment approaches. In addition, he was our "point man" on the design and construction of our new school, which was recently dedicated on March 22. He knows the service territory and the professional environment and has a vision for the future of this organization. We welcome him to his new responsibilities and will lift him up in prayer as he leads. I'm glad to be on his team.

We had a great day at our Representatives' Meeting in March. We were thrilled at the turn out and with the chance to meet for the first time in our new school. We really need and appreciate the key work our Reps do in the local churches to communicate and encourage support for our various programs and fund raisers.

One major development is the

fulfillment of our "Works Projects" program in Illinois that we have coordinated during the last two summers. This project and the trailers have been turned over to World Relief. Gateway Woods Family Services has served as the catalyst to hasten the growth of this effort to help local needy families to the point that there are now two trailers in IN, one in IL and one coming in OH. Our role is now one of "qualifying" the recipients and following up on their various spiritual and family needs. It's a good fit for our differing gifts and strengths.

Gateway Woods would like to welcome Sally P. to our Residential Program. We would also like to wish Stephanie G. a farewell from our Residential Program and a welcome to our Foster Care Program. We would also like to welcome Bro. Bill and Sis. Cheri Blunier to our Foster Parent team. If you are interested in the blessings of Foster Care, please call Bro. Bill Baumgartner at 888-443-4283 for more information.

We are pleased to announce that two of our Houseparent staff couples are expecting children in the upcoming months: Bro. Clint and Sis. Bethany Plattner (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Erik and Sis. Carrie Wiegand (Goodfield, IL). We are prayerful for them.

Gateway Woods recently hired Bro. Clint Bahler (Remington, IN) as the Summer Volunteer Coordinator. We are looking forward to having him on campus. We would also like to welcome Bro. Brian Knudstrup (Alto, MI) back to our campus as Summer Program Worker. Bro. Brian was the

Summer Volunteer Coordinator last year.

Gateway Woods recently conducted a marriage seminar in Bluffton, IN, and a parenting seminar in Belvidere, IL. We also presented the "Growing Godly Men" seminar in Morton, IL. Each seminar was very well attended and received. If you are interested in having a seminar at your church, please call Gateway Woods Family Services at 309-266-0767.

Gateway Woods also recently made an informational presentation to the Milford, IN, congregation and the churches of Bern and Sabetha, KS. The Gateway Woods Board of Directors has asked the staff to make a presentation in every Apostolic Christian Church in America within the next three years. Call Bro. Joe Gerber at 888-443-4283 with questions.

Be looking for the Spring 2003 Gate Post in April/May. May God richly bless each of you!

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
PRESCHOOL
Athens, Alabama
Melinda Matuch**

Jesus is alive! Jesus is alive!
He died for us and rose again.
Jesus is alive!

We will spend a great deal of time this month teaching the children about the death and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Now, while they are young and open to what we tell them is a wonderful time to help them gain an appreciation for the incredible act of loving selfless sacrifice that we celebrate at

Easter. We want our children to know that Easter is more than bunny rabbits and colored eggs and candy.

A special thank you goes out to all of those who came for the preschool reunion. There were many former teachers and board members who traveled quite a way and we are grateful for their efforts. We had a blessed weekend of fellowship and fun. We enjoyed reminiscing and sharing and looking at photographs. Even though we were here at different times, we share a common bond of love for children and this place that links us all together. It was a wonderful experience to welcome everyone in and to make so many new friends in the process.

We are very pleased that a sister has answered the call to come work here at the Preschool. This reduced the need for teachers from two open positions to one opening. Please pray for us that the second position will be filled before too long. Anyone interested in teaching this next year should contact Bro. Tom Schrenk at (256) 232-0037 or Elder Bro. Bob Walder at (309) 965-2965.

**ALABAMA, ATHENS
Louise Hall**

We are thankful for the efforts of those who visited us this month. We have been blessed with their company often in recent weeks. Bro. Dan Beer (Milford, IN) brought forth the Word on March 9. Other visitors have come from Akron, OH; Remington, IN; Fairbury, Eureka and Tremont, IL.

God has surely kept His hand upon our small flock in recent

weeks during troubling times. Sis. Doris Moore is recovering from back surgery and is able to attend services again. Sis. Louise Haggenmaker (Bro. Ed) has been hospitalized recently.

Milton Ray, Jr., the son of Bro. Milton and Sis. Joyce Ray, is seriously ill in Atlanta, GA. Holly Moore, the daughter-in-law of Sis. Doris Moore, was recently hospitalized. Molly King, the daughter-in-law of Sis. Kat King, was also in the hospital. Goerge Lynn, the father of Bro. Buddy Lynn, is in the Huntsville Hospital.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Louise Haggenmaker whose brother passed away this month.

Please check your calendar! The Memorial Day weekend gathering at the Tennessee Fellowship Center is coming up May 24-25. Everyone is welcome! Please plan to join us!

ARIZONA, PHOENIX **Ron and Ev Hoerr**

"...Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."

Joshua 1:9

Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon Lawson will be moving to Dallas, due to a job transfer. We are thankful the Lord has provided for them, and look forward to their return to Phoenix in the near future. May God watch over all of us.

A transfer to Seattle for work has taken Bro. Bill and Sis. Kathy

Woodruff from our midst. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love!

We have enjoyed the fellowship of Sis. Linda Zollinger since 1962 and Sis. Dorothy Zollinger since 1964. Because it is God's will, we can accept their return to Rittman for Sis. Dorothy's health. Sis. Dorothy went to the nursing home in Rittman on February 14. Sis. Linda will be residing in the home nearby.

Bro. Gaylord Blunier is moving to the Roanoke retirement home after many years in Sun City. We pray God's blessings on our loved ones knowing that "...If God be for us who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31) May we abide in His love forever!

We appreciated Bro. Randy Gudeman (Francesville), Bro. Bill Hodel (Roanoke), and Bro. Art Ingold (Rittman) serving on our pulpit this past month. We welcome your return.

Sis. Julie Hoerr went to Mexico to meet Bro. Loren and Sis. Betsy Schrenk. They were in Ixtlan where she assisted Dr. Schrenk with eye surgery.

Our church fellowship dinner and singing was even more special since we are enjoying many winter visitors. Oh, the warmth and joy of God's love, when it is shared!

Workers are applying paint and installing roof tiles and sidewalks at the Mountain View Villas. We are thankful for all of the progress.

Dear readers in Arizona: If your Silver Lining has an "RP" on the address label, please send

your \$11.00 donation to:

Apostolic Christian Church
9230 N 26th St.

Phoenix, AZ 85028

Thank you, Ron and Ev Hoerr

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT

Jane Hodges

We enjoyed a blessed weekend of fellowship when ministering Bro. Mike Baumann (Mansfield, OH) and his wife, Sis. Florina, came to Prescott on March 15. A church dinner was held Saturday evening and then Bro. Mike shared with us his family's experiences in Europe before they migrated to Mansfield, OH, in 1951. On Sunday, Bro. Mike shared with us the three attributes required by the Lord stated in Isaiah 66:2, "but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word." We warmly thank Bro. Mike and Sis. Florina for their love and service.

We are also very thankful for the rain/snow the Lord has sent to AZ. We have already gotten more rainfall by March than all last year. Our lakes are starting to refill and the desert is beautiful, green and flowering.

ARIZONA, TUCSON

Lisa Knapp

We thoroughly enjoyed listening to many visiting brothers share the Word with us in the past few weeks. Elder Bro. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ) and Bros. Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL), Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL), Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN), Ken Lawson (Phoenix,

AZ), and Michael Baumann (Mansfield, OH) all ministered to us over the last month for which we are so thankful. May God richly bless you and your families.

Our winter visitors are leaving and our numbers will be getting smaller as spring is here. Another sign of spring are the work teams that travel through Tucson on their way to different missions in Mexico. We enjoy having them spend the day with us as they begin a busy and challenging week in Mexico. Our prayers are with them as they travel. We pray God will grant them safe re-entry into this wonderful country we are blessed to live in.

Our thoughts and prayers have been directed again to Bill and Catie Dienst (Bro. Curt and Sis. Caroline Kaufman) as war has officially begun in Iraq as of last night. Catie is stationed 39 miles from the Iraqi border while her husband, Bill, is stationed in Oman. We all need to remember to pray for them and all the men and women who are fighting for our country.

We have enjoyed some wonderful rainfall in the last week and our temperatures have been cooler than normal. We had a very rainy February and March but are still behind on our annual rainfall.

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA
Robin Moser

"But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are

healed."

Isaiah 53:5

How much we have to be thankful for, despite the turmoil in the world around us. We are free from condemnation because He suffered for us. May we each rejoice in our liberation bought at such a high price.

We were blessed with many visiting ministers this month including: Bro. Ron Kipfer (Sis. Linda, Bluffton, IN), Bro. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam, Latty, OH) and Bro. Galen Rokey (Sis. Nancy, Bern, KS). We also enjoyed Bible studies by Bro. Ron and Bro. Galen and are thankful for the effort they put forth to prepare.

Our congregation had many health concerns to pray for this month. We are thankful Sis. Jody Klotzle (Elder Bro. Tom) recovered after her hospitalization for a collapsed lung. We continue to pray for Sis. Judy Crockett (Bro. Bob) as her cancer has spread to other regions of her body. Their family has had other health issues as Bro. Bob Crockett (Sis. Judy) also had surgery on his ear this month. Finally, we continue to pray for Bro. Jeff Luthi (Sis. Shirley) as some recent test results were ambiguous. May God help us appreciate the health we enjoy as we serve Him daily and to always reach out to those who suffer with physical afflictions as well as spiritual trials.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO
Peggy Jevremov

Easter

Oh who among the sons of men,

By word or song or deed or pen,
Can ever fittingly convey
The meaning of this blessed day.
It gilds the holy sacred page.
It brings to every clime and age,
To every people tribe and race
The story of redeeming grace.

Hymns of Zion #89

What a blessed time of year it is as we think of the resurrection of our dear Saviour from the grave. All around us we can see the resurrection of the plants after the bleak winter months. What a marvelous Creator and Heavenly Father we have, who has left us reminders of His love for us in all that is around us.

Our visiting ministers this past month have been Bro. Todd Stoller (Sis. Pam, Latty, OH) and Elder Bro. Leroy Messner (Sis. JoAnn, Winthrop, MN). Bro. Leroy lovingly shared with us exhortation for Holy Communion. We pray the Lord will bless these brothers for their willingness to be used of the Lord.

KITCHENER, ONTARIO
CANADA

Ingrid Fortenbacher

With thankful hearts we were able to share a wonderful weekend with Bro. Jim Rinkenberger (Sis. Jeanne, Bluffton, IN). As well, a special thank you to Bro. Mark Steiner (Sis. Sue, Smithville, OH) for sharing the Word with us.

We were inspired through song as we were able to gather for a church potluck and singing at the home of Edgar and Mary Sauder for our March home singing.

We thank God for traveling mercies for those who have come

to visit, and home brethren who have been able to travel. As the threat of war appears to be a surety, we realize that we may not always enjoy the freedom to travel back and forth over the border. As well, visitors may have a harder time getting through, but we know that in the end God is in control.

"And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come. And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me."

Luke 22:17-19

As we look forward to Communion and Easter, may we all be prayerful and watchful.

COLORADO, DENVER **Ann Gonglach**

"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."

III John 2

Several in our congregation have recently had health problems. From coughs and colds to illnesses requiring more treatment, physical therapy and even surgery. We are thankful that our Lord cares about us and that He is constantly watching over us.

We've been enjoying rotating potlucks in different homes, and

the fellowship that we can have in a small group.

Recent spring snow has brought much needed moisture to our state for which we are very grateful to God. "For he saith to the snow, Be thou on the earth; likewise to the small rain, and to the great rain of his strength." (Job 37:6)

CONNECTICUT **ROCKVILLE** **Cherie Galat**

Why come ye at break of morning,
To the Lord's grave in such deep
mourning...

He is not dead, rejoice, He lives!

Hymns of Zion #45

With anticipation we await
Easter when our minds are stirred
in remembrance of our Lord's
death and sacrifice and His resur-
rection.

Haste and seek your soul's salva-
tion;

Heed the Word of God today!

Haste to flee His condemnation;

Seek the straight and narrow way

Zion's Harp #52

We rejoice with the angels in
Heaven over a repentant soul.
May He guide Sarah Lanz (Bro.
Greg and Sis. Linda) as she begins
a walk of faith in Him.

"And the rib, which the Lord
God had taken from man, made he
a woman, and brought her unto
the man."

Genesis 2:22

Believing it is God's will, the
engagement of Bro. Ben Lanz and
Sis. Carla Virkler was made

known unto us. Parents are Bro.
Sherman and Sis. Joanne Lanz
and Bro. Terry and Sis. Cindy
Virkler. May they continue to
look unto Him for guidance and
direction in the upcoming days.

Precious Ethan Michael was
born March 3 to Peter Jr. and
Kelly Hany. Katherine and Chris-
topher have another sibling to
love. Grandparents are Bro. Pe-
ter, Sr. and Sis. Jeanie Hany and
Dean and Bonnie Kloter.

Our prayers are with Sis. Es-
ther Kupferschmid during her
hospitalization. May He heal ac-
cording to His will.

We pray that God console the
families who have lost loved ones
in death. Agnes Carlson leaves
her former husband, Walter
Carlson, Sr.; and children, Gail
Wiese, William (Lois), Carl
(Robin), Jane Berra (Walter), Jan
Conway and Bro. Walter Jr. (Sis.
Judy).

Elmer Kupferschmid leaves
his brother, Julius; and sisters,
Bertha Farney and Emily
Broucek; and other family mem-
bers.

Annabelle Perkins leaves her
daughter, Donna Weiss (Morey);
and granddaughters, Eva and
Sheila. May God comfort each
family circle during this time of
loss.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to express our sincere
appreciation for the effort that
was put forth by everyone by
sending the many comforting
cards, the many prayers and gifts
in Donna's loss of her beloved
mother. Thank you and may the
Lord bless you all.

Morey, Donna, Eva and Sheila

Weiss

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WASHINGTON

Henrietta Meyer

SNOW! We have had plenty this year. Unlike most churches in the area, we did not cancel services the Sunday of President's Day weekend. However, none of us locals made it. Several families came with Bro. Earl and Sis. Suzi Beery (Rittman, OH), staying at the hotel where we hold services. They had morning services and decided to return to home before the roads got any worse.

Other ministers this month were Bro. Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville, OH) and Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Diane, Rockville, CT).

A Washington DC area family is looking for a summer nanny/babysitter for June and July. The person should be able to drive (their car) and watch their 4-year old son for 30-35 hours a week, including some nights and week-ends. They will provide housing and food, travel to and from Washington DC, as well as \$600-\$700/month. Other benefits would include a chance to see the sights of Washington, DC and be a part of the DC congregation meeting visitors from across the country. Please contact either of the numbers below and we will forward the message to the family.

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 NORTH FORT MYERS

Mary Masters

We were blessed to be served Holy Communion by our dear Elder Bros. Ed Schwartz and Joe Braker on March 2. The church Memorandum was also read on that same day. We are so thankful that these dear Elders submitted to being servants among us. In Matthew 20:27-28 it reads, "Who-soever will be chief among you, let him be your servant. Even as the Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many." We want to thank the wives of these brothers also, who share their helpmates many times. Bro. Ed and his wife, Sis. Jeni, are from Bluffton IN, and Bro. Joe and his wife, Sis. Shirley, are from Morton, IL. We so appreciate that these dear brothers and many others serve and lead with a Christ-like, gentle persuasion, and before God give the impression that they themselves are but servants who are only doing their duty. (Luke 17:10)

Our sympathies go out to Sis. Jeanette Yergler, whose mother, Edith Eaton, from Hanna, IN, passed away at the age of 93. We also sympathize with Sis. Jeanette's son and daughter-in-law, Bro. Ron and Sis. Barb Yergler, and their daughter, Stacy, of our congregation.

In addition to the ministers mentioned above, we enjoyed visits from Bros. Dave Zehr (Sis. Vicki, Gridley, IL), Gary Maibach (Sis. Mary Ann, Smithville, OH), Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA), Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago, IL), Lenard Meyer (Sis. Charlotte, Chicago, IL) and Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Fairbury, IL). Some of these brothers were in Fort Myers to attend our National Building Advisory Committee meeting. We thank them for staying over for Sunday to serve us.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA

Carol Koehl

The weekend of March 1-2 was a busy one. On Saturday many attended the Sunday School's auction, chili lunch and bake sale. We sincerely thank everyone for their generous support of this annual event. Then on Sunday, the winter residents hosted a lovely Appreciation Dinner at Sunnyside Village for all the year-round residents. We love and esteem our part-time Floridians, and we appreciate all you do for the Sarasota church. To say "thank you" hardly seems adequate.

Our prayers continue for Bro. Rich Martin (Sis. Aldine) and Bro. John Krstec (Sis. Biserka), as both spent time in the hospital re-

cently having heart procedures.

We were thankful to have the following visiting ministers share God's Word with us this past month: Elder Bros. Mark Bahr (Detroit, MI), Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN), Peter Petrovic (San Diego, CA), Bros. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North, IN), Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL) and Chuck Kellenberger (Elgin, IL).

GEORGIA, ATLANTA **John Brewer**

On March 1, Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville, IN) visited us to read the Conference Memorandum. With the assistance of Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN), an evening was shared which espoused encouragement of our daily walk, love for one another, and reminders of our spiritual unity.

The month started out what was to be a blessed month of visiting ministers and brethren on travels and business. Other visiting ministers included Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Sis. Judy, Chicago, IL), Bro. Arthur Mueller (Sis. Marlene, Belvidere, IL), Bro. Lynn Fiechter (Sis. Ronda, Bluffton, IN) and Bro. David Marquart (Sis. Lori, Taylor, MO). We appreciate those who have taken the time to visit our congregation and to fellowship with us. I might be speaking for all small churches that visiting brethren for us are always a blessing that cannot be measured in earthly terms.

Our small fellowship has grown by three this past month.

Bro. Ted and Sis. Joyce Hirstein and their son, Troy, have moved to the Atlanta area from Morton, IL. We rejoice that God has blessed us with their presence and that they will be part of our congregation. We pray the Lord may bless them on a smooth adjustment to a new area.

As stated before, we are encouraged for those brethren who visit us. 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**

A family altar can alter the family.

We were chastened by the Lord and encouraged to be the Christian parents God has intended for us to be in the parenting seminar, "Bring Them Up", by Bro. Jeff Thames (Washington, IL). We are so grateful that Bro. Jeff was able to come to Belvidere for the Saturday seminar and again was present on the following day for Sunday services. "Bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Ephesians 6:4.

Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign-Urbana, IL) and our Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) served our congregation Holy Communion. We surely thank them for their service to our Lord God and to us.

