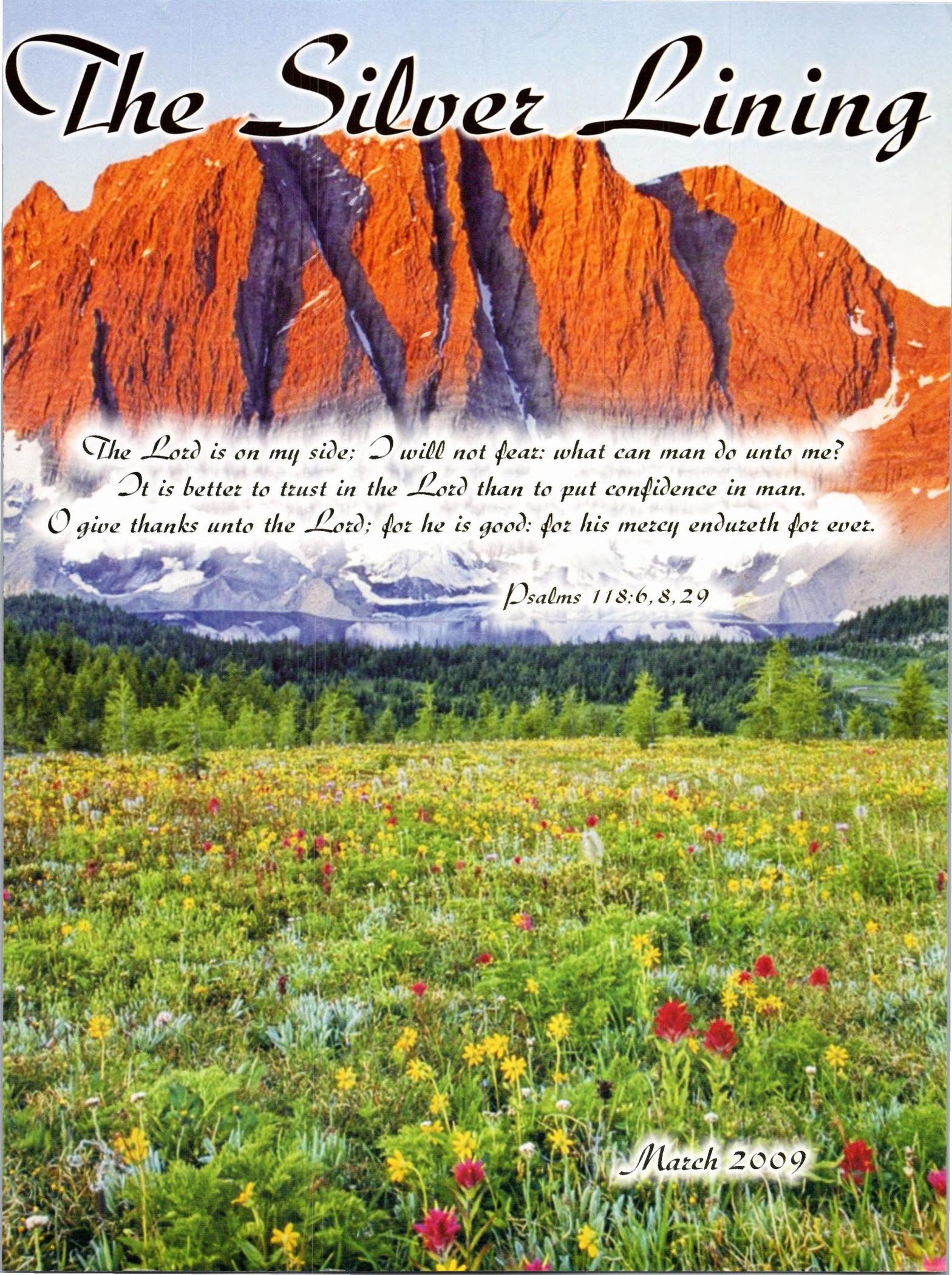


The Silver Lining



*The Lord is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?
It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man.
O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.*

Psalms 118:6, 8, 29

March 2009

Sermon by Bro. Jesse Bedolla, Detroit, MI

Jeremiah 15:19-21 and I Timothy 4

Greetings to each of you on this Sunday morning. How thankful we are for an opportunity to come to church. How thankful we are for the beautiful sunshine today. For the warmth. How thankful we are for God's love. His nearness to us. His care for us. His thoughts towards us, that they are for good and to our benefit.

The Old Testament prophet, one who's considered to be one of the major prophets, one who is also referred to as 'The Weeping Prophet', Jeremiah faced a lot of challenges in his life. As we think about God's promise to Jeremiah, we can think about God's promises to you and I yet today.

Wonderful words of life that God shared with Jeremiah. We know he had such a need to feel God's presence, to feel His closeness. He had such great needs. He could have been lost in the depths of despair, but he always returned to his God and looked up to the one that could save him and provide for him. So too, do we have that opportunity today.

I Timothy 4 is a wonderful epistle by the Apostle Paul to one whom he loved dearly. He referred to him as his own son in the faith. Timothy is, as I recall, the one that was asked to be the elder at the church at Ephesus, if I am not mistaken. The Apostle Paul was inspired by God to talk to Timothy a lot about his age. To not despise his youth but to be sure in the calling wherein God had called him.

So again, the Apostle Paul, inspired of God, had wonderful words of life for Timothy, did he not? He has wonderful words of life for you and I as we read and consider that exhortation. We think, how does that apply in my life today? What is God saying to me today when He had those wonderful words for Timothy? How is He speaking to me? How is He working in my heart? It is something for each of us to personally think about as we go through these Scriptures today.

Let's go back to the Old Testament where we read a portion in Jeremiah. If we were to read all of Jeremiah chapter 15, we would start to get a feel for where we are at, where we are picking up in this particular book. Again, Jeremiah had a lot to say about the future. But he also had a lot to say about his present circumstances, the state of the children of Israel after having been taken over by an enemy force. There's a lot that transpires throughout all these chapters.

But Jeremiah did not have it easy. None of us would look at the life of Jere-

miah and say, 'Oh, well, he had it easy. He had the word of God put in his mouth. He had that opportunity to have that close communion with God. Whenever he got direction from God it was very clear. He didn't have to question what God was trying to do. He got very clear and very specific direction'. But we see along with all that, he also faced a lot of challenges. There were those that wanted to take his life when he stood before kings and told them the truth after there were others that were preaching unto them smooth things. 'Oh, you won't have any problems, you won't succumb to your enemies. Nothing will be bad.' Jeremiah said, 'That's not the way it is. There will be judgment. For these sins, there will be consequences'. People didn't want to hear that. That wasn't a popular message then. It's not a popular message today. But it is God's Word. It is truth. He tells us these things because He loves us.

So we see here in Jeremiah chapter 15, Jeremiah is going into a part of self pity, where he is talking about, why are you casting all this judgment on *me* and I am trying to do all these things for these people and do what you've asked me to do. There is a little bit of self pity that comes in with some of Jeremiah's feelings as he is conversing with God here.

Self pity is something that each of us is susceptible to. Each of us can find a time or point in our life or some sort of circumstance that we find ourself in that we start to look and say, 'Why? It's not fair. Why me? Why am I being asked to do this? Why am I being asked to go to this place? Why don't I have this? This is really what I wanted. Why is it not this way?' When we begin that why, why, why type mentality, we take our self down a road where God doesn't want us to be. There really is no blessing in taking our self mentally down that path. Because God will always have a perfect answer for us. He will always have a perfect answer and a reason. Even though we can't see it, even though we can't understand it.

That's why God asks you and I to have faith day by day. That's why the Apostle Paul, inspired of God, said, we need to walk by faith and not by sight. Because when we walk by sight and just look at our circumstances, what we can see and what we understand, we can begin to think about these things differently. We can start to think in a way that tends toward self pity. But when we walk by faith, that means at the forefront of all that is an over arching trust in God, to say,

'Okay, I see it is this way, but I trust God. I see it is that way. I am a little disappointed this didn't happen but I trust God.' When we have that type of mentality, then we aren't as susceptible to feel the self pity.

Sermon continued on page 42

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"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord..."
(Isaiah 1:18)

Light From The Word



Writings based
on God's Word

March 2009

Progress Toward Biblical Unity

"Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand..." (Matthew 12:25). Jesus understood the danger of God's people not being united. To truly be united we must know the Father and put on the mind of Christ. To do this we must know His Word.

In 2006 the Elder Body resolved to address with humility, brotherly love and commitment the needed efforts to address harmful differences and to increase trust and biblical unity within our Brotherhood. This will require long term commitment and diligent effort to reverse the inroads that Satan has made. Isaiah said many centuries ago, "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as white as wool" (Is. 1:18).

The purposes of this editorial are to highlight the goals we have adopted to strengthen biblical unity, to report progress in steps taken to fulfill them and to emphasize the need for perseverance and diligence in this effort.

Elder Body concerns and plans to address them were presented at the 2007 General Conference, asking for prayerful support to work toward resolution of harmful differences. At the 2008 Elder/Minister meeting a special plea was made to all ministers to give prayerful support and commitment to the effort to achieve godly unity in our Apostolic Christian Brotherhood. Via the 2008 General Conference and Memorandum we are entreating the entire Brotherhood to prayerfully walk with us and to be instruments of truth and peace in this work of faith.

The first goal of the biblical unity effort is a commitment to conduct a candid examination of the spiritual health of the church. "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock..." (Acts 20:28). This began as a thorough self-examination by each elder. Church surveys, personal interviews, and other means are being used to help each elder examine his heart concerning his stewardship. Obtaining the counsel of our congregations to see how we could better serve our flocks (Ezek. 34) is a very humbling and beneficial experience. This self-examination

process is an ongoing effort.

Goal two is to clarify our calling as elders to feed and lead the church (Jer. 23:4; 1 Pet. 5:1-3). We are seeking to focus on biblical principles of leadership, to hold each other accountable to fulfill our responsibilities and to better support and nurture new elders. We are required as stewards to be accountable to God, to each other and to the brethren, and it is our sincere desire that we may be found faithful (1 Cor. 4:1-2).

Our third major goal is to nurture unified elder/minister understanding and commitment to preach and teach the whole counsel of God (John 8:31-32; 2 Tim. 2:15). Our ministers have been encouraged to eliminate personal agendas from their sermons so we do not quench the Spirit in bringing sound and complete biblical truth to our flocks. By focusing our preaching and teaching on the entire Word, our messages will support the four pillars of our church mission. "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee (1 Tim. 4:16).

We are also seeking to inspire and teach growing faith and sanctification within the Brotherhood (Heb. 6:9), which is goal four. Each elder is concerned about the encroachment of the world into the lives of believers. We must all focus sincere efforts toward living a sanctified life and resisting the impact of unwholesome worldly influences, by the grace of God. (Tit. 2:11-15). True spiritual unity comes with obedience to God's Word. We are thankful that progress is being made in working toward a kinder, more reasonable and loving spirit as we work through our differences.

Changes in the culture in America are also having a powerful impact on our church. A booklet has been prepared which summarizes some special efforts we have made which has helped us grasp the significance of some of these changes. We must retain our core doctrine regardless of the changes in culture. "As we treasure these assets and grapple with cultural context, we have no intention of altering our doctrine or core beliefs to accommodate culture. Indeed, evidence suggests that the culture needs these core values like never before!" (Culture Change, p.10).

The Elder Body has clarified our church position on Bible Studies to encourage sound spiritual growth. "The Apostolic

Christian Church supports Bible Studies which are structured in accord with biblical principles, for the purpose of increased understanding and application of God's Word, the edification of participants and the church, and are to the glory of God."

Goal five is to teach effective communication and delegation. Improved delegation of responsibilities within our church will result in better use of gifts and talents as well as more effective fulfillment of the church mission. (Acts 6:3). A greater effort is being made to encourage assistance with, and participation in, national world relief and mission projects and to identify local opportunities to provide loving deeds of kindness.

The sixth goal is to utilize elder forums to increase trust and open communication within the Elder Body. We have had three series of meetings in which we randomly chose different groups of elders for participation in each session. We are thankful to report that this smaller group approach has fostered greater interaction, a more open expression of our individual thinking, and a clearer understanding of our strengths and weaknesses.

We believe that progress has been made in the overall biblical unity effort, and we are committed to building on this foundation with diligence and persistence. The work to decrease harmful differences and increase unity based upon the Word of God will not be quickly or easily completed. The task cannot be accomplished by the elders working alone, and it must include our ministers and the entire Brotherhood. This begins with setting an example which reflects the life and love of Christ in all aspects of our lives.

We should willingly demonstrate cooperation and brotherly love as we serve our great God together. Satan has caused disruption and discord among God's people for many generations. Only by a humble attitude of submission to God and His Word, and by trusting in His grace to help us serve Him faithfully will we succeed. The core values of our Brotherhood are precious. We must not let them slip through compromise of the truth, by carelessness, or because of fear. We must live by faith and hope. Jesus said, "...upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matt. 16:18).

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

Suggestions for subjects are welcome and can be sent to:

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



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN Mission Committee

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

Mission Update

Information is published on this page to keep our Brotherhood well informed of the mission activities of our church. This enables everyone to be aware of opportunities for prayer, financial support and personal service. This article reports the highlights of meetings held in October of 2008 and January of 2009.

God's Perfect Plan of Salvation

The Communications Committee has been working on a small handout or tract for introducing the Gospel to the unsaved. The title is: God's Perfect Plan of Salvation, according to the Bible. Support was given at the Phoenix Conference to proceed with development of this tract which has been revised for final review and approval. The goal is to make this available to the brotherhood through Apostolic Christian Publications.

The tract could be shared with new believers and with the unconverted both within and without our faith as we have opportunity. It could also be placed in the many Bibles that our brotherhood distributes each year. The tract may be a useful starting piece for those with a heart for mission work. There are perhaps many other applications.

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. MATT 28:19

Magdalena Mexico Church Dedication

The Lord has truly blessed the efforts of Casa Vida E Esperanza (CVE) in Magdalena, Mexico. The English translation of CVE is House

of Life and Hope. The orphanage is a haven for children without parents that can care for them. This work was only a vision in 2004 when a group of Brothers visited the potential site. Through the prayers, financial support and labors of love from so many brethren and friends of the Apostolic Christian Church, the campus has taken shape.

The Mission Committee and World Relief have worked closely together in this project and the Board of Directors includes representatives from both, as well as other faithful brethren with a heart for Mexico. God has called many of our brethren to short and long term mission service in Mexico. At the time of this writing CVE has 31 children in its care.

A local church gathering was begun for the staff, children, friends and relatives of the children and the local community. The Lord has blessed the local church with two ministers that can share the gospel in Spanish. With the generous support of many brethren, volunteers and work teams, a church building is nearing completion. A dedication service will be held the evening of Saturday, March 28 in English and Sunday March 29th in Spanish. All are invited.

Reports

The Outreach Committee consists of several subcommittees to assist in the process of selection, preparation, sending, nurturing, and supporting those called for service in both Missions and World Relief. Representatives of both the Mission Committee and World Relief, as well as many faithful brothers with interest and experience in mission work, are represented on the Outreach Committee. There is

increasing awareness of the need for World Relief and Mission to work closely together as the Lord leads us to fulfill the four pillars of the church mission. While the primary charge to World Relief is to reduce humanitarian suffering, such efforts are always expended in the name of the Lord and with the prayer that the Lord will bless our efforts to save the soul.

Similarly the primary charge of the Mission Committee is to spread the gospel message of salvation, but to be effective, the physical needs of those involved must be addressed. Together the brethren on the Outreach Committee are working on guidelines and procedures for outreach that will allow structure and order to this work. They will appreciate your prayers in this effort.

The Servant Fund provides modest support for brethren sent by Mission or World Relief on long term assignments. Hearts have been moved and brethren continue to be sent as the Lord opens the way. Opportunities for those not sent include sharing the resources God has given by contributing to the Servant Fund, which currently has annual expenses of approximately \$520,000.

Many churches have special collections which make this work possible. Sponsorship on an ongoing basis is also possible by establishing an automatic electronic monthly deposit to this fund. To set up an ongoing sponsorship contact:

Jerry Banwart
Phone: (309) 263-9300
Email: gnf@mtco.com

The Mission Committee takes this opportunity to extend sincere thanks and appreciation to all for your prayers and continued financial support.



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

World Relief Responds to Disasters

With the recent cyclone in Myanmar and the earthquake in China there has been interest in knowing how World Relief responds to disasters throughout the world. World Relief has a disaster fund made up of contributions from the Apostolic Christian brotherhood designated to provide aid after a disaster.

If a disaster occurs in the United States, Mexico, Caribbean, Eastern Europe or India the World Relief Committee responsible for that area organizes our relief response and requests funding from the disaster fund. When disasters happen outside of those areas, the International Grants Committee works with disaster relief organizations to provide aid to those who are suffering. These Christian relief groups usually team with local Christian churches in the disaster area to assure your donations are used most effectively.

Over the last year the International Grants Committee has coordinated World Relief's response to several disasters. The resources for this work come from the Disaster Fund and in some instances are supplemented from non-designated donations.

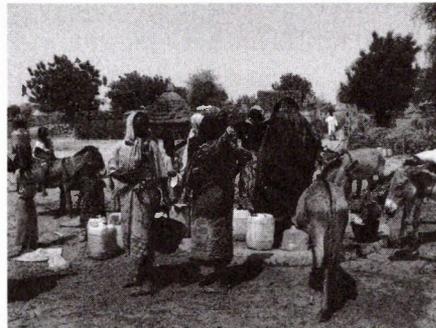
Indonesia

One of the opportunities presented by the Indonesian earthquake was the construction of a hospital in the Telo Islands of Indonesia. Using World Relief donations, the work at that hospital is now expanding to provide a mobile medical clinic (by boat) for the nearby islands. The incidence of tuberculosis is very high

among the population. With regular checkups and medicine, the illness can be effectively treated. World Relief also funded the purchase of a portable medical laboratory. This amazing, solar powered kit allows the doctors to perform lab tests in remote areas where there is no electricity.

Kenya

The African country of Kenya has been involved in civil conflict causing many deaths and displacement of well over 100,000 persons. World Relief provided funds for assisting these unfortunate souls.



Water station in Sudan

Sudan and Uganda

Hundreds of thousands of persons fleeing persecution in Sudan and Uganda are now living in refugee camps. In 2007 and again in 2008, World relief provided funds to provide, food, water and medical assistance to those living in these disaster areas.

Ethiopia

Ethiopia is a country where there is often draught resulting in famine, or flooding causing extensive damage. World Relief has responded in both situations. In 2008 extensive flooding washed out a bridge caus-

ing serious problems for villagers. The only way across the river is to use boats as a ferry. Many cannot afford to pay for the boat ride and several persons have lost their lives attempting to wade across the river. A request was received for assistance to build a new bridge and funds were forwarded from the disaster fund.

Honduras

In Honduras, Hurricane Mitch constituted an unprecedented catastrophe due to the devastation. Thousands of dwellings were destroyed leaving thousands of families homeless. The hurricane caused the deaths of over 500 people and more than 12,000 were injured. World Relief sent financial support for medical teams assisting in the recovery from this tragic storm.

Myanmar

Myanmar, formerly called Burma, experienced a major cyclone in May of 2008. There was an estimated death toll of 130,000 and nearly 2½ million persons were affected. Some were killed by flying trees and some from exposure to the cold. Others died when the buildings where they had gathered for shelter collapsed. The government initially refused assistance. However, working through one of our relief organizations World Relief was able to provide assistance.

For further information about World Relief's disaster response activities, contact the World Relief office or the Chairman of the International Grants Committee:

Virgil Graf
Altadena, CA
Phone: (626) 390-8512

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

“... 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

Change is inevitable and it's sometimes scary and difficult. God has promised that He will be with us wherever we go. Remember the first time you moved away from home; how exciting but scary it was?

There continues to be a lot of change here at ACHH. Some residents at Timber Ridge are moving to a different room and others are getting new roommates.

Along with these changes, Linden and Oakwood will soon have 4 men moving from a 16 bed home to a home of 4 and Timber Ridge will soon have 4 men moving from a home of 94 to a home of 16; talk about change.

Let us lift up these men and their families in prayer as they get acclimated to their new surroundings.

The week of Valentine's Day there was excitement in the air. On February 11, the residents at Timber Ridge enjoyed a "Night on the Red Carpet". This included them dressing in formal attire and the ladies having their hair done with tiara's to top it off. All enjoyed being treated like superstars while entering the room on "red carpet" and extra special treats being served by the staff. Oakwood residents were also excited about their annual Valentine Banquet on February 12; they went to Fairview Farms for an evening of fun.

**GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
CHILDREN'S HOME**
Zach Bertsh

“When thou cuttest down thine harvest in thy field, and hast forgot a sheaf in the field, thou shalt not go again to fetch it: it shall be for the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow: that the LORD thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hands.”

Deut. 24:19

“Enter not into the fields of the fatherless: For their redeemer is mighty; he shall plead their cause with thee.”

Proverbs 23:10-11

What were the fields of the fatherless? A portion of every field and vineyard in Israel was supposed to be reserved for the fatherless, widow, or stranger. God has a special place in His heart for these people. He even calls Himself the Father to the fatherless. Scripture mentions the importance of caring for the orphan, widow, and foreigner more than 60 times. It is not just a generous, optional act...it is the responsibility of every true believer. James 1:27 points this out by saying that it is one of the primary indicators of whether someone has true faith or not.

What are the fields of the fatherless today? I don't think that the farmers of today need to leave a portion of their fields unharvested. I believe that God uses different fields to feed the fatherless today. He uses His church to feed them, both physically and spiritually. There are orphans, widows, and foreigners all around us and all around the world who need the love of Jesus and the teachings of the Bible. What are we doing to feed them?