Bro. Art Mueller did a Bible study in Madison on the "Five Offensive Weapons of Spiritual Warfare" - repent, resist, rejoice, love, and pray. We appreciate Bro. Art for taking the time to present this Bible study.

We also had Invite a Friend this month. We thank all of our visitors who blessed us with their presence for this weekend.

Our rest home hymn singing this month was followed by pizza at the home of Jim Jepson's. We cherish these occasions of fellowship.

Several months ago two girls were abducted and raped by a man in CA. The police closed in on the van with the girls in his vehicle. When the offender wouldn't surrender and aimed his gun at the police, he was shot and killed. When one of the girls was interviewed, she said it left a big impact on her to have someone killed in front of her.

One can certainly understand that that occurrence would have a huge effect. But then again it makes one wonder why when people hear the salvation message, that the Son of man in all His innocence was crucified for our transgressions, it leaves such a small impact on so many? Let us remember Jesus at Calvary and the price that was paid for our free salvation not only at Easter.

What did you do with your day?
 Have you made someone happy or
 made someone sad?
 God gave it to you to do just as you
 would,
 Did you do what was wicked or do
 what was good?
 Did you lighten the load, or some
 progress impede?
 Did you look for a rose, or just
 gather a weed?
 Did you hand out a smile, or just
 give 'em a frown?
 Did you lift someone up - or push
 someone down?
 What did you do with your beautiful day?
 God gave it to you, did you throw
 it away?
 —*The Banner*

**ILLINOIS
 BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL
 Ann Kellenberger
 Rebekah Kaufmann**

This past month we were thankful to have visiting Elder Bro. Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL) to help with the reading of the Memorandum. It was a blessing to have him share in this duty.

We were also thankful to have Bro. Jon Zeller (Morton, IL) come for a Bible study on March 6. His study was entitled "Bows and Arrows" which focused on Psalm 127 and the teachings concerning parents and children. It was very interesting to learn the different terms used in archery and how they related to our lives as parents, children and believers.

On March 2, Sis. Tamara Esteghamat announced her engagement to Bro. John Meiss (Gridley, IL). We pray that the Lord will richly bless their engagement and their marriage!

Sis. Anne Marie Young has re-

cently gone to a hospital in Michigan to receive care. Bro. Lynn accompanied her. Our prayers are with them as they seek physical healing.

Our Bible class recently held an auction/fundraiser for their mission trip to Belize this summer. The auction was held on March 8. The Lord truly blessed everyone's efforts and contributions and it was a wonderful success!

**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD
 Steve Endress**

Many of us were taught by our industrious mothers to be well-kept and clean. Even then, when Spring arrived, they insisted we do some spring cleaning. That might include polishing furniture, washing windows, and other tasks which normally didn't get done throughout the year. This parallels our spiritual life quite closely. We realize that we must continually be cleaning our spiritual house if it is to remain in order. In addition, let us take some time during this season to stop and consider whether some thought, idea, or decision that is contrary to the way of Holiness has crept up in our lives undetected.

We are thankful that Elizabeth Buehrer is recovering well from her hospital stay. Her parents are Mark and Bonnie Buehrer.

We are always thankful when brethren are willing to serve the church. Bro. Bruce Endress (Sis. Elizabeth) was chosen to fill the usher position. Bro. Daryl Knobloch (Sis. Deb) was selected to serve as trustee.

Our prayers are with Bro. Nate

and Sis. Stephanie Young as they have felt led of the Lord to move to the Kansas City area. We pray that the Lord will keep watch between us until we meet around the throne of God (GH #523). This beloved couple has reminded us of the many blessings we have in our congregation at Bradford.

We enjoyed having Bro. Dan Moser (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Mike Baumann (Mansfield, OH) with us this month. We were reminded that faithfulness is our calling no matter what our age. We should not say to ourselves, when I am older or in a different situation, then it will be easier to be faithful. We were reminded that when Joseph faced even the most difficult of times, he did not forget his God.

**ILLINOIS
 CHAMPAIGN-URBANA
 Janelle Schlipf**

A special thanks to each one who helped put together meals for needy families during the month of February. Many students worked together to write encouraging notes and fix colorful gift bags filled with all the ingredients for a complete meal. We especially appreciate those who gave of their time to help deliver these bags to local families.

Sunday, March 16, was a special day of fellowship and song as we were privileged to host the Goodfield choir. We appreciate the time commitment and dedication of each one as they blended their voices together to provide us with an inspiring message through their songs.

It is always a blessing to have visiting ministers who share the

Word with us. A special thanks to Bros. Greg Rassi (Chicago, IL) and Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL) and their families for sharing with us this past month!

We rejoice with each one as we remember our Lord's death and His resurrection in this Easter season. Praise God that because He lives we can face the future with hope!

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO

Jill Rager

On March 2, we had a full church for the wedding day of Sis. Sherri Metzger (Bro. Leland and Sis. Kathy, West Bend, IA) and Bro. Sam Nenadov (Bro. Paul and Sis. Marilyn, Eureka, IL). Elder Bro. Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN) assisted in the wedding service. We rejoice with this new couple and pray that God would bless them as they begin their walk together.

We appreciated the efforts of Bro. Ted Witzig Jr. (Morton, IL), a counselor at the Apostolic Christian Counseling Services, for presenting a very informative Topical Bible Study on "depression".

We bid farewell to Bro. Collin Endress. We wish him God's blessings as he begins a new job in the Peoria, IL, area.

Lastly, we extend our appreciation to Sis. Rachel Meyer (Bro. Rick) for her willingness to accept the role of Silver Lining correspondent.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK
Denise Walder

Susan Waldbeser

We would like to thank Bro. Ed Fritz (Washington, IL) for having this month's Topical Bible Presentation. His topic was on avoiding extremes. This month we also enjoyed listening to the Memorandum and thank Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN), Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL) and Dan Kilgus (Remington, IN) for coming and exhorting the brotherhood to a closer walk with our Saviour.

Those among us who have spent some time in the hospital or had surgery recently and need our prayers are Sis. Wilma Walder, Sis. Bethany VanWyhe (Bro. Monty) and Briana Waldbeser (Bro. Dale and Sis. Susan).

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

Psalms 127:3

Our prayers are with Bro. Monty and Sis. Bethany VanWyhe as they were blessed with a special little boy, Levi Wayne. Little Levi was born two months early and will have an extended hospital stay so we will continue to keep this dear family in our prayers. Levi's grandparents are Bro. Bruce and Sis. Bonita Frank and Bro. Peter and Sis. Susan VanWyhe (Lester, IA).

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

Arlene Banwart

While listening to a sermon tape today, I heard: In freedom or bondage Daniel served God. He served under four kings, while in captivity and with each in a different capacity. Hard times will

come. There are going to be struggles in life. We need to serve God the same in good times as in bad. For most of us the problem isn't serving God in the bad times, but in the good times because our good times are too good. We need to stay close to God when things are going very well as when our parent or child or spouse are in the hospital - in intensive care - and we don't know if they are going to make it out. How close do you get to God? He wants us to worship Him and be in close communion with Him.

Visiting ministers encouraging us to closer communion with God were Bros. Don Gudeman (LaCrosse, IN), Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL) and Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS).

Sincere sympathy is extended to Lena Miller in the death of her son, Dave Miller. Presently Lena is residing in Texas with her daughter. Our prayers are with her.

We welcome back to our congregation Bro. Ralph and Sis. Linda Knapp and son, Bro. Luke, who had worshipped in Taylor for the last sixteen years. Presently Bro. Luke is still attending college in Manhattan, KS.

We wish Angela Knapp (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Mary) and Jason Schrock (Bro. Steve and Sis. Gerri) God's blessings on their engagement. An August 23 wedding is planned.

Welcome to Hannah Rose Schrock who was born March 12 to Bro. Kevin and Sis. Rachel Schrock. Big sister, Rebekah, and brother, Caleb, welcome her as do grandparents, Bro. Tom and Sis.

Edie Stoller (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Ken and Sis. Janet Schrock. Following Hannah's birth, Sis. Rachel was seriously ill, but we are thankful she is doing better and was able to come home. The family appreciated all the prayers in their behalf.

We are keeping in prayer Chris Miller (Betty), and Bro. Virgil Funk (Sis. Shirley) who have not been able to come to church for some time. Jennifer Luthi (Bro. Troy and Sis. Vannessa) broke her wrist. Sis. Shirley Funk is presently at the Apostolic Christian Home in Eureka regaining strength. Sis. Rebekah Zobrist and family appreciate the prayers for her in her present illness.

Note of Thanks:

Shirley and I wish to express our sincere thanks to all for any prayers, cards, food and all acts of kindness shown to us during my knee surgery and after returning home. I am somewhat confined with a back ailment but am thankful to get around pretty good on a walker. I humbly solicit your prayers for my recovery and am eager to return to church. God bless you all.

Virgil and Shirley Funk

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

Amy Gasser

We had many visiting ministers this past month, including Elder Bros. Don Braker (Kansas City, MO) and Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL), and Bros. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL), Ron Heiniger (Bloomington, IL), Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL) and Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN).

On March 1-2, our congregation heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of Bro. Morris and Sis. Pat Young and their son, Bro. Lucas.

Our congregation gathered for Communion on March 15. Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA) came to assist Bro. Ron. We appreciate your services, brothers.

Skylar Elizabeth was born February 20 to Tony and Angie Feucht. She has a brother, Trevor, at home. Her grandparents are Chuck and Carolyn Feucht and Rick and Terri Johnson. Ashton Elyse was born to Bro. Ben and Sis. Stephanie Standish on February 21. She has a big sister, Aubrey, at home. Her grandparents are Joe and Sis. Cheri Frantz and Mike and Kathy Standish.

We extend sympathy to the family of Bro. Larry Moore as his father passed away recently in Bloomington, IL.

We want to remember Sis. Dorothy (Bro. Albert) Schambach in prayer as she is hospitalized at this time with heart problems.

Jenny Feucht and Lance Abel are engaged. Her parents are Chuck and Carolyn Feucht. His parents are Susan Bachman (Metamora, IL) and Readis Abel (O'Fallon, MO). They plan to marry on July 26 in Peoria. We wish them much happiness in their new life together.

Note of Thanks:

Many thanks to each one for the love expressed through cards, gifts, phone calls and prayers for my 70th birthday. May God richly bless every deed of love and kindness shared.

Sis. Gertrude Sauder

ILLINOIS, EUREKA **Janet Zimmerman**

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."

Genesis 2:24

We were privileged to witness the marriage vows of two dear couples. Bro. Nate Wiegand and Sis. Cheryl Stoller were united in Holy Matrimony on March 2. Their parents are Dale and Sis. Friedora Wiegand and Bro. Stan and Sis. Lola Stoller, all of Eureka. We were thankful to have these visiting ministers here for this special occasion: Bros. Bill Hodel (Roanoke, IL), Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA), Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL), Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL) and Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL). Bro. Derek Sauder and Sis. Leann Stoller were united in marriage on March 16. Their parents are ministering Bro. Steve and Sis. Mary Sauder (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Stan and Sis. Lola Stoller. Ministering brothers with us for this special day were Bros. Dale Zeltwanger (Morris, MN), Matt Rassi (Chicago, IL), Brad Gudeman (Bradford, IL), Alan Schambach (Remington, IN), Steve Sauder, Curt Rassi and Tom Bolliger (Tremont, IL). May God bless these two marriages and continue to be the center of their lives.

We sincerely pray for those who have met with accident or illness recently. Our hospital pa-

tients this month were Sis. Karen Sinn (Bro. Charlie), Sis. Judy Cottrell and Brent Blunier (Bro. Roger and Sis. Wendy). May they feel the Lord's healing hand upon them.

We rejoice with two dear souls who recently announced their engagement. Bro. Brent Vierling became engaged to Sis. Kelli Leman on February 23. Their parents are ministering Bro. Jim and Sis. Linda Vierling and Bro. Jerry and Sis. Kathy Leman, all of Eureka. We wish them God's blessings.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to Ed and Sis. Barb Meiss on the death of Ed's brother, Bro. Elmer Meiss, of Gridley.

"As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the Lord is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him."

Psalm 18:30

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY
Tammy Hinrichsen
Joann Zehr

It is always encouraging and we are so thankful that Kristin Schmidgall (Bro. Bill and Sis. Anna) was able to turn her life over to God and answer His call to repentance. We wish her God's grace and help as she starts her new walk of life.

Two of our brothers spent a little time in the hospital and we wish them God's healing mercies: Bro. Kevin Edelman (Sis. Laurie) and Bro. Ralph Bahler (Sis. Jeanette).

February 23 was the wedding day of our Sis. Jami Walter (Bro. Jim and Sis. Juanita) and Bro. Adam Luginbuhl (Daryl and Sis.

Norma) of Philadelphia, PA. We will miss Sis. Jami but we are happy for her and wish both of them God's love and grace as they establish their home together. Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Philadelphia) and Bro. Warren Zahner (Rockville, CT) spent the day with us and we thank them for their labors of love.

Our congregation was also blessed with Bros. Ralph Garber (Morton, IL), Alan Schambach (Remington, IN) and Paul Schmidgall (Morris, MN) and we thank them for visiting us.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank all who have shown their love to us during Barb's illness, whether through prayers, gifts, and many gifts of food, but mostly for the many prayers for Barb's well-being. It seems that God has answered with a very fast recovery. May God richly bless each and every one.

Bro. Marion and Sis. Barb Meiss and family

ILLINOIS, FORREST
Linda Anliker
Lori Dotterer

"Our love shall not diminish, nor fade nor wane away..." March 16 was the beautiful wedding day of Bro. Andy Dotterer (Smithville, OH) and Sis. Valarie Rinkenberger. Their parents are Dale and Sis. Elaine Dotterer (Smithville, OH) and Bro. Bob and Sis. Sally Rinkenberger. We wish God's blessing on their marriage and will miss Sis. Val as they make their home in Smithville.

We also extend our congratulations to Greg Knapp and Erica

Wegher as they were married in Hawaii this month. Their parents are Dale and Barb Knapp and Dave and Bernadette Wegher (Oahu, HI).

Our congregation has been blessed with several new babies recently. Bro. Lucas and Sis. Raya Nussbaum welcome home their first child, Alayna Jo. Bro. Terry and Sis. Deb Nussbaum and Bro. Ray and Sis. Shelly Steidinger are her thankful grandparents. Joseph Benjamin has come to bless the home of Bro. Stace and Tonda Mueller. Amanda, Candis, Logan and Hope are also excited to have a new baby brother. Joseph's grandparents are Bro. Ronnie and Sis. Loida Mueller and Cindy Whitehouse. Also, Bro. John and Sis. Sally Schaffer have a new granddaughter, Felicity Caroline, born to Clint and Amy Schaffer of Champaign.

Those needing hospital care this month were Mariah Steidinger (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sheila), Sis. Marcia Gerber (Bro. Alan), Danny Schmidgall (Bro. Dan and Sis. Mary), Sis. Lavonne Lanz (Bro. Elmer) and Clint Steidinger (Bro. Ray and Sis. Shelly). May God be near them and continue to grant healing.

We extend our sympathy to Tom and Sis. Earlene Hamilton in the passing of his brother. May God be near and comfort their family.

We were richly blessed this month with many visiting ministers. Bringing us the Word of Life were Bros. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO), Steve Martin (Eureka, IL), Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL), Dan Moser

(Elgin, IL), Vic Bauman and Joe Dotterer (Smithville, OH), Tom Stock, Ken Eisenmann and Sid Kaufmann (all of Cissna Park, IL), Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN) and Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL). May God bless them as they labor in His vineyard.

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

**Rita Bauman
Heather Hohulin**

We rejoice with two couples that were joined in Holy Matrimony this month. Bro. Trent and Sis. Rosie Strahm were united as one. Their parents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Rachel Zeltwanger (Morris, MN) and Bro. Carl and Sis. Sharon Strahm (Sabetha, KS). Also united were Shane and Donna Rocke. Parents of this couple are Joe and Janet Weyer and Bro. Steve and Audrey Rocke. May God bless each couple and their families.

Also making plans for a wedding are Bro. Nathan Zeltwanger and Sis. Brittany Baker. We rejoice with them and pray that God will bless them. Their parents are Joe and Sis. Karen Baker (Washington, IL) and Bro. Loren and Sis. Rhonda Zeltwanger.

Our prayers are with Blake Knapp and Jason Schick as they have found peace and await baptism. May they never forget the precious pearl they have found. Their parents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Ann Zobrist and Bro. Jon and Sis. Pat Knapp. We look forward to their testimony of faith and baptism.

Our prayers are also with the family of Persida Wiegand: her

siblings, Bro. Elmer Grusy and Sis. Bertha Wingeier; her children, Bro. Gary Wiegand (Sis. Karen), Bro. Gale Wiegand (Sis. Jane), Sis. Carol Martin (the late Bro. Denny) and Sis. Connie Allen (Bro. Gary); and all the grandchildren and great grandchildren. May God lift them up with His hands of comfort.

Bro. Dwight and Sis. Deb Wiegand welcomed home their sweet baby girl, Alison Lynn. Her brothers are John and Simon. Grandparents are Bro. Willis and Sis. Betty Wiegand and Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Phyllis Rokey.

Visiting ministers were as follows: Elder Bro. Gerry Hertz (Sis. Ellen), Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue), Bro. Keith Beyer (Sis. Alisa), Bro. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie), Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie) and Bro. Fred Knapp (Sis. Marjorie). We thank them for their service to us.

Our prayers are with Sis. Allene Steffen (Bro. Jerry) as she underwent shoulder surgery this past month. Also hospitalized was Ray Wagner (Sis. Viola). May God be with each of them. May they feel His healing touch.

Note of Thanks:

I wish to thank each and every one for the many beautiful birthday cards I received for my 80th birthday. May God bless you all.

Sis. Viola Wagner

ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY

Perry A. Klopfenstein

The war in Iraq draws our concerns, and we truly pray that it can end soon without too much loss of life. Our prayers are not

only that the war will cease, but that God will minister His strengths and comfort to those who have lost loved ones in this conflict. The ravages of war are not only physical, but emotional and spiritual as well.

We were blessed on March 5 to take Holy Communion. Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Francesville, IN) was here to help with this sacred event. It was a special time in drawing nigh to God, and in remembering the Lord's suffering on the Cross. Not only was the taking of bread and wine a blessing, but everyone benefited by the self-examination prior to Communion. Surely, we can benefit spiritually each day as we examine ourselves in light of God's Word.

Other visiting ministers were Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North, IN) and Bro. Glen Braker (Princeville, IL). May God bless these dear brothers for their efforts in preaching the Gospel.

Sis. Laveille M. Yoder, 74, passed away on March 22 at the Meadows Mennonite Home. Her funeral was held on Monday, March 24, in Gridley. She is survived by her husband, Devon, whom she married on September 28, 1960, at Roanoke. Other survivors are two daughters, Sarah Hart, Gridley, and Elizabeth Sicilia, Ashland; one son, Bro. John Yoder, Gridley; a sister, Thelma Hodel, Roanoke; and a brother, Bro. Walt Fehr, Roanoke. Four grandchildren survive her as well. A son, Ben Yoder, preceded her in death.

We will miss Sis. Laveille. She was a small, industrious woman.

She always had a kindly greeting. She served the welfare of her family. We truly appreciate all the efforts she made over the years in helping clean the church.

Bro. Keith Zimmerman had surgery, and we wish him God's healing powers. Sis. Marge Meiss continues treatment for her illness.

Our prayers continue for the safety of Eric W. Harris, a Marine, who is serving in Iraq. He is the son of Bro. Ron and Sis. Barb Harris. On Wednesday evening, March 26, one of our ministers indicated that with all the concern about the war, God is still in control. He always has been, and always will be. It is wonderful that we, as believers, can commit all our cares unto Him.

ILLINOIS, MORTON

**Julie Bahr
Christie Zeller**

Now it is accomplished,
I'm no longer mine;
I will forever and always be Thine.

Two more dear souls have repented and been baptized: Sis. Heather Rassi (Bro. Gary and Sis. Debbie) and Sis. Katie Ritthaler (Bro. Jim and Sis. Kathy). May God continue to walk with these dear lambs.

Bro. Ross and Sis. Erin Wuthrich and their family have recently moved to Morton from Lafayette, IN. We welcome them to our Morton church family.

Emma Ackerman passed away February 19. She is the mother to our Bro. Roger (Sis. Margie) Ackerman. A graveside service

was conducted at our cemetery for Lily Krug-Wunner. She passed away March 6. May God comfort these dear families.

Many young and older men attended our "Growing Godly Men" seminar which was presented at the Fellowship Hall by Bro. Kent Kloter (Goodfield, IL) of Gateway Woods Apostolic Christian Family Services. A special thanks to Bro. Kent for his labors.

Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Sis. Sara, Bloomington, IL) brought us our Family worship for March. His topic was "A Call to Leadership". We all are called to be spiritual leaders whether we be young, single or married. May God bless Bro. Mark for his labors of love.

A farewell singing was held at the Fellowship Hall on March 9 for Bro. Ted and Sis. Joyce Hirstein and their son, Troy. Bro. Ted has served us in the ministry here for ten years and is moving on to Atlanta, GA, due to a Caterpillar job transfer. May God ever bless this dear family for they will be greatly missed by their Morton church family.

Our visiting ministers for the month were Bros. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL) and Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield, IL). May God bless these dear brothers for their continual willing service.

Note of Thanks:

We want to thank you for all the beautiful cards and gifts of love on our 60th anniversary. We wish you all God's blessings.

*Bro. Orman and Sis. Kathryn
Kaiser*

ILLINOIS, PEORIA Lou and Marjean Lonteen

O, God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.

Under the shadow of Thy throne,
Still may we dwell secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defense is sure.

Thank you to our visiting ministers, Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Roger Sauder (Ft. Lauderdale, FL). The Lord knows your work and labor of love. God be with you.

"The Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

John 14:26

We express our sympathy to Bro. Bill and Sis. Joyce Waibel and family in the loss of Joyce's dad, Bro. Elmer Meiss (Gridley, IL). May the Lord comfort you in your time of need.

Those from our congregation needing special prayer are: Sis. Verna Baurer, Bro. Dave Dunbar, Bro. Harry Eisenmann, Bro. Wayne Guingrich, and Bro. Paul Meister. May God supply you with improving health and healing as you ask Him to meet your needs.

There's not an hour that He is not
near us, no, not one, no, not
one!
No night so dark but His love can
cheer us, no, not one, no, not
one!

Jesus knows all about our struggles - He will guide till the day is done.

There's not a friend like the lowly Jesus, no, not one, no, not one.

"I will praise thee, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well."

Psalm 139:14

Kyle, Tammy, and Gavin Eaton welcomed their new family addition, Elijah Jonathan, into the world on February 21. Elijah is the grandson of Bro. Bob and Sis. Myrna Hoerr. God bless you and your family circle.

Thank you to the sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students and the Peoria choir for your hymns of praise at our church hymn sing on March 2. It was an inspiring evening!

"Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

Ephesians 6:23

Peoria church welcomes:

Bro. Dennis and Sis. Cindy Aupperle, Bro. Jonathan, Erin, Clayton, and Allison

Bro. Tom and Sis. Jodie Bauman, Breana, Noah, and Brinlee

Bro. Jim and Sis. Diane Gerst, Kristen, Andi, Brad, and Jake

Bro. Mark and Sis. Cathy Kieser, Sis. Janis, Sis. Megan, Jodi, and Emily

Bro. Randy and Sis. Brenda Kieser, Sis. Amanda, Chad, and Heather

Bro. Steve and Sis. Lois

Leuthold, Alyssa, Aubrey, Andrea Bro. Brian and Sis. Cindy Wiegand, Sis. Ashley, Sis. Natasha, Colt, and Calista

"For thou hast girded me with strength unto the battle: thou has subdued under me those that rose up against me."

Psalm 18:39

May we unite in prayer for peace in the world, and God's protection on those who serve our nation.

As the world once more rejoices on this holy Easter Day,
May you know the peace and happiness God's love can bring your way.

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto *salvation* to every one that believeth."

Romans 1:16

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE Phyllis Knobloch Crystal Streitmatter

"O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people."

Psalm 105:1

We thank the Lord for His continuing calling of souls unto repentance. We are overjoyed that two young friends have answered this call, namely Ryan Stoller (Bro. Gale and Sis. Sonia) and Kyle Plattner (Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene). "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding." (Prov.

3:5)

On February 15, Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Wolcott, IN) so willingly helped Elder Bros. Joe Stoller and Jim Plattner expound unto us the Memorandum. We were refreshed with the many words of wisdom contained therein. On Sunday, the next day, Bro. Ralph Garber (Morton, IL) joined us and ministered unto our congregation. On March 2, Bro. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL) and Bro. Jeff Grimm (Goodfield, IL) were our visiting ministers. On March 9, Bro. Larry Wenninger (Latty, OH) and Bro. Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL) joined us on the pulpit. We appreciate so much the encouragement these visits instill in our hearts. Also on March 2, many single believers and Sunday School children from the Indiana churches spent the day here. Our sincere thanks to all of the visitors that were with us.

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

Proverbs 22:6

Another dear child, Joseph Andrew, has been born to Bro. Doug and Sis. Ann Stahl on February 27. He is welcomed home by siblings, Joshua, Sarah, Caleb and Matthew. We pray the Lord will continue to be in the midst of this precious family. Happy grandparents are Bro. Lyle and Sis. Betty Stahl and Bro. Dale and Sis. Joanne Sauder (Tremont, IL).

On February 28, Bro. Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL) gave a Bible study on "We Reap What We Sow"

at the Fellowship Hall. Included in the presentation was how we need to prepare our hearts (the soil), participate in God's work and plant the fruits of the Spirit in our hearts. Finally comes the harvest. Where will we spend eternity? It is up to each individual. God is the Judge!

Note of Thanks:

We want to thank everyone for your prayers, cards, gifts and the encouragement that was expressed. We thank God for our brotherhood and your love, thoughtfulness and kindness and pray He will bless each one of you.

Bro. Herman and Sis. Mary Baer

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

**Jenell Hodel
Joan Leman**

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh."

Ephesians 5:31

February 23 was a blessed day for Bro. Matt Sauder and Sis. Hope Knapp as they were united in Holy Matrimony. Their parents are Bro. Bob and Sis. Jan Sauder and Bro. George and Sis. Fern Knapp (Goodfield, IL). We pray God will richly bless this union of hearts.

We rejoice with Sis. Lindsey Schroeder (Bro. Duane and Sis. Rachel) and Bro. Jason Getz of Peoria (Rod and Jane Getz and Sis. Judy Getz) as their engagement was announced Sunday, March 16. May they feel God's

continued guidance as they prepare to become one in the Lord.

Making plans for an August 16 wedding are Alicia Wettstein and Daniel Endress. Their parents are Dean and Mary Jane Wettstein and Bro. Fred and Sis. Joanne Endress of Morton. We pray that God will guide them and bless them as they prepare to be joined as one.

"Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."

Hebrews 13:17

We were blessed on Wednesday evening, February 26, to be able to listen to the reading of the Memorandum. Elder Bro. Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL) was with us to assist our Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman in this important work. Thank you to our Elders who are willing to encourage, warn, and admonish us where necessary. We also thank Bro. Tom Bolliger (Tremont, IL) for his willingness to speak at our monthly Bible study. May the Lord bless these brothers for their labors on our behalf.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those from our congregation who have spent time in the hospital this past month. They are Sis. Madlyn Zimmerman (Bro. Bob), Sis. Alice Kempf, Sis. Ann Pfister and Sis. Doris Bowald. May the Master Physician provide His healing touch.

Out onto Calvary's hill,
Where Jesus died I'll go,
To hear the words He speaks,
To see Him in His woe.

Zion's Harp #89

As the Easter season approaches, may we go often to Calvary's hill to remember the sacrifice that was made for our eternal gain. Let us be thankful for the blessed hope of life eternal.

Notes of Thanks:

I wish to thank each and every one of you for your cards, visits and gifts; but most of all for your prayers and love for me during my surgery, hospital stay and my recuperation. Your kindness and love will always be remembered. I pray God will truly bless you all.

Sis. Mardell Bowald

We wish to express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the love, prayers, deeds of kindness, and expressions of sympathy extended to us at the sudden passing of our loved one. May the Lord bless each of you.

The family of Don A. Leman

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

**Heather Rassi
LaVonne Wagenbach**

Visiting our congregation this month and ministering unto us were Elder Bros. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT), and Bros. Jon Zeller (Morton, IL), John Steiner (Oakville, IA) and Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL). May each one feel the blessings of God.

Two souls have given their testimony of faith and were baptized

in the midst of many witnesses. We rejoice with Bro. Gary and Bro. Paul Wagenbach (Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz) as they have entered a covenant with God and strive to walk worthy of their calling to be faithful followers of Him.

Many of us were able to attend the wedding of Bro. Derek Sauder (Bro. Steve and Sis. Mary) and Sis. Leann Stoller (Bro. Stan and Sis. Lola) in Eureka, IL. May God bless them as they strive to set up a godly home by His grace.

First-time grandparents this month are Bro. Steve and Sis. Mary Sauder. Doug and Brooke Sauder (Livermore, CA) are thankful parents of their daughter, Sutton Elizabeth. Wayne and Bonnie Phillips (Groveland, CA) are also rejoicing at the arrival of their newest granddaughter. Another child has been added to the family of Bro. Chad and Sis. LauraLee Plattner. Jolene Kay was welcomed home by her brothers, Jesse, Javan and Jared. Her grandparents are Dale and Sharon Riley (Seville, OH) and Elder Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene Plattner (Princeville, IL).

We were reminded to be prayerful as Randy Aberle (Bro. Pete and Sis. Debbie), Bro. Bob Wagenbach (Sis. Dorothy), Sis. Vera Aberle (Bro. Walt), Sis. Betty Schweigert (Bro. Les) and Harold Rowell (Eunice) were hospitalized recently. May God, who knows their individual needs, provide them health and strength.

Notes of Thanks:

A special thanks to all who sent beautiful cards, flowers and gifts to our mother for her 100th birth-

day. We appreciate your love and may the Lord richly bless you.

Sis. Mary Baurer and her family

We wish to express our thanks and appreciation for all the cards, gifts of love, phone calls, and especially for the many prayers while Ken was in the hospital and also all the visits as he is residing in the Apostolic Christian Home of Eureka. May God richly bless each one of you for your love and kindness.

Bro. Ken and Sis. Arlene Huette

We once more wish to thank you all for the many prayers, food, and cards given on our behalf while I was in the hospital and again at home. May the Lord bless you, our dear church family.

Your least ones in faith,

Bro. Bob and Sis. Dorothy Wagenbach

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON **Dianne Wyss** **Marcia Koch**

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, ... he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

Phil. 2:5-8

With these words Bro. Ken Eisenmann (Sis. Sharon, Cissna Park, IL) recently encouraged us

to examine our life from the perspective of a servant and to pursue humility as it is the only avenue to obtain God's grace.

We were also thankful to have Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI) share the Conference letter with us. In many aspects of daily living he encouraged us to review our motives and to seek godly wisdom in making choices and decisions.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Sis. Sue Ruppert as she recently had surgery.

We appreciated having Bro. Bill and Sis. Joan Schick and their family home for a week before leaving for their work in Rio Bravo. May God bless their efforts.

We were privileged as a congregation to assist with the Illinois Mennonite Relief Sale. Their theme this year was "Care and Share" and it was certainly a healthy reminder to recognize how much we've been given and to be generous in our giving. Using the poor widow as a vivid illustration, the Lord Jesus called His disciples to the side to show them His heart concerning sacrificial giving. "Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living." (Mark 12:43-44)

INDIANA, BLUFFTON **Tiffany Aschliman** **Elizabeth Frauhiger**

"To every thing there is a sea-

son, and a time to every purpose under the heaven; a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted."

Eccles. 3:1-2

Our congregation rejoices with three families who have recently been blessed with bundles of joy from Heaven. Kyra Kay Isch was welcomed into the world on February 18. Her parents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Brittany Isch. Braden, Dustin and JaNon are delighted to have a new little sister. Kyra's thankful grandparents are Bro. Stan and Sis. Genny Isch and Bro. Ed and Sis. Rhonda Maller (Bluffton North, IN).

February 21 is the birth day of Avrie Rose Pfister. Bro. Matt and Sis. Andrea Pfister are pleased to welcome home their first child. Avrie's grandparents are Bro. Ted and Sis. Rose Pfister and Bro. Bill and Sis. Lou Ann Rager.

Matt and Adia Yergler welcomed their first son, Brody Aidan, on March 6. Brody's grandparents are Bro. Kim and Sis. Sue Yergler.

We are thankful for one young man who began his walk with the Lord this month. Grant Gerber (Bro. Jay and Sis. Deb) has turned his back on the world and turned to Christ. We pray God's richest blessings in his new walk.

Our congregation will also look forward to the testimonies and baptisms of two loved ones. Kevin Gerber (Bro. Greg and Sis. Joan) and Tyler Scott were announced for peace this past month.

We mourn the loss of two dear souls this month. Our prayers are

with the family of Bro. Homer Heyerly, who was suddenly taken from this earth to meet his Maker on February 22. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Sis. LaVera; his sons, Bro. Arlin Heyerly (Sis. Roxanne) and Darrell Heyerly (Cheryl); and his daughter, Sis. Donna Steffen (Bro. William). Bro. Homer is survived by two brothers, Bro. Luster Heyerly (Sis. Martha) and Bro. Simon Heyerly (Sis. Delores); and five sisters, Sis. Gladys Gerber (Bro. Floyd), Sis. Bernice Maller (Bro. Melvin), Sis. Jeannette Tonner, Sis. Dulla Heyerly, and Sis. Rosella Heyerly.

Our prayers are also with Bro. Dave Gilliom (Sis. Marcene) in the death of his mother, Sis. Ethel Gilliom (Bluffton North). While we know that she is gone from this life, we rejoice knowing that we will meet her again in Heaven.

We are thankful for several visiting ministers this month. Bros. Fred Witzig (Sis. Nancy, Indianapolis, IN), Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane, Bluffton North), Steve Frauhiger (Sis. Irene, Bluffton North) and John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia, Latty, OH) all shared the Word with us this month.

Several people spent time in the hospital recently. We pray God's healing hand upon them. They are: Sis. Devona Gerber, Sis. Sharon Barger (Bro. Gary), Sis. Marie Gerber and Sis. Hilda Steffen.

Andy Yergler (Bro. Kim and Sis. Sue) and Sarah Meyer (Sis. Kathy, Bluffton North) were united in marriage on February 22. We rejoice with them as they begin their life together.

March 16 was the day that Bro. Krent Frauhiger (Bro. Dean and Sis. Holly) took Sis. Elizabeth Aschliman (Bro. Derryl and Sis. Peggy) to be his wife. We wish them God's richest blessings as they begin their marriage.

We also had the joy of two engagements this month. Bro. Clint Gerber (Bro. Keith and Sis. Kay) and Sis. Amy Fiechter (Bro. Don and Sis. Suzie) feel it is God's will for them to be united in marriage. Bro. Barry Beer (Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb, Milford, IN) and Sis. Myra Isch (Bro. Stan and Sis. Genny) also believe it is the Lord's will for them to spend their lives together in marriage. We pray the Lord will bless them and their new journeys together.

"Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him."

Hebrews 10:38

INDIANA BLUFFTON NORTH

**Ann Meyer
Tiffani Schladenhauffen**

"A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh."

Ezekiel 36:26

We heard how the Lord is still giving new hearts to people when we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptisms of three precious souls. We are thankful for Bro. Brian Brewster, husband of Marcia; Sis. Lyla Fischer, daugh-

ter of Bro. Steve and Sis. Joyce; and Sis. Amanda Brudi, daughter of Jim and Karen and sister to Sis. Heather (Bro. Bruce) Drayer. We pray that with each passing year they will walk closer and closer to the Lord. We were also thankful to have Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo, IN) to help with the testimonies.

We are thankful Mitch Fiechter answered the call of the Lord this month. Mitch is the son of Bro. Tony and Sis. Peg. We pray he will feel God's guidance in his new beginning with the Lord.

Sis. Ethel Gilliom was called to her eternal Home this month. Our deepest sympathies are sent to her son, Bro. Dave (Sis. Marcene, Bluffton, IN); two daughters, Lorene Brinneman and Linda Geels, both of Temecula, CA; her stepson, Bro. Kenny (Sis. Marie, Bluffton, IN); and several grandchildren.

Our prayers are also with the following families as they have all lost loved ones in the past month: Bro. Arlin (Sis. Roxanne) Heyerly in the loss of his father, Bro. Homer Heyerly (Bluffton, IN); Sis. Goldie (Bro. Howard) Stettner in the passing of her brother, Harry Bertsch; and finally, Bro. Bob and Sis. Lela Meyer in the loss of their great-grandson, Trey Robert Zimmer. We pray that each of these families could feel the Lord's comfort.

We were blessed to have Bro. Allen Stoller (Sis. Susan, Bluffton, IN) share with us in Sunday services this month.

We rejoiced with Bro. Lynn and Sis. Val Kipfer as they announced

the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Laura, to Bro. Caleb Schafer (South Bend, IN), son of Bro. Scott and Sis. Gigi. We pray that they will feel God's guidance in their walk together.

We were thankful to have Sis. Carolyn (Bro. Bill) Gerber back in church with us. We pray that she will feel God's complete healing.