Please pray for the children that

Gateway Woods serves in all of our programs. Many of the children we serve in our adoption program are truly fatherless. Still there are other children in our Residential Group Homes and Foster Homes that are “spiritually fatherless” because of the neglect of their earthly fathers. Please pray that these children come to believe and trust in their Father in Heaven who wants to adopt them into His eternal family.

NEWS:

- Our annual Representatives Meetings highlighted this month. Our first meeting occurred on Friday, March 6, at Bro. Matt and Sis. Gail Steiner's home in Rittman, Ohio. The meeting was followed by an informational meeting/hymn sing at the Rittman Fellowship Hall. We also hosted our second Representatives Meeting here on campus on Saturday, March 14. These meetings provided a great opportunity for our Representatives to be informed about Gateway Woods and a chance to hear some life-changing testimonies and stories from Staff, residents, and the families we serve. We are very grateful for our Representatives' active support in promoting God's work at Gateway Woods!

- Bro. Dustin Huber (Bloomington, IL) has been hired as the 2009 Summer Volunteer Coordinator. We are very thankful for God's provision each year for this position and the many volunteers who faithfully come to serve. Bro. Dustin will begin work in May.

- We are pleased to announce that Bro. Justin Wiegand (Gridley, IL) has been hired to run the Top Quality crew this summer. With Bro. Todd Stoller's departure in June, we were in need of someone to fill in for the summer. Bro. Justin is a great fit for the job and he is very excited about the opportunity. He will run the crew until his wedding on July 26.

- We are thankful to announce the hiring of Bro. Joel Stickling from Peoria as our school intern for this upcoming summer. Bro. Joel has worked at Paragon Landscape the past two summers and has volunteered at Gateway Woods many times. Last year was the first year in which the school offered a summer internship to education majors. The school intern fills a variety of roles including teaching remedial classes, assisting teachers, coordinating field trips, and a variety of other activities.

- You are an important advocate to help us spread the Word about God's work at Gateway Woods. Please continue to lift us up in prayer, check our website www.gatewaywoods.org often for updates, and make sure that you're on our mailing list.

- Please mark your calendars for our next annual auction on Saturday, August 8, 2009. Information about this event will be available throughout the year.

- We are very thankful that God continues to provide us with the right staff. Because of our Adoption services expanding into Illinois, completion of the Pine House, and other ministry opportunities, there are a number of service positions waiting to be filled. Open positions include Counselor, English Teacher, Alternate Houseparent couple, and IL Adoption Manager. Please see the notices in this month's edition of The Silver Lining for more information. We trust that God will continue to provide us with qualified, mature Brothers and Sisters who will be able to serve Him in a ministry that is 'Turning Lives Around'. Perhaps this includes you!

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN
PRESCHOOL
Athens, AL
Sarah Hodel**

Spring is on it's way, thank good-

ness! The kids have had cabin fever for quite awhile now and we are so grateful for the few warm days we've had to be able to go outside and burn off some of that energy!

During the month of February, our themes have been the five senses and doing activities with Eric Carle books. Our letters have been T, U, V and W. It's hard to believe we're almost to the end of the alphabet again. It seems like we just started over with the letter A. We were able to have our Valentine's party this month as well. The kids love to hand out their cards and see what kind of candy they'll get! Also this month was our school board meeting. We appreciate the brothers who serve on the board so very much and want to say thank you for all your efforts.

Just a few things that have made us smile: A teacher was getting a piece of gum one morning while the class looked on, wishing they could have a piece of gum, too. They asked why she got gum and were told that it made her breath nice. In a valiant effort to get a piece for himself, one little boy responded "My breath is being mean."

One of our recent scripture memory verses was from Genesis. The kids were having trouble saying Genesis, but it did sound a little familiar to them. It usually would come out as "Miss Jena 16:13."

On the playground one day, the afternoon was winding down and the teachers were getting worn out. Apparently some of the kids were too. One child (who knows how to swing himself) asked a teacher to come push him and she said maybe he could just do it himself for awhile. He told her "I can't, the batteries in my legs ran out."

Yes, there are days when we feel overwhelmed and would rather just stay home in the peace and quiet. But there are also times like these that re-

mind us why we're here. God Bless!

**ALABAMA, ATHENS
Louise Hall**

We have had many visitors this past month. There were a lot of friends and family coming for a visit, along with many ministers. Bro. Sam and Sis. Linda Schlatter (Junction) came and spent two weeks with us. It was a blessing to have their fellowship and to have Bro. Sam on the pulpit for a few Sundays.

Also bringing the Word to us was Bro. Allen Stoller (Sis. Susan, Bluffton). The weekend of the preschool board meeting we were thankful to have a number of visiting ministers, including Elder Bros. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville), Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield), and Ted Witzig (Sis. Cindy, Morton), and Bros. Tim Gerber (Sis. Wendy, Mansfield) and Duane Ruetter (Sis. Kay, Rockville).

The weekend of the meeting we had Communion, too. Elder Bros. Andy Stoller and Mark Masters helped serve us. Thank you all so much for being here!

We rejoice with Matthew Moore (Bro. Mike and Sis. Pam) as he announced he is at peace and is looking to be baptized. Matthew moved back home from Arkansas and is attending a local college. We are happy to have him back and pray that the Lord continues to bless and guide him.

**ARIZONA, PHOENIX
Heather Hinrichsen**

"How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the

gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

Romans 10:14-15

Our visiting ministers this month included Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign), Bro. Ron Joos (Bloomfield), Bro. Gene Metzger (Lester), Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Leo) and Bro. Jay Knapp (Tucson). We thank these brothers for their willingness to serve.

Sis. Katherine Laukauf was briefly hospitalized and then transferred to a skilled nursing facility. We pray she will be able to return home quickly. Sis. Clara Banwart was hospitalized and then she and Bro. Floyd moved into a new care facility.

We extend our love, prayers and sympathy to the family of John Greenbank in the passing of his granddaughter, Hailey Greenbank. After losing a child, healing can only come through the love and grace of God.

February 14-16 brought the Bible classes from Altadena, San Diego and Tucson to join Phoenix for a weekend of fellowship. We thank all who were involved in the planning.

ARIZONA, PRESCOTT **Denise Steidinger**

We are so grateful to our visiting ministers this month. They included Bros. Paul Schmidgall (Sis. Shawn, Morris), Curt Kaufman (Sis. Caroline, Tucson), Eugene Metzger (Sis. Dolores, Lester), Jim Meiss (Sis. Candy, Phoenix), Beirne Messner (Sis. Joyce, Morris), and Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz (Sis. Leonda, Leo, IN).

Jim Furrer passed away on January 31. Bros. Phil Stettner (Bluffton North) and John Lehman (Wolcott) shared in the funeral service. Our sympathy is extended to his wife, Rowena; parents, Bro. Glenn and Sis.

Eileen; children, Sis. Bethany Dubach (Bro. Dan), Bro. Tim (Sis. JaNon), April Kaufman (Jason), Andrew (Amanda), Sarah and Rebecca (all of Prescott). Please join us in continuing to lift up the Furrer family in prayer.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to thank everyone for all of the love, support and prayers that we have felt during this difficult time. We truly need the prayers of those we love, and we have felt upheld by yours. We pray that we would be able to be there for you in your time of need, as you have been there for us during this time.

In Him,

The family of Jim Furrer

ARIZONA, TUCSON **Lisa Knapp**

We were happy to have a visit from ministering Bro. Eugene Metzger (Lester, IA) on a recent Sunday. We certainly want to thank him for his service on the pulpit and invite him to come again soon. May God add His rich blessing.

Our Bible Class thoroughly enjoyed a trip to Phoenix over President's Weekend to spend some quality fun time with the Bible Classes from Arizona and California. We are thankful for their safe and uneventful return (something I think we've taken for granted over all these years) and even more thankful good Christian memories were made and friendships strengthened. God is so very gracious to us, isn't He? Many thanks to the Phoenix Bible Class for their many efforts to make the weekend successful.

We are enjoying above normal temperatures this week after a "chilly" spell of weather in the 50's with clouds and rain. We are told this weekend of February 21-22 will be

sunny with temperatures in the low 80's. Heavenly sunshine!

CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA **Catherine Brame**

"Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; And the God of love and peace shall be with you."

II Cor. 13:11

We are blessed to experience the peace of God here in Altadena. The start of the New Year has found us contemplating many exciting endeavors as we fellowship together. We are exploring the Crown Ministries financial program, and completing a study on the book of Hebrews.

February 1 found us enjoying the fellowship of an evening meal and singing as a church. The times of togetherness are uplifting to all of us.

Many prayers supported the brothers and sisters who attended the Elder Meeting in Latty, OH. We look forward to learning from what was shared at this meeting, and rejoice at the unity that is encouraged and supported by our Elder Body.

Our young people joined with the young people in Phoenix on February 14 and 15, with our annual ACYF gathering. It is so good to see our youth carrying on the traditions and hopes of our church.

We look forward to a beautiful spring, replete with new life, Communion, and Easter Sunday. It would be good to have visitors, and we welcome all who would like to visit the spring renewal as our mountains come alive.

CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO **Yasmin Koehl**

Greetings of love to all our brethren across the many miles!

We have been overwhelmingly blessed with an outpouring of visitors

seeking a warmer climate. Our gatherings have been doubled, even tripled in size by many brethren from various areas. The fellowship we have in the faith we share is so precious. We appreciate the support we've received from our visitors and thank God for our Apostolic Christian Church. May we hold sure to our foundation, follow Christ in true obedience so the blessings we experience now will only continue until we reach our heavenly abode.

Amongst our visitors have been several ministers who lovingly shared the Word of God with us. May our Lord richly bless Bros. Wes Moser (Sis. Esther, Lester, IA), Mark Schmidgall (Sis. Lisa, Eureka, IL), deacon Bro. Herb Knochel (Sis. Laurie, Phoenix, AZ), and Mike Rieker (Sis. Carol, Peoria, IL) who freely gave of himself during the three Sundays we worshipped together.

In behalf of our San Diego congregation, we would like to express our love and gratitude to each sister, brother and friend who has taken time to gather with us. We also would like to thank our brethren who remember our congregation in their prayers. May our Father in heaven who has brought us together, bless you and be with each of you as we onward strive to reach our goal.

**KITCHENER, ONTARIO
CANADA
Johanna Fortenbacher**

"The kingdom of heaven is like unto a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field: Which indeed is that least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof."

Matthew 13:31-32

This month we had two ministers helping to share the Word, Bro. Troy Leyse (Bluffton, IN) and Bro. Dale Stoller (Fairbury, IL). Thank you so much for coming to help.

Bro. Vladimir and Sis. Margaret Fortenbacher are the grandparents of Rick Curtis Graf born February 9. The parents are Bro. Todd and Sis. Lydia Graf from Akron, OH. Sis. Audrey and the late Bro. Art Graf are his other grandparents.

**COLORADO, DENVER
Ann Gonglach**

"And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said."

Matthew 28:5-6

We gathered for our annual business meeting and voted for a new trustee and Sunday school teachers. We are so thankful for those who are willing to do the work of the church and pray that God would continue to bless and guide us.

Our sympathies are with Britany Braun (Kris) as her Grandmother Mengler recently passed away in Garden Grove, Iowa, after a battle with cancer.

We rejoice with Kristy Schmidt (Bro. Rod and Sis. Cindy), who has peace with God and man, and desires baptism. We look forward to hearing her testimony and the testimonies of George and Lily Zarkovacki on March 21.

**CONNECTICUT, ROCKVILLE
Laura Virkler
Amber Rocke**

"He hath remembered his covenant forever, the word which he commanded to a thousand generations"

Psalm 105:8

God's faithfulness is such a comfort in time of need. The needs of a congregation go far beyond that which can be written in this brief article. However, we are so thankful for a continual avenue of prayer.

Our prayers extend to Sis. Nancy Gerber (Bro. Everett) at the passing of her brother, Bro. Jack Sauder (Sis. Marlise, Roanoke, IL). To his dear widow, and family, we commend our thoughts and prayers. Also losing a loved one is Bro. Kevin Grasso (Sis. Sara). His step-grandmother, Madeline Uccello, was very special to him and her presence will be greatly missed. May God provide Bro. Kevin with much comfort. Also, Sis. Martha Mangold (late Bro. Clarence) and Sis. Mildred Gerber (Bro. Melvin) lost a dear brother-in-law, Edward Kayan. We wish his wife Hilda and their children comfort in their time of sorrow. He was an uncle to many in our congregation.

There have been several under the care of a physician throughout this past month. They include Bro. Paul Foote (Sis. Roberta), Sis. Carol Crohan (Daniel), and Sis. Jen Hoffman (Bro. Arlo and Sis. Lynn). We pray that God will return them to good health.

We rejoice with Bro. Erik and Sis. Heidi Virkler at the birth of their son, Luke Clayton. We are so thankful that Sis. Heidi is feeling well, and Luke is a healthy baby. Baby Luke is the grandson of Bro. Dan and Sis. Dorothy Virkler, and Bro. Kevin and Sis. Jane Ballasy, both from our congregation. May Bro. Erik and Sis. Heidi feel our love and prayers through this time of transition.

Our prayers also extend to our Sis. Alma Lanz as a large adjustment unfolds in her life. Sis. Alma will be moving from our area in the east coast to live with her daughter, Susan

Bigelow, and granddaughter, Jaime Bigelow, on the west coast in Oregon. Not only will it be an adjustment for her, but the many family members, especially son Bro. Sherman (Sis. Joanne), who took great efforts in providing for her care. They are comforted that all is in God's hand, and know that she will be well provided for in her new home.

This month we were privileged with many visitors from Kitchener, Ontario, for the wedding of Bro. Jake Virkler (Bro. Terry and Sis. Cindy) and Sis. Ashlee Hunt (Kenneth and Sis. Karen). Several others from the Midwest were also able to attend Rockville for this joyous occasion. We pray for this young couple, that God would richly bless their lives together. We thank all those who have made the effort to be with us, not only this weekend, but throughout each year.

We humbly thank our Elder Brethren for their efforts on our behalf in the Mid-Winter Conference. May they always feel our prayers.

Begone unbelief, my Saviour is near,
And for my relief will shortly appear
By faith let me wrestle, and He will
perform
With Christ in the vessel, I smile at
the storm.

Zion's Harp #87

This is such a comfort when our needs are so great, and our strength so weak. Have a blessed month.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON
Henrietta Meyer**

Our caretakers for January were Bro. Jerry and Sis. Ada Christenson from Gridley, IL. They had to leave early due to the death of Bro. Jerry's brother, Tommy. We extend our sympathy to the family.

Sis. Doreen Steffen reports we have caretakers for most of this year

and she has started booking caretakers for 2010. Please see the article elsewhere for her contact information.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Jerry Isch (Sis. Linda, Philadelphia, PA), Bro. John Bradle (Sis. Jill, Roanoke, IL), Bro. Gary Sinn (Sis. Paulette, Latty, OH), Bro. Jerry Bauman (Sis. Martha, Rittman, OH). Other visitors this month were from Elgin, IL.

This month we went to sing again at the local nursing home. Later we came back to church and made sack lunches for a local homeless shelter.

Directions in the new Ministers' Book are good for those coming from the north or west. For those coming up I-95 from south of DC or from the eastern part of the area, you need to take I-95/495 to Exit 28A (New Hampshire Ave) for approx. 2 miles to Rt. 29 North. Go about 3 miles to Fairland Road and follow the directions in the Ministers' book.

If you are planning to visit Washington, D.C. area for vacation or business, please contact Bro. Joe and Sis. Holly Bohart at jbohart@gmail.com or Sis. Henrietta Meyer at (703) 904-8301 for assistance and to let us know how many to expect for Sunday services. If you would like to get together on Saturday evening, please let us know that as well. We would be happy to have an evening of fellowship and/or singing.

**FLORIDA
FT. LAUDERDALE
Renee Mangold**

We were thankful to have visiting ministers this past month, including Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL), Elder Bro. Joe Braker (Sis. Shirley, Morton, IL), Bro. Joe Dotterer (Sis. Rose, Bloomfield, IA) and Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Sis. Debbie, Elgin, IL). We pray for God's blessings on His servants and that

they may continue to be inspired by the Holy Word of God in their sermons.

We were blessed to have the Memorandum brought to us and shared this month. Also, we were fortunate to hear the reports given by Bro. Joe Gerber concerning the Loving Shepherd Ministries and Bro. Chuck Kellenberger regarding the Oakville, IA, flooding and rebuilding project.

We are very grateful that Bro. Mike Hohulin (Sis. Faye) has been put in as a new minister in our church. The Lord continues to work in our little church here in Ft. Lauderdale in many beautiful ways.

**FLORIDA
NORTH FORT MYERS
Naomi Vogel**

Here we are in the midst of our busy season and loving every minute of it! Our summer numbers of 15-25 have grown to 210. Even one of our visiting ministers mentioned how he had met people he hadn't seen for years. So, if you want to renew some old friendships, come visit us at Ft. Myers!

Our weather the last few weeks has been very pleasant; warm & sunny, low humidity, with pleasant breezes.

We have also been blessed with many visiting ministers this month: January 25 - Bro. Nile Bucher (Bluffton North) and Bro. Gary Anliker (Elgin, IL); February 1 - Bro. Dan Stoller (Remington) and Bro. Neal Widmer (W. Lafayette); February 8 - Bro. Ron Kipfer (Bluffton) and Bro. Trent Schrock (Leo); February 15 - Bro. Doyle Frauhiger (Bluffton North); and February 18 - Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Rockville). We truly have been blessed and sincerely appreciate each of you lending yourself to this service and the faithful support of your wives! Please come back to visit us soon! May God bless you

abundantly!

On February 8, we had our annual business meeting and on the 15th Bro. Joe Gerber (Bluffton) told us about the projects and services of the Loving Shepherd Ministries which is based in Bluffton. It is so heartwarming to know of the things they have accomplished and have planned for the future. They certainly deserve our prayerful and financial support. Keep up the good work!

Get Well wishes go to Sis. Mary Ann Mann who had a recurrence of pneumonia, and Sis. Mary Masters after gall bladder surgery. May you feel God's omnipresence at this time of recuperation.

FLORIDA, SARASOTA DiAnne Brown

What amazing times we live in; and what amazing grace will be needed to navigate through them. Some in our church family are being affected by job layoffs. We lift up each family facing these trials and pray for a return to employment, as God wills. We will also seek opportunities to come alongside them and offer any assistance God has blessed us with the ability to offer.

Years ago, when one of our daughters was newborn, my mother was diagnosed with terminal cancer. The next year was a blur of baby care and hospice care, leaving too few hours in a day. Mom passed away just 10 days after our daughter's first birthday. I shared with a friend how hours previously spent caring for a new baby and dying parent were now empty. She encouraged me to ask God to "fill my hands" and He did, with a new baby boy. May God always keep our hands full.

Another daughter called recently to share she had lost her i-phone. She is our "gadget girl" and loves all things technological, and that phone

was no exception. Her attitude gave me pause to evaluate my own when she shared that she probably loved that phone too much and God was helping her with her priorities. I've spent some time recently evaluating where the "toys" in my life come on the list of importance and found the need to re-number a few things.

The Sunday School Auction on February 21 was a time of fun and fellowship with a purpose. There was a Chili & Pie lunch, Bake Sale, Silent Auction, and main Auction. We thank the brethren and friends for their generous contributions and bids which bless the Sunday school all year long. Special thanks to Bro. Ben and Sis. Lorene Maibach for their many years of auction support. A moment of silence was offered for long-time supporter, Bro. Tom Miller. The Sunday school students work to help make the day a success. Whether they make signs, clear tables or help with the auction - it's all done with a cheery smile and willing heart.

A Youth Bible Group has been formed by the Sunday School Bible class. The first meeting was held Saturday, February 7 at the home of Bro. Bill and Sis. Beth Roscher. The group played games and shared pizza and enjoyed fellowship with faith-minded friends. Singles Bible Study was held February 14 at the home of Bro. Larry and Sis. DiAnne Brown. Ministering Bro. Jeff Streitmatter led the study on John 15 and refreshments were enjoyed following the study.

Monthly potluck was held Sunday, February 15, preceding a program on adoption by Bro. Joe (Sis. Heidi) Gerber of Loving Shepherd Ministries. There were harsh reminders of the plight of many children throughout the world. We can't save every child, but we were reminded we can save one, through adoption or support of the ministry. Thank you, Bro. Joe, for bringing this message home

to us in Sarasota and we pray hearts will be burdened for these children.

This month we were blessed with several visiting ministers including Elder Bros. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen, Champaign, IL), Tom Hoffman (Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) and Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO); and Bros. Paul Gasser (Sis. Joyce, Akron, OH), Gary Endress (Sis. Evelyn, Bradford, IL), Brent Kellenberger (Sis. Beth, Kansas City, MO), Daren Metz (Sis. Rita, Gridley, IL), Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO), Doyle Frauhiger (Sis. Jane) and Steve Frauhiger (Sis. Irene), both from Bluffton North, IN.

Winter has come and the church is full. What a joy to arrive to find the parking lot crowded, the church buzzing like a bee-hive. One of the best blessings is the vibrant singing of a full church. Each Sunday brings a reunion with an old friend or the introduction of a new one. Welcome to each and every one of you. The Sarasota Church is glad to have you and we pray God will bless your visit to this tropical paradise.

GEORGIA, ATLANTA Melinda Gramm

"Unto thee, O God, do we give thanks, ... for that thy name is near thy wondrous works declare."

Psalm 75:1

Baseball sized stones bounced off our cars and homes last week during an unexpected hail storm. It was mesmerizing to watch the beautiful little "balls" hit so many things. Nothing too major was destroyed and even if we have large dents in our roofs and cars, they will amount to nothing one day as we stand before the throne of God.