"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!"

Romans 11:33

INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE Jessica Murray

As I began to write this, the United States is on the brink of war, and it made me think of peace and how we need to pray for the strength of our people to seek God's wisdom and His will. We also need to pray for those who we are about to fight against. May they also seek the Lord and find it in their hearts to do His will.

"Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it. The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry. The face of the Lord is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth."

Psalms 34:14-16

Are we like Paul and Silas, able to pray and sing praises unto God at the lowest times of our lives? After being beaten and imprisoned, they still had much joy in the Lord. We want to thank Bro. Ken

Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis, IN) for his Bible study on worship, fellowship, faith and joy for our services. May our days be filled with joy for the Lord and faith in His Word. We also thank Bro. Wayne Laubscher (Sis. Gloria, Cissna Park, IL) for visiting and sharing with us the Word on Sunday morning. May the Lord continue to bless you and your home churches.

We have had a few people back in the hospital this past month. Bro. Virgil VonTobel (Sis. Viola) was in for a short time as was Bro. Morris and Sis. Helen Eshleman. We pray the Lord continue to watch over them.

Our Bro. Joe and Sis. Esther Gray have moved into an apartment at Parkview Haven in Francesville. We will continue to keep them in our prayers as we know getting used to another place is quite a change from "home". May Joe and Esther and all of us be reminded that here on earth is only a short time. Let us also long for our heavenly home which is eternity. We wish you God's blessings.

Bro. Jim Gudeman's sister passed away and Sis. Donna Wuethrich's (Bro. Otto) father passed away. May God comfort them in their grief.

As the newly elected offices in the church family begin, we would like to pray for them and may the glory go to God for His work through them. The following were elected: Sunday School teachers – Bro. Brent Gutwein, Bro. Chad Huber, Bro. Gene Allen Huber, Sis. Peg Gudeman, Sis. Molly Gutwein, and Sis. Lynne

Wuethrich; Church trustee – Bro. Ron Vogt; Fellowship Hall Trustee – Bro. Harv Gutwein; Ushers – Bro. Dennis Leman, Bro. Jeff Tanner, Bro. Brad Wuethrich; Missionary committee – Bro. Chris Lee Wuethrich; Parkview Haven Board – Bro. Carl Gutwein.

Note of Thanks:

We wish to express our sincere thanks to all who remembered us with cards, phone calls, gifts, flowers, and especially your prayers upon the passing of our daughter, Sis. Linda Beer, of Milford, IN. May God bless each one for your many deeds of love and kindness.

In Christian Love,

Bro. Elmer and Sis. Emilie Anliker

**INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS
Gail Bradford
Sandy Lichtle**

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"

Psalm 133:1

We have had an above average snowfall amount this winter in Indianapolis. Our church services were cancelled two Sundays in February because of snowy and cold weather conditions. We are reminded how much we appreciate our worship and fellowship with our brethren.

On Wednesday evening, March 12, our Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL) had a Communion exhortation in preparation for

Communion in April. We are thankful for our Elder Bro. Wayne's labors of love as he serves us through Christ our Lord.

On March 15, a "Cabin Fever" supper was held at church. After a delicious meal, we enjoyed a blessed evening of singing and fellowship.

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

What a Friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear.
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer.

Hymns of Zion #161

We are again joyful to report two new converts in LaCrosse this past month. Dan Nuest (Sis. Cathy) has admitted his need for a Saviour and has begun his walk of life with the Lord. Kayla Heinold (Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie) has also recognized her sinful condition and has turned her life to the Lord. It is always refreshing to hear of God's faithfulness in calling souls to repentance.

Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie Heinold welcomed a new granddaughter into their family earlier this year. Bryna Grace was born to Bro. Travis and Sis. Kathy Knobloch (Lester, IA) on February 5. Bryna is welcomed home by siblings, Tyra, Kiana, and Dayra.

**INDIANA, LEO
Ethelyn Schlatter**

"God be merciful unto us, and bless us; cause his face to shine upon us; that thy way may be known upon the earth, thy salva-

tion among all nations. Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee."

Psalm 67:1-3

We were blessed with visiting ministers again this month. Bro. Greg Stieglitz and his family as well as others from Indianapolis, IN, visited on March 2. On March 16, Bro. John Reinhard (Bluffton, IN) encouraged us from the Word. We appreciate their efforts; the Lord bless them.

Our topical Bible study this month was an interview of faith. Elder Bro. Lynn had a conversation with Sis. Thelma Schlatter (my aunt and his great-aunt) in front of the congregation, similar to a convert. Sis. Thelma has been in the faith for over 70 years. It was inspiring to the younger people, who recognize her face, but now know her heart and experience with the Lord.

The Old Testament personal relationship with God showed itself in separation. Hebrews 11:7-8, "By faith Noah, being warned of God...prepared an ark to the saving of his house; ... By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out ... obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went." Moses was in the wilderness forty years until God called him.

May our focus this Easter season be on a closer relationship to Jesus as we review the sweet story of old. Christ's love in suffering and death. His resurrection that gives us eternal life.

Draw us to Thee, and we shall see
The victor's crown of glory,
Which we shall gain, if we remain

Thy children, pure and lowly.
Zion's Harp #125, vs. 6

Thought for the day: A faith
 that costs nothing and demands
 nothing is worth nothing.

INDIANA, MILFORD Paula Haab

On a snowy night in February
 our church family spent an eve-
 ning of fellowship, eating to-
 gether and sharing of our
 abundance with an auction to
 raise funds for the needy. We pray
 for God's blessings on our giving
 and especially on those receiving.

We are thankful for Bro. Craig
 Martin (Princeville, IL) and Bro.
 Don Manz (Junction, OH) who
 were willing to come share the
 pulpit with our home ministers. It
 was such a blessed evening when
 Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Detroit,
 MI) and our Elder Bro. Ray Sinn
 (Latty, OH) came to read the
 Memorandum and assist in our
 election of Sunday School teach-
 ers. Needing our prayers as we en-
 trust our young ones to them on
 Sunday morning are Bros. Rich
 Schlipf, Darin Price, Troy
 Wuthrich, and Sisters Judy
 Longcor and Monica Price.

Bros. Tim Sauder and Joe
 Gerber spent an evening in
 Milford telling us about the activi-
 ties and programs available at
 Gateway Woods. It truly is a labor
 of love and they need our daily
 prayers.

Once again God's promise of
 seasons was fulfilled and we wel-
 comed the sunshine and warmer
 weather. This makes it so much
 easier for our older folks to get
 about. It was so nice to have Sis.

Mayedean Lehman be able to as-
 semble with us after spending a
 few days in the hospital and many
 days confined to her home.

Bro. Shawn and Sis. Marci
 Reinhard are feeling the loss of
 her grandma, Sis. Ethel Gilliom
 (Bluffton). May they feel our love
 and the Holy Spirit comforting
 them.

"And the Lord God said, It is
 not good that the man should be
 alone; I will make him an help
 meet for him."

Genesis 2:21

With this in mind, Bro. Barry
 Beer (Bro. Dan and Sis. Deb) has
 had faith enough to believe that
 Sis. Myra Isch (Bro. Stan and Sis.
 Jenny) from Bluffton should be
 his wife. She has this faith, too,
 and their engagement has been
 announced. It encourages us all
 that God is still working in the
 hearts of men.

INDIANA, REMINGTON Beth Virkler Rochelle Ward

One Talent

I have no voice for singing;
 I cannot make a speech;
 I have no gift for music;
 I know I cannot teach.
 I am no good at leading;
 I cannot "organize";
 And anything I write
 Would never win a prize.
 But at the roll call in the meetings
 I always answer, "Here."
 When others are performing,
 I lend a listening ear.

After the program is over,
 I praise its every part
 My words are not to flatter

I mean them from the heart.
 It seems my only talent
 Is neither big nor rare;
 Just to listen and encourage
 And to fill a vacant chair.
 But all the gifted people
 Could not so brightly shine
 Were it not for those who use
 A talent such as mine.

This month our high school
 Sunday School class traveled on
 two different Sundays. On March
 1-2, they were hosted by
 Princeville, IL, Sunday School
 and on March 16 was the annual
 ACYF (Apostolic Christian Youth
 Fellowship) in West Lafayette,
 IN. We warmly thank Princeville
 parents and teachers for showing
 such love and devotion to our
 youth and for Elder Bro. Phil
 Stettner who concisely communi-
 cated a timely message to our
 youth at ACYF concerning the
 spiritual warfare they are facing
 in our culture today. When we
 work with our youth, consider it
 like spring planting. Even if dif-
 ferent ones leave home without
 turning to the Lord, we know the
 Truth placed in their hearts is still
 germinating. No matter how far
 they move away, the memories of
 the love and devotion they re-
 ceived from Sunday School teach-
 ers and other parents can't be
 erased from their hearts. Re-
 flecting upon my own conversion,
 these Sunday School fellowship
 days left a great impression of
 "love" and "conviction" upon my
 heart. Now that most of us read-
 ing this are old enough to know
 the work involved in hosting
 young people, let us not be weary
 in well-doing. I recently heard
 over the pulpit that with our cul-

ture growing more hostile towards our biblical faith, today's parents must be most dedicated in imbuing God's Word upon the hearts of their children as Satan now possesses more avenues to gain a wider audience at a younger age than any previous generation.

We thank Bro. Byron Stoller (Gridley, IL) for coming to fill in our pulpit on March 16.

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND
Samantha Gramm
Kara Beebe

"...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."

Phil. 2:12-13

We are thankful souls are still seeking Him. Our convert, Sharon Flis, has found complete peace with God and man and we look forward to hearing her testimony soon.

There is joy in heaven and in our congregation as Ben Lehman (Bro. Don and Sis. Jill) has answered the call to repentance.

Bro. Wayne Lehman and several others from our church recently returned home safely from work tams in Mexico.

"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete it shall be measured to you again."

Luke 6:38

It was an encouragement to have visiting ministering Bro. Greg Rassi (Sis. Carla, Chicago, IL) share the Word with us. Bro. Greg shared many insights with us including some from Proverbs 16 and Luke 6, which were so applicable to each of us.

"Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established."

Proverbs 16:3

INDIANA, VALPARAISO
Ed Lester

Greetings of love and joy to all! We at Valpo have been so blessed this past month, I just don't know where to start.

Bro. Rollie and Sis. Josephine Meiss celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Congratulations and we pray that we all can learn something of your patience and love together.

We were allowed to have fellowship with the residents of Parkview Haven. We shared inspirational songs in praise of our Lord and Saviour.

The Valparaiso congregation would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN). We are looking forward to hearing you preach the gospel and fellowshiping together. We also would like to extend a prayerful thank you to Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann (Sis. Judy, Chicago, IL) for serving faithfully as our Elder. We greatly appreciated your help and guidance. We pray that you will enjoy what God has in store for you in your new position of responsibility.

ity. We want to also extend our love and prayers to Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lila, LaCrosse, IN). We appreciated your support during this time of transition.

Lastly, we would like to welcome Bro. Dan Schafer (Leo, IN) who will be a blessed addition to our congregation.

INDIANA
WEST LAFAYETTE
Nettie Haab
Diana Houston

"Forasmuch as there is none like unto thee, O Lord, thou art great, and thy name is great in might. Who would not fear thee, O King of nations? For to thee doth it appertain; forasmuch as among all the wise men of the nations, and in all their kingdoms, there is none like unto thee."

Jeremiah 10:6-7

Job transfer has Bro. Ross and Sis. Erin Wuthrich and family moving to Morton, IL. We will miss them but wish them the best and God's blessings as they serve the Lord there.

Bro. Jay Wiegand (Sis. Lori) willingly assumes the responsibility as a West Lafayette representative for Parkview Haven in Francesville.

A precious baby boy, Carl Brecken, was born November 29, 2002, to Bro. Kevin and Sis. Laura Gutwein and is welcomed home by little sister, Kaitlin.

A special invitation from Princeville, IL, to the high school Sunday School classes from West Lafayette along with Remington, Wolcott and Francesville as they

enjoyed a blessed weekend of activities, fellowship and hearing God's Word together.

The ACYF (Apostolic Christian Youth Fellowship) high school Bible Class churches of Indiana were together for their annual weekend at Purdue for a blessed time of fellowship, singing, and hearing of the Word.

Our sympathy goes out to Sis. Suz and Bro. Duane Schieler for the death of her grandfather, Earl Rockwell, who lived at Parkview Haven in Francesville, IN. May God comfort them and the family as they go through this time of losing a loved one.

Visiting ministers have been Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Sis. Francis, Wolcott, IN), and Bros. Ken Eisenmann (Sis. Sharon, Cissna Park, IL), Todd Feller (Sis. Karen, LaCrosse, IN), Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN), Brian Waibel (Sis. Wendy, Champaign, IL), Matt Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago, IL), and Chris Huber (Sis. Sharon, Francesville, IN). A special blessing to them all for bringing God's Word to us.

Note of Thanks:

Special thanks to all who sent cards, visited me at the hospital and at home after my hip replacement surgery. All prayers were felt, too. God bless you all.

Sis. Diana Houston

INDIANA, WOLCOTT

Heidi Bahler

Luann Gerber

It has been a relatively quiet month here in Wolcott. As I write this, there are several from our congregation who are traveling on

spring break. We pray they all have a safe trip and return trip and return safely to us.

On a Wednesday evening recently, we had our topical Bible study. We thank Bro. Jeff Neihouser (Sis. Sue, Francesville, IN) for spending the evening with us and talking about Desert Training.

Michelle Furrer (Bro. Troy and Sis. Lisa) recently underwent heart surgery and is doing very well! We thank our mighty Saviour for His healing mercies!

IOWA, BURLINGTON

Brenda Schulz

Lana Metzger

We will dearly miss our Sis. Mathilda "Tillie" Frank who passed away on Monday, March 10. We hope God will comfort her family. They include her daughter, Marilyn Anderson, who attends church here and her two sons, Lewis Frank Jr. and Robert H. Frank, who live in this area and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. She was 99 years old and was a good light and example to family and the congregation here. She knew that with Jesus she could go anywhere and now she has gone to be with Him in Heaven above.

Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA) and Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA) were here to assist with the funeral of Sis. Mathilda Frank.

The reading of the Memorandum took place in Oakville on March 1. Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL) was here to help Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall. Again,

let us thank them for their service and pray God will bless them.

Bro. Lee and Sis. Patsy Esslinger are the happy first-time grandparents of Mason Dean who was born to Bro. Brent and Sis. Fawn Kieser (Peoria, IL) on February 19. We know these babies are a precious gift from God and we hope Mason's parents enjoy watching him as he continues to grow.

As war in the Middle East becomes more likely, let us pray that our President will make wise decisions. Let us also remember to pray for those in the armed forces and their families.

IOWA, ELGIN

Gloria Frieden

Heidi Butikofer

"And he, bearing his cross, went forth into a place called the place of a skull ... where they crucified him..."

John 19:17-18

In one hymn we sing, "Must Jesus bear the cross alone, and all the world go free? No there's a cross for everyone, and there's a cross for me." Jesus said, "And he that taketh not his cross and followeth after me is not worthy of me." (Matthew 10:28). May God grant us each the necessary grace to bear our individual crosses to His honor and glory and may we ever give Christ all thanks and praise for the cross He bore for our salvation.

Many prayers have been offered for Bro. Lon Butikofer (Sis. Sandy) who is currently in the hospital as a surgical patient. Sis.

Joy Frieden was also in the hospital and is thankful to be back home again.

"Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore."

Isaiah 2:4

What a day that will be!

We so much appreciated having Bro. Joe Gerst (Sis. Connie, Iowa City, IA) with us and for the message from God's Word that he shared with us.

IOWA, GARDEN GROVE **Willa Clark**

Jesus said, "And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet." Matthew 24:6. Our dear Lord knows our concerns and fears in these times, and cares for us. We must put all our trust and hope in Him and in the salvation He has promised, and obey the command to "be not troubled." A young Christian soldier in Kuwait wrote home, expressing his hope that although he had some fear, his prayer was that he would be a Godly light to others, and that God's will be done, His Name glorified. Oh, that we would show such strength as we live our comparatively safe lives!

Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Bro. Walt Herrmann (Princeville, IL) and their families visited us this month. We are so thankful for the words of love and encouragement they have given, and the fellowship in Christ that we share.

IOWA, IOWA CITY **Diana Butikofer**

We are pleased to have Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Melissa Miller (Sarasota, FL) and their boys with us for a few months while Jeremy is working in our area.

We thank Bros. Dave Marquart (Sis. Lori, Taylor, MO) and Gary Endress (Sis. Evelyn, Bradford, IL) for being with us this month. Elder Bro. Ted Witzig (Sis. Cindy, Morton, IL) helped Bro. Joe read the Memorandum to us and remind us of the principles it was based on. We appreciate the visits of these couples and their willingness to let God use them to minister to us in their unique ways.

IOWA, LESTER **Dawn Knobloch** **Dawn Metzger**

On Saturday evening, March 1, we gathered together to listen to the reading of the Memorandum so lovingly shared with us by Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) along with our Elder Bro. Dennis Warner. We thank our Elders for willingly giving of themselves as they labor on our behalf. May the warnings and instructions be an encouragement to continue to strive faithfully toward our heavenly goal. We were also blessed when Bro. Don Gudeman (La-Crosse, IN) shared the Word with us later in the month.

Surgical patients this past month were Bro. Donn Moser (Sis. Joyce), Tammy Wulf (Bro. Dale and Sis. Becky) and Bro. Andy Mogler (Sis. Freida). Our prayer is that God's healing touch

will be with each one as they are recovering.

It is always a joy to share the news of the birth of a baby. On March 2, Jayma Lee made her arrival into the family of John and Sis. Karmin Popkes. Shayna, Trevor and Carson are her excited siblings. Grandparents are Sis. Eleanor Popkes and Bro. Chuck and Sis. Karen Walter (Silverton, OR) along with great-grandmother, Sis. Donna Metzger. Bro. Monte and Sis. Karla Gerber and big sister Katrina welcomed Shawna Marie into their family on March 6. Bro. Bill and Sis. Erma Gerber and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Ruby Schmidgall (Morris, MN) are Shawna's grandparents. Sis. Emma Gerber of our congregation is her great-grandmother. Bro. Denis and Sis. Jill Meyer along with Elyse, Tad, Sam and Addie were blessed with the arrival of Jed Charles on March 10. Bro. Ray and Sis. Twyla Meyer are Jed's grandparents and Sis. Emma Meyer is his great-grandmother. We congratulate these families and wish them God's grace and guidance as they raise their children.