Bro. Paul Gasser (Sis. Joyce, Akron, OH) ministered to us this month

and encouraged us to "be persistent in our prayer life to God." We also heard that "the heart of the problem is the problem of the heart." May we each continue to search our hearts, making sure they are in tune with God's Word and when we see a "problem of the heart" plead forgiveness and strength to carry on whatever He has called us to do.

ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

Jenn Johnson

Doreen Moser

As many of our churches have done recently, we were delighted to have Elder Bro. Ron Schambach (Elgin, IL) exhort us through the Memorandum reading on January 25. It's always good for us to hear the conclusions of the Elder Brother Conference, and to be reminded of what our purpose is on this earth.

On February 7, we celebrated the engagement of Bro. Josh Steffen (Bro. Dean and Sis. Carol) and Sis. Colby Sutter (Bro. Richard and Sis. Kay) with a singing shower at our church. We enjoyed an evening of beautiful hymn singing and fellowship. May the Lord bless Josh and Colby as they look forward to their wedding day on March 1.

Bro. Art and Sis. Marlene Mueller traveled to Haiti with a work team the week of February 6-13. We are glad that they arrived home safely, and pray the Lord has and will bless their efforts during their time in Haiti.

We are excited to hear that Derek Wettstein (Bro. Chad and Sis. Janice) has found peace with God, and we are looking forward to his proving and baptism on April 18-19.

ILLINOIS BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL

Jacki Masters

Alissa Kieser

Another year has come and gone

and a new one has begun. May this year be one in which we strive to become more like Christ each day and remember to thank Him always for all that He has done for us.

We rejoice with Bro. Randy Stuerman and Sis. Erica Bruellman at the announcement of their engagement. Erica's parents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Teresa Bruellman (Ft. Myers, FL) and Randy's parents are the late Bettie Goettsch and the late Robert Stuerman. We also congratulate Bro. Eric Huber on his engagement to Sis. Martney Stickling (Peoria). Eric's parents are Bro. Dave and Sis. Debbie Huber and Martney's parents are Harold and Marilyn Stickling (Peoria). We wish you God's blessings as you begin your walk through life together.

We rejoice with Ashley Masters (Bro. Ron and Sis. Tami) as she was united in marriage to Robert Black on February 7. Andrew Walter (Bro. Harvey and Sis. Margaret) was married to Susan O'Rourke on December 31. May your marriages be blessed by God's love.

We wish God's blessings to Bro. Brian and Sis. Roze Strassheim and their family as they are moving to Oklahoma. Brian and Roze and their children, Sant, Killian, Quinn, Savannah, and Zane, will be missed by our congregation.

Our love and sympathy are extended to Sis. Nancy Kaufmann (Bro. Jim) whose father, Bro. Richard Schmidgall (Morris, MN), passed away January 8. We also extend our love to Bro. Zack Sauder (Sis. Caesy) at the loss of his grandfather, Bro. John "Jack" Sauder (Roanoke), on January 20.

ILLINOIS, BRADFORD Philip and Donna Nenadov

Our hospital patients this month were Ron Baer (Sis. Deann), Bro. Jack

Knobloch (Sis. Nancy), Sis. Marilyn Slutz (Bro. Dick), Sis. Becky Pyles (Bro. Dennis), and Linda Hoffman. We trust that the Lord will grant each one of them a quick recovery.

Our visiting ministers this past month were Bros. Warren Schlatter (Sis. Cindy, Junction), Dale Banwart (Sis. Missy, Congerville), and Ed Sauder (Sis. Bonnie, Roanoke). We are blessed to receive the Word of God through these Spirit-led brothers.

On February 1, Joanna Rose came into this world. Thankful parents are Bro. Lucas and Sis. Bethany Young. Older siblings are Noah and Ruth. Joanna's grandparents are Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla Rassi (Chicago) and Bro. Morris and Sis. Pat Young (Elgin IL). We are thankful to add Joanna as the newest addition to the Bradford congregation.

Be True; Be True!
The Lord is by thee standing;
Joyful with Him at last will be the ending!
Tho' hard the strife and long the conflict be,
Through faithfulness the Lord will honored be!
Zion's Harp #172, vs. 1

ILLINOIS, CHICAGO Rachel Meyer

Greetings from Chicago. We thank Elder Bros. Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS) and Mike Lemman (Denver, CO) for ministering to us this past month. May God bless you for your service.

Our Chicago church was privileged to host three Elder Forums in the past two months. We thank the brothers who are willing to meet and foster their love and that for the brethren, as well as all of the Chicago brothers, sisters and friends who helped in any way. This is a way we can work together in a spirit of transparency and mutual love and respect.

We need each other today more than ever.

January 28 was the evening of our annual business meeting. We each have our part and thank those who have served or will be serving in any capacity.

February 1 was the arrival date of sweet Joanna Rose Young. Parents are Bro. Lucas and Sis. Bethany Young of Bradford, IL. Noah and Ruth welcome her home along with grandparents, Bro. Greg and Sis. Carla Rassi (Chicago, IL), and Bro. Mo and Sis. Pat Young (Elgin, IL). Congratulations and may God bless these families.

February 11-13 was the Mid-Winter Elder Conference in Latty, OH. Thank you, brothers, for all you do and may you feel the prayers from our churches in America and around the world.

February 14, our Elder Bro. Dale Eisenmann and Bro. Brad Eisenmann shared the Conference Report with us. These times serve to help our faith grow and remind us to live in, but not among the world around us.

We have a new young boy in school. He started in January so he is still getting used to the routines, teachers and fellow students. Among these fellow students is a young lady who is probably twice as tall as he is and several years older. Several weeks ago he was looking for a seat and there was an open one by the young lady. I pointed this out but he looked concerned about sitting there. To help him feel at ease I said, laughing, "Don't worry. She won't bite." He turned to me with wide eyes and a serious expression and asked, "Are you sure?"

Perhaps that is how you and I feel today. Around us society is crumbling, the economy is poor and it seems each day brings more bad news. Maybe each one reading this

has some spirit of anxiety or fear. When God assures us in the Bible that He will never leave us or forsake us – and that He is truly a firm foundation – do we look around us with wide eyes and ask God, "Are you sure?" The answer – Yes, He is sure.

ILLINOIS, CHAMPAIGN Jackie Eisenmann

Looking back over the last month, we were blessed to have several visiting ministers with us. This is truly one of the many blessings of our church. We were thankful that Bro. Les Kaeb (Francesville, IN) came to be with us the weekend of January 24-25. We also want to thank Bro. Paul Kilgus (Fairbury, IL) who was with us on a Wednesday evening last month. We were also blessed by Bro. Steve Sauder (Tremont, IL). He was with us on Sunday, February 15. May God bless each one for their willingness to be used by God to spread the Gospel.

The weekend of February 7-8 was the special Parents' Appreciation Weekend hosted by our college students. Many of their parents came to be with us for the weekend. The students provided a meal Saturday evening for their parents and the Champaign church, followed by a singing. Then on Sunday they served us lunch between the services. It was a blessed weekend enjoyed by all. Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) was there for the weekend and was used on the pulpit. God bless you, Bro. Brad.

Our congregation enjoyed the presentation given by our Bro. Joe Gerber on a recent Sunday evening regarding the work of "Loving Shepherd Ministries", which he works for. Joe informed us on the plight of orphans all over the world and the work that is being done by this organization. It was a touching presentation

and left us all much to think about. May God bless this ministry.

ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK Vickie Maul Janie Waldbeser

We are thankful for brothers who came to share the Word of Life with us this past month. They were Bro. Mike Bauman (Sis. Lilly, Mansfield, OH), Bro. Trent Meiss (Sis. Lucy, Eureka, IL) and Bro. Dennis Kaufmann (Sis. Bonnie, Bloomington, IL). May God bless each of you for lending of yourself to further the Gospel of Christ.

We thank Bro. Bruce Frank for his topical Bible presentation in the month of January on "Take No Thought" and our Elder Bro. Tom Stock for his topical Bible presentation in February on "Sin – What the Bible Says About It". So many timely warnings – may we each take them to heart as we work out our soul's salvation here on earth.

We pray for our Sis. Dorothy Walder as she has had a knee replaced and is recovering at Heartland Healthcare in Paxton. May the Lord add His healing balm according to His Will. We continue to pray for all our loved ones who are bearing the burdens of this earthly life.

No Prayer Goes Unheard

Often we pause and wonder when we
kneel down to pray -
Can God really hear the prayers that
we say ...
But if we keep praying and talking to
Him,
He'll brighten the soul that was
clouded and dim,
And as we continue our burden seems
lighter,
Our sorrow is softened and our out-
look is brighter -
For though we feel helpless and alone
when we start,
Our prayer is the key that opens the
heart,
And as our heart opens the dear Lord
comes in

And the prayer that we felt we could
never begin
Is so easy to say for the Lord under-
stands
And gives us new strength by the
touch of His hands.
—*Helen Steiner Rice*

ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE Holly Zobrist

A Christian now baptized,
to me much grace is given.
Why was this granted me?
That I with Christ am risen!
This is the holy aim;
He who does this neglect
Cannot in truth proclaim;
I'm one of God's elect.
Zion's Harp #43

On February 1, Dawn Knepp, Heather Knepp (Bro. Doug and Sis. Lynette), Julie Roth (Bro. Mark and Sis. Tammy), and Rex Wettstein (Bro. Larry and Sis. Marilyn) were baptized in the faith. It was a blessing to listen to the testimonies of these four dear souls. Each experience is always a little different, and yet, God's work is accomplished in each life. We were thankful that Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis) was able to be with us that weekend.

We are thankful that God has provided Sis. Jill Gudeman (Bro. Duane), Sis. Jennifer Kieser (Bro. James) and Sis. Sandy Dietrich (Bro. Tim) to be our new Sunday school teachers. We are also thankful that Bro. Brian Walder (Sis. Jenny), and Bro. Jay Steffen (Sis. Melinda) are also willing to be used as Sunday school teachers. Bro. Andy Ott and Bro. Ed Leman have agreed to take on the responsibility as being ushers. Bro. Bob Hartman was made trustee for our church and Bro. Ben Zimmerman was made Eureka Home trustee. We appreciate the willingness of these brethren as they allow God to use them.

ILLINOIS, ELGIN

**Amy Gasser
Miriam Gasser**

During our annual business meeting on January 21, Bro. Lynwood Schambach was selected for church trustee and Bro. Dave Rinkenberger for Fellowship Center trustee, replacing Bros. Jeff Dietz and Morris Young. Bro. Ron thanked the outgoing brothers for their years of service and expressed appreciation to all who lend their time, talents, and support to church facilities and functions.

Elder Bro. Art Nohl (Morris, MN) assisted Bro. Ron with the Memorandum reading on January 24. Their meditations on the letter were very clear and brought to mind the passage in Hebrews 4:12. May God reward Bro. Art for his willing service on Saturday evening as well as on Sunday. Other visitors who brought us a blessing through their ministry were Elder Bros. Art Metz (Silverton, OR) and Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA) and Bro. Scott Wegman (Taylor, MO).

Bro. Eric and Sis. Erica Humbracht are the delighted parents of a little girl, Aria Rae, born January 31. Jadin seems to welcome the little addition called a sister! Aria's grandparents are Bro. Les and Sis. Alison Schambach, Phoebe Hayes, and Lyn and Susan Humbracht.

Sis. Jenean Schambach (Bro. Tom and Sis. Connie) has returned home after spending two years at the Magdalena orphanage. No doubt the children and staff will long enjoy the fruits of her gardening labors there.

Please remember Micah Bachtold (Bro. Sam and Sis. Betty) in your prayers, as he is serving in Iraq until about the middle of August. Correspondence would be welcome at either micah_bachtold@hotmail.com or the following address:

SSgt. S. M. Bachtold

VMGR-352 Det A
UIC-41147
FPO AP 96426-1147

During the past month, Rick Schmidgall (Sis. Cindy) had shoulder surgery, and Bro. Roger Weiss (Sis. Karen) and Verona Schock spent time in the hospital. Because of declining health, Verona recently moved to Rosewood Care Center. Our prayers for comfort, peace, and her eternal wellbeing follow her there.

We extend our sympathy to Sisters Cora Schambach (Bro. Bill) and Stephany Welzien for the recent loss of their relatives. Sis. Cora's older brother, Ralph Woolschlager of Waterloo, NY, passed away January 30. The next day, Sis. Stephany's aunt, Sis. Clara Nohl of Goodfield, departed this life.

ILLINOIS, EUREKA

**Dee Baer
Jodi Blunier**

"In days of youth, seek ye the Lord..." We're thankful to welcome Bro. Chad Blunier (Bro. Ted and Sis. Donna), Sis. Julie Streitmatter (Bro. Wayne and Sis. Deyona), and Bro. Cody Schumacher (Bro. Dan and Sis. Heidi) into our brotherhood. Elder Bro. Ben Walder came to assist Elder Bro. Ervin and Bro. Steve.

We welcome new babies to church families: Marlise Lanae and Maria Mae brought double joy to Bro. Matthew, Sis. Lisa and Trenton Schmidgall. Grandparents are Bro. Mike and Sis. Kary Schmidall and Bro. Rich and Sis. Maribeth Kupferschmid.

Logan Dean entered the home of Bro. Phil, Sis. Kristin, Jessica, Kaylie and Elana Wettstein. Grandparents are Bro. Jake and Sis. Mary Wettstein and Bro. Ken and Sis. Lori Wuthrich (Bloomfield, IA).

Lindsey Alyse made first-time parents of Bro. Jarod and Sis. Heidi

Leman. Grandparents are Bro. Chris and Sis. Marlene Leman and Bro. Paul and Sis. Kris Schmidgall.

Visiting ministers who have labored for us are Bro. Beirne Messner (Morris, MN), Bro. Craig Martin (Princeville, IL), and Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH). We appreciate their visits.

Our condolences were shared with Sis. Jeanne Dotterer (Bro. John) in the death of her brother, Bro. Ted Schick (Washington, IL).

Sis. Eleanor Baer sadly said farewell to her brother, Albert Grusy, Jr. of Chillicothe.

Our Sis. Jane Stoller (Bro. Jim) was quietly freed from this life after years of bodily afflictions. Those left to grieve are her husband, Bro. Jim; son, Bro. Lowell (Sis. Molly) and Isaac and Warren; her stepmother, Sis. Claribel Anliker (Rittman, OH); sisters, Mary Kay Rumbold (Gary, Morton), Sis. Dort Leman (Bro. Keith, Goodfield, IL), Sis. Carol Wettstein (Bro. Lloyd, Bloomfield, IA), and brother, Bro. Art Anliker (Sis. Carol).

Hospital stays were experienced by Sis. Mary Baer, Sis. Liz Blunier, Sis. Edie Stoller (Bro. Tom) and Bro. Rick Wuethrich (Sis. Brenda).

“Suff” ring makes our faith more ample, meek and humble, childlike, simple...”

Zion's Harp #245

“We tarry in this blest and tranquil union, and thus united speak the farewell word...”

Zion's Harp #114

Bro. Phil, Sis. Kristin Wettstein and family are relocating to Bloomfield, IA.

Our friend, Robbie DeSigne (Bro. Bob and Sis. Cindy), has left for basic training in the Air Force. Our prayers follow.

ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY

**Elizabeth Fehr
Anna Schmidgall**

Babies are so precious and we welcome little Alexis Louise Fehr, daughter of Bro. Randall and Sis. Janis, to our church family. Her siblings are Sarah, Heidi, Troy, Marty, and Arlis. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Martha Moser (Washington, IL) and Bro. Glen and Sis. Kathryn Fehr.

Several ministers served our congregation this past month. We are always thankful for their efforts and pray for God's continued blessings on each one. Elder Bros. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) and Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) assisted Elder Bro. Rick Plattner in reading the Memorandum. We appreciate clear direction for our lives from God's Word.

Other visiting ministers were Bros. Nate Wieland (Goodfield, IL), Tony Manz (Junction, OH), Paul Eisenmann (Burlington, IA), John Steiner (Oakville, IA), Mike Wagenbach (Wolcott, IN), and Kerwin Edelman (Athens, AL).

Our support and prayers are with our Sis. Jarrin Rabe who, having felt the call and direction of the Lord, is being sent by the Mission Committee to serve the children and congregation in Magdalena, MX. She anticipates a May leaving date and covets prayers in this important work.

Several of our older brethren have spent time in the hospital recently and we pray for their healing according to God's will. They are Sis. Thelma Slagel, Bro. Ben Lorch, and Helen Fehr.

ILLINOIS, FORREST

**Jill Wenger
Lisa Aberle**

We are thankful that Thadd Zimmerman (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Steph) has answered the call to repentance. We wish him God's nearness during

this time as he grows in the Lord.

We also rejoice that four souls were added to the fold on the weekend of January 31st and February 1st. Elder Bros. Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL) and Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH) were willing to assist with the testimonies and baptisms of our new brothers, Jeremiah Rinkenberger (Keith and Sue, Forrest, IL) and Alex Dotterer (the late. Bro. Wendell and Sis. Kathy), and our new sisters, Emily and Laura Ricketts (Bro. Brian and Sis. Marie).

In addition to our visiting Elders, we also appreciated the ministering of Bros. Joe Dotterer (Bloomfield, IA), Bill Brake (Sardis, OH), Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL), Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL), Bruce Frank (Cissna Park, IL), Dale Frank (Oakville, IL), and Bob Beebe (South Bend, IN). Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Princeville, IL) assisted our Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker and neighboring Elder Bro. Rick Plattner to deliver the Memorandum. We're thankful for the labors of each of these Brothers.

Isaiah Stork (Bro. Paul and Sis. Dawn) and Brooke Studebaker (Dale and Joni, Fairbury, IL) have announced their upcoming wedding. Also, Aaron Gerber (Bro. Alan and Sis. Marcia) has announced his engagement to Jeni Young (Tim and Becky, Fairbury, IL). We wish these couples well in their future lives together.

And, in closing, we have had several people in the hospital this month. Bro. Larry Bachman (Sis. Donna) and Sis. LaVonne Lanz (Bro. Elmer) have endured yet more hospital stays. Other hospital patients were Sis. Mattie Kaeb (Bro. Nick), Reuben Leman (Bro. Fred and Sis. Brenda), and Bro. Wilbur Wiegand (Sis. Ruth).

ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD

**Rita Bauman
Amber Grimm**

"For this God is our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death."

Psalm 48:14

Our dear Sis. Clara Nohl passed away this month. She is a sister to Cecil Nohl and Alice Nohl. We are thankful for her godly example and longing to meet her Saviour. Prayers are with Sis. Dort Leman (Bro. Keith) as her sister, Sis. Jane Stoller (Eureka, IL), passed away. Prayers are also with Justin and Sheri Zobrist as her mother, Gale Brady (Eureka, IL), passed away, and with Sis. Pearl Nohl and Sis. Wilma Knapp as their sister, Sis. Dorothy Belsley (Morton, IL), passed away. May God continue to grant comfort to these families.

"For the body is not one member, but many."

I Corinthians 12:14

We thank Elder Bro. Earl Ringger (Sis. Dixie, Gridley IL) who helped us with our annual business meeting at the beginning of the month. Special thanks also to the outgoing Sunday School teachers, kitchen committee member, and trustee. May God bless them for their time and efforts in filling these important roles in our church family. Our prayers continue to be with our new trustee, Bro. Loren Zeltwanger (Sis. Rhonda), our new kitchen committee member, Sis. Cindy Schmidgall (Bro. Randy), and the new Sunday School teachers: Sis. Michelle Knapp, Sis. Deb Steffen (Bro. Dirk), Sis. Kerstan Plattner (Bro. Kevin), Bro. Josh Knapp (Sis. Carolyn), and Bro. Rod Hinrichsen (Sis. Lynda). It is such a blessing when we all work together to glorify God.

"Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice."

Philippians 4:4

Bro. Randy and Sis. Roxy Blunier are rejoicing in the birth of their first child, Katherine Lynn. Grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Wendy Blunier (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Art and Sis. Pam Wiegand.

We also rejoice with Laura Wirtz (Bro. Mike and Sis. Lila) and Christy Bauman (Justin) in that they have found peace and look forward to giving their testimony and baptism March 7-8. We pray for their continued peace and God's nearness in their Christian walk.

Sis. Joyce Hohulin was hospitalized this month with a broken leg. We continue to pray for her recovery and appreciate her smile even in trials.

Note of Thanks:

I wish to thank all our dear friends and families for the cards that were sent, food brought in, and the visits from everyone. Also, I appreciate the love, prayers, and concerns since my surgery. May God richly bless each of you.

Love, Sis. Verla Wiegand (Bro. Dan)

**ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY
Perry A. Klopfenstein**

We are glad for the recovery of Bro. Jeff Stoller, who suffered from a severe stomach ailment which left him hospitalized and very weak. At one point he was in a very perilous health situation. Thankfully, he is now home and recovering.

Bro. Brian Vercler was announced to be married to Sis. Amber Rocke of Roanoke. He is the son of Bro. Tim and Sis. Sonja Vercler. She is the daughter of Sis. Susan Rocke, Roanoke. We surely wish them the

blessings of the Lord, and are thankful they submitted their upcoming marriage to the Lord.

Bro. John Bradle was a visiting minister. May God bless him for his efforts.

Only a month ago, we had given our sympathies to Gerry Sievers (Jack) over the loss of her older brother. Now, she lost another brother, Glenn "Shorty" Yergler, of Gridley. One by one we are all going down the valley. Yet, we thank God for the great provision of salvation through Jesus Christ. This life is a preparation for the next. Surely, our prayers are that all mankind would seek the Lord in a true repentance, and then a fervent following to the end, by His grace and favor.

At this writing, the father of Bro. Ron and Sis. Barb Harris, Don Harris, is gravely ill. Our prayers are to God on his behalf.

We as believers are to share in one another's joys and sorrows. In the latter, our deep sense of brotherhood, nationwide, can help ease the burden as we lose loved ones. The following "thank you" certainly results when the full fruit of brotherhood can be realized by those who have suffered loss.

Note of Thanks:

An outpouring of Christian love from throughout the land has been felt by the family of Sis. Winifred Schlipf during her illness and at the time when God took her peacefully home. We sincerely want to thank each one for their prayers, visits, cards of encouragement, and any support given on our behalf. The care for one another in our most Precious Faith seems endless, and is so much appreciated, especially in the time of need. God's blessings to all!

Bro. Ralph S. Schlipf and family

ILLINOIS, MORTON

**Annette Tanner
Julie Bahr**

Our thanks to Bro. Craig Stickling (Sis. Jacki, Peoria) for giving our Wednesday evening Family Worship topic "The Danger of Anger". In the scripture, Christ teaches in Matthew that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. The lesson was a good reminder for us.

Bro. Jeff and Sis. Abby Kaufman are thankful to finally welcome and introduce their 3 year old son Misikir, adopted from Ethiopia, to his siblings, Ava, Layne, Iris, and Lucy. Family is such a precious gift from God.

On January 15, Bro. John and Sis. Peg Sauder became grandparents to a little girl, Aubrey Marie. Parents of little Aubrey are Bro. J.R. and Sis. Tiffany Sauder. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Jon and Sis. Wendy Schwab (Wolcott).

On February 3, Bro. Brett and Sis. Lena Grimm welcomed a new little son, Chase Henry, along with big sisters, Jacie, Nya, and Alia. Grandparents are Bro. Mark and Sis. Becky Grimm and Bro. Dave and Sis. Rita Sauder (Peoria).

Bro. Harold Zimmerman passed away on February 17. His wife, Sis. Eleanor, survives. Surviving children are Mary Beth Block, Robert Zimmer, Lela Zimmer, and Cara Oertle. Two brothers and two sisters also survive, James and Jack Zimmerman, Ruth Kaiser and Ella Stuber.

Notes of Thanks:

I want to thank all of you who remembered me with me with cards, gifts, and visits for my 95th birthday. I appreciate your thoughtfulness. May God bless you all.

Sarah Frank

The family of Sis. Dorothy Belsley

want to thank all who sent memorials, food, flowers and cards and those who called and included us in their prayers. A special thank you to all of the ladies who served the church luncheon and to all of the ministers for their love and support. Also to the nurses and staff at Restmor for their love and care to our dear mother and grandmother. May God bless you all.

Ralph and Karen Zeigler and family

ILLINOIS, PEORIA

Pam Fritzenmeier

Sunday, January 18, Bro. Craig (Sis. Jacki) Stickling was honored to announce the engagement of their daughter, Sis. Leah, to Bro. Devon Knobloch (Bro. Keith and Sis. Lisa), Princeville. Then on Sunday, February 15, we heard the engagement of Sis. Martney Stickling (Harold and Marilyn) to Bro. Eric Huber (Bro. Dave and Sis. Debbie) of Bloomington. We rejoice with these couples as they plan for this very special time in their lives.

We are thankful to report a new convert, Andrea Leuthold (Bro. Steve and Sis. Lois). What a blessing she can turn to the Lord in her youth. Two converts have expressed peace with God and await baptism. Rebecca Dingleline (Bro. Ed and Sis. Sara) and Karl Weyeneth (Bro. Merle and Sis. Mary) look forward to giving their testimony of faith on Saturday, February 28, and baptism the following day.

The annual Bible Class pancake and sausage supper/silent auction was held at the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, January 24. This funds their Christmas program for Timberidge, mission trip, and many other activities throughout the year. Thank you for your generosity and support.

Bro. Joe Gerber (Champaign)

spent some time to give us a presentation on Loving Shepherd Ministries at the Fellowship Hall on Friday, January 30. This ministry is devoted to caring for abandoned, orphaned, and at-risk children around the world and is based in Bluffton, IN.

We wish to thank visiting ministers, Bro. Steve Martin (Sis. Vicki, Eureka) and Bro. Jeff Grimm (Sis. Ruth, Goodfield) for sharing God's Word with us.

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to several in our congregation who have laid to rest loved ones. Bro. John (Sis. Cheryl) Grassi's father, Salvatore Grassi of Jamestown, NY, passed away February 8. Sis. Lucille (Bro. Wayne) Unsicker's brother, Julius Lauber, Princeville, passed away February 11. We just received word of Bro. George Huthmann's passing on February 17. His family includes Sis. Kathy, Sis. Heidi (Bro. Ben) Hartter, and Susan (Rick) Scott. Please pray for this dear family who just laid their mother to rest in December.

Please remember in prayer our loved ones suffering major illnesses. These include Sis. Marge Powers, and Bro. Bob (Sis. Betty) Miller.

Currently, we have a work team in Haiti - from February 13-22. Pray for safe travel and safety as they work. Please continue to pray for Bro. Tim and Sis. Joan Reinhard and family living in Haiti, and Bro. David Sceggel and Bro. Jonathan Aupperle in Magdalena.

ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE

**Connie Christ
Linda Joos**

We appreciate the visits of ministering Bros. Craig Stickling (Peoria, IL), Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN), Gary Endress (Bradford, IL), Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN), Tom Troxel (LaCrosse, IN), and

Wayne Wiegand (Goodfield, IL). May God bless them for their willingness to share God's Word with us.

Sis. Doreen (Bro. Duane) Elsasser bid farewell to her dear mother, Sis. Stella Zimmerman (Morton, IL). May God comfort her and her family at this time of loss.

Hospital patients this month have been Ayden Herrmann (young son of Bro. Ben and Sis. Ann Herrmann), Sis. Julie Dapper, Bro. Jim Knobloch (Sis. Helen), and Bro. Tim Kieser (Sis. Denise). May God be near each one in the afflictions they are enduring at this time. Where health has been restored, we thank God for His healing. Our dear friend, Jeff Streitmatter (son of Chuck and Linda), has moved to Princeton, IN, where he has found new employment. May God be near him in this new chapter of life.

Blessed with a new baby daughter are Bro. Troy and Sis. June Wagenbach. Mara June, born February 19, is welcomed home by siblings, Kendra, Nolan, Shayna and Bryson. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Elaine Wagenbach (Princeville, IL) and Bro. Joe and Sis. Marcella Steiner (Tremont, IL).

ILLINOIS, ROANOKE

**Jamie Hodel
Judy Sauder**

Psalm 127:3: "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord:". We rejoice with Bro. Jake and Sis. Betsy Zimmerman who have adopted twins, Dayne Jacob and Maggy Jo, who were born December 31. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Jim and Sis. Marge Braker and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Mary Beth Zimmerman.

On January 10, representatives from Loving Shepherd Ministries in Bluffton gave an informational presentation at the Fellowship Hall. We thank them for their acts of love and service to benefit orphans.

Ruth 1:16: "...for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God:" Our congregation has been blessed with a number of weddings and marriage engagements. On January 17, Troy Janssen (Bro. Fred and Sis. Cheri) was united in marriage to Jennifer Pelz (Beth Pelz of El Paso and David and Tammy Pelz of Tiskilwa). That same day, Andrew Wettstein (Bro. Gary and Sis. Elna) married Rebekah Bradle (Russ and Angie) of Eureka. On January 25, Bro. Jim Byrd and Sis. Sara Fischer were united in the Lord. Elder Bro. Marvin Lemman (Bradford) and Bro. Kent Getz (Elgin, IA) were our guest ministers for the day. Alex Knepp (Bro. Rich and Sis. Janet) and Cassie Gerber (Bro. Roger and Sis. Trish) of Goodfield are planning a May wedding. And on January 18, the marriage engagement of Sis. Kristi Stoller (Bro. Ed and Sis. Boni) and Bro. Joel Lemman of Magdalena, Mexico (Elder Bro. Mike and Sis. Deb, Denver) was announced. We rejoice with these dear couples and pray for God's blessings upon them as they begin married life.

Hebrews 6:10: "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which ye have showed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister." We have also been blessed to have several visiting ministers this month. Elder Bro. Steve Ringger (Bluffton North) served us on January 18, Bro. Jedd Rocke (Goodfield) proclaimed God's Word on February 1, and Bros. Dave Zehr (Gridley) and Jeff Thames (Washington) ministered to us on February 8. In addition, Bro. Wayne Lemman presented "The Kingdoms" for our monthly family worship on January 28. Mark 1:15: "...The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and

believe the gospel." We thank these brothers for their willing service to us and pray for God's blessing upon them.

Psalm 116:15: "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." Bro. Jack Sauder went to be with the Lord on January 20. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Marlise; children, Linda (Frank) Kandel, Jane (Jim) Thompson and Mark (Ina) Sauder, all of Eureka, and Bro. Ed (Sis. Bonnie) of Roanoke, and Bro. Tim (Sis. Jenny) of Leo. He also leaves sisters, June Huschen of Roanoke and Sis. Nancy (Bro. Everett) Gerber of Rockville, and a brother, Gary (Sis. Phyllis) of Roanoke, and a number of grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Also, Sis. Clara Nohl (Goodfield) went Home on January 31. She was a sister to Sis. Barb (Bro. Lyle) Moser. We extend our love and deepest sympathy to these beloved families in their loss, yet rejoice with them that victory in Jesus is won.

We said farewell to Bro. Martin and Sis. Marti Rumbold on January 25. They are moving to Monterrey, Mexico, for employment. We will miss them and pray for God's blessing and nearness upon them.

On February 8, a church potluck and singing was held at the Fellowship Hall. It was a blessed evening of fellowship and worship.

ILLINOIS, TREMONT

**Teresa Rowell
Janice Sauder**

Our congregation enjoyed the visits of three ministering brothers this past month. They were Bros. Howard Plattner (Alto, MI) and Alan Schambach (Remington, IN), who came to be with our visiting Bible Class company, and Bro. John Rowell (Burlington, IA). May God bless them for their labor of love in coming and preaching the Word to us.

We have four new engagements to report, with weddings to follow in the next few months. Bro. Bob Koch (Bro. Roger and Sis. Sally) and Sis. Jenny Wyss (Bro. Ed and Sis. Kathy, Washington, IL) are planning an April 26 wedding. Brett Kaiser (Bro. Jerry and Sis. Marcia) and Tessa Kamp (Bruce and Mary, Mackinaw, IL) will be married on June 27. Tim Beutel (Bro. Dean and Sis. Karen) and Melissa Withers (Greg and Verloyn, Channahon, IL) are planning to wed on July 25. Daniel Menold (Bro. Ron and Sis. Lynnette) and Jessica Spinder (John and Sueann, Morton, IL) plan to exchange marriage vows on August 1. We want to extend our wishes for God's blessings upon each dear couple as their love for each other grows and they prepare for marriage.

Our sympathy is given to Bro. Glenn and Sis. Marilyn Dill and their family at the loss of her mother, Sis. Stella Zimmerman (Morton, IL). We also extend sympathy to Sis. Matilda Koch as her daughter-in-law, Barb (Galen) Koch, has passed away after battling a long illness.

Our whole congregation has lost a dear sister-in-faith at the death of our Sis. Betty Hild. We pray for God's comfort to her surviving family: one son, Don (Debbie) Hild, and one daughter, Barb Maloney, both of Pekin, IL, and two grandchildren, Lindsay (J.P.) Swigart of Tampa, FL, and Shelby Hild of Pekin. Sis. Betty bravely fought a long battle with cancer, but now has won her victory in Jesus.

We rejoice over the news of the birth of each little baby born into our church family. Bro. Russ and Sis. Beth Koehl have a new son, Mason Lee. Mason has two big sisters, Tasha and Ashley, and grandparents, Bro. Ken and Sis. Karen Koehl (Morris, MN) and Bro. Kurt and Sis. Jane Ehnle (Bradford, IL), to help care for

him. Bro. Tim and Sis. Ruth Kaiser welcome Joshua Daniel into their family. His siblings, Levi, Jesse, Tori, Jacob, Kaitlyn, Benjamin, Sarah, and Julia, along with grandparents, Bro. Mel and Sis. Marlene Kaiser and Bro. Richard and Sis. Ann Steiner, rejoice at his birth. Another baby boy, Troy Stephen, was born to Bro. Chad and Sis. Laurie Keever. Joel, Todd, Seth and Hope welcome him home, with grandparents, Clair and Sis. Bev Keever (Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Laretta Schafer. A new daughter, Lydia Rose, was born to Bro. Landon and Sis. Teresa Rowell. Big brothers, Benjamin and Timothy, and grandparents, Bro. John and Sis. Nelda Rowell (Burlington, IA) and Bro. Fred and Sis. Jeannette Beutel, rejoice at her birth. Bro. Gary and Sis. Kathy Post are very happy with twin granddaughters, Kiley Joan and Cheyanne Marie. They join the family of Bro. Greg and Sis. Missy Post (Goodfield, IL) and their other children, Cassidy, Aidan and Kody. Bro. Rich and Sis. Evelyn Sauder have a new granddaughter, Susannah Rose. Happy parents are Brad and Kim Grant (Athens, WI), and siblings are Leah, Micah, Jonathan, Titus and Levi. May God bless each little baby and give much love and wisdom to all you fortunate parents!

We hope and pray that our loved ones who had hospital visits will continue to improve in strength, and good health can return. They are Sis. Jane (Bro. Tom) Bolliger, Bro. Glenn (Sis. Dorothy) Stuber and Dick (Cindy) Miller.

"O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens." (Psalm 8:1) May we always praise and thank God for His goodness to us in all our different circumstances of life.

Note of Thanks:

We would like to express our appreciation for the cards, prayers, visits and food given to us after my stroke. God has been very merciful to us and we praise Him for your love and kindness to us.

Sis. Vera Aberle and family

ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON Elizabeth Heinold Linda Folkerts

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

I Corinthians 15:58

It is encouraging to know, as we go through the hours, days, and weeks that make up our life, there is purpose in our service for the Lord. No work done in His name is wasted in light of eternity. Our labor is not in vain in the Lord.

We were blessed to have many visiting ministers this month. Bro. Matt Steffen (Sis. Deanna, Princeville) had a Bible Study with us. Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl, Rockville, CT) shared the Memorandum with us. Elder Bro. John Laukhuf (Sis. Marcia, Latty, OH) assisted with the testimonies and baptisms. Other Brothers serving us included Bro. Brad Eisenmann (Sis. Cindy, Chicago), Bro. Doug Wagenbach (Sis. Lillian, San Diego, CA), Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere), Bro. Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy, Gridley), Bro. Dave Steffen (Sis. Linda, Elgin), Bro. Tim Roecker (Sis. Diane, Peoria), Bro. Bill Schick (Sis. Joan, Magdalena, MX) and Bro. Fred Funk (Sis. Diane, Morton). Thank you for your efforts!

We were thankful to hear the testimonies and see the baptisms of Bro.

Peter Barth, Sis. Anna Barth and Bro. Caleb Jones. We rejoice with them and their parents, Bro. Jim and Sis. Julie Barth and Bro. Steve and Sis. Susie Jones.

We wish God's blessings on Bro. Drew Fehr and Sis. Jodi Anliker as they were married this month. Their parents are Dave and Sis. Linda Fehr and Bro. Art and Sis. Carol Anliker (Eureka).

We were happy to hear the engagement of our Sis. Jenny Wyss to Bro. Bob Koch from Tremont. Their parents are Bro. Ed and Sis. Kathy Wyss and Bro. Roger and Sis. Sally Koch (Tremont).

A baby girl has joined the Schroeder family! Bro. Jordan, Sis. Katelyn and little Jaycee welcome Arawen Joy into their home. What a blessing! Her grandparents are Bro. Jeff and Sis. Brenda Thames and Bro. Duane and Sis. Rachel Schroeder (Roanoke).

Our dear Bro. Ted Schick has finished his earthly race. What a victory he had as he finished strong, faithful to the end. We had tears in our eyes and yet joy in our hearts at the thought of him being with the Lord. Our prayers are with his family in our congregation, Bro. Scott and Sis. Dawn Schick, Bro. Max and Sis. Mary Pfaffmann, Bro. Tom and Sis. Carol Schick and his mother, Sis. Dolly Schick. Sis. Dolly has not been able to assemble with us recently due to health issues. Our prayers are with her.

INDIANA, BLUFFTON
Grace Gerber
Stefanie Kipfer

"Rejoice evermore!"

1 Thessalonians 5:16

I greet you all in the name of our Lord Jesus! This is my first time writ-

ing an article in the Silver Lining. I hope and pray to report with honesty, love and humility. It is truly a privilege to be a part of the fellowship of the Apostolic Church. May the Lord unite us all for the common goal of glorifying our God!

The Holy Spirit has been working faithfully these past weeks in our Bluffton congregation. On top of engagements, converts, and prayer requests, He has blessed us with visitors, new children and much more! It's incredible to think that it is already February of 2009. As each month goes by, I am continually encouraged by how God interacts and instructs me personally as well as our local church. He truly is the only One worthy of praise!

God has been actively teaching us the principle of 1 Thessalonians 5:17, "Pray without ceasing." We've worn out our knees this month praying for our brethren. Bro. Jesse Terhune was laid up after a fall, as well as Sis. Lucille Frauhiger who is recovering from hip surgery. Bro. Terry Kipfer, who suffered extensive injuries in an automobile accident, has been on our hearts. Jenna Stroup (daughter of Bro. Joe and Sis. Julie) spent some time in the hospital after a skiing accident, and we are currently being blessed to pray for Mathew Groce (grandson of Sis. Colleen Landrum) in the midst of a serious bone infection. Bro. John (Sis. Shirley) Fiechter is currently in the hospital, and Lonnie Frauhiger (son of Sis. Lucille Frauhiger) will be undergoing surgery. Little Emma Everett (5 month old daughter of Chris and Christina and granddaughter of Bro. Dick and Sis. Rita Everett) will be having reconstructive heart surgery, and Judy Huffaker (mother of Bro. Jon Magnin) has been a continual petition before our Father in the face of recovery from surgery. In addition to those with physical trials, we are also

praying that Jesus would console the family of Jim Furrer (Rowena) who is the father of our Bro. Tim Furrer (Sis. JaNon) and Sis. Bethany Dubach (Bro. Dan, Prescott, AZ). The Lord has also called us to pray for Adam Gerber (Bro. Dean and Sis. Jackie) who is attending boot camp in San Diego and facing many difficult challenges.

There are certainly quite a few trials within the church as you just read, but the Lord is always faithful in blessing His children with unending joy! The Spirit has performed so many miracles in the last month...three engagements! We are excited to report the engagement of Bro. Ryan Schwartz (Bro. Scott and Sis. Patti) and Sis. Mandy Schladenhauffen (Bro. Gary and Sis. Nancy, Bluffton North)! The Lord has also called Bro. Preston Kaehr (Bro. Doug and Sis. Tami, Bluffton North) and Sis. Wendy Neuenschwander (Bro. Dee and Sis. Laura) to unite in marriage. But the joy doesn't stop there! Bro. Tony and Sis. Peg Fiechter (Bluffton North) are thrilled to announce the engagement of their son, Bro. Mitch, to Sis. Jenna Imel (Bro. Dave and Sis. Sharon).

The Lord has also blessed us with five new children for which we are very grateful! Sis. Susan Byerly rejoiced in the arrival of her new granddaughter, Eden Suzanne Stoppenhagen, on January 8. Her happy parents are Andrew and Gay. New parents, Bro. Byron and Sis. Brittany Gerber (Bluffton North), welcomed little Rhett Matthew on January 30! Rhett's elated grandparents are Bro. Leon and Sis. Pat Gerber and Bro. Kelly and Sis. Lisa Aschliman (Bluffton North). God brought Simon Eli Isch into the world on February 5 joining siblings, Ethan and Isabel. Bro. Blaine and Sis. Tonya are the happy parents and also excited are his grandparents, Bro. Bruce and Sis.

Mary Raber and Bro. Les and Sis. Ann Isch. We are also excited to announce the arrival of Griffin Scott Tschantz—son of Scott and Lori, grandson of Bro. Craig and Sis. Jean Steffen. On February 11, Katelyn Jo Meyer was greeted by her parents, Bro. Bryan and Sis. Kim, as well as her older brother, Jesse. Katelyn's happy grandparents are Bro. Lyle and Sis. Connie Kaehr and Bro. Harold and Sis. Violet Meyer. May God cause these little bundles to grow and mature physically and spiritually in their Creator and Father! What a blessing!

Yet, after all of this wonderful news, God has granted us still more delight as we welcome five new souls into the family of God! Isn't our loving God amazing? Evie Ivins (Edson) began her walk with the Lord as well as Sierra Parker (Rob). We couldn't be more blissful about the repentance of Holly Bertsch (Bro. Tom and Sis. Brenda), as well as Kaitlin and Madison Tonner (Bro. Brent and Sis. Rachelle). The angels are rejoicing in heaven over these souls who have trusted their lives to Jesus! Praise Him!

Could it be that God has given us even more to praise Him for? Yes! The upcoming baptisms of our converts, Justin Grube (Bro. Jay and Sis. Ronda), Victoria Wolf (Bro. Kent and Sis. Viola), Jessica Bertsch (Bro. Tom and Sis. Brenda), and April Steffen (Bro. Eric and Sis. Marcia), have caused us to unite in prayer and rejoicing! Let us celebrate with these future members of the Apostolic Church!