Many from our congregation were in Winthrop, MN, on March 16 to witness the wedding vows of Sis. Julie Knobloch and Bro. Nick Schmidt. Sis. Julie was formerly from the Lester congregation but has lived in Winthrop, MN, for a number of years now. We wish God's blessings upon Bro. Nick and Sis. Julie as they begin their married life together. Bro. Melvin and Sis. Wilma Knobloch and Bro. Verl and Sis. Jamie Schmidt (Winthrop) are the parents of this

couple.

We extend our sympathy to Tina Moser, Sis. Donna Metzger and Louise Tolvstad in the death of their sister-in-law, Alice Moser.

IOWA, PULASKI **Katrina Knobloch**

There was no crown for Him of silver or of gold.

There was no diadem for Him to hold.

But blood adorned His brow and proud it's stain He bore.

And sinners gave to Him the crown He wore.

A rugged cross, became His throne,

His kingdom was in hearts alone.

He wrote His love in crimson red,

And wore the thorns upon His head.

Melodies of Praise #13

May we remember this Easter and always, the price that our Saviour paid on the cross and that He rose again so we may have salvation!

The first weekend in March our congregation enjoyed a blessed weekend of fellowship as we had our Invite a Guest Weekend. We were especially thankful to have Bros. Larry Bahr (Sis. Julie, Fort Scott, KS) and Brian Huber (Sis. Jacki, Francesville, IN) with us. Also ministering to us this past month was Bro. Kenny Dietz (Sis. Mardell, Bradford, IL).

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

Visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Kent Getz (Sis. Betty, Elgin, IA) and Bro. Paul

Kilgus (Sis. Carmen, Fairbury, IL). Surely God will bless them for their willingness to travel here and then to speak the Word.

Believing in faith that it is God's will for them, the engagement of Bro. Jeremy Leman (Bro. Dale and Sis. Lezlee) and Sis. Nancy Zaugg (Bro. Norm and Sis. Polly) was announced. May God bless and direct them as they plan for marriage in June.

Bro. Jason and Sis. Angie Fehr welcomed their second child, Kara Joy, on March 13. Her brother, Caleb, along with grandparents, Bro. Dennis and Sis. Judy Fehr and Elder Bro. Dennis and Sis. Esther Warner (Lester, IA) are happy with her safe arrival.

Little Laura Fehr (Bro. Mark and Sis. Janet), Lucille Wirtz (the late Bro. Edwin) and Eli and Pearl Gerber all spent time in the hospital recently. Eli is now recuperating at the West Bend Care Center and hoping to be able to return to his home again soon. Certainly one can appreciate good health even more after enduring the discomforts of illness or injury.

We extend our sympathy and prayers to Sis. Ella Schneider (the late Bro. Lawrence). Her oldest brother, Nicholas Thomsen, of Lakota, IA, passed away on February 20.

"...he answered nothing."

Mark 15:3

The day when Jesus stood alone
And felt the hearts of men like
stone,

And knew He came but to atone...
That day "He held His peace."

They witnessed falsely to His
word,

They bound Him with a cruel cord,
And mockingly proclaimed Him

Lord:

"But Jesus held His peace."

They spat upon Him in the face,
They dragged Him on from place
to place,

They heaped upon Him all disgrace:

"But Jesus held His peace."

—L.S.P.

The next trial or tribulation that comes our way, could it be recorded that we, too, "held our peace"?

JAPAN, TOKYO

Jana Klaus

Greetings of love from Tokyo. We are approaching the end of the school and work year, so many closing ceremonies are taking place now and new beginnings will start in April. The school children have just two weeks off between their school years, but it is a beautiful time of year with the cherry tree blossoms ready to burst forth and greenery coming out here and there. Many families and work people will spend time doing "hanami" or "flower viewing," having picnics under the cherry blossoms. It is always encouraging to see the beautiful hand of God in the springtime.

Bro. Takaaki Miyagawa has started a new phase of his life as he made a move to Hachioji (near the Klaus family) and began a new job with Siemens, a large German electronics company. We pray he would feel the Lord with him daily, that he would live a life

pleasing to Him, being a strong witness.

We had our yearly all-church brother meeting this past Friday, March 21, a national holiday (Spring Equinox). In the morning, the Memorandum from the States was translated and expounded upon by our two Elder Brothers, Akito Inoue and Willis Ehnle (Shioda). Then, after lunch and fellowshiping together, we had an open discussion covering topics like how to get new people to church, how to give attention to those already coming, and when to have gatherings with both churches (heavy traffic on the expressway poses a problem, especially during weekends and holidays), but we sure do want to continue to get together and encourage one another—it is greatly needed in this country.

We were so thankful and happy to meet Bro. Matt Brake (Sardis, OH) again after saying farewell to him over a year ago. He came back for a visit and brought along Bro. Jeff Stoller (Fairbury, IL), his first time to Japan. They joined in our brother meeting and plan to be back to worship with us on March 30. We also had a first time visit from Sis. Kay Kellenberger (Elgin, IL) as she was here visiting her brother, Gary, and his family. She was a delight to get to know and we sure welcome her back!

It seems many of our church people have experienced deaths of loved ones recently. Today we heard of our dear Sis. Eiko Nozawa's (Shioda) sister passing on after a battle with cancer. Sis. Eiko had cared for her and her children so diligently. We extend

our sympathy and love to Sis. Eiko and her family. May the Lord draw her nearer to Him during this terribly sad time. As I mentioned last month, a lady who had been attending our monthly ladies meeting passed away rather quickly after being hospitalized a short time. It greatly surprised those of us who knew her as we did not realize she was sick. Her husband had passed on before her, and as a result of her death, her only child, Toshie Nagahashi, is in deep grief and reaching out to us and the Lord. She attended our church this past Sunday and how we pray for wisdom to minister to her.

KANSAS, BERN
Sally Strahm
Lori Baumgartner

“If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.”

I Cor. 15:19

As warmer weather and the first signs of Spring are beginning to appear, our thoughts turn to Easter and the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour. Because of Christ's death on the cross, the shedding of His innocent blood, and His resurrection from the dead, we have hope of life everlasting! When our life comes to an end, we have something better to look forward to if we have been washed in the blood of the Lamb. What more could we ask for?

As a parent, what more could we wish for than to know that our

children walk in truth. We are so thankful that four souls have been announced for having peace and are looking forward to giving their testimony and being baptized the weekend of March 29-30. They are Anna Esslinger (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gerty), Leann Lehman (Elder Bro. John and Sis. Connie), Jody Kaeb (Bro. Jim and Sis. Diane), and Nathan Plattner (Bro. Carroll and Roberta).

We definitely have reasons to rejoice as two more souls have made a beginning in repentance. Our prayers are with Bethany Strahm (Bro. Wilfred and Sis. Verona) and Pauline Esslinger (Waymer) as they begin this new journey in faith.

The weekend of March 15-16, the Apostolic Christian Homes Care Conference was held in our area. We were privileged to have several visitors among us. On Saturday evening, Bro. Jeff Schumacher (Sis. Tina, Leo, IN) gave a presentation on the work at Gateway Woods and asked for our prayers in the efforts begun there. On Sunday, we had three visiting ministers assemble with us. They were Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Washington, IL), Bro. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL) and Bro. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA). We thank each one for their labors on our behalf. May the Lord richly bless them.

As threats of war continue to loom on the horizon, may we continue to pray for our leaders and our country. We do not know what the next day or week will bring forth, but we pray that God's plan may be fulfilled according to His will.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Fred Edelman would like to express our sincere gratitude for all the cards, flowers, plants, food and memorials since the passing of our dear husband, father and grandpa. Above all, we would like to thank everyone for the prayers said on our behalf, for we truly need the prayers of those we love! The compassion and thoughtfulness expressed by family and friends will never be forgotten. God bless you!

The Fred Edelman family

Notice: A pair of black men's lace-up dress shoes, size 10 wide, were left in the east entry of our church following Bro. Fred Edelman's funeral.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT
Ruth Bahr

Shirley Sinn, wife of Lester Sinn, passed away March 13 after a short illness from cancer. We sympathize with Lester, their six children and mates, the grandchildren and also our Bro. Wayne Sinn (Sis. Waneta) who is Lester's brother.

Bros. Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Fairbury, IL), Greg Stoller (Sis. Jill, Forrest, IL) and Wayne Leman (Sis. Julie, Roanoke, IL) served us from the pulpit. Also, the Lemans brought a group of young folks. The mingling of hearts brings out an inner joy that means so much in our faith. We thank each one for their visit this month.

KANSAS, KIOWA
Laura Wagenbach
Jenny Stewart

What a wondrous time is spring
When all the trees are budding
The birds begin to sing
The flowers start their blooming.

That's how it is with God's love
Once you've experienced it
You want to sing, it's fresh like
spring,
You want to pass it on!
—Hymns for the Family of God
#641

Spring is here! You can smell it in the air and see the physical evidence everywhere. It's a time for new growth and rebirth of every living thing. Are you experiencing new growth in God's love?

As we reflect on the coming Easter season, we pause at the wonder of what Christ did for us on the cross. We pause to wonder at His rising again on that blessed morning. Have you ever wondered what you would have felt to go to Jesus' tomb that morning and to see His grave empty and then to realize He had risen again. What joy! What love He had for us! May your Easter season be filled with the freshness of spring and the love and joy of God our Father.

Our hospital patients this past month were Sis. Mildred Farney and Sis. Alice Tanner (Bro. Elmer). Sis. Mildred is doing well now. Bro. Elmer and Sis. Alice have moved to Alva, OK, to live with their daughter, Ruth.

KANSAS
LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Eileen Bahr

As I write today, this is the "last day" deadline our president has given before a possible war is declared. Have you ever sat reading along with the minister's scripture and something "hits you"? This happened at yesterday afternoon's Bible chapter. This morning the poor memory has hit on the exact scripture, but God's message was plain: all these problems will escalate, but He will be with us. How wonderful to know that we can put our trust in God and His promises.

While Bro. Edwin Strahm (Bern, KS) was giving us the morning message on February 16, the phone rang. He concluded with the words, "Would you be happy if the Lord came today?" The Lord came that morning for Bro. Fred Edelman (Bern), brother of our Bro. Albert Edelman. Our sympathy goes out to the family.

Bro. Eldon and Sis. Dorene Metzger received a blessed valentine—grandbaby Meg, daughter of Philip and Stephanie Metzger.

Elder Bro. Gerry Hertz (Sabetha, KS) lovingly shared the Conference Memorandum with our Elder Bro. Jay Luthi on Saturday evening, February 21.

We thank Bros. Ronald Joos (Pulaski, IA), Kenneth Knapp (Taylor, MO) and Darrel Stoller (Bern, KS) for sharing the gospel with us for our invite-a-guest weekend on March 8-9.

Recently after standing in line receiving warm Christian greeting handshakes, I asked the sister next to me if it was just the arthri-

tis in my hand, or did the brother's handshake hurt? It wasn't just my mild arthritis, it was too hard a handshake. The good book again has the answer – not a “dead fish” handshake but “Do all things in moderation”. I'm sure brothers sometimes forget their strength.

KANSAS, SABETHA
Mary Kay Wenger
Jeanelle Plattner

“Jesus loves me, this I know...”

We like to congratulate new grandparents among us even when many miles separate them from their loved ones. Bro. Roger and Sis. Ilene Hartter's grandson, Talin Jon Knobloch, was born on December 24 to Bro. Derek and Sis. Connie Knobloch (Lester, IA).

“Blest be the tie that binds...”

Our congregation hosted an invite-a-guest weekend on March 2 where one group could invite a guest and the second group were hosts. In September we plan to reverse it. Among us were visiting ministers, Bro. Randy Kellenberger (Kansas City, MO), Bro. Beirne Messner (Morris, MN) and Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Denver, CO). We thank each one for being with us.

“In days of youth, seek ye the Lord...”

There is much rejoicing with two converts, Brooke Huber (Bro. Gordon and Sis. Sharlyn) and Megan Kellenberger (Bro. Brad

and Sis. Teresa).

“Thus united...”

March 9 was the wedding day for Sis. Rosie Zeltwanger (Bro. Dale and Sis. Rachel, Morris, MN) and Bro. Trent Strahm (Bro. Carl and Sis. Sharon) in Goodfield, IL. May God bless the Christian home they establish. We welcome Sis. Rosie as a part of our church family.

“All things bright and beautiful...”

We marvel as we see the promise of springtime flowers, but how much more marvelous when we view a newborn child. Elder Bro. Marvin Leman and his wife, Sis. Jane (Bradford, IL), were with us on March 9. They were here to welcome the birth of their granddaughter, Aubrey Leigh Meyer, on March 10 to Bro. Richard and Sis. Joni Meyer. Aubrey is also welcomed by her brothers, Cameron, Taylor and Gabe, and sister, Haylie, as well as grandparents, Bro. Eli and Sis. Lois Meyer.

“When pure and upright hearts...”

An engagement was announced between Bro. Kurt Grimm (Bro. Doug and Sis. Jeryl) and Sis. Hannah Koehl (Bro. Guy and Sis. Lanette, Morris, MN). May God bless them as they prepare to be joined together in Him.

“Oh, willingly endure...”

Sis. Lucille Kellenberger and

Sis. Marie Weiss (Bro. Oliver) are thankful they don't require chemotherapy or radiation.

“The Lord will provide...”

We appreciated gathering together for a presentation on Gateway Woods by Bro. Jeff Schumacher (Leo, IN). We are thankful for this wonderful avenue they have in reaching out to many who need spiritual guidance in their lives. May we remember to support them in prayer. Also with us was visiting minister, Bro. Randall Gasser (Detroit, MI). We were reminded we sing, “take my silver and my gold” but how do we react when the stock market falls?

Sit and pause awhile, my spirit,
 This great miracle behold;
 See the King of highest merit
 On the cross, so bare and cold!
 Out of heaven God has given
 His own Son in love untold!

Zion's Harp #226

Note: April is our month for the Silver Lining collection. The donation suggested is \$11.00. If anyone knows of someone who would like their own subscription, please let one of your correspondents know as soon as possible. We have a list for additions or corrections that needs to be returned with the dues.

KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY
Aaron Plattner

We are grateful to add more to our young group as Bro. John Wales (Don and Sis. Carol, Kansas City, MO), Bethany Strahm (Bro.

Wilfred and Sis. Verona, Bern), Brooke Huber (Bro. Gordon and Sis. Sharlyn, Sabetha), Tricia Hitz (Bro. Tom and Sis. Cindy, Detroit, MI), Vanndy Frieden (Bro. Larry and Sis. Millie, Kiowa), and Erica Wenger (Bro. Mark and Sis. Julie) have begun attending Kansas State University. After this semester, Troy Kaeb (Bro. Paul and Sis. Joan, Bern) will be graduating. We wish him the Lord's blessings as he pursues a job in Kansas City. We pray for the Lord's guidance as they further their education. This semester is already quickly winding down and we thank the Lord for leading us through another semester. We have been blessed with two new converts, Jody Kaeb (Bro. Jim and Sis. Diane, Bern) and Heath Coburn (Robert and Sis. Michelle, Peoria, IL) who has recently been transferred to Fort Riley, which is very close to Manhattan. We are blessed with his presence and wish them both the Lord's blessings and guidance. "Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." (Luke 15:10)

This past semester we enjoyed Elder Bro. Kent Heimer's (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO) Bible Study about Matthew 22:37: "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." We appreciated his service as well as everyone who traveled to be with us. We were also blessed and surprised to have Bro. Dwight Stoller (Latty, OH) minister to us. He was on a business trip to a nearby city and spent

a Wednesday evening with us. We always are thankful for the support we receive from parents and ministers to travel to Kansas State for Wednesday night services.

We pray that all have a blessed Christmas holiday and look forward to a break from our academic work! "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)

KANSAS, WICHITA Emma Miller

Saturday, March 8, was a special day for Bro. Glenn and Sis. Sally Funk and their family. Many of their extended families and friends gathered to share with them at a reception for their son, Patrick, and his wife, Joanne, who were married last month in New Zealand. Our wish for them is that the Lord will be very near as they accept the duties and privileges of husband and wife.

Those of us who were present had the privilege of renewing acquaintances and forming new connections. For example, I overheard Sis. Ann Greiner's conversation with Sis. Eileen Funk. Ann was telling Eileen that her mother, Sis. Vera Young Yackley, and Ann grew up in the Gridley, KS, church community and that both of them were baptized the same day. Eileen seemed delighted to learn more concerning her heritage.

One of my many favorite scrip-

tures is found in Psalm 16:5-6, "The Lord is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: thou maintainest my lot. The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage." What a blessing that would be if every soul could say, "Yes, I have a goodly inheritance!"

I am certain all of us have grave concerns concerning the possibility of war. Both Derek and Tim Funk (Bro. Glenn and Sis. Sally) have been called to active duty. Join us in praying for their well being.

MEXICO, IXTLAN Penny Stahl

"And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of the paths to dwell in."

Isaiah 58:12

The church family was happy to welcome Sis. Jan back from her visit with her family in the States and England. Sis. Jan expressed how much joy it was in being able to see how their children are honoring the Lord in their own homes. We are thankful that she had this time to share with her children and grandchildren. This was a fulfillment of her desire to spend time with the rest of her family since their two sons, Curt in Africa and Wes in China, were able to make the trip here in the past few months.

Many thanks to Bro. Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO) for his

time here the first week of March. He once again performed eye operations for a number of individuals in the Ixtlán area. We were also blessed as he shared in the church services. May God bless his efforts and the efforts of those who assisted him.

*Meet Sis. Guadalupe
Montejano de Cabrera:*

My name is Guadalupe Montejano de Cabrera and I am 46 years old. My husband, Salvador, and I have eight children. Five are believers by God's grace.

About eight years ago, my brother, Isaias, gave me a Bible but since I didn't know how to read, my daughter, Rosa, would read to me. This brought much joy to me and I liked to listen but I didn't feel any personal conviction in my own life. Then when our daughter, Silvia, was baptized, I was very much affected and did feel convicted of my own sin. I prayed but didn't tell anyone until a sister in church asked me if I desired baptism too. This helped me to tell my family. My daughters were thankful but my husband became upset. After a period of time, he saw the change in the way I lived and spoke and could accept my decision. We went to church together but it was still difficult because he did not want me to visit with other people and only wanted me to sit with him. The Bible says that we wives can win our unconverted husbands by our conduct. (I Peter 3:1) When my unconverted son and my husband complained or criticized me, I asked them if they would rather I returned to the

way I was before and they both answered, "no!"

My life was a disaster before. As a little girl growing up without a father, I learned many wrong things and wished I could die. I have repented of even thinking such a thing. God has forgiven me of so much. He removed my pride and the hatred in my heart. My sister (who is also my neighbor) and I didn't speak to each other, but we are now reconciled. I have learned how to live in peace. Everything is so different now living according to the Holy Spirit's guidance. I know how to respect my husband and children. In reality, I feel I am just beginning to live. When I am with people who don't know about the Lord, I want to tell them about Him. He is the only one who can help us. Sometimes when I am praying, I have tears of joy because of the comfort He gives. Some people still do not want to have anything to do with me even though they say they see the difference in my life, but I know God loves me. I was baptized on July 22, 2001.

MICHIGAN, ALTO
Terri Huber
Rose Watson

Our congregation rejoiced with our Lord when Jeanette Overholt (Rick and Sis. Darlene Goodwin) started repenting in February. We are all praying for her as she begins her new journey with Him.

On February 1 was the wedding of Matt Faulkner and Shanna Rairigh (Greg Rairigh from Sunfield, MI, and Sis. Rhonda Colter). Congratulations to you both and may God bless you

as you start your new lives together.

We have been busy with World Relief efforts; in the last couple of months we have had two family nights. We were able to make many flannel diapers and receiving blankets. We stenciled artwork on the layette bags and filled them with the diapers, blankets, and the donated sleepers/outfits, and small toys. Also, we put together a lot of prenatal kits. Each evening there were more than 40 participants. We had a wonderful evening of work and fellowship. Thanks to all who attended.

Bro. Martin Blough and Bro. Ed Sanders went with a work crew to Haiti for a week. Thank you for sharing your many meaningful experiences with our children and us.

Sis. Margaret Wingeier is hospitalized for a few days. Our love and prayers go out to her for a speedy recovery.

Our sympathy and prayers are with Sis. Bertha Wingeier, whose sister, Sis. Persida Wiegand, from Goodfield, IL, went to be with the Lord this month. Our thoughts are with you, Sis. Bertha, during this difficult time.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY
Sarah Knochel
Janelle Ramseyer

We rejoice with Chet Schlatter (Bro. Ken and Sis. Pam) as he has professed peace with God and man. We pray that God will continue to guide and direct him as he prepares for baptism.

Our congregation continues to lift up in prayer the dear souls who have been suffering from the af-

flections of the body. Special thoughts go out to Bro. Windsor Mosher (Sis. Loretta) and Clyde Wackerle as they both have been hospitalized recently.

We are thankful Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen and Bro. Ned Stoller, both from the Alto congregation, ministered unto us in the past month. Our appreciation goes out to them for their willingness to be used in the service of the Lord.

Sit and pause awhile, my spirit,
This great miracle behold;
See the King of highest merit
On the cross, so bare and cold!
Out of heaven God has given
His own Son in love untold!

Zion's Harp #226

As the time approaches that we remember Christ's suffering on the cross and rising from the dead, may we be appreciative of the price that was paid so that we may have eternal life in Him.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

Jamie Bahr

Krista Wieland

We were blessed to have Bro. Howard Plattner and his wife, Sis. Kristen (Alto, MI), visit and minister to us this month. Also, Bro. Ned Stoller and his wife, Sis. Heidi, served us at Woodhaven and several visited with them. We thank you all for sharing with us. We express our sympathy to Bro. Scott and Sis. Jamie Bahr in the death of Sis. Jamie's uncle, Bro. Fred Edelman (Sabetha, KS). Our sympathy also goes out to Diane Peterson and Annette Johnson in the death of their mother and grandmother, Emma Ackerman

(Morton, IL).

This month we have been blessed with the miracle of birth and new life. A daughter, Stephanie Ann, was born March 8 to Bro. Jason and Sis. Carrie Rauhe. Tyler is her older brother. Grandparents are Bro. Warren and Sis. Kay Rauhe (Detroit, MI) and Bro. Cloyce and Sis. Carol Gress (West Bend, IA). Our thoughts and prayers go out to Mark and Joy Wieland and their family as Mark suffered a serious snowmobile accident. We pray for his continued recovery. We also have been keeping Bro. Hartzell Kaisner, Harvey Novak and Bro. Guy and Sis. Rose Wieland in our prayers as they have been through some medical difficulties lately. We commit them to God for healing.

We welcome Sis. Lori Schamback to our congregation from Bay City, MI. Sis. Lori took a job as a nurse at one of our area hospitals.

Woodhaven Retirement Community's 15th Annual Volunteer Luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, April 12, at Woodpointe at 1:30 PM. Anyone who has helped this mission in any way with church services, hymn sings, activities, outings, choir benefit, musical entertainment or as a member of the Board of Directors is welcome and encouraged to attend along with your spouse. Please let your local Board member know by April 1 if you are able to attend.

Vacation Bible School is set for June 22-28. Please pray for God's blessings on this effort.

MINNESOTA MINNEAPOLIS Diane Stewart

The weekend of March 8-9 was an especially blessed one as Bro. Duane Rocke (Sis. Bonnie) was ordained as our church's Deacon. Elder Bros. Leroy Messner (Sis. JoAnn, Winthrop, MN), Ervin Knecht (Sis. Sandy, Eureka, IL), Art Nohl (Sis. Sandra, Morris, MN), Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA) and Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, West Bend, IA) were here to help with the ordination. Prayerfully sitting in the congregation was our retired Elder Bro. Harold Messner (Sis. Gerry, Winthrop, MN), along with visiting ministering Bros. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda), Paul Messner (Sis. Jan) and Clint Schmidt (Sis. Maggie), all of Winthrop, MN.

Bro. Duane's parents, Bro. Curt and Sis. Beth Rocke of Eureka, IL, and Sis. Bonnie's parents, Bro. Norman and Sis. Lola Young of Fairbury, IL, along with brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends were here in support.

Many biblical instructions to all concerned were shared throughout the weekend.

The Minneapolis church has been in existence forty years with many faithful brothers, sisters and friends supporting it in various ways. Starting with five members, it now has 49 members, along with many faithful friends and families. Now that God has raised among our congregation our own deacon, we pray God would continue to richly bless Bro. Duane in his duties of willing commitment and the congregation in continued growth and ser-

vice in the Lord's will. How thankful we are for a pulpit occupied by faithful brothers who work together in harmony for the good of the entire church.

MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Katie Koehl
Cheryl Messner

As they go forth upon life's way
 Sustain them by Thy grace;
 May they Thy holy laws obey
 And live in joy and peace.

Hymns of Zion #286, vs. 3

Bro. Trent Strahm and Sis. Rosie Zeltwanger were united in Holy Matrimony on March 9 at the Goodfield, IL, church. May this dear couple ever seek God's love, grace and wisdom as they establish their home. Parents are Bro. Dale and Sis. Rachel Zeltwanger and Bro. Carl and Sis. Sharon Strahm (Sabetha, KS).

After seeking the Lord's will and counsel, Bro. Kurt Grimm (Sabetha, KS) and Sis. Hannah Koehl became engaged on March 9. May God continue to guide and direct as they plan their wedding. Parents are Bro. Guy and Sis. Lynette Koehl and Bro. Doug and Sis. Jeryl Grimm (Sabetha, KS).

Those who have spent time in the hospital are Sis. Lillie Luthi and Bro. Albert Joos. We are thankful good health was restored to both.

"The counsel of the Lord standeth forever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations. Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people whom he

hath chosen for his own inheritance."

Psalm 33:11-12

Notes of Thanks:

We are overwhelmed by the powerful prayers and support we have received during Cathy's illness. The cards and food were so welcome. We take this time to "thank you" so very much. God bless you all.

Jerry and Cathy Joos

I would like to thank everyone who remembered me with prayers, visits, cards, gifts, food and telephone calls during the time of my surgery and my recovery at home. It was all greatly appreciated. God bless you all.

Sis. Verna Schaefer

MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Marilyn Messner
Ginny Stoll

Though the snow was blowing - which made travel difficult for some - Winthrop hosted the Sunday School meeting for the churches involved in the Youth Fellowship weekend held every June. We are thankful for God's guidance as activities and events are planned for our youth.

Bro. Nick Schmidt and Sis. Julie Knobloch were united in the Lord on March 16. Parents of the couple are Bro. Verl and Sis. Jamie Schmidt and Bro. Meff and Sis. Wilma Knobloch (Lester, IA). We pray for God's blessings on this couple as they walk down life's pathway together. Visiting ministers used as servants that weekend were Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA)

and Bro. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend, IA).

Our surgical patient this month was Bro. David Messner. We are thankful for God's healing hand.

We extend our sympathy and prayers to Mona Messner (Duane) in the death of her father, Karl Kintzi.

MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY
Garry and Marty Rokey

We are grateful to God for providing the following visiting ministers this past month: Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Deb, Denver, CO), Bro. John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Burlington, IA) and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS).

Assisting our Elder Bro. Don Braker in Holy Communion was Elder Bro. Mike Leman. Just as the Passover celebrated the Israelites deliverance from slavery in Egypt, so the Lord's supper celebrates our deliverance from sin by Christ's death on the cross. We are so very thankful for this remembrance of His broken body and shed blood.

Our many prayers are for our friend, Ben Miller (Bro. Dennis and Sis. April), as he serves in the Marine Corps in the Middle East.

"Deliver me, O Lord, from the evil man; preserve me from the violent man; Which imagine mischiefs in their heart; continually are they gathered together for war. They have sharpened their tongues like a serpent; adders' poison is under their lips. Selah. Keep me, O Lord, from the hands of the wicked; preserve me from

the violent man; who have purposed to overthrow my goings. I said unto the Lord, Thou art my God: hear the voice of my supplications, O Lord."

Psalm 140:1-4, 6

MISSOURI, LAMAR

**Wendy Braker
Becky Marti**

We appreciate the many visitors we've had this past month. May God richly bless Bro. Mike Rinkenberger (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Brandon Emch (Kansas City, MO) for their willingness to be used in ministering God's Word.

Bro. Leon and Sis. Teresa Luthi were blessed with a son on February 20. Luke William was welcomed home by Melinda, Courtney, Lane and Rachelle. Grandparents are Bro. Raymond and Sis. Violet Luthi and Nancy Neher. Luke had to go back and spend several days in the hospital, but he is home again and doing well.

Bro. Raymond (Sis. LuEtta) Braker and Bro. Raymond (Sis. Violet) Luthi were hospitalized recently. We are thankful for God's healing hand.

MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

Betsy Schrenk

Visiting ministers in this past month were Bros. Tom Stock (Sis. Karol, Cissna Park, IL), Steve Martin (Sis. Vicki, Eureka, IL), Ken Wuethrich (Sis. Lyn, Indianapolis, IN) and Jaye Rinkenberger (Sis. Peg, Goodfield, IL). Even when our assembly is very small, our visitors are so gracious,

and we are abundantly blessed.

One Sunday we were exhorted to surrender all to God, doing what He would have us do, when and where we find ourselves. Another week, we heard how the military takes a young civilian and turns him into a soldier. To accomplish this transformation, all things from his former life are stripped away. Obedience, teamwork and camaraderie are developed. He cannot cling to his former life and be a good soldier. The discipline of military life does not come naturally, but is learned. An analogy was made to our Christian life. When we turn our face toward the Lord, we must leave the old things behind. We are converted into a follower of Christ, a soldier of the cross, listening to His commands and obeying His teachings. The word pictures of the Christian life in the Bible indicate that we have work to do: putting on a yoke, carrying a cross, putting our hand to the plow, and not looking back. Satan would have us forget that, although we are in the world, we are not of the world. Each Christian has a daily battle, but the Lord provides us with armor that will protect us when we put it on each morning. (Eph. 6). As we thankfully remember Christ's sacrifice on the cross this Easter, let's also be aware of our responsibilities as a soldier in the Lord's army.

MISSOURI, TAYLOR

Susan Haerr

We extend a special thank you to Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) for being here with us on March 1 to read the

Memorandum, and then to minister to us on Sunday. We appreciate the time and effort it takes to do that and pray that God will bless you.

Taylor was blessed to hold the World Relief Meeting here on March 8. We are so grateful for all who made the trip here and for all here in our congregation who put forth much time and effort to host the event. It is exciting to see and hear what the church is doing to reach out to a world in need. May God bless each one that plays a part in all of the important projects that are in progress. Thank you to Bro. Matthew Rassi (Sis. Bridget, Chicago, IL) who was here to share the Word with us that Sunday. God bless you.

Those undergoing surgery in the past month were Julie Gerst (John) and Bro. Jim Sutter (Sis. Kris). We pray for God's healing for you.

As a congregation, we wish to extend our sympathy to Sis. Dianne Sutter (Bro. Roger) and her family at the passing of her dad, Clayton Scott. May God lift you up and be near you in a special way each time you think of him.

NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Hope Graves

We have been blessed to gather together several times this month to work on World Relief activities. On Saturday, February 21, we began working in the afternoon to piece together and tie several quilts before breaking for a potluck dinner followed by assembling prenatal kits in the evening. On Friday, March 7, we met in the

evening to finish the prenatal kits and roll bandages. What a wonderful way to fellowship while at the same time making provision for those in need.

We have been able to partake of a special spiritual blessing each weekend of this month with several visitors coming to our area. Each weekend we have gathered together on Saturday evening for a potluck dinner in the church basement followed by a singing in the Sunday School room. With us on March 1-2 was Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville, CT); on March 8-9, ministering Bro. Daniel Goric (Rockville, CT); and on March 15-16, Elder Bro. David Graf (Akron, OH) shared with us the reading of the Memorandum. We would like to extend a special thank you to these brothers for assembling with us and bringing forth rich messages from the gospel of salvation.

Our prayers go out to Sis. Julia Karcher who has fallen recently and broken her hip. We are thankful that she was able to assemble with us for several weeks before her fall and pray she may receive the healing and comfort needed to again be in our midst.

In December, our college graduate was Brian Graves (Bro. Floyd Jr. and Sis. Linda). He has since moved to North Carolina for work and our prayers go with him as he embarks on this new portion of his life. His new address is: 1521 Bridford Parkway, Apt. 15M, Greensboro, NC 27407.

OHIO, AKRON
Joyce Gasser

We rejoice that another con-

vert has been announced as having peace with God. Melissa Cannone has repented and we are thankful for the conversion experience that has been hers. We rejoice with her and wish for her the Lord's continuing blessings of grace and mercy as she serves the Lord in her new way of life. We look forward to her baptism in the near future when we can gladly welcome her as our sister in Christ.

We welcome brothers, sisters and friends from our other congregations to worship with us as the opportunity is available. Our Christian fellowship is a wonderful blessing and we enjoy meeting those from other congregations either by visiting them or having them assemble with us. We would like to thank those of you who have been able to worship with us and we welcome you again.

OHIO, COLUMBUS
Nancy Banks

What a welcome and wonderful sound to finally hear the birds singing! Our visiting ministers this month were Bros. Gary Tonner (Bluffton, IN), Art Ingold (Rittman, OH) and Steve Pamer (Akron, OH).

We wish God's richest blessings to our friend, Joe Sauder, as he moves to the Indianapolis area for an internship. Joe is the son of Bro. Bill and Sis. Becky Sauder.

OHIO, JUNCTION
Cindy Schlatter

Bro. Scott Manz (Bro. Don and Sis. Connie) and Sis. Sara Brake (Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam) of

Sardis made known their engagement on February 23. We will continue to pray for these two dear souls as they make wedding plans.

March 1-2 was a blessed weekend as we listened to the testimony and witnessed the baptism of our new Bro. Tim Manz (Bro. Paul and Sis. Sandra). Elder Bro. Dave Graf (Akron, OH) was with us on this weekend as well as ministering Bros. Mark Steiner (Smithville, OH) and Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH). We want to extend our thankfulness to them each one for their labors.

A NEW LIFE

Stumbling through this world,
In a selfish, sinful way,
Partaking of its lusts,
My pride was holding sway.
God's grace showed me faith's
light.
Conversion changed my soul.
I'll ne'er regret
I did repent;
Christ's blood hath made me
whole!

On the narrow way,
I may have doubts and fears.
Temptations do abound,
And, yet, my LORD is near.
With Him, I'll watch and pray,
Assemble with the few.
His Word, my Guide;
His help provide.
'Til death, I will be true!

Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sardis, OH) spent the weekend of March 8-9 among us. This was an uplifting weekend as we partook of Holy Communion. It certainly makes us feel unworthy to think of all the Lord suffered on our behalf.

Barb Brink (Rob) had surgery this past month. We are thankful she is doing well and able to worship with us again.

**OHIO, LATTY
Amanda Steffen
Bonny Wenninger**

As I write this article, spring is heralding its entrance into the world once again. How wonderful for our Lord to give us this gift at the same time every year knowing that we need to feel refreshed after the clutches of winter.

Our congregation rejoiced to see another soul brought into the fold as we witnessed the testimony and baptism of Sis. Heather Stoller (Bro. Todd and Sis. Pam) on February 23. A fierce winter storm made it too difficult to have Heather's testimony on Saturday evening so it was decided to have it Sunday afternoon. Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH) was here to assist our Elder Bro. Ray for the weekend. We thank Bro. Bill for lending of himself on Sunday and pray the Lord will bless him.

On March 2, the engagement of Bro. Tony Stoller (Bro. Rob and Sis. Joanne, Rittman, OH) to Sis. Mary Beth Rufener (Bro. John and Sis. Emily) of Smithville, OH, was made known. Bro. Tony is the grandson of Bro. Russ and Sis. Melvene Stoller and has made Latty his home church for the past few years. How marvelous is God's love when two souls can prove God's will for their lives. The couple is anticipating a June 15 wedding date.

Bro. Randy and Sis. Joni Wenninger were blessed with an-

other son on March 3. Younger siblings, Jessica, Staci and Scott, are happy to have Ryan Lee to play with at home. Paternal grandparents are Bro. Don and Sis. Josephine Wenninger and maternal grandparents are Lennis and Lula Saylor (Payne, OH).

It is miraculous to see God work in the life of one soul. Our congregation was pleased to hear that Allison Stoller feels at peace with God and man and is awaiting her time of testimony and baptism. Her parents are Bro. Dwight and Sis. Lori Stoller.

Our prayers continue to be with Sis. Emma Jean Stieglitz (Bro. Oliver). We are glad that she is able to assemble with us again. We think of Sis. Mary Eisenmann as she has recently moved from her home to a healthcare facility. We pray God can be her daily Rewarder.

On February 27, our congregation helped out with the local bloodmobile done through the American Red Cross. A special thanks to all who helped out with this endeavor.

At the time of this writing, Easter is yet a month away. Even though it is designated only one day a year, we can celebrate Easter every day of our lives as we thank God daily for allowing His Son to die in our stead and then rise again. How wonderful and privileged we are to be able to do this.

**OHIO, MANSFIELD
John and Marci Pfeiffer**

February 22-23 was a blessed weekend for Bro. John and Sis.

Dawn Ramsey, Sis. Elizabeth Ramsey (Bro. John and Sis. Dawn), Sis. Denise Sauder (Bruce), and Bro. Doug Domka (Bro. Dan and Sis. Mary Ann) and us as they became our brothers and sisters in Christ. Elder Bros. Merle Hartzler (Rittman, OH) and Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) assisted with the work. Bro. John Grimm (Columbus, OH) was in our midst also. May God continue to bless each of these ministers for their labors of love.