In these last few weeks, we have been privileged to share in the Word and fellowship with two visiting ministers. Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Sis. Deb, Denver, CO) came to Bluffton to speak to our young group and share in our Sunday worship. The Lord also provided us with Bro. Dennis

Kaufmann (Sis. Bonnie, Bloomington-Normal, IL). The Word was truly spoken with "a demonstration of the Spirit's power" (I Cor. 2:4b)!

As you can see, it's been a few very busy weeks. The Spirit has clearly called us to unite and display the wisdom and power of God. In my perspective, looking at all of the events God has brought to Bluffton has caused me to see our Master's sovereignty, love and compassion. May we go throughout the next year trusting in Him alone. He has shown us that He really is the only One worth trusting! "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen." (Revelation 22:21)

**INDIANA
BLUFFTON NORTH
Jessie Longenberger
Sherry Pfister**

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee."

Isaiah 26:3

As the weather warms up for a day or two at a time and then goes back to the 20's and 30's, we are all anxiously awaiting Spring and the warmer weather that will soon come.

We are thankful for three new babies. Bro. Jason and Sis. Anna Lantz along with big sister, Ali, welcome Coy Daniel, born on January 21. Grandparents are Bro. Dan Jr. and Sis. Charlene Lantz and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Charlene Hohulin (Goodfield). Bro. Byron and Sis. Brittany Gerber welcome their first-born, Rhett Matthew. His grandparents are Bro. Kelly and Sis. Lisa Aschliman and Bro. Leon and Sis. Pat Gerber (Bluffton). Congratulations to Sis. Susan Byerly on the birth of her granddaughter, Eden Susanne. Eden's parents are Andrew and Gay Stoppenhagen.

Believing they have sought the favor of the Lord and are being led in the direction of marriage, we are happy to announce four new engagements. Sis. Mandy Schladenhaußen and Bro. Ryan Schwartz (Bluffton) are planning to be married on June 7. Mandy's parents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Nancy. Ryan's parents are Bro. Scott and Sis. Patti (Bluffton).

On January 25, Bro. Preston Kaehr (Bro. Doug and Sis. Tami) was announced to Sis. Wendy Neuenschwander (Bro. Dee and Sis. Laura, Bluffton). We also rejoice with Cecily Kaehr (Bro. Doug and Sis. Tami) who is engaged to Todd Sonnigsen (Jerry and Judy).

Bro. Mitch Fiechter and Sis. Jenna Imel (Bluffton) were announced on February 8. Parents are Bro. Tony and Sis. Peg Fiechter and Bro. Dave and Sis. Sharon Imel (Bluffton).

We wish them all God's blessings as they prepare for their special day and for their lives together.

**INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE
Jacki Huber
Mildred Clauss**

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

Psalms 19:1

As I write this, I can glance across the lawn and fields and see a blanket of pure white snow. It is bitterly cold outside, but calm, sunny and beautiful. The changing seasons, and the beauty each change brings is amazing and truly "declares the glory of God!"

We have been blessed as a congregation with a recent "invite a friend" weekend. Many loved ones visited, and it was a wonderful time of fellowship. We want to thank four visiting ministering brothers for sharing the Word with us that day. They were

Bros. Calvin Schneider (Sis. Jeannie) and Tom Troxel (Sis. LuAnn), both of LaCrosse, IN, Bro. Steve Frauhiger (Sis. Irene, Bluffton North, IN), and Bro. Ken Schneider (Sis. Bernice, Remington, IN).

Bro. Bob and Sis. Joy Huber and their family, who live in Imuris, Sonora, Mexico, were able to spend some time with us, their "home" church. At a recent family hymn sing, we enjoyed a power point presentation and update on their work with the Timothy House Orphanage in Imuris. In the presentation, the children living at the orphanage expressed their thanks to all who have helped in providing for them. We always enjoy the visits of those who have moved away, and want them to know our love and prayers are with them while they are gone.

Our home ministering Bros. Jeff Neihouser and Les Kaeb each shared a monthly topical Bible Study with us. We were encouraged through the studies, and want to thank them for their study and meditation on God's Word.

Three of our loved ones have spent time in the hospital, but are home now, and seem to be getting along well. Our prayers continue with Sis. Margaret Gudeman (Bro. Willis), and Bros. Paul Clauss (Sis. Wilma), and Larry Leman (Sis. Pam), that their recoveries are complete.

On Saturday, January 21, Darin Gudeman (Bro. Dale and Sis. Peg) and Ariel Hartwell (Paul and Denise Hartwell of Rensselaer), were joined in marriage. We rejoice with them and look forward to continued fellowship with this dear couple. We pray that the Lord will bless them richly in their lives together.

We also wish to thank Sis. Barb Huber for her many years of faithfully writing the Silver Lining, and pray that she will be richly blessed in her many other areas of serving the

Lord.

**INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS
Gail Bradford
Sandy Lichtle**

Our annual business meeting was held on January 21. We appreciate the servant hearts of those who have completed their terms and are prayerful for those who will serve in the coming year.

On January 24, a Mexican dinner and silent auction were held to help support the upcoming June mission trip to Magdalena, Mexico. We appreciate all the labors of love and prayers that were extended to help make this a blessed evening

On February 4, Bro. Ron Kipfer (Sis. Linda, Bluffton, IN) gave an informative presentation on "Spiritual Gifts". He helped us to understand the differences in the spiritual gifts God has given us and encouraged us to use them to serve one another and glorify Him.

Our love and prayers are with Stephanie Guzulaitis, daughter of Sis. Becky Pearson, as she undergoes medical tests. May God continue to hold her in the palm of His hand and provide abundant grace and strength. Also, we uplift Jane Czerwinski, daughter of Bro. Bill and Sis. Gail Bradford, in prayer to our heavenly Father as she continues to seek medical advice for her cancer.

We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Akito Inoue (Sis. Marie, Tokyo, Japan) and Bro. Justin Koch (Sis. Marcia, Washington, IL) share the Word with us this month. We thank you for your service in the Lord.

**INDIANA, LACROSSE
Bethany Johnson
Julie Rocke**

We've made it almost to the end of winter once more. This year saw

more cold and snow than many of us can remember for a long time past! The bulk of the snow has finally melted and each day we find ourselves anticipating the coming of the warmer weather and springtime a little more.

We appreciate the visiting ministers we had this month. Bros. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend, IA), Lucas Frank (Sis. Crystal, Detroit, MI), Don Steidl (Sis. Nan, Akron, OH), and Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynelle, Akron, OH). As always, we enjoy the fellowship of visitors as well as hearing the truth of God's Word brought forth from those who are called to that service.

Our prayers went up for the Elder Brothers as they gathered in Latty, OH, this month. We trust that God hears our pleas for the strengthening of our faith and the unity of the brethren.

Our annual business meeting was held January 30. A big thank you to those brothers and sisters who have served in various duties and to those who have been called upon to take their places.

We are thankful that little Emily Johnson (Bro. Josh and Sis. Bethany) is on the mend after spending several days in the hospital for pneumonia. We look forward to seeing her smiling face back in church.

**INDIANA, LEO
Elizabeth Schrenk
Abigail Schrenk**

"Be still and know that I am God..."

Psalms 46:10

Greetings to all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! Few things have happened this past

month to report on. Sometimes when there isn't much going on, it's

easy to think God is not at work. However, God has continued to work in and around each of our lives, preparing us to further glorify Him.

Bro. Jack Sauder (Sis. Marlise, Roanoke) went home to be with Jesus after fighting a battle with cancer. We want to express our heartfelt sympathy to Bro. Tim and Sis. Jenny Sauder and their family at their loss of a dad and grandfather.

We have missed several of our home ministers as they have been on vacation. Elder Bro. Phil Stettner (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North) came to visit us on one of the slim Sundays. We want to thank him and his wife for spending the day with us and sharing God's truth with us.

INDIANA, MILFORD

**Carol Hurd
Pam Beer**

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue Bowerman in the passing of Bro. Bob's dad, Lloyd Bowerman on January 20. May they feel God's hand of comfort on them and their family.

Our prayers also go out to Rustin Mikel, son of Russ and Sis. Pat Mikel who has experienced some health concerns these past months. We pray for complete healing for him and strength for his wife and small children.

The Milford church is going to miss having Ben Schlipf assembling with us as he has taken a job in the Tremont, IL, area. Ben is the son of Bro. Rich and Sis. Kathy Schlipf. We hope he comes home and visits us often.

We wish to thank Bro. Michael Wagenbach (Wolcott, IN) and Bro. Daren Metz (Gridley, IL) for coming to Milford and ministering God's Word to us this past month. May God bless you and your families for traveling and assembling with us.

Bro. Marc and Sis. Jodi Beer are happy to have their home blessed with another baby boy. Jace Alan was born on February 19 and older brothers, Justin and Jared, are eager to welcome him into their family. Grandparents are Bro. Lee and Sis. Sandy Beer (Milford) and Bro. Rick and Sis. Dawn Dotterer (Rittman, OH). May God bless Bro. Marc and Sis. Jodi with wisdom as they raise their little boys.

INDIANA, REMINGTON

**Jenni Honegger
Marcella Tyler**

Bro. Clyde Waibel (Sis. Mary Sue) and Bro. Phil Isabell (Sis. Diane) both recently underwent surgery. We covet your prayers for their healing. Also, we apologize that we neglected to report in last month's article that Matt Getz (Heidi) recently had outpatient surgery as well.

We want to thank our visiting ministers for giving of their time and energy on our behalf. Bro. Ed Fritz (Sis. Sally, Washington, IL) spent a recent Sunday laboring for our congregation. Bro. Richard Gramm (Sis. Samantha, South Bend, IN) presented a Topical Bible Study on the topic of "Being Your Brother's Keeper". We are to watch out for one another in love and to be careful for one another's souls, and yet we are also warned to "Judge not, that ye be not judged." (Matthew 7:1)

INDIANA, SOUTH BEND

**Joshua Martinez
Rachel Langhofer**

Although we are a small congregation, our children are growing rapidly in number. Due to four more students being added to our Sunday school in January and the two more to be coming along soon, we have added another class to our Sunday School. While it's hard finding teachers, we

are very blessed to have so many little ones running around. In the growing uncertainty around us, let's remember the writings of David... "He only is my rock and my salvation; he is my defense; I shall not be greatly moved." (Psalm 62:2).

INDIANA, VALPARAISO

Marguerite Hoerr

Bro. Art Heinold is vacationing in Ft. Myers, FL, this month. He happily told us of the Christmas present he got from his family and he was eager to use the opportunity to join brothers and sisters at the Ft. Myers church. We sang a farewell song for Art. We do miss him and his cheerful ways so much when he's not with us. We'll be looking forward to warmly welcoming him back.

Our business meeting was held late in January. The following changes were made in responsibilities: Bro. Lyle Zeltwanger will be our representative for Parkview Haven, replacing Bro. Ken Bucher. Bro. Dennis Weiss is now the assistant Treasurer. Bro. Rolly Meiss has served in that capacity for years. Sis. Marilyn Zeltwanger replaces Sis. Caroline Lester on the Food Committee. We want to express the gratitude in our hearts for the people who have served us so well during their terms of conscientious work for the Lord.

We're rejoicing with Tasha Weiss, who has made the choice to live for her Lord. Tasha is the daughter of Bro. Dennis and Sis. Marsha Weiss, and the granddaughter of Bro. Garry and Sis. Lois Bucher. We're rejoicing with them, too. Tasha is attending Bethel College in Mishawaka, IN, and has been able to come home almost every week-end. It gives so much happiness to a church to have evidence that the Lord is still calling and being heard.

I had an unusual experience this

past month, and I want to share the story with you. I work with a lady whose oldest son was born severely crippled at birth in his lower body. He deals bravely with his Cerebral Palsy, is now an adult and he has been able to hold a job with a hotel chain. He's a faithful employee and when the weather is too severe, the hotel manager puts him up in one of their rooms. He lives in New Buffalo and his job means so much to him that he keeps two cars in running order so one of them is always ready to take him to work in South Bend. In January, during a time when roads were covered with black ice, he had a severe one car accident, totaling his car. He was hospitalized for a while and after the accident could not walk without crutches and had to take leave from his job. One day he felt as if he could walk without the crutches and he fell on his face and couldn't get up. His mother told me he was very depressed. I was led to write a letter to him, suggesting to him that he needed to pray to God for help, because this problem was bigger than anything he could solve. Because he hadn't been taught to pray, I took the risk that this suggestion might anger him. I felt so blest when I received a phone call from him telling me that he would "try it." He said, "You know I think He's been looking out for me because when people saw my car they couldn't believe I got out of it alive." That was music to my soul. Just last week, after a series of weeks when he was homebound, his mother told me that he's up and walking and yesterday he brought her to work. I have faith that he will continue to talk with God when life offers him good things and bad. Those of us who have the Lord in our hearts take for granted that we can talk anything over with Him. I felt moved to tell him about the source of Help he could go to when his life seemed too complicated to bear. I'm

pretty sure God is now getting prayers of thanks from him, and I'm so glad he will soon be able to return to his job which means so much to him.

January and February have brought us what we call a severe winter. We are thinking spring because we know it can't be far behind. In spite of the harsh weather we've had visitors come to worship with us, and we've had ministers who came to share the Word with us. May God bless each one of you for loving us enough to come see us.

For those of you who haven't visited us, remember we're just 2 1/2 miles South of U.S. 30 on State Rd. 49. We haven't run out of welcome for more visitors.

**INDIANA
WEST LAFAYETTE
Darlene Walder
Hollie Meister**

In many ways it is really hard to believe that we have seen 9 years pass since the year 2000 and yet the Lord has been lovingly patient, waiting for souls to yet turn to Him in what seems could be a very late hour. As believers, it is with a watchful anticipation that we might see Jesus return at an hour that we are not expecting Him. He still beckons and calls sinners to come and follow and it reminds me of the lyrics to the song,

"Jesus Christ is Passing By"
Jesus Christ is passing by,
Sinner lift to Him thine eye;
As the precious moments flee,
Cry, be merciful to me!
Lo! He stands and calls to thee,
What wilt thou then have of me?
Rise, and tell Him all thy need;
Rise, He calleth thee indeed.
Oh, how sweet the touch of power
Comes, and is salvation's hour;
Jesus gives from guilt release,
Faith hath saved thee, go in peace!
Perhaps Today!

We want to thank the ministering brothers that have visited us through the past month bringing the messages of hope and direction in Jesus Christ. Each of you will be blessed for your many efforts, and the Purdue Young Group appreciates every lesson you have taught on Thursday evenings.

We had our annual business meeting this month and want to take this time to thank the brothers and sisters that have served in the past couple years. Those going out of office are Bros. Duane Schieler, Trustee; Matt Ginzler and Brad Widmer, Ushers; Sis. Suzanne Schieler, Hospitality Committee; and Annette Bahler, Church Hostess. Thanks again for letting yourself be used. Those that have taken new positions are Bros. Brian Furrer, Grant Gudeman, Kevin Gutwein, Stewardship Committee; Vernon Furrer, Assistant Treasurer; Fred Wahl, Trustee; Chad Hoerr and Matt Widmer, Ushers; Randy Leman, World Relief Rep; Rusty Gann, Morton Home Rep; Sis. Jan Furrer, Church Hostess; and Hope Clough, Hospitality Committee. We prayerfully support all of you in your service for the church body.

If Christ comes today, will you be ready to meet Him?

**INDIANA, WOLCOTT
Donita Edelman
Lynell Blume**

We failed to mention last month that Sis. Vi Kyburz was hospitalized. We want to remember her in prayer while she is recovering at Parkview Haven in Francesville where she resides.

We are happy to report that Samantha Edelman (Bro. Kip and Sis. Donita) and Randy Lehman (Bro. John and Sis. Ruth Ann) have felt peace from God and man and are now awaiting baptism.

Bro. Richard Gramm (Sis. Samantha, South Bend) was here for our Bible Study entitled "Am I My Brother's Keeper?". Thank you, Bro. Richard, for this enlightening message.

We were very blessed to have the Prairie Choristers with us on Sunday, February 1. We want to thank them for sharing their talents and songs with us on Sunday evening. We were richly blessed with the fellowship we enjoyed with them. We want to express our sincere thanks to our visiting ministers this month, Bros. Frank Sauder (Sis. Kathy) and Wayne Leman (Sis. Julie), from Roanoke as they accompanied the Prairie Choristers.

We held a graveside service for Jim Furrer (Rowena, Prescott, AZ) on February 7 in Wolcott. We want to extend our sympathy to Jim's family and many relatives in the Wolcott congregation. Also a sincere thank you to Bro. Dwight Stoller (Sis. Lori, Latty, OH) for conducting the graveside service.

We also extend our sympathy to Fran Klopfenstein (Levi) in the passing of her sister, Sis. Clara Nohl, from Goodfield, IL. And to Bro. Vernon Schwab (Sis. Arlene) in the passing of his brother, Fred, from New Mexico and his brother-in-law, Bro. Steve Schrader, from Lamont-Gridley, KS.

Sis. Kimberly Lehman (Bro. Greg and Sis. Mary Beth) has moved to Congerville, IL. We want to remember her in prayers while she is away continuing her education.

Sis. Shirley Furrer (Bro. Irv) and Bro. Lowell Bahler (Sis. Karla) each had surgery this month. We are thankful they are each home and on the road to recovery.

Note of Thanks:

The family of Ronnie Lee Lehman wishes to thank you for your gracious thoughtfulness in this difficult time.

Your kindness is another way that God has shared His love.

Harold and June, Bro. Dave, Bro. John and Sis. Ruth Ann, Randy and Takara Lehman

IOWA, BLOOMFIELD
Christy Wiegand

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace where in we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."

Romans 5:1-2

We were thankful to gather together for the Memorandum on January 17. We thank Elder Bro. Ben Walder (Sis. Juanita, Congerville) for coming to help. We thank him for preaching the Word of God to us on Sunday as well.

We thank Bro. Matt Steffen (Sis. Dianne, Princeville) and retired Elder Bro. Joe Stoller (Sis. Emily, Princeville) who willingly came to feed our flock as all of our home ministers were away on Sunday, January 25. We also thank Bro. Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa, Bradford) for ministering unto us on February 15. May the Lord bless each of you for your efforts.

We rejoice with Bro. Kenny and Sis. Lori Wuthrich at the arrival of their fourth grandchild. Logan Dean was born to Bro. Phil and Sis. Kristin Wettstein.

We were thankful to be able to gather together in January to package soup. We had two nice evenings mixing fellowship with work. We pray the recipients of the soup packets will feel God's nearness and blessing.

IOWA, BURLINGTON
Dixie Messner
Karla Gerst

O blessed are all they who dwell
Within Thine house, who praise Thee
now and ever.

O blessed is the man, he doeth well,
Whose rest Thou art, whose heart is
Thine forever;

For he, who Thee as his sure strength
doth know,
May safely go.

In peace, he treads this vale of tears,
Where troubles rise and there is so
much sorrow;

There is no need or anguish that he
fears;

He trusts in God, thus facing each to-
morrow.

Thou crownest him with blessings
rich, divine,

For he is Thine.

Zion's Harp #129, vs. 5-6

Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville) was with us this past month. He encouraged us that, while we look forward to Heaven, we should not forget to joy in God's service here below. Ministering Bros. Dean Steffen (Belvidere, IL) and Erik Givens (Princeville, IL) were also with us this past month. May God reward them for their willingness to share His Word with us as well.

Heavenward walk by thy side
All the Lord's elect,
And with heav'nly foretaste do
What their Lord directs.

O join the throng!
Strive with zeal while here below;
Walk life's way through pain and woe;
In God be strong!

Zion's Harp #91, vs. 5

IOWA, ELGIN
Maria Rocke

"Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the spirit, that ye strive to-

gether with me in your prayers to God for me.”

Romans 16:1

As Paul sought the prayers of the Roman Church, our prayers have been with our Elder brethren as they met in Latty, OH, for the midwinter Conference. May we always be prayerful for these brothers as they seek out the Lord's direction in many decisions.

Bro. Paul Butikofer (Sis. Mildred) underwent back surgery in late January. We wish him God's healing strength on his road to recovery.

Monica Butikofer (Bro. Lon and Sis. Sandy) of Akron, OH, announced her engagement to Michael Milovancev. They are planning to be married on May 24 of this year. We wish them a blessed marriage.

IOWA, IOWA CITY **Diana Butikofer**

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Saviour all the day long.

Hymns of Zion, #288

Our 3-year-old has been singing this lately while coloring, playing, etc. It's cute, but more importantly, it reminds me that I should praise my Saviour all day long.

We are thankful for the visit of Bro. Byron and Sis. Carol Stoller (Gridley, IL) and pray God will bless them for coming and for Bro. Byron's service on the pulpit.

IOWA, LESTER **Gloria Moser** **Polly Metzger**

A precious, pink bundle, Hailey Jo, was born to Stuart and Karin Moser on January 28. Samantha, Cody and Jack welcome their new sister and Grandpa Jim Moser is happy for another grandchild.

Erica Sue was born February 18 to Bro. Kevin and Sis. Cari Knapp. Nathan, Tara and Angie are happy for a precious pink bundle to love. Grandpas and grandmas are Bro. Chuck and Sis. Vicki Leuthold and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gay Knapp (Congerville, IL). May God bless these dear families.

We've had many in our congregation that have had health conditions this past month. Those requiring hospital stays were Bro. Alfred Reutter (Sis. Barb), John Popkes (Sis. Karmin), Derek Ver Beek (Tim and Sis. Becky) and Leah Doorneweerd. We also want to remember, in prayer, Sis. Sherryl Knobloch and her husband, Bro. Larry, and their family. Sis. Sherryl has returned home since her stay in Rochester, MN. It seems all we can do is offer prayer for those in affliction, and by God's grace, they will feel His nearness and strength.

Our convert, Emily Knapp (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gay, Congerville), was announced for peace. We appreciate having Emily here in Lester with us. May God continue to guide her every footstep.

We appreciate visiting ministers this past month. Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA), Bro. Roy Koehl (Morris, MN), Bro. James Knapp (Congerville, IL) and Bro. Ron Jones (Portland, OR) shared the Word and we thank them for their efforts. May God continue to grant grace to all our ministering brothers to bring us the Truth.

We have had many in our congregation that have suffered the loss of loved ones. Our deepest sympathy is extended to Keith and Mary Metzger, Charlie and Linda Metzger and Bro. Butch and Sis. Kathy Doorneweerd and their families, in the loss of their brother Mike's wife, Cheryl Metzger. Cheryl passed away on February 3 at the age of 53, leaving a loving family.

On that same day, we bid farewell to Sis. Zelma Knobloch, who passed

away at the age of 89. Sis. Zelma was like a second mom to many of us through the years and she was a wonderful example and pillar to our faith. She is survived by her children, Bro. Roger (Sis. Janet), Sis. Linda Knapp (Bro. Ralph, Congerville, IL), Sis. LaVonne Aberle (Bro. Roger, Sabetha, KS), Sis. Gail Hartter (Bro. Jerome), Sis. Charlene Messner (Bro. Henry), and Sis. Susan Van Whye (Bro. Pete), all of Lester. Also, Bro. Glen and Sis. Joyce Metzger, many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren; Bro. Gus and Sis. Florence Knobloch and their families, as Sis. Zelma was their sister-in-law and aunt.

Bro. Si and Sis. Edith Knobloch and their families experienced death so soon after the loss of her sister, Sis. Ruth Huthmann. Their dear brother-in-law and uncle, Bro. George Huthmann (Peoria, IL), passed away February 17. We extend our sympathy to all these families.

These three dear souls will be dearly missed by their families. May God be near them and comfort them all, as they journey through the days ahead without their loved ones.

IOWA, OAKVILLE **Sharla Wiegand**

We are thankful for visiting ministers who share the Word. On January 21, Bro. Chuck Kellenberger (Elgin, IL) and Bro. Darren Fehr (West Bend, IA) ministered to us. Bro. Wes Moser (Lester, IA) brought forth the Word on February 4.

First-time parents, Bro. Steve and Sis. Abby Lindeen, welcomed Mason James into their home on January 16. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Tom and Sis. Vera Lindeen and Bro. Mark and Sis. Audrey Metzger (Lester, IA).

At our annual business meeting, appreciation was expressed to those who have completed their terms on

the following committees: Trustee – Bro. Rick Vierling; Fellowship Center trustee – Bro. Brent Frank; Cemetery committee – Bro. Mitch Schulz; Usher – Bro. Randy Steiner; Kitchen Committee – Sis. JoAnn Steiner and Sis. Monica Wagenbach; and World Relief committee – Sis. Bonnie Wagenbach, Jr. These brothers and sisters have had to rise to the challenges we faced this past year caused by the flood.

We appreciate the willingness of those who have been elected to serve on the following committees: Trustee – Bro. Monte Lanz; Fellowship Center trustee – Bro. Troy Massner; Cemetery committee – Bro. Jeremy Steiner; Usher – Bro. Travis Frank; Kitchen Committee – Sis. Linda Gerst and Sis. Charlene Wagenbach and World Relief committee – Sis. Luann Schmidgall.

I asked Bro. Stan Heimer, our World Relief coordinator, for a status report on the flood rebuilding effort. We rejoice to have nine families back in their homes since mid-February. Volunteers are currently working on twenty more homes in the town of Oakville. There are ten kitchens on order, so those homes should be completed in another six weeks. Work has begun on rebuilding the existing fellowship center. Plumbing and electrical work are well under way. We are so thankful for the continued outpouring of volunteers from across the land who bring us much assistance and blessed fellowship.

IOWA, WEST BEND
Janet Fehr
Sue Schneider

“Then I saw, and considered it well: I looked upon it, and received instruction.”

Proverbs 24:32

We were blessed by the visit of Elder Bro. Mark Masters and his wife, Sis. Jeannine (Mansfield, OH), on the weekend of January 25-26. Many good teachings were expressed as Bro. Mark assisted our Elder Bro. Wayne Grimm in reading and meditating on the Memorandum. May God bless all our Elders and their families for their efforts.

Several other visiting ministers occupied our pulpit during this past month. Bro. Beirne Messner (Sis. Joyce, Morris, MN) was with us for a Wednesday evening service, Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy, Portland, OR) spent two Sundays with us, and Bro. James Knapp (Sis. Lisa, Congerville, IL) ministered for the first time in West Bend when he and his family paid us a visit. We thank each of these brothers for their service and for including West Bend in their travels.

A former West Bend resident, Larry Parks, passed from this life on January 28. Our prayers and sympathy are with his sister, Judy (Don) Gates.

Bro. Arnold Metzger, Sis. Darlene Metzger, and Sis. Pearl Anliker lost their sister and sister-in-law, Sis. Zelma Knoblock, from Lester, IA, on February 3. May God fold His arms of comfort around each family member affected by this loss.

We have had five dear ones hospitalized in the past month. Aubrey Fehr (Bro. Lee and Sis. Alicia), Bro. Archie Banwart, and Sis. Frances Zaugg all spent time in the hospital with various illnesses. Surgical patients were Bro. Gene (Sis. Evie) Bruellman and Sis. Laura Virkler (Bro. Andy and Sis. Becky). We pray that each one has felt God's presence in their healing, and may He continue to comfort and provide for their needs.

We'll end on an especially joyful note. May God bless Seth Evan

Massner as he joins the thankful family of Bro. Darin and Sis. Twila and their three other children, Aaron, Benjamin and Cloe. Baby Seth was born on February 16, and his grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Marlene Banwart and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gail Massner.

JAPAN, SHIODA
Carrie Ito

We enjoyed a visit from Bro. Dean and Sis. Karen Beutel (Tremont, IL). A special thanks to Bro. Dean for his Bible Study on the Fruit of the Spirit.

A few Sundays ago, a young man came to our church after the service. He was asking about the possibility of he and his fiancée going to the U.S. to be married by Bro. Willis! He was a student at the church kindergarten many years ago. We have met with the families and are arranging details—with lots of help from some former kindergarten teachers in the States. They are also interested in pre-marital counseling from Bro. Akihiro, so we are prayerful and hopeful about that. We are really hoping that through our interactions and their time with believers in the States, that they can come to know the Lord Jesus and can serve Him with us in Shioda church. Please pray for this couple and the situation.

JAPAN, TOKYO
Jana Klaus

Greetings from Tokyo! We are thankful Elder Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie Inoue are back safely from the mid-winter Elder Conference held in Latty, OH. They were also able to spend time with their son, Bro. Makoto, and his fiancé, Sis. Anna Bollier (both of Indianapolis, IN), meeting Anna for the first time since they were engaged in early December. I cannot believe it, but I forgot to write about that—it was very excit-

ing for our congregation to hear Bro. Akito announce an engagement! They are planning a May 3 wedding. Our prayers have been with them during this special time and we praise God with them in how He so beautifully led them together.

Our prayers have been with those in our congregation who have experienced physical struggles. Bro. Yoshio Yamazaki had an accident in his power wheelchair going home from church resulting in some cuts on his head and face. We are just so thankful he didn't break any bones and that he is back in church again in good spirits. And, Sis. Yoshiko Sakuta is experiencing more difficulty with her Parkinson's disease, but she is showing great stamina in still coming to church as much as possible, with her husband driving her by car. Thank you for prayers for these dear ones!

Bro. Yoshio Yamazaki turns 80 years old on April 7 if anyone is interested in sending him a card. (It will be a little late by the time this is read, but that's okay.) His address is: Yoshio Yamazaki, 1-15-1 #102 Shibasaki, Chofu-shi, Tokyo, 182-0014.

KANSAS, BERN
Sheri Edelman
Jill Meyer

"For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed."

Malachi 3:6

Even though this month has brought changes in the lives of those in our congregation, how comforting it is to know that regardless of the seasons we experience in this life, the Lord is always the same!

The arrival of Colby Dale has brought a joyful change to the lives of Bro. Byron and Sis. Emily Stoller. His grandparents are Bro. Darrel and Sis.

Gloria Stoller and Brad and Theresa Edelman. May God grant wisdom to these first-time parents as they raise little Colby in Him.

We congratulate two newly engaged couples as they prepare for summer weddings. Amy Edelman (Bro. Rod and Sis. Joleen) and Charles Brown (Pasadena, CA) plan to marry in June and August is the chosen month for Geoffry Renyer (Greg and Sis. Carol) and Carla Jackson (Lincoln, KS).

The change of losing a loved one is painful and difficult, and yet it is peaceful when we have the hope of meeting again. Bro. Eugene Fetter was called Home on February 1. Our prayers are with his wife, Sis. Marilyn, and daughter, Sis. Edie and Bro. Richard Strahm, as well as their extended families. We were all blessed to know Bro. Gene since their move here from Toledo, OH, several years ago. Our thanks are extended to Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily; Junction, OH) for sharing with us in the memorial service of his uncle.

Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter was also here for the reading of the Conference Memorandum, which was held in Sabetha for both of our churches. Bro. Jerry Meeke (Sis. Christy; Sabetha, KS) brought us the Word on February 15. We are grateful to both of these brothers for their willingness to serve.

As we held our annual business meeting, we wish God's blessings and nearness to all those who have completed terms of service or are beginning new ones.

Finally, our congregation together has experienced a change, as God has provided two more brothers to serve in our ministry. Our fervent prayers are with Bro. John (Sis. Lori) Baumgartner and Bro. Brad (Sis. Michelle) Strahm and their families as they begin this work to which they have been called. We continue to en-

courage and pray for all those who bring forth the Word, that our souls may be drawn closer to Him.

KANSAS, FORT SCOTT
Martin Hohulin

The first month of the New Year brought us many blessings with visiting ministers and their families. We were also blessed with several days of warm temperatures. Our Great God certainly looks after our welfare! In this life, "Joy alternates with woe" While we had no deaths in Fort Scott, we lost loved ones in other areas.

On February 7, Bro. Gerald Wagenbach (Sis. Bonnie, Oakville, IA) and his brother, Bro. Jeff (Sis. Monti), came to spend the night with Bro. Gene Banwart (Sis. Linda). Five children came along with them. The next day all traveled to the Fort Scott church for a day of many blessings. Also with us that day were a number of members from the Kansas City congregation.

We had not left church very long when word was received of the passing of Bro. Steven Schrader (Lamont-Gridley, KS). He was the father of our Sis. Maria Bahr (Bro. Jerry) and grandfather to Anna Marie, Sis. Adrienne, and convert Jared. Many of the Fort Scott congregation traveled to the visitation in Burlington, KS, as well as to the funeral. Sis. Maria and family made many trips to assist Sis. Dorothy in the care of Bro. Steven.

Bro. Mark Mattox was baptized a few days before his passing in Kansas City. The Bahr families in Fort Scott are close relatives of his. His mother, Sis. Anna Lou Mattox, has moved into assisted living at the Presbyterian Village Nursing Home in Fort Scott. We welcome her into our fellowship.

Margaret A. (Peg) Byler, 80 years old, of Fredericktown, OH, passed from this life. She was the mother of

Tom Byler (Jan Kraft) and grandmother of Kimmie Leek (Jared) and Megan Byler. All are part of our church family.

Sis. Lillian Fischer (Bro. Lyle) had a successful knee replacement. Dr. Chris Banwart, great-grandson of the late Bro. Emil and Sis. Louise Banwart, performed the operation. We wish her a speedy recovery.

KANSAS KIOWA
Janice Bahr
Jenny Stewart

“And when these things begin to come to pass, then lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.”

Luke 21:28

Isn't it a wonderful thing to know that whatever happens in this world, we do not have to worry because God is in control and knows the beginning from the end. So what do we do during all the chaos around us? We watch and pray and look to the Author and Finisher of our faith with trust, remembering that He has promised never to leave us or forsake us! What a wonderful hope we have in our God.

We always appreciate visitors here in Kiowa, and this month had a blessed Sunday when Bro. Gene and Sis. Verna Lehman and their granddaughter, Sis. Rosie, joined us for services. We were truly uplifted by the precious teachings we enjoyed as Bro. Gene lent himself to share with us from the Scriptures.

One Sunday evening this month, Sis. Stephanie Bahr (Bro. Jeff and Sis. Janice) who was home for a vacation, was asked to share with us the Labor of Love that is being accomplished in Magdalena De Kino Mexico where she works. How grateful we are that God leads people to touch the lives of others in so many different ways, in and out of the United States. We also

enjoyed another evening of packing meals for hungry children in Cherokee, OK; and then one day worked with the MCC at Newton, KS, for World Relief. I believe these labors in the Lord are as much of a blessing for us as they are for those who benefit from them. Add to all this Rest Home services, etc. and it has been a truly blessed month. As the Scripture says in Matthew 25:40, “And the king shall answer and say unto them, verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.”

We held our annual meeting this month with a soup supper afterwards, and it is our prayer that each one in the church, no matter in what capacity God has placed us, will be a faithful bride doing the Lord's work until He comes to take us Home.

We extend our sincere thoughts and prayers to Aaron Farney, who was diagnosed with acute leukemia recently. He and his wife, Erlene, will be greatly missed here, as they seldom miss worshipping with us on Sunday. May God grant them His love and healing mercies as Aaron goes through the treatments in Oklahoma City.

May we never forget to hold each other up in prayer. There is no greater gift we can give to one another.

KANSAS
LAMONT-GRIDLEY
Ester Knobloch

Now it is accomplished! I'm no longer mine;
 Lord, I will forever and always be Thine,
 For Thou hast created and purchased me, too,
 Baptized with Thy Spirit, Thou makest me new.

Now it is accomplished! My soul He hath healed;
 A portion in heaven to me He hath

sealed.

O, may He direct me through joy and through ill;
 I'll never forsake Him, but follow Him still.

Zion's Harp #209, vs. 1 and 5

The weekend of January 31 we heard the testimonies and witnessed the baptism of two dear souls. We welcome Sis. Kara Kraft (Bro. Doug and Sis. Judy) and Bro. Corbin Knobloch (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jeri) into the fold. Elder Bros. Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL) and Don Braker (Kansas City, MO) were here to assist in this important work. Other visiting ministers with us for the weekend were Bros. Larry Bahr (Fort Scott, KS), Cory Metzger (Wichita, KS), Brandon Emch (Kansas City, MO) and Dave Hartter (Sabetha, KS).

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Bro. Steve Schrader who passed from time to eternity on February 8. We pray that God will be near and comfort the heart of his wife, Sis. Dorothy; and their children, Stephen Jr. (Wichita, KS), Bro. John (Wichita, KS), James (Greenwood, MO), Marla Goddard (Salina, KS), Sis. Maria Bahr (Fort Scott, KS) and Matthew (McPherson, KS).

When my earthly life at last is finished
 And in faith and love my race is run,
 I shall praise Thee, Saviour, for Thy sufferings

Which for me eternal rest has won.

Zion's Harp #182, vs. 15

KANSAS, SABETHA
Rebekah Beyer
Carrie Grimm

We are so thankful for the many visiting ministering brothers who shared God's Word with us this month. They were Elder Bro. Tom Stock (Sis. Karol, Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Jeff Bahr (Sis. Janice, Kiowa, KS), Bro. Ron Isch (Sis. Jane, Lamont-Gridley, KS), Elder Bro. Bill

Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction, OH), Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS), and Bro. Galen Rokey (Sis. Nancy, Bern, KS). May the Lord richly bless these brothers as they labor on our behalf to glorify Him.

“The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.”

Psalm 19:7

On the weekend of January 24-25, we heard the testimonies of four dear babes in Christ and witnessed their baptisms. Converts Rose Hartter (Bro. Tim and Sis. Charleen), Maria Eisenbise (Bro. Dave and Sis. Shari), Maria Hartter (Bro. Tim and Sis. Charleen), and Josh Hartter (Bro. David and Sis. Beth) are our newest brother and sisters in Christ. We pray they walk the straight and narrow way and can remain unblemished in His sight.

We rejoice with our converts, Todd and Kara Strahm (Bro. Carl Strahm and the late Sis. Sharon, and Bro. Chuck and Sis. Karen Walters, Silverton, OR) as they were announced for peace. We look forward to their upcoming testimonies and baptisms.

We rejoice with new grandparents, Curtis and Valerie Keim, as they welcome a grandson, Gavin Kirk (Scott and Crystal Wedel of Alliance, NE); and Roger and Janice Young as they also have a new grandson, Simon Patrick (Miranda). The new great-grandparents are Bro. Harvey and Sis. Arleta Wenger. May these new parents look to the Lord as they raise their precious children.

Our prayers have been with Sis. LaVonne Aberle (Bro. Roger) and their family as they have lost a dear mother and grandmother, Sis. Zelma Knoblock (Lester, IA).

Our prayers are also with Bro. Larry Bailey (Sis. Linda) as he under-

went surgery this past month. May the Lord grant him with health and healing.

Our prayers continue to be with each of our dear Elders across the lands as they seek the Lord's guidance and direct their flocks. We pray our Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell, as well as all the Elders, felt our prayerful support during the Elder Conference which was held in Latty, OH. May each of us strive to do the Lord's will in everything we do.

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”

Ephesians 6:10-11

KANSAS, WICHITA Emma Miller

We learned of the need for prayers for Grant Long, sixteen year old son of Bro. Jonathon and Sis. Ruthie. We praise God for Grant's quick healing from the surgical procedures.

On a recent Sunday, Bro. Glen Funk spoke about the strong bearing the burdens of the weak, Romans 15:1. Bro. Glen had read about a missionary to Africa who learned from the natives the best way to cross hazardous streams. The dangers included being swept off one's feet and carried downstream into deeper water or to be hurled against hidden rocks. The safe way was to lift a large stone to one's shoulder before entering the stream. The extra weight of the stone would provide the ballast to keep one on his feet. The application to our lives is that while crossing the dangerous streams of life, the ballast can keep us from being swept off our feet. Also, as we travel alone, our burden should remind us to walk carefully and avoid the temptation to throw caution to the wind.

Two different families in our congregation experienced heaven's gain and a personal loss this past week. Funeral services were held February 12 for Bro. John Schrader's father, Bro. Steve Schrader, of the Lamont-Gridley congregation. On February 16, services were held for Clara McKellar, sister of Sis. Lillian Bowers. The two sisters were the last two members of their childhood family. Clara had no children. Sis. Lillian is surrounded by an extended family, all of which live near Wichita. Clara arrived in Wichita just a few days before she slipped into a coma.

Annette Compton from Evansville, IN, has been in Wichita since the first of the year and soon will leave here to further her education elsewhere. She was a joy to those who met her.

Happiness keeps you sweet, trials keep you strong, sorrows keep you human, failures keep you humble, success keeps you glowing, but only God keeps you going.

MEXICO, IXTLAN Matt Gerber

“But that ye also may know my affairs, and how I do, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, shall make known to you all things: whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that ye might know our affairs, and that he might comfort your hearts. Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.”

Ephesians 6:21-24

The church was blessed and encouraged this month by our visitors. Their joy and faith, as well as the work they did with their hands in the school, were inspiring to all.

The Lord has been opening doors for us to move forward with obtaining the government's certification for the primary school. The advantage to having the certification is so that the students' studies will be recognized as they move on to further education or would move and have to change schools. It has been a slow, painstaking process, and we are not through yet, but we give thanks for the mercy and grace God has shown us and the favor we've experienced from the government officials. Please continue to pray for God's will to be done. Whatever happens with the school, we want God's name to be honored and His kingdom to be furthered.

Bro. Rudy, Sis. Rosario, and little Nathan Troxel plan to be in Lacrosse, IN, until June, Lord willing. We miss them here but are thankful they have the opportunity to be close to Bro. Rudy's family and the Lacrosse congregation. Please keep them in your prayers as they transition.

MICHIGAN, ALTO

**Terri Huber
Rose Watson**

Congratulations to the new parents of Philip Duane Schrenk Jr. (Philip and Cheri) and the grandparents (Bro. Duane and Sis. Cathie Schrenk). We are thankful mom and baby are home doing well, even though he decided to come a bit early. Enjoy your new little angel from heaven above.

Our young group and some families are diligently meeting twice a month to help bag food for World Relief; it is always a great time of fellowship.

Dennis Koehl is home recovering from his outpatient surgery he had and doing well. Our thoughts and prayers were with him and continue. Rob Koehl is also home recovering from an outpatient procedure this

month. Lord willing, both will be up and moving soon.

MICHIGAN, BAY CITY

**Sarah Knochel
Janelle Ramseyer**

Greetings in our Saviour's name.

Our prayers continue to be with those from our congregation who are shut in or confined to nursing homes. We pray for Sis. Eleanor Munsel as she has been undergoing treatments and Sis. Esther Meister as she has been transferred to a nursing home facility.

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:"

Eccles. 3:1

Elder Bro. John Jackson recently closed his Sunday morning announcements with this verse and announced that Bro. Jim Ramseyer (Sis. Marlene) was retiring from the ministry. Bro. Jim served as a minister for over 40 years and we are thankful that he was willing to be used in the Lord's service. We trust that the Lord will continue to be with Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene in the coming days.

The time we celebrate Good Friday and Easter will soon be here and what a blessing it is when we can reflect and remember Christ's suffering on the cross. Our confidence remains in Christ's resurrection and that one day we can be in heaven with Him.

MICHIGAN, DETROIT

**Tamra Coughlin
Kay Rauhe**

"...God is love...." (I John 4:16) and "We love...because He first loved us." (I John 4:19).