On February 27, Ethan Thomas was born to Brian and Danyelle Sauder. MaKenzie, Jaclyn and Brian are happy for his safe arrival along with grandparents, Sis. Caroline Sauder and Edward and Mary Toms.

Those needing hospital care and or surgery have been Sis. Leora Bocka, Sis. Catherine Armstrong, Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine) and little Brianna Hill (Bro. Tom and Sis. Elaine). We pray that God would heal according to His will.

Our dear Bro. Tony Eichof passed away on February 28 after a short illness. We are so very thankful he could find salvation during the last years of his life. Our sympathy and prayers are with his children, Sis. Pat Beer (Bro. Ken) and Robert.

We ask God's comfort for Bro. Jim and Sis. Clara Zimmer in the passing of their great-grandson, Trey Zimmer (Jeremy and Shannon).

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

Hymns of Zion #257

We wish all a blessed Easter as we remember our Saviour and spend time with brethren, family and friends.

OHIO, RITTMAN
Anna Schar
Sandy Zollinger

"O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever."

Psalm 107:1

Today was a beautiful spring like day; how thankful we are that it is just around the corner. The sunshine is such a blessing after the long, dark, cold days of winter.

We are thankful to report that Sam Gardner is repenting. May the Lord grant him much grace to walk this narrow path of life. Sam's parents are Gary and Bonnie Gardner.

Our prayers are with those who were hospitalized this past month: Bro. Vernon Landis (Sis. Elizabeth), Glenn Winkler (Mary Jane), Sue Plahuta (Dave), Sis. Ella Miller (Glenn), Brianna Hill (Bro. Tom and Sis. Elaine) and Blake Stoller (Brian and Debbie). Sis. Mary Jane Winkler (Bro. Andy) had surgery. Sis. Betty Zollinger (Bro. Norman) also had surgery and was hospitalized. We are thankful all are home; may God's healing hand be upon each one as they continue to improve.

We also remember Sis. Darlene and Bro. Jeff Lanz in prayer as Sis. Darlene's grandmother, Margaret Reminder, passed away in February.

Congratulations to Bro. Tony

Stoller (Bro. Rob and Sis. Joanne, Latty, OH) as he is engaged to Sis. Mary Beth Rufener (Bro. John and Sis. Emily, Smithville, OH). Also announced were the engagements of Rebecca Berry (Bro. Stan and Sis. Karen) to Michael Bowlby (Ken and Ginny); and Myra Steiner (Bro. Rich and Sis. Pat) to Mike Pierce (Dave and Peg). May these couples seek His grace and guidance as they plan their future.

March 8 marks the calendar when Carol Gasser and Paul Zollinger were united in marriage. Mother of the bride is Sis. Lucy Gasser and parents of the groom are Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary Ann Zollinger (Smithville). We pray this couple will also seek direction from the Lord.

Bro. Tim and Sis. Sharon Hartzler, along with Amos, Megan and Jacob, welcome Jubal William into the family. Jubal was born February 25. Happy grandparents are Bro. Merle and Sis. Bonnie Hartzler and Bro. Ken and Sis. Jane Hartzler (Smithville).

Bro. Alan and Sis. Renee Blough (Sardis, OH) also have an addition to the family. Malachi Deacon was born prematurely on March 12. Malachi's sisters are Haven and Kyria. Grandparents are Sis. Lucille Blough and Bro. Denny and Sis. Doris Miller (Sardis, OH). We pray the Lord will grant little Malachi's caregivers much wisdom and that he will grant Bro. Alan and Sis. Renee much grace and courage for the days and months ahead.

We are thankful for visiting ministers who preached the Word this past month. They were Bros.

Gary Tonner (Bluffton, IN) and Neil Widmer (West Lafayette, IN). May the Lord bless them for their efforts.

OHIO, SARDIS
Terry Zollinger

"Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord."

Psalm 18:22

Bro. Scott Manz (Bro. Don and Sis. Connie, Junction, OH) has asked for the hand of Sis. Sara Brake (Bro. Bill and Sis. Miriam) in marriage. May they continue to seek the Lord as they prepare to live as one, Lord willing, in June. Congratulations on your engagement, Sis. Sara and Bro. Scott!

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

Psalm 46:1

Abundant prayers have been said, lately, for Jim Riggensbach (Melinda), the son of Bro. Dale and Sis. Virginia, as he met with accident in Arizona where he resides. Jim awoke from a coma but suffers from other injuries. May the Lord be with him and his family as prayers continue for the healing process of his physical body.

Prayers continue to be said for Ben Zollinger (Kelsey) and Bro. Dennis Miller (Sis. Doris) as they were hospitalized. They are both home and feeling better. May the healing power of the Lord be with them, also.

"Cause me to hear thy loving-kindness in the morning; for in thee do I trust: cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto thee."

Psalm 143:8

Sweet little Malachi Deacon Blough was prematurely born on March 12. May the Lord's will be done as he continues to be in the hospital in Morgantown, WV. The parents, Bro. Alan and Sis. Renee', ask for your prayers. Bro. Dennis and Sis. Doris Miller and Sis. Lucille Blough (Rittman, OH) and Joe Blough are the grandparents. Malachi has two sisters, Kyria and Haven. He also has a great-grandmother who is Sis. Martha Indermuhle. May the Lord abide with this family and may they be blessed with His presence.

"Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us."

II Timothy 1:13-14

The Memorandum was read to us on March 15 by our Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle and Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Sis. Gloria, Congerville, IL). May we take the teachings into our hearts and do according to the Word of Life.

"Saying, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be delivered unto the chief priests, and unto the scribes; and they shall condemn him to death,

and shall deliver him to the Gentiles: And they shall mock him, and shall scourge him, and shall spit upon him, and shall kill him: and the third day he shall rise again."

Mark 10:33-34

Along with the signs of spring, comes the celebration of Jesus Christ's resurrection. May we always remember the Lord's suffering and shedding the blood from His pierced side so we can someday be with Him in Heaven and eternal life.

OHIO, SMITHVILLE

**Ruth Gasser
Carrie Stoller**

We are thankful to report two new converts this month. Josie Rufener (Bro. John and Sis. Janice) and Mike Crist have begun their repentance. We pray that they will feel God's grace as they go through each day.

The engagement of Bro. Tony Stoller (who is currently attending the Latty, OH church) to Sis. Mary Beth Rufener was made known unto us. Their parents are Bro. Rob and Sis. Joanne Stoller (Rittman, OH) and Bro. John and Sis. Emily Rufener. May they continue to trust in the Lord during this time.

March 8 was the wedding of Paul Zollinger (Bro. Dave and Sis. Mary Ann) to Carol Gasser (Sis. Lucy, Rittman, OH). On March 16, Bro. Andy Dotterer (Dale and Sis. Elaine) and Sis. Valarie Rinkenberger (Bro. Bob and Sis. Sally) of Forrest, IL, were united as one in Forrest. We welcome Sis. Valarie to our Smithville congregation.

Those who spent time in the hospital this past month were Andrew Beery (Bro. Dwaine and Sis. Shelly) and Sis. Carol Schuster (Bro. George). We trust that the Lord will grant them healing and strength according to His will.

OHIO, TOLEDO

**Rebecca Beard
Dee Beard**

Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter visited Toledo this month to share with us a summary of the winter Conference. We are thankful for his service to our congregation.

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

Jeremiah 30:17

Hospitalized this month was Sis. Colette Harmon. May she feel the Lord's healing touch.

OREGON, PORTLAND

Louisa Gallup

Recently, we had the privilege to assemble with our brethren in nearby Silverton to listen to the annual Memorandum reading. We sincerely appreciate all the time and effort put in by our Elder brethren. Their reminders, loving guidance and wisdom on the matters discussed are surely taken to heart by all. We thank Elder Bros. Art Metz (Sis. Betty) and Duane Farney (Sis. Karen) for their service to us. We wish to thank Bro. Duane and Sis. Karen for traveling all the way from their Croghan-Naumburg congregation in New York, to the West Coast here to be with us and serve us. May God bless you all for

your willingness to be of service to your brethren.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Ray and Sis. Ginny Cooper. Bro. Ray was hospitalized briefly for his heart condition and Sis. Ginny underwent cataract surgery recently. May the Lord's healing mercies be with you both as you recuperate.

We are thankful for visitors and especially thank ministering Bros. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie) and Don Sinn (Sis. Linda), both of Silverton, who brought us the Word in recent weeks. May God bless you all for your kindness.

Note of Thanks:

Bro. Raymond Moser wishes to thank everyone for their gifts, cards, food and prayers during his time in the hospital and recovery after his accident.

OREGON, SILVERTON **Kelsey Kuenzi**

My Lord, an offering do I bring;
My heart I give to Thee.
I gladly give this heart of mine,
Which Thou dost ask of me.

Thou sayest, "Child, give me your heart!"

O what a sweet request!
It shows the way that we must take

To life and peace and rest.
Zion's Harp #163, vs. 1-2

We rejoiced with three souls this month as they gave their testimonies and were baptized the weekend of March 1-2. Bro. Rick and Sis. Miriam Hoach and Bro. Ryan Kuenzi (Bro. Terry and Sis. Ann) were welcomed into the

Silverton congregation. Our heartfelt prayers are with each of them, as babes in Christ, that they will become firmly grounded upon the Lord and by His grace remain true and faithful throughout this earthly life. Our thanks to Elder Bro. Jay Luthi (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS) who was here to assist Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty) with the weekend.

This month on March 8, we had the reading of the Memorandum. How much we appreciate the labors of the Elder brethren to help guide us in the many issues that face our daily lives while walking in this world. Elder Bro. Duane Farney (Sis. Karen, Croghan-Naumburg, NY) was here in Silverton to assist Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty) in the reading of the Memorandum and labored for us on Sunday.

In the hospital this month were Andrea Kuenzi (Lyle) and Sis. Judie Knecht (Bro. Ed). We're thankful that both are able to reassemble with us. Our prayers are with them as they may have continued testing, and that God would grant them healing.

PENNSYLVANIA **PHILADELPHIA** **Nathan and**

MaryElizabeth Gasser

We rejoice this month to welcome a tiny new addition to our congregation. Eliana Elsie Gasser was born on March 25 to Bro. Nathan and Sis. MaryElizabeth. Grandparents are David and Gail Gasser and Daryl and Sis. Norma Luginbuhl. Mom, Dad, and baby Elli are all doing well, and we thank God for another miracle

only He could bring.

We were also happy to hear that Emily Lanz (Bro. John and Sis. Kay) has found the peace of God and looks forward to being baptized in the coming weeks. May God continue to guide her and grow her relationship with Him as she takes this next step.

One Sunday afternoon this month we gathered after services to make Easter cards for the residents of a nursing home where we sometimes visit and sing. We look forward to singing with them this Easter season, and having our Sunday School children present the cards they made for them. Let us each strive to have a song upon our hearts this Easter season, and to share the message of His resurrection with those in need.

Finally, we were thankful to have many visitors this month, including Bro. Duane Reutter (Rockville, CT) who shared the Word with us.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE **Mike and Monica Fritz**

We are so thankful for our visitors this month, and the blessings we have received from the Word shared with us by our ministering brothers: Bros. Nelson Beer (Sis. Shelby, Milford, IN), Gary Endress (Sis. Evelyn, Bradford, IL), Kenny Eisenmann (Sis. Sharon, Cissna Park, IL) and Brandon Emch (Sis. Maria, Kansas City, MO). We have also been blessed with precious fellowship with brethren and friends from Bradford, Chicago, Cissna Park, Eureka, and Fairbury, IL; Lester, IA; and Kansas City, MO.

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: Detroit, MI (4/27); Akron, OH (5/4); and Leo, IN (5/18). We do not have a visiting minister scheduled for Easter Sunday (4/20), Mother's Day (5/11) or Memorial Day weekend (5/25). 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 Dale and Amy Ringger

Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Sis. Gloria, Congerville, IL), Bros. Gary Brown (Sis. Jane, Forrest, IL), Darren Plattner (Sis. Sue, Champaign, IL) and Darrell Stoller (Sis. Gloria, Bern, KS) served us in the pulpit ministry and with fellowship during the last month. Other church visitors this month were from Rockville, Gridley, IL, Bloomington, Morris,

Eureka, Valparaiso, Congerville, Kansas City, West Bend and Latty.

The schedule of ministers for May is the following: 4th – Bloomington; 11th – Wichita; 18th – Mansfield; and 25th – Silvertown.

We extend a hearty welcome for anyone who may be in the area to worship with us. Also, let us know if you would be available for fellowship on Saturday or Sunday evening or during the week. Please call ahead to help us plan for serving lunch and other activities. See the minister 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. Exit at #206 and find the hotel on the southwest side access road.

TEXAS, ZAPATA Mary Plattner

Elder Bro. Bob Walder (Sis. Gloria, Congerville, IL), Bros. Max Reimschisel (Sis. Judy, Wichita, KS), Gary Brown (Sis. Jane, Forrest, IL) and Carroll

Gerber (Sis. Louise, Bluffton North, IN) served us on the pulpit the past month. Retired Elder Bro. Ed Lanz (Sis. Joan, Oakville, IA) assisted Bro. Leland Plattner in the reading of the Memorandum on a Saturday evening.

In February a group of brethren took a tour into Mexico for several days. We had visitors from various churches who participated in this annual event.

World Relief items including clothing and staple items arrived from Forrest and were delivered to a warehouse in Laredo, TX. From there they will be distributed in the Laredo and bordering area. This has been a project for several years and one that is greatly appreciated by the Laredo community due to large indigent population in that area.

Our winter congregation is beginning to leave and return to their respective homes in the North. Anyone planning to come to our area this summer is encouraged to contact Bro. Leland Plattner in Zapata or Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Joyce Nohl in McAllen at 956-581-8266 to be certain about the church service schedule.



Sermon continued from page 2

manded because they had somewhat lost their first love. There is a humility in our first love, loved ones. We can't forget that. Having our own way is separating ourselves from our first love. Having our own way becomes the pride of life. Having our own way becomes stubbornness. Having our own way and having things go the way we think they should go is not a Godly attribute.

So we start to become proud and we start to think that we know better than anybody else. That we have all the answers. If you don't agree with me, you are out in left field. It becomes a pride. And God hates pride. Satan continually fires it up and he stokes the fuel and he tries to continually get the church to have a proud heart and a proud mind to divide us from each other for whatever reason. He does not care what the reason is.

He said, "...thou hast left thy first love." Revelation 2:4. Sure, you are doing good works. You have labored, you have patience, you don't tolerate evil. You said there were apostles in the church which are liars. You have thrown them out. He said, you have borne, you have had patience and you have labored without fainting. That is great. But where is your first love? Is your love in yourself? Is your love in your power? Is your love in your position? What is your first love?

Our first love needs to be the love of Jesus Christ. "God, I am in Thy hands. Whatever you want me to do is okay with me." That is what Job said. He said, "...Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." Job 1:21.

Do we have that same attitude? That attitude has to permeate the church. I am your servant. I am your servant. We are not to be served. We are the servants. Jesus Christ, the one who breathed the breath of life into each one of us, who formed us even in the depths of the womb, who was there at the very beginning (which there is no beginning, if we can understand that concept), He wants us to serve Him. Jesus Christ came into this world as a servant. He served mankind by dying on the cross. He served us by providing life eternal.

Now we want to take that and turn it around and say, "Look, you serve me. I have a little better position, I have a better job, I have more money, I am in a

better status. I have all the things that mankind and the world likes, so you serve me."

The first love is the love of Jesus Christ. "God, I am in Your hands. What do You want me to do? I need repentance, I need conversion, I need to be a believer in Jesus Christ, I need to commit my life as a believer to You." That is the first love. Loved ones, that never goes away. As long as each one of us here draws breath and lives, we will be faced with Satan's undying, unrelenting power to sway us from salvation and to put us towards pride.

Whether we are trying to build the tower of Babel or whether we are trying to live a Christian life in a Christian church, we have this undermining that is going on. Each one of us has to be aware of it. I dare say that there is not one of us that is exempt from that power of pride that tries to separate us, first from each other, and ultimately from God.

If we had turned to 1 John, we could read about how if man says he loves God and hates his brother, he is a liar. (1 John 4:20) We just read here, that those apostles that were liars, it does not say what they lied about, but they said they were liars, they threw them out of the church! This is strong stuff.

We could have a church, we could have all of these things that are happening here in verses two and three. But then if we were condemned with the loss of our first love, we would need to be admonished. So we need to be admonished. We need to be reminded, we need to be stirred up in our hearts and minds, that the body of Christ has to have its first love. And the first love is Christ.

He said, "Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; (He did not say stop your works. He did not say quit the works, they are not important, you don't have to do them. He did not say that. He said, but in addition to the first works) or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent." Revelation 2:5. Every one of us, loved ones, we need to reflect on the Word. We need to reflect on the Word. How does my life align with the Word. Do I have the first love? Do I have the love of Christ? Do I abhor evil? Do I tolerate evil? Do I enjoy evil? These things are the types of things that the Word stirs our hearts to.

When we pray, we talk to God. We pour out our hearts to Him. When we read the Word, He talks to us. This morning He talks to us and tells us about losing that

first love and He wants to warn us that that is not the way it is supposed to be.

He says, "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God." Revelation 2:7. Every one of us knows how short life is. Every one of us. There is not a one of us here that does not understand that life is a short line on the time line of eternity. And we spend so much time trying to accumulate and trying to build and trying to get things done, and God says, "...To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God." Revelation 2:7. We need to have that as our focus. This is what we need to focus on.

He says, "And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive; I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan. Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death." Revelation 2:8-11.

Many of these things we cannot relate to. But just a week or so ago, I read about the churches in India, and how the government is starting to crack down, fortunately not in the province where the Rural Gospel Mission is, but it is starting to crack down on converts. Making it illegal to try to convert somebody to a different religion. We read that letter a week or so ago. Those people understand works and tribulations and poverty and the blasphemy of them that are Jews and are not but are of the synagogue of Satan. Men who are of the synagogue of Satan trying to quench, trying to put down the Word of God and trying to raise up something else. Now those churches understand that.

Notice here, again, "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death." Revelation 2:11. Even though we are fortunate enough that we can come to church and assemble whenever we so desire, we can't forget those who are not that fortunate. We have to remember

them in our prayers as we are encouraged to by the Elder body, that we pray for those churches in India where they are faced with this. And there are other churches that we do not know about, or that I am not aware of that face this same thing. And they were encouraged, do not give up. But he that overcometh will not be hurt of the second death.