As we celebrate love on Valentine's Day, may we all be blessed by

the greatest love there is...God's love.

That is so wonderful, so awesome, and so comforting that we always have God's love...He's just a prayer away...we are truly a blessed people!

When we love, there also comes a time when we must grieve the loss of a loved one. Our dear friend, Virginia Smiley, is doing just that when her sister, Frances Osborne, almost 92 years old, from Vidalia, Louisiana, died recently.

Also saddened by the passing of her aunt is Barb Maibach (Ben). Let's remember to keep them in our thoughts and in our prayers during this difficult time. "...for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." (Psalms 23:4).

Sis. Kathryn Losiewicz is saddened by the death of Dean Monettee, her great nephew. Our deepest sympathy, continued prayers and love to Sis. Kathryn and to his family. May they feel God's nearness and presence in the days ahead.

"...The God of love and peace shall be with you."

II Corinthians 13:11

Our love and prayers to Bro. Len Hitz as he was recently hospitalized, but we are so thankful that he was released from the hospital and is now in Florida recuperating. In June, we are looking forward to welcoming Bro. Joel and Sis. Amber Virkler to our congregation and pray that they feel the love and God's nearness as they worship and fellowship with us.

"...If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and His love is perfected in us."

I John 4:12

Just a gentle reminder that our Silver Lining subscriptions are due in the month of April.

**MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS
Mary Mogler**

In addition to enjoying fellowship of couples who begin their married life in our area, we are blessed by their visiting families. The presence of Elder Bro. Tom Klotzle (Sis. Jody, Altadena, CA) and Bro. Rod Bajema (Sis. Twyla, Lester, IA) on our pulpit as willing messengers of God's Word was appreciated by our congregation. It is with joy we meet and grow close in the bond of Christ's love, as the circle of our church family widens.

Congratulations to Alissa Messner (Bro. Doug and Sis. Sue) as she graduated from college as a Prosthetics and Orthotics technician. We are thankful she has found employment locally and can continue to live in the area.

**MINNESOTA, MORRIS
Susie Wulf
Sheila Reuter**

We were blessed to have Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Bloomfield, IA) and Bro. Jedd Rocke (Goodfield, IL) minister the Word of God to us. We ask the Lord to bless them for their willingness to share God's Word.

Jeffery Schaefer announced his engagement to Rebekah Giese. Jeff is the son of Bro. Stan and Sis. Bev Schaefer and Rebekah is the daughter of Diane and the late Ron Giese of Hoffman. An August 22 wedding is planned.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to those who have spent time in the hospital. They are Bro. Antone Schaefer, Vivian Messner (Bro. Ryan and Sis. Heidi) and Clayton Joos (Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Mindy).

**MINNESOTA, WINTHROP
Julie Schmidt
Lindsay Schmidt**

"...holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers."

Titus 1:9

As our Elder brethren gathered together for the Mid-Winter Elder Conference in Latty, OH, may we be encouraged to know that in this day and time we still have shepherds watching for the spiritual welfare of their flocks. We continue to lift each one up in thought and prayer. We appreciate the labors of our Elders as well as our local ministering brethren.

Bro. Clint Schmidt (Sis. Magdalena) has undergone surgery again this month. We trust the Lord will provide the blessing of healing as He sees fit.

**MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY
Brittany Fehr**

Many of us were blessed to be able to travel to Lamont-Gridley for the proving and baptism weekend of Kara Kraft (Bro. Doug and Sis. Judy). Sis. Kara works in our area, and we appreciate that she often worships with us!

It was mentioned in the last article that our friend Mark Mattix had started repenting. We are thankful that he received the gift of peace before his death and was able to be baptized in the nursing home! Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Mark's mother, Sis. Anna Lou Aberle, and the other loved ones that he left behind.

Our congregation was recently blessed to gather for a supper and then to hear the Memorandum. Many thanks to Elder Bro. Gerry Hertzell (Sis. Ellen, Sabetha, KS) for assisting our Elder Bro. Don Braker (Sis.

Eileen) in this work. May God richly bless the Elders and their wives for their continued service.

**MISSOURI, LAMAR
Dana Kellenberger
Rebecca Dotterer**

We were blessed with many visitors this month, including ministering Bros. Beirne Messner (Morris, MN), Ken Eisenmann (Cissna Park, IL) and Brandon Emch (Kansas City, MO).

On January 25, we witnessed the marriage of our Bro. Kyle Kellenberger to our Sis. Dana Braker. Their parents are Bro. Orlan and Sis. Mary Kellenberger and Bob and Sis. Janice Stoller, all from here. We wish them God's rich blessings on their marriage.

**MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS
Meagan Wuethrich**

On certain Sundays in our little St. Louis church, we have the pleasure of making larger lunches, hearing the sweet cry of a baby, cleaning up spills around the tables, and worrying whether or not we greeted everyone before the morning singing started. All of these blessings mean we have a large group of visitors. We pray that, in God's time, those blessings will become an every Sunday occurrence, and those visitors will be making St. Louis their home. But no matter how the Lord will lead, we will continue to extend a warm welcome to all to come visit us.

We had several visitors from different churches this month, including a large group from Eureka, IL, that came with ministering Bro. Trent Meiss, his wife, Sis. Lucy, and their children. Toward the end of the month, we enjoyed having dear Elder Bro. Lawrence Luthi and his wife, Sis. Becky, from Lamar, MO. May our Father's grace be with both of these

brothers and their families as they labor in His vineyard.

**NEW YORK
CROGHAN-NAUMBURG
Hope Graves**

We enjoyed spending an evening together on February 13 working on World Relief projects. The children had a nice time helping to assemble the school, health, and sewing kits. Snack bags were put together and then distributed to the Children's Home in Watertown and the Adult Day Care in Lowville.

A potluck was shared together on Saturday evening, February 14, followed by a singing. We were thankful for the company that was able to assemble with us for the weekend.

Our prayers extend to Martin and Linda Hirschey in the death of her mother. We also remember Sis. Anna Mellnitz in the loss of her brother, Ralph Woolschlager, on January 30. May the Lord be a comfort to these families.

We pray for the Lord's presence and strength to be with Sis. Bernice Hirschey who is in rehab after hip surgery and with Bro. Donald Farney who has now returned home.

**OHIO, AKRON
Mara Henico
Rachel Pamer**

Thy Spirit, Lord, is with us here,
Oh precious, holy blessing!
Which on our pathway us doth cheer
With love and peace caressing.
Thou sendest light in darkness dim
And warmest us with love's bright
beam
With food and drink dost nourish.
Oh, stand by us with word and deed,
And by Thy Spirit do Thou lead
Us on our pilgrim journey.

We are thankful that we can feel the Lord's direction as we recently

voted for new church offices. How thankful we are that God can lead us in the way He sees as best! Our thankfulness extends to all who allow God's Spirit to use them for the Church's blessing whether it be as a Trustee, Sunday School Teacher, or simply a prayer warrior. How much we are all needed!

Rick Curtis was born to Bro. Todd and Sis. Lydia Graf. Welcoming him home are Kenny, Jesse, Carmen, Orin, and Audrey. Grandparents are Bro. Vladamir and Sis. Margaret Fortenbacher (Kitchener, Ont.) and Sis. Audrey Graf (Bro. Art) of our own congregation. How thankful we are each time God shares a little one with our church.

We welcome into the fold Sis. Beth Pamer (Bro. Steve and Sis. Arliss) and Bro. Arthur Greenbank (Bro. Glen and Sis. Joan) as they recently gave a testimony and were baptized into Christ's death. Our prayer is that God will continue to draw souls. How much we long for those we love to be ready to meet our Lord!

We recently have been reminded that one day will be our last to breathe here below. Our Bro. Richard Baumgartner (Sis. Evelyn) and Sis. Louise Spangler, mother of our Bro. Ned (Sis. Gail), were laid to rest. Our prayers are with those left here below. We know that God promises to comfort, and trust that these families will be embraced by His peace and nearness.

Our prayers were with our Elder Brothers as they met in Latty recently for their mid-winter Conference. May God always be near to move their hearts and direct decisions in a way that is pleasing to Him, and may our lives be such that their duty could be a joyful one rather than a burden!

**OHIO, COLUMBUS
Sarah Rufener**

We are grateful for faithful brethren who have traveled to Columbus this month to preach the Word in Spirit and in Truth: Bro. Todd Graf (Sis. Lydia, Akron), Bro. Ted Luginbuhl (Sis. Stephanie, Smithville), Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeannine, Mansfield), and Bro. Ron Steiner (Sis. Ruth, Rittman). May God bless you richly for your efforts.

In the past few months, it has been such an encouragement to our congregation to have college students among us who are newly seeking the Lord's direction for their lives. It is such a blessed reminder to all that the Lord is still drawing laborers unto the harvest.

"Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: and let such as love thy salvation say continually, Let God be magnified."

Psalm 70:4

**OHIO, JUNCTION
Vicki Boroff**

We are thankful that Tami Manz (Bro. Les and Sis. Karen), Vickie Manz (Bro. Russ and Sis. Vera), and Rachael Manz (Bro. Russ and Sis. Vera) have all made the most important decision of their lives. We wish them God's grace as they begin their repentance.

We were also thankful to have Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Sis. Sandy, Eureka) bring the Word to us. We also appreciate the efforts of Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Sis. Judy, Forrest) who helped our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter with Communion.

We are pleased to share that Beverly Schlatter (Elder Bro. Bill and Sis. Emily) has peace with God and man. We wish her God's many blessings as she is baptized in the near fu-

ture.

Cole Keith was born January 25 to Bro. Greg and Sis. Julie Manz. Cole has an older brother, Riley. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Paul and Sis. Sandra Manz, and Bro. Keith and Sis. JoAnne Klopfenstein (Latty).

The same day that Cole was born, we heard the good news that Bro. Klint Manz (Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy) is engaged to Sis. Kallie Klopfenstein (Bro. Keith and Sis. JoAnne, Latty). We wish them God's blessings as they plan their new life together.

OHIO, LATTY

**Amanda Wenninger
Carmen Eisenmann**

We were so blessed this month to be able to host the Mid-winter Elder Conference. May God continue to bless our Elders with wisdom, peace, and joy as they serve our church. We were thankful that Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian, San Diego, CA) ministered to our congregation the Tuesday evening of the Conference. We were also blessed with other visiting ministers this month, including Bro. Curt Rassi (Sis. Kathy, Tremont, IL), Bro. Dale Wulf (Sis. Becky, Lester, IA), and Bro. Ron Palitto (Sis. Lynell, Akron, OH).

We were excited to hear of the engagement of our Sis. Kallie Klopfenstein (Bro. Keith and Sis. JoAnn) to Bro. Clint Manz (Bro. Dave and Sis. Kathy) from Junction. We pray that God will bless this couple abundantly as they prepare for their marriage.

Our convert Jordan Miller (Bro. Roger and Sis. Kay) was announced for peace. We pray that God will continue to bless him as he prepares to give his testimony of faith and be baptized.

Our congregation was thankful to hear the testimony and witness the

baptism of Sis. Aldean Price. May God continue to bless her days with His peace, love, and joy. What a blessing to see God calling and working in people of all ages.

We certainly are prayerful for our Bro. Raymond Klopfenstein (Sis. Catherine) as he had surgery and also moved in to the Country Inn, our church's assisted living. We also pray for God's healing for our other hospital and surgery patients. They are Sis. Alice Wenninger (Bro. Ed), Sis. Viola Schlatter (Bro. Dick), and Bro. Ephraim Kipfer (Sis. Marilyn).

OHIO, MANSFIELD

Esther Baumann

Bro. Eric Boliantz (Bro. Don and Sis. Joyce) and Sis. Elizabeth Ramsey (Bro. John and Sis. Dawn) were united in marriage on February 8. We rejoice with them and pray they will feel God's nearness as they begin this new phase of their lives. We thank Bro. Tim Ramsier (Sis. Jonell, Rittman, OH) for ministering and sharing this blessed weekend with us.

Several of our loved ones have passed out of this life this past month. Bro. Donald 'Bob' Bird was called home by God on January 21. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Miriam, and son, Jerry (Erika).

Sis. Catherine Armstrong went to her eternal reward on January 21. Four children survive her: Evalene Ward, Judy (Carl) Adams, Wayne (Sally), and Dale (Pat).

Laurence Boor died on January 22. His five children survive him: Chrystina (Matthew) Pagani, Laurence, Michael, Adrianna, and Danielle.

Penny Bocka passed away on January 17. She is survived by her husband, Fred; four children, Stephanie (Michael) Cascio, Sally (Wade) Wallace, Terry, and Sherry (Jim) Thompson, and her father-in-law,

Bro. Harry Bocka.

Not knowing when God will call us out of this life, let us not get sidetracked by the distractions of this world. Remembering and applying the words of the Apostle Paul:

"Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ....I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:8,14)

OHIO, RITTMAN

**Heidi Rufener
Laurie Beery**

"Suffer the little children to come unto me ... for of such is the kingdom of God."

Mark 10:14

Bro. Rick and Sis. Dawn Steiner were blessed with a little boy, Malaki Carl, on January 20. We are thankful for his safe arrival. Older siblings welcoming him to the family are Claire, Elijah, Jordan, Noelle, Tierra, Isaiah, and Gideon. Malaki's grandparents are Bro. Ron and Sis. Ruth Steiner, and Bro. Ray and Sis. Carol Stoller (Latty).

The engagement of Bro. Andrew Raifsnider (Sis. Diana) and Sis. Esther Rupp (Bro. Jim and Sis. Sharon) was made known to our congregation. We wish them God's blessings as they plan their life together.

Hospitalized in the past month were Sis. Eleanor Ramsier, Sis. Lil Maibach, Earl Rupp and Sis. Carolyn Marty. We want to keep them all in our prayers.

We grieve with the families who have lost loved ones recently, knowing what a void it can leave in our lives when the earthly circle is broken.

Bro. David (Sis. Carol) Steiner passed away on February 1. Children are Kurt (Robin), Bro. Dwight, Bro. Eric (Sis. Tricia), Bro. Brent (Sis. Andrea), and Bro. Ryan (Sis. Julie). We also mourn the loss of Sis. Bertha (Bro. Henry) Kiser on February 12. Children of Sis. Bertha are Sis. Carol (Bro. George) Schuster, Marilyn Boyes, and Lonnie (Sheila). We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Bro. Harlan Ramsier on the passing of his granddaughter, Brenda (Jeremy) Gerber. May God tenderly comfort all those who are hurting as only He can.

Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Forrest, IL) and Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH) were with us for the reading of the Memorandum this month. Also visiting and serving our congregation was Bro. Todd Graf (Akron, OH). We thank these brothers for willingly giving of themselves on our behalf.

OHIO, SARDIS Faith Beard

Rise, O Christian generation,
Clinging to your Lord alway!
Up, arise in consecration,
Lest your soul be led astray!
For your foe dareth you,
Unto combat dareth you!

On His word then take the venture,
Clad with pray'r and watchfulness.
This alone will make you fearless,
Strength and courage to possess,
War to wage, and engage,
Through Christ's blood the enemy's
rage.

Zion's Harp #27, vs. 1, 3

We gathered to hear the reading of the Memorandum on February 14. Assisting was Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther) of Lester, IA. How grateful we are to our Elder Brethren for all the time and efforts put forth to compile, write and deliver

this timely document.

On February 20, we laid to rest Martha LaCava (the late Robert). We pray for God's comfort to her daughter, Linda (Dallas) Bolen, several grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and also her close sister, Clara Stalder. Martha attended our church for many years with Clara until the past few years due to health issues. We remember her for her kindness and her acts of service to many. "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

OHIO, SMITHVILLE Edith Miller Ruth Gasser

Sing praise to God,
All ye who love the Saviour;
Extol His actions;
Praise His faithfulness!
Zion's Harp #191

Our Smithville church rang with God's praises when the area Young Groups gathered, along with several visitors on Invite-a-Friend weekend. We were blessed and inspired by their presence, and also by the ministry of Bro. Lucas Frank (Detroit, MI) on that Sunday. May we never take these freedoms for granted, as many across the earth do not enjoy these blessings.

We have been in prayer for our Bro. Roger Saurer (Sis. Sue), who required emergency surgery. We're thankful that he is presently at home to recover.

Sorrow has been the lot of many in our congregation over the loss of loved ones. Zachary and Morgan Pertee have lost their grandmother, Helen Lucille Pertee. Kurt Steiner (Robin) and family mourn the loss of his father, Bro. David Steiner (Sis. Carole, Rittman, OH). Sis. Roberta Stoller (Elder Bro. Andy) and Bro. Gaylord Beery (Sis. Cheryl) also

grieve in the loss of a brother-in-law. Sis. Laura Oppliger's sister, Sis. Louise Spangler (Akron, OH), was laid to rest, and Sis. Carol Schuster (Bro. George) was bereft of her mother, Sis. Bertha Kiser (Bro. Henry, Rittman, OH). We pray each one can be comforted by God and feel our love and support.

As Jason Whitman has completed his schooling in our area, he and his family, Sis. Lori, Lindsey and Elise, have moved back to the Latty, OH, area. We have appreciated them in our midst and our prayers and best wishes go with this family as they take up their new residence.

OHIO, TOLEDO Teresa Rywalski Rebecca Beard

We spent a quiet night together when we gathered for the reading of the Memorandum. How blessed we are to have Elders who are willing to listen to God and then instruct us on His ways. Joining us for the evening were Elder Bros. Bill Schlatter (Sis. Emily, Junction) and Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI).

Our congregation was saddened to hear of the passing of Bro. Eugene Fetter of Bern, KS. Bro. Eugene and Sis. Marilyn lived here for many years. He unselfishly served in the ministry for 26 years. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

As we approach the Easter season, may we remember the ultimate sacrifice our Lord and Savior made on our behalf. May we continue to diligently strive for the blessed reward.

OREGON, PORTLAND Renee Angstrom

Sharing the Word this month from Silverton was Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty), Bro. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie), and Bro. Todd Zollinger (Sis.

Michele). We appreciate their support and bringing forth the Word.

Our annual business meeting was held in February. We support our Brothers and Sisters who were elected into new positions: New Sunday school teacher is Bro. Monte Kuenzi (Sis. Kellie). New trustee is Bro. Nathan Kuenzi (Sis. Sarah). We have added a kitchen committee.

Serving for one year will be Sis. Renee Angstrom (Bro. Andy), two years will be Sis. Kellie Kuenzi (Bro. Monte), three years will be Sis. Jennifer Knecht (Bro. Allen).

We appreciate those who served these positions in the past.

OREGON, SILVERTON **Cindy Metzger**

In our annual business meeting this year, Bro. Nelson Kuenzi was selected to serve as a trustee, Bro. Sam Moser for the sound system, Bro. Craig Schurter as an usher and Sis. Koreen Metzger for the dinner committee. We sincerely thank those who have put in long hours on our behalf to keep order in our church building/events.

We appreciate Elder Bro. Dave Graf (Sis. Barbara, Akron, OH) traveling here to help Elder Bro. Art in reading the Memorandum to our congregation on January 24.

On January 24, Courtney Marian was born to Bro. Zach and Sis. Rachel Kuenzi. Grandparents are Bro. Myron and Sis. Diane Kuenzi and Elder Bro. Peter and Sis. Marian Petrovic (San Diego).

We want to remember Sis. Karen Walter (Bro. Chuck) in our prayers as she recovers from knee surgery.

Our heartfelt sympathy and prayers are with Lyle and Andrea Kuenzi and family in the passing of Andrea's mom, Vikki Buss from Corbett, OR, on February 8.

A special thank you to the following visiting ministers who have will-

ingly served us this past month: Elder Bro. Dave Graf (Sis. Barbara, Akron, OH) and Bros. Ron Jones (Sis. Liz) and Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy), both of Portland, OR.

Note of Thanks:

I would like to thank everyone for remembering me with prayers and unending blessings during my recent knee replacement surgery and recovery. May God bless you for your sincere thoughtfulness and charity.

Sis. Karen Walter

PENNSYLVANIA **PHILADELPHIA**

We often hear that the angels in heaven rejoice when a soul turns to the Lord. How pleasing it must be to God when He observes such rejoicing and what a blessing He gives to His church when a soul stands in baptismal waters and erects a covenant. Such rejoicing and such a blessing was ours in the Philadelphia church as our dear friend, Emily Wiegand, gave testimony of her faith and the peace that God has given her. It is so encouraging to see the beautiful countenance of Christ in this work. Our dear Sis. Emily is the daughter of our Elder Bro. Ben and Sis. Michelle Wiegand. Family gathered, including Emily's grandparents from Champaign, IL, retired Elder Bro. Dave and Sis. Ethel Wiegand, and from Fairbury, Bro. Jim and Sis. Juanita Walter. Others came from Tucson, AZ; Forrest, IL; Washington DC; Rockville, CT; and most gratefully, Elder Bro. Duane and Sis. Karen Farney from Croghan, NY, to help Bro. Ben with this work. What a day that will be when we will be with the angels forevermore.

TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE **Mike and Monica Fritz**

We have been encouraged in our

spiritual walk by our numerous visiting ministering brothers. Our recent visitors have been: Elder Bros. Andy Stoller (Smithville, OH), John Laukhuf (Latty, OH), and Phil Stettner (Bluffton North, IN) and Bros. Jesse Bedolla (Sis. Bonnie; Detroit, MI), Erik Givens (Sis. Debbie; Princeville, IL), Steve Stieglitz (Sis. Jane; Leo, IN), and Fred Domka (Sis. Connie; Mansfield, OH). We have also appreciated the fellowship of brethren and friends visiting from Bradford, Princeville, Cissna Park, Eureka, Fairbury, and Forrest, IL; Leo, IN; Lester, IA; and Mansfield, OH.

If you are traveling in or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. The following churches are scheduled for services in the near future: Bluffton North, IN (3/22); Fairbury, IL (3/29); Junction, OH (4/5); Sabetha, KS (4/19); Eureka, IL (4/26). We do not have a visiting minister scheduled for Easter Sunday, April 12, but if local brethren are in the area we will gather for recorded services. If you are planning to worship with us, please call ahead to confirm our schedule. Often we gather on Saturday evenings for fellowship, and all are heartily welcome. We also meet on Wednesday evenings for a song service at 7:15 p.m. and would welcome any midweek visitors. Contacts are Bro. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder, (615) 373-8928; Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz, (615) 866-5543; and Sis. Gwen Leuthold, (615) 356-5755.

TEXAS, AUSTIN **Amy Ringger** **Serenity Ringger**

We were encouraged by visiting ministers: Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (San Diego), Bros. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest), Leland Platter (Sis. Mary, Zapata), Ben Manz (Junction), Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Fairbury), and Gene Lehman (Sis.

Verna, Wolcott). We enjoyed additional visitors from some of those churches above, and Princeville, Francesville, Congerville, Roanoke, and Rockville.

Bro. Gene and Sis. Verna are visiting here for several weeks. While they are here, we are meeting mid-week. It has been a blessing to get together for worship more often. He told a story that reminds us of one of the benefits of frequent worship.

Here is the story as close as I can recall: "A young lady was visiting an older lady after church one Sunday. The older woman commented that the sermon was very nice. The young lady asked, "What was it about?"

The old lady said, "I don't know."

"Well, what do you remember about it?"

The old lady thought for a moment. "I can't remember anything specific right now."

The young lady was puzzled. "How can you say it was a nice sermon when you don't remember anything about it?"

"Well," the old lady explained, "if you took a wicker basket to the stream, and you dipped it in the water, you wouldn't catch much water in it, would you?"

"No," came the reply.

The old lady smiled. "If nothing else, the basket would be a little cleaner after you were done."

The following is the minister schedule for April: (5) Akron, (12) Easter-to be determined, (19) Tremont, (26) Bradford. We extend a warm welcome to anyone who may be in the area to worship with us, even midweek, though we don't have a regular schedule for midweek services. Please call ahead to help us plan for serving lunch. Also, because visitors add much to our local fellowship times, it helps if we know about your visit well in advance, perhaps even a month or more if possible, so that we

can accommodate you more readily in our weekend gatherings. See the ministers' book for local contact information.

Directions to our church are these: from the intersection of Hwy 71 and 21 on the west side of Bastrop, go east on Hwy 71 about 1/2 mile and take the first exit (by the Ford dealership), proceed on the eastbound frontage road about 4/10 mile. The church is on the right. It is located about 18 miles east of the Austin airport. The address is 1025 W. Highway 71, Bastrop, TX 78602. It is a one-story building with limestone siding and the church sign in the front. Quite a few people have tried using the GPS system to find the church; but they found out that GPS doesn't know where it is, and ended up getting lost. We advise following the directions instead of GPS.

In the church, there are two furnished bedrooms for the ministers to use when coming for services. When you contact someone about coming for services, please let them know if you would like to use the bedrooms during the time you are here.

TEXAS, McALLEN Sandy Kipfer

Greetings to all in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We thank our visiting ministers and their wives: Bro. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN), Bro. Glen Braker (Sis. Audrey, Princeville, IL), Bro. Earl Beery (Sis. Suzanne, Rittman, OH) for taking their time and effort in expounding to us the written Word of the Lord. May God continue to richly bless them. We also thank our visiting brethren from Cissna Park, IL; Winthrop, MN; Francesville, IN; Princeville, IL; Rittman, OH; Bluffton, IN; Rockville, CT; and Congerville, IL.

We would like to encourage those who plan to come south for a vacation

to consider the valley for a Sunday of worship and/or making the valley your home while you are in Southern Texas. We are small in number and are happy to have visitors come and spend some time with us.

The following churches are scheduled for services: (March 15 - Chicago, IL), (April 5 - Morris, MN), (April 19 - Sabetha, KS), (May 3 - Elgin, IL), (May 17 - Roanoke, IL).

Our address is: Holiday Inn Express, 1921 South 10th Street. Turn 1½ blocks off the Expressway on 10th Street. Services will be held at 10:30 and 12:30. Please see ministers' directory for local contact information.

TEXAS, ZAPATA Mary Plattner

Visiting ministers have been Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (Sis. Marian, San Diego), Bro. Marvin Dotterer (Sis. Nancy, Forrest), Bro. Bill Dotterer (Sis. Sharon, Lamar), and Bro. Ronald Palitto (Sis. Lynell, Akron). We certainly appreciate their visits. Bro. Peter was here for Holy Communion and the reading of the Memorandum. We are blessed to have those who so faithfully bring us the Word.

Hospital patients have been Sis. Joan Schrenk (Bro. Tom) and we are thankful she is able to assemble with us again.

Our annual church meeting was held and Bro. Richard Kuenzi (Silverton) was chosen as trustee, the food committee couple is Bro. Ernie and Sis. Judy Knecht. We thank Bro. Don Sauder who served as trustee and Bro. Gary and Sis. Velma Domnick who served on the dinner committee for past years.

Our winter family is making plans to return to their homes for the summer months. Anyone coming to Zapata this summer is most welcome to come and worship with us.

VERMONT**CLARENDON/NORWICH****Nathan and Miriam Reutter**

The following Rockville, CT, ministers came to preach to us this month: Elder Bro. Kevin Ryan (Sis. Cheryl), Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Diane), and Bro. Warren Zahner (Sis. Bonnie). We are thankful to these brothers and their wives who have come to minister to us this past month and over the past five or so years. We trust that God will recompense them with His blessings for their sacrifices on our behalf.

Bro. Kirby Reutter is anticipating a cornea transplant this month. He will appreciate your prayers in re-

gards to the success of his surgery. He has had eye problems since birth and has already had surgery on them at four years of age. He would really benefit from a clearer vision.

If you are interested in fellowshiping with us here in Vermont, and would like information about service locations and dates, please contact Bro. Chad and Sis. Jenny Virkler (802-293-2724). We love to fellowship with believers whether it is during the week or on the weekend. Please let us know if you are planning on being in our area so we can accommodate you. Service times are as follows:

Mid-week services (Contact local brethren)

Sunday Morning Service 10:10 AM
Sunday Afternoon Service 12:15 PM

Sunday school is held during the morning service.

If anyone is interested in purchasing beautiful head-coverings hand-made from our dear Sisters in Ixtlan, Michoacan, Mexico, please contact Sis. Areli Reutter at Home: 802-862-0830 or Cell: 860-878-9346 or by email at areutter@hotmail.com. Inventory is available upon request. This is a wonderful opportunity to support those of the household of faith (Galatians 6:10).



2009 Athens/Tennessee Memorial Day Weekend

*Watch and pray that when the Master cometh, If at morning, noon or night,
He may find a lamp in ev'ry window, Trimmed and burning clear and bright.
(Watch and Pray," Hymns of Zion, #121)*

We invite everyone to attend the 2009 Athens/Tennessee Memorial Day Weekend scheduled on Saturday, May 23 and Sunday, May 24. The theme for this year's weekend comes from Mark 14:38—"Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak."

On Saturday afternoon, Lord willing, an auction is planned at the Tennessee Fellowship Area beginning at 2:00 p.m. followed by supper at 6:00 p.m. A minister will then speak on the first topic of "Watch and Pray." For the auction, donations will be appreciated. On Sunday beginning at 10:00 a.m., everyone is invited to attend church services at the Athens, Alabama Apostolic Christian Church. Afternoon activities will reconvene at the Tennessee Fellowship Area at 3:30 p.m. with singing, a minister speaking on the second topic—"Struggles and the Rewards," supper and evening singing.

Below is additional information on the weekend including directions, motel accommodations, plans for a charter bus from the Central Illinois area and contact information. For planning purposes, we'd ask that you notify one of the contact options listed below by Monday, May 11 if you are planning to come. Additionally, we'd ask for your help in spreading the word to others who might be interested in attending.

The Tennessee Fellowship Board

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

Motel Accommodations: Tennessee Fellowship Area in Pulaski, Tenn.—Super 8 (800)800-8000 or (931)363-4501
Athens, Alabama Area --Best Western (256)233-4030; Comfort Inn (800)228-5150 or (256)232-2704; Country Hearth Inn & Suites (256)232-1520; Days Inn (800)329-7466 or (256)233-7500; Quality Inn (800)424-6423 or (256)232-0030; Holiday Inn Express (800)465-4329 or (256)232-7931; Sleep Inn (256)232-4700; Super 8 (800)800-8000 or (256)233-1446.

Bus from Central Illinois: If you are interested in riding a charter bus to the Tennessee Fellowship Area from Morton, Ill., contact Ed or Barb Kaiser at (309)263-8944 or e-mail them at ed.kaiser@comcast.net.

Contact Information: Please notify one of the following contacts if you plan to join us for the weekend. Additionally, communication was sent to each church, and you may opt to notify your church's contact, who in turn will let us know of the numbers planning to attend from your congregation. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact Tennessee Fellowship Secretary Sis. Gwen Leuthold at (615)356-5755 or leutholdg@aol.com, Tennessee Fellowship Chariman Bro. Don Sauder (615)373-8928 or don.sauder@juno.com or Tennessee Fellowship Treasurer Bro. Mike Moore (256)729-0620 or alm38@aol.com.



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(219) 627-2159

Lynn Stieglitz
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(260) 657-1033

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25 Ways to Provoke Anger in Children, Part II

This Silver Lining article addresses some ways that parents can unintentionally provoke their children to anger. This is part two of a four part series.

Parents have the calling (Prov. 22:6) to be proactive in training their children in the wisdom of how to experience the emotion (be ye angry), and yet make good choices (sin not). The context of this article will encourage parents to examine themselves first in how they can avoid "provoking their children to anger" (Col. 3:21). The author, Lou Priolo, outlines in his book on this topic, "The Heart of Anger¹", 25 ways that parents can unknowingly create anger and frustration in their children.

The first article included the following 5 ways of provoking anger;

1. The Lack of Marital Harmony, 2. Establishing and Maintaining a Child-Centered Home, 3. Modeling Sinful Anger, 4. Habitually Disciplining While Angry, and 5. Scolding. The remainder of this article will look at examples 6-12 as behaviors parents should try to avoid.

6. Being Inconsistent with Discipline:

When I therefore was thus minded, did I use lightness? Or the things that I purpose, do I purpose according to the flesh, that with me there should be yea yea, and nay nay? (2 Cor. 1:17)

There are two common types of inconsistent discipline. One type is utilizing different parental standards of discipline. In other words, dad believes a certain behavior is wrong and mom sees nothing wrong with it or vice versa. The second is in how parents are daily inconsistent on what punishable behavior is, and/or how severe the punishment will be. Both types can bring undue frustration to children.

7. Having Double Standards:

A double minded man is unstable in all his ways. (Jam 1:8)

A parent who uses the Bible to teach and instruct their child in righteousness, but is not willing to practice that same standard in their own life, is fitting the definition of a hypocrite. A hypocritical home will often provoke a child. "Do as I say and not as I do" may work temporarily in an employer/employee relationship, but it has no application for a believing parent.

8. Being Legalistic:

This people draweth nigh unto me with

their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. (Matt. 15:8-9)

In detailing this section, the book states that God has given each set of Christian parents the responsibility to develop from Scripture a biblically based economy or 'law of the house' for their children to abide by. This collection of house expectations or rules contains two basic sections: God's Law (biblically directed rules like the 10 commandments) and Parent's Law (biblically derived rules like bedtime, chores, food choices, etc.)² The particular type of legalism that can provoke anger is when parents present their Law as unchangeable and can never be appealed. As children mature and establish trust and respect, there should be an opportunity for them to exercise appropriate expanding of that responsibility and trust. A rigid, one size rule, that must fit all the kids all the time, may lead to unnecessary provoking.

9: Not Admitting You're Wrong and Not Asking for Forgiveness:

Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift. (Matt. 5:23-24)

As a result of human nature, parents will make mistakes. However, the failure to acknowledge these mistakes committed against children often discourages the children from practicing open and appropriate communication. When children perceive such insensitivity (and maybe even pride) in the parents, they may wrongly conclude that it's no use trying to talk to them about what happened. It's easy to learn that a wrong decision needs no apology if you're in the position of power.

10. Constantly Finding Fault:

Also against his (Elihu) three friends was his wrath kindled, because they had found no answer, and yet had condemned Job. (Job 32:3)

Elihu was frustrated for the condemning statements without accurately pinpointing what had been done wrong. This area is not about diminishing the parent's responsibility to point out sinful behavior and character deficiencies in the child. It is rather the continuously critical, condemning and judgmental attitude that can be mistaken as providing "reproof". For a child that grows up in that environ-

ment, he can often begin to believe that his parents are never (or rarely) pleased with him.

11. Parents Reversing God-Given Roles:

For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. (Eph. 5:23)

Consequences that tend to promote frustration are unavoidable when God's order in the home is violated. Wives can become embittered over husbands not managing their homes biblically as the head and leadership role requires. Husbands can grow in frustration as their wives either undermine the parenting efforts or over-compensate for their own lack of parenting initiative and participation. Children are often left confused and uncertain about parent's behavior and without needed modeling for future generations.

12. Not Listening to Your Child's Opinion or Taking His or Her "Side of the Story" Seriously:

He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him. (Prov. 18:13)

Children can be difficult to fill with truth unless they are emptied of their self and those issues that worry and concern them. A parent doesn't always need to agree with their child's reasoning, conclusions and opinions, but should focus on how to lead them to the truth. That path to truth is strengthened when parents take the time to understand their child's perspective. To gain that perspective, parents need to engage in conversations with their children by display the skill of listening to comprehend and not just to respond.

Conclusion:

Since our children are the heritage of the Lord (Ps. 127:3), it is vital that they learn how to discern and appropriately respond to anger. While this article does not address specific skills for children to use in learning how to manage anger and frustration, it does provide an outline for strengthening parent's awareness of possible trigger points in children. Some children's personalities and temperaments are going to require additional help from mom and dad in learning these skills. Those efforts on behalf of children needing to learn the balance of emotions and actions are going to be well pleasing to God.

References

1. Lou Priolo, *The Heart of Anger*, (Amityville, NY: Calvary Press, 1997), pg.29-51.
2. *Ibid.*, pg.36.

Child Placement Manager Opening



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

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3. Have a dedicated interest, love and sensitivity for youth and families.
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5. Have ability to establish positive working and interpersonal relationships and use a team approach.
6. Have treatment philosophy compatible with the mission of Gateway Woods - Apostolic Christian Children's Home.
7. Have commitment to ongoing personal and professional growth.

For further information and a job description, please contact:

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 Administrator
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*...This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord.
 Isaiah 54:17*

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Or to feel like somehow we have become a victim of some sort of circumstance. We can replace that with a trust in God. With a confidence in Him. To ask Him, 'Okay, Lord. This isn't exactly the way I thought it was going to be'. That's the way it was for Jeremiah. It wasn't exactly the way he thought it was going to be. 'But I can trust the Lord, that He will take care of me. That He will provide for me.' That's the attitude that He wants you and I to have. So if we would have read earlier verses, that's the type of thing we would have seen.

But we did read together from verse 19. "Therefore thus saith the Lord, If thou return, then will I bring thee again, and thou shalt stand before me: and if thou take forth the precious from the vile, thou shalt be as my mouth: let them return unto thee; but return not thou unto them." So we can see here where God is conversing with Jeremiah and He is asking him to have this type of separation from these people, the children of Israel, that had fallen so many times into idolatry. They had fallen so many times into what the Bible described as 'everyone doing that which was right in his own eyes' (Judges 17:6). Leaving the precepts that God had set out before them. Leaving the words of truth and life that He had given to them. Leaving all those things that the prophets had spoken to them. Leaving all those teachings of Moses that he gave to them for their own good. Leaving and forsaking all those things and utterly forsaking their God. He is saying, 'Come out. Come out from them. Come out from that circumstance. Come out from that mud, that mire.' We can think of the word picture.

We can read the same message in the New Testament, where God is telling us to come out from among them. To be separate. To be a peculiar people, zealous of good works. Peculiar doesn't mean strange or odd or weird or something like that. He wants us to be set apart for Him. To not be ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ, as we read in Romans chapter 1. To even be glad that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior. He is asking Jeremiah to come out from this type of thing. He uses the words, 'separating the precious from the vile'.

"And I will make thee unto this people a fenced brasen wall: and they shall fight against thee..." Jeremiah 15:20. He's saying, 'Jeremiah, I can pull you out from among them and make you', as He says, 'this fenced brasen wall. But understand this. They are still going to fight against

you. I can take you out. You can be this fenced brasen wall. But they are still going to fight against you.' We read similar words in the New Testament, do we not? When the Bible tells us, don't be surprised if they don't like you, if they hate you. If you are despised for my name's sake, Jesus Christ is saying that, if you are despised of others, don't be surprised. Because you name the name of Jesus Christ, don't be surprised when that happens. When you don't run to that same excess of riot with them as you may have before, don't be surprised when they don't care for you anymore. (I Peter 4) Because it wasn't really you that they cared about, but whatever you *did*, whatever you did together.

So Jeremiah is being told of God, they shall fight against thee, "...but they shall not prevail against thee..." Jeremiah 15:20. Therein is the underlying message of hope and of strength. Each one of us can think of challenges we have in our own personal relationships. We can think of different people whose personalities we don't quite blend with. We can think of people who may even have some animosity toward us for one reason or another. We can all think of those types of things. We see here, this promise, that they shall not prevail against thee.

I think this is really getting at a matter of faith. Because Jeremiah believed in the one true God versus those that didn't believe in the true God. They believed in false gods. Believed in gods they could go out and construct themselves. Believed in a god they could pour in a mold and have this thing come out and it would be a lump of gold and that would be their god. Or handcraft something with wood and set it inside and say, 'I can see this! I can believe in this. This is my god. This is what I will serve.' That type of mentality versus the one that could not see the God who delivered them, the God who brought them out of Egypt and brought them into the promised land. They couldn't see Him with their own hand but they could see His great works all around. Yet they forgot.

So we have a similar promise in the New Testament, where the Apostle John tells us that, "...greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." I John 4:4. Jesus Christ said, we can overcome also because He overcame all things. When we have that personal and close and loving and meaningful relationship with Jesus Christ, we can be overcomers just as He was.

They shall not prevail against thee. Why? Because Jeremiah was so strong? No. Because "...I *am* with thee to save

thee and to deliver thee, saith the Lord." Jeremiah 15:20. That's the same promise that our God has for us yet today. That He will never leave us nor forsake us. Sometimes we feel alone, do we not? Sometimes we're confused and we don't really understand. But God said, I will never leave thee nor forsake thee (Hebrews 13:5). He is always with us. He's the Alpha, the Omega. The author and the finisher of our faith. He is our God.

It says, "And I will deliver thee out of the hand of the wicked..." Jeremiah 15:21. We read a lot about that in Scripture also. God knows how to deliver the godly out of temptation. He knows how to deliver His children out of these challenges and out of these problems. We can think about a similar theme that ran throughout the Old Testament, when God always had a remnant. He always had those that were set apart for Him. Even, Elijah said, 'I am the only one left! There is no one else.' (I Kings 19:14). He felt like he was the last person on earth serving God, the last person on earth that loved the Lord. He felt like he was all alone. What did God say to him? That there was seven thousand men that had not bowed the knee to Baal. (I Kings 19:18) There was always this promise in God's Word, that there would always be a remnant. That there would always be those who loved and served the Lord.

We have to think about that and know that that is still true today. That there will be those that love and serve the Lord. If we start to feel alone in a chaotic world, let's think about, there are always others that we can find who love and serve the Lord. We need to draw on those relationships. We need to draw strength from those relationships. We need to draw comfort from those relationships. We need to be a comfort to others and understand when others have times of need; when they are feeling weak, when they are feeling doubtful, when they are feeling unsure about tomorrow. We need to likewise be a comfort to other people. We need each other. It is very simple. It's very simple. God did not create us to operate in isolation. God did not create us to operate alone. He gave us each other and He put us together in a body.

So let's turn now to I Timothy chapter 4. Here the Apostle Paul is talking about those teachers of false doctrine. It is no different than what Jeremiah had to deal with. It's no different. There were those that were very much false prophets. Those that wanted to say what people wanted to hear, rather than what the Word of God really had to say. It's no different. Here the Apostle Paul was dealing

with the same thing so many years ago, then at that time, to Timothy and the early church. He could turn around and say the exact same thing to us today. There will never be a lack of those who want to teach false doctrine. There will never be a lack of those who take the Word of truth and set it aside and create their own standard of righteousness or their own standard of truth. We see it every day. We see it all the time.

That's why we always have to be grounded, settled on the Word. We have to be feeding our mind with the Word of God, the standard that does not change. That perfect mirror. The Word of God that speaks to us, that chastises us, that corrects us, that encourages us, that comforts us. We need to have a focus on God's Word. Because people's opinions will change. People's perceptions of what is acceptable will change over time. God does not change. The same yesterday, today and always is how our God is described (Hebrews 13:8). But people and opinions and perceptions will change.

Here, we see this false doctrine. "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils," I Timothy 4:1. None of us, none of us like to see that, do we? When we can see what could be described as 'some shall depart from the faith', some leaving and forsaking God, none of us like to see that. It's not pleasant. None of us like to see one who had shown an outward love toward God and a close communion with God just to say, 'I can't trust Him anymore. I don't really believe Him anymore. I don't even believe *in* Him anymore.' Each of us can think of examples where something like that has happened. It's not a pleasant