Then it says, "And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges; I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is..." Revelation 2:12,13. Now we live here in Fort Lauderdale in a large city. We are in a metropolitan area. There is probably in Palm Beach and Broward and Dade County, there is probably four or five million people. Maybe I am off a little bit. But we are in a seat of Satan. We are in a place where Satan is very evident. Where he is rampant. Where all sorts of lifestyles are not only taking place but are even encouraged. So He says I know where you are. I know thy works and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is.

"...and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth." Revelation 2:13. Okay, but this is what He says. "But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam..." Revelation 2:14. Who was Balaam? Balaam sold out God for money. Such a sick thought. Balaam sold out God for money. The king said, "I am going to pay you to curse the Israelites." He said, "I can't go against God's word." And he finally found a way through the back door to curse God's people for money. (Numbers 22, 23, 24 & 25) So we have to be careful.

It says, "...them that hold the doctrine of Balaam (selling out God for money), who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel..." Revelation 2:14. What was that stumblingblock? He took their families and he said let them all mingle together with the world and that will dilute the church and guess what? It did. "...to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication." Revelation 2:14. Serious sin, gross sin.

"So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate." Revelation 2:15. I am not familiar with their doctrine so I cannot speak on

that. "Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it." Revelation 2:16, 17.

Even though we live in a large city, we are to remain true and faithful. We are to be a light. We are to be the salt of the earth. We are not to sell out the Word of God for money. We are not to sell out God's blessings for money. We are not to hold fast the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes. God says, "...which thing I hate." Revelation 2:15. It has got to be a terrible thing. And also for fornication. He says repent. This is something that we need to do. We need to make sure that we are on God's track. We are on the strait and narrow, is what God asks us to do.

"And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are like fine brass; I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first." Revelation 2:18,19. What a great church! Look at all these great things they are doing. Works, charity, service, faith, patience. Again works. And the last to be more than the first. He says works twice. The last works are better than the first works.

He says, "Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants..." Revelation 2:20. We can read in the Old Testament of Jezebel and the horridness, the horrible person she was and the evil that she generated and the evilness she was. It was that Jezebel eaten by the dogs, if my memory serves me correct, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce. That is charisma, loved ones. When you can seduce somebody, you have charisma. And there are a lot of people out there today with charisma. They can seduce with words and with actions and things that are ungodly, wrapped up as an angel of light.

"... to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols. And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she re-

pented not. Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds." Revelation 2:20-22. And He says in verse 25, "But that which ye have already hold fast till I come. And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:" Revelation 2:25,26.

Now what do we do? First of all, we understand that salvation is first. We each need to make sure we are standing in peace with God. We each need to recognize the need for repentance and conversion and a life long dedication and commitment to live a Christ-like life. That is what we need to recognize.

Then we bring that into our homes. Husbands, wives, single people, parents, children, grandchildren, grandparents. Everyone is working within their home to make it a Christ-like place. The husband is called the high priest of his house. So first, we have individuals, then second, we have the home. Third, we have the church. We come into the church and we have those same attributes. We make sure that we are in peace with God and that we are doing His will and we are not proud. We don't want to have our own way. We are not the boss and it is not our show.

This is God's work, loved ones. This is serious, serious business. It is God's work, it is our salvation and it is ours to preserve as much as we can for the oncoming generations until Christ comes again. Then God will bless us. Maybe not in this life. Maybe we will have tribulations and trials that we read about the church in Smyrna. Maybe we will be able to do these good works, as we read in some of these other churches. But in the end, if we are found faithful, God blesses us. He blesses us with eternal life. That is the only thing that means anything. Everything else will burn. There is not another thing that will last. Eternal life, living in heaven with Jesus Christ - that is our goal, that is what we strive for. That is what we are exhorted to this morning. So that we can be with Him.





Scholarships Available

Gateway Woods offers four \$1,500 scholarships to students enrolled in undergraduate or postgraduate 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.

Mexico Work Teams 2003

<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>	<u>Phone & (e-mail)</u>
Rio Bravo	Jun. 14 - 21, '03	Construction	Chad Kaeb gal220@jvl.net	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
Imuris	Aug. 28 - Sept. 2, '03	Medical	Cheryl Herrmann cherylh@mtco.com	309-385-1082
Juarez or Creel	Sept. 17 - 24, '03	Medical	Cheryl Herrmann cherylh@mtco.com	309-385-1082

Athens Preschool Teacher

NOTICE: "The Apostolic Christian Preschool in Athens, Alabama has an immediate need for a teacher. The preschool is seeking a qualified, experienced teacher to serve as the teacher / coordinator. This is a worthwhile opportunity for a single or married person who would be willing to relocate and support the Athens church. If interested, please contact your elder and Brother Tom Schrenk at his home number (256) 232-0037."

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
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	May 23-31, '03	Deaf Village	Ted Hirstein / Kevin Sauder	Work Place	--
CCCD	Jun 28 - Jul 5, '03	Deaf Village	Smithville, Akron, Rittman BC	Work Place	--
CCCD	November 7-15, '03	Kingston	Terry Miller	Deaf School	--

COORDINATOR	PHONE	FAX	E-MAIL
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Terry Miller	941-485-4302	same as phone number	tbmiller@mymailstation.com
Dean Pashak	517-662-7685	517-662-7099	
Bill Rager	419-263-2989		
Derek Sauder	309-925-7502		
Kevin Sauder	309-925-2409	309-925-2409	ksss@dpc.net
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Ted Habegger	260-694-6765		th@parlorcity.com
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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
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Please send your used prescrip-
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817 S. Locust
Pontiac, IL 61764

The Latty church is in the pro-
cess of building as Assisted Living
Facility, opening mid- summer. We
are currently looking for a **Director
of Nursing**. Should The Lord touch
your heart to consider the responsi-
bilities of this position, please call
866-887-2833 or fax a resume to
941-747-5562



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.

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Bluffton can drop ship to nearly any address.

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Bible Distribution
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Bluffton, IN 46714
Phone and Fax 219/824-5587
E-mail: biblelist@parlorcity.com

2003 Tennessee Fellowship Weekend

The 12th Annual Tennessee Fellowship Singing has been scheduled for Memorial Day Weekend 2003 on Saturday, May 24 and Sunday, May 25. Everyone is invited to join us at the Tennessee Fellowship Area and Athens, AL for our annual weekend of fellowship, praise, and worship of the Lord.

This year, we again plan to have two guest speakers during the weekend, who will talk on "How the Middle East and Israel will be involved in the last days" (Bro. Mike Baumann, Mansfield, OH) and "The New Age Movement vs. Scripture and our Churches" (Bro. Ron Kipfer, Bluffton, IN). We also plan to hold an auction on Saturday afternoon. Everyone is encouraged to bring at least one item to donate. Proceeds from the auction will be used to maintain the Tennessee Fellowship Area.

Below is a schedule of events for the weekend.

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND 2003 Annual Tennessee Fellowship Singing Schedule

SATURDAY, MAY 24 (All Activities at the Tennessee Fellowship Area)

- 12:00 p.m. Registration and Donation of Auction Items (Lunch on your Own)
- 1:30 p.m. Auction Commences with Song and Prayer
- 5:30 p.m. Supper (Served by the Athens, AL Congregation)
- 6:30 p.m. Singing (Congregational & Special Numbers)
- 7:00 p.m. "How will the Middle East and Israel be involved in the last days?"
(Speaker — Bro. Mike Baumann, Mansfield, OH)
- 7:30 p.m. Singing resumes

SUNDAY, MAY 25

- 10:00 a.m. Church Services at Apostolic Christian Churches in Athens, AL
Speakers (A.M. Bro. Glen Dill, Tremont, IL) (P.M. Bro. Clark Stoller, Gridley, IL)
Lunch On Your Own
- 2:30 p.m. Fellowship
- 3:00 p.m. Singing at Tennessee Fellowship Area (Congregational & Special Numbers)
- 5:00 p.m. "The New Age Movement vs. Scripture and our Churches"
(Speaker — Bro. Ron Kipfer, Bluffton, IN)
- 5:30 p.m. Supper
- 7:00 p.m. Singing Resumes

We look forward to having you (and your family) join us for this weekend. If you are able to attend, please contact one of the contacts below by Monday, May 5 to assist us with planning. The contacts below will also be able to give you additional information on the Auction, Overnight Accommodations, and Directions.

Contacts:

Sis. Gwen Leuthold, (615)662-2946 or leutholdg@aol.com;
Bro. Don Sauder, (615)373-8928 or don.sauder@juno.com;
or Bro. Tom Schrenk (256)232-0037 or tomjoanschrenk@juno.com



The following essay shows the religious experiences/influences regarding Bro. Samuel Froehlich. The recent focus on Bro. Froehlich is not intended to lift him up as a man, but to show how God used him to re-establish a church based on Biblical truth. Information concerning our religious heritage helps us better understand how the events of the past affect us today.

Froehlich's Spiritual Journey

Samuel Froehlich's spiritual journey covered a lot of ground; and the varied influences on his thinking, as well as the final shaping of his religious outlook, comprise a broad mosaic.

The Froehlich family, prior to emigrating to Switzerland, lived in France and were Huguenots. These were French Calvinists who were persecuted, and forced to flee into Switzerland.

Samuel Froehlich was baptized as an infant and later selected (by his parents) to study for the ministry in the Swiss State Church. Although unconverted, he pursued his studies in theology at Basle and Zurich. He was mentally gifted, and a good student.

The dominating religious influence in early-to-mid 19th century Switzerland was rationalism. Scriptures were being undermined. At Basle, Froehlich was affected by the rationalist-liberal religious theories of Dr. William M.L. Dewette who is described in *The Dictionary of the Christian Church* as a "thoroughgoing nonsupernaturalist" (pg. 296).

At Zurich, a professor named Dr. John Schulthess persuaded him "that there was no devil, no Hell, etc." (*Meditations*, pg. 2). From this he became thoroughly confused, and his faith was severely undermined.

While a seminary student (but a religious cynic), he would meet for Bible study with young men from a Swiss Brethren background (i.e., Anabaptist). He scoffed at their reasonings and often complained when they ended their meetings with prayer.

At age 21, Bro. Froehlich felt the call of God. This was in April, 1825. He thence turned to the Lord in deep repentance. A soft voice he says, "Spoke in the depth of my soul, 'It cannot remain thus with thee, thou must change.'" From this, he began repenting.

He writes further (in his *Meditations*, pg. 4), "I wept night and day and writhed like a worm in the dust, when it is trodden upon. Like Job, I lay in the dust. For a long time I remained in this fiery furnace, until at length faith in Jesus Christ brought me rest, peace and light; and made place within me for a new creature." He was, in time, baptized as an adult based on his profession of faith.

Finally, he fled the Swiss State Church, and sought God's direction on what to do. The doctrine of infant baptism, and rationalist theologies inhibited his staying in the state church. He traveled to London to work with the English Continental Society, a Baptist group. He failed to find doctrinal accord with this group which was Calvinist in scope (faith "alone", and unconditional eternal security). He returned to Switzerland.

The swirl of theological thought in his time – Catholic, Swiss protestant, Calvinism, and old order Mennonite – drove him to re-establish, by the grace of God, a new church based solely on God's Word. In doing so, he and his young contemporaries pledged to interpret and apply the Word "whatever the cost might be." Their obedience

and faithfulness resulted in 110 congregations in 35 years – or an average of a new church every three months for 35 years. They were careful to protect their new beliefs. God was surely with them!

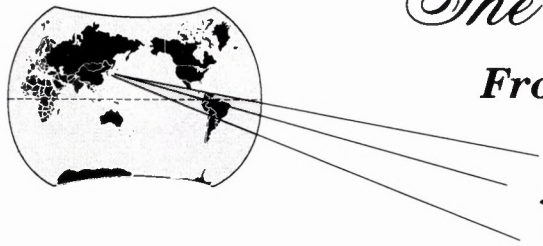
The apathy and sloth of his earlier influences caused him to create a religious body that practiced Christian diligence (Hebrews 6:1, II Cor. 7:1) and which tried to live free of willful sin. Some historians refer to Bro. Froehlich as a perfectionist, but his sincere motive was only to follow the New Testament. He disdained the teaching that the child of God is still a sinner. He said such a view rested on a false foundation.

His intent was to pattern the church after the New Testament norm. It was to include authority and accountability as the Word taught. Only the truly converted were received as members. In attempting to keep high standards of godliness in the body of believers, a kindly, redemptive discipline was imposed when necessary, but only as the Word prescribed. This differed from the state church which made little distinction between the faithful and the unfaithful.

For our benefit, Bro. Froehlich found the true light. He had come out of spiritual darkness. He sought to maintain the Truth according to Scriptures – and in subsequent generations the goal has been to preserve a God-pleasing sense of faithful living; and to overcome sin and evil until the end.

By: Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next Issue:
Misc. data



The Light Of Hope

From Across The Ocean

希望の光



“The Problem with the Resurrection”

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

The problem with the resurrection is that you have to die first, and we resist death. So far as the resurrection to a better life is concerned, everyone is in favor of it. So far as the resurrection of a new body which never grows old, in which we can dwell forever in heaven, everyone is in favor of it. “Give it to me” we cry. “Let me have it” we add as an encore. We are eager to be the recipients of a blessing.

The problem is, “How are you going to be resurrected if you don’t die first?” Christ died on the cross for our sins, because of our lost condition. His death was absolute, the blood was drained from His body leaving no room for doubt about His death. This was important in order to make His resurrection indisputably valid. We celebrate Christ’s resurrection and rightly so, because our faith is based on His resurrection. “And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain.” (I Cor. 15:17)

Death has several meanings.

One is separation from the body, another is separation from God eternally, and the third is to be dead to self, which is spoken of as being crucified with Christ. Paul wrote, “I am crucified with Christ.” (Galatians 2:20)

When we repent and before we are baptized, we are supposed to die to self. Otherwise, we cannot be “Buried with him in baptism.” (Romans 6:4). If we repent and are baptized simply with the idea of receiving, we have failed to “Count the cost” (Luke 14:28). On the other hand, if we have truly died to self, “We shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection.” (Romans 6:5)

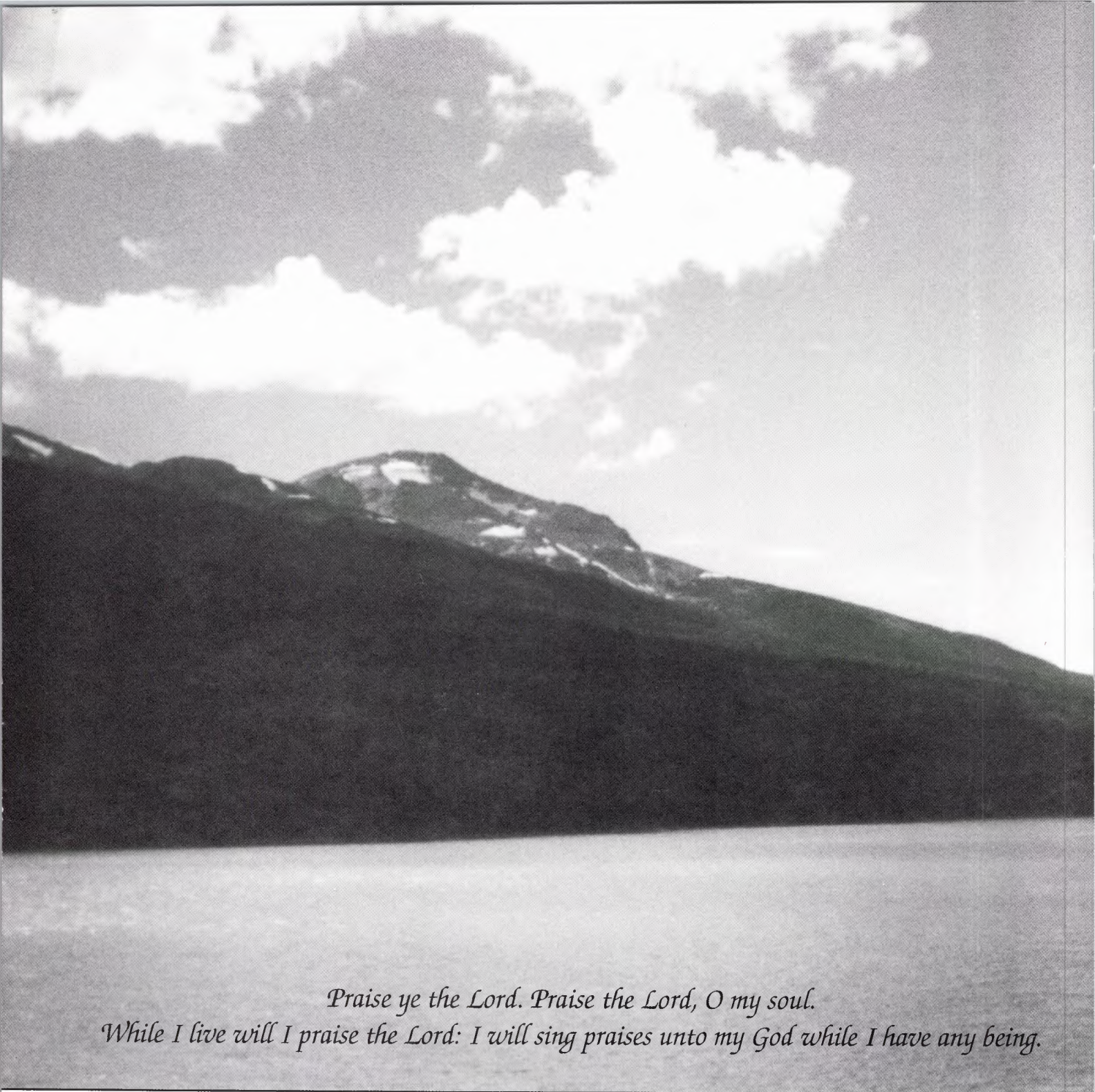
This new resurrected life, which is worth celebrating every day, is spoken of in Colossians 3:1. “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.” We are called upon to live the resurrected life every day, above the turmoil of this world. In order to do that we need to die daily. Paul

wrote, “I die daily.” (I Cor. 15:31). When I fail to die daily, in that same day, I fail to live the resurrected life. Maybe it’s the same for you.

To experience the resurrected life while still living on this earth is fantastic. It is “Joy unspeakable and full of glory.” (I Peter 1:8). This kind of joy is only obtainable through death but we resist death. At least we want to have a say in what we do, even if the Bible doesn’t say that we should do it. Unless we are dead to self we are apt to say and think, “The Bible doesn’t say we shouldn’t do it, so let’s go for it.” But a dead person doesn’t object to giving up anything that is not taught in the Bible as something that we should do. After all, the person is dead and has no convictions independent of the Bible.

Let’s rejoice in the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, and also in our own resurrection to a new and holy life. The problem is, we have to die first.

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*Praise ye the Lord. Praise the Lord, O my soul.
While I live will I praise the Lord: I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being.*

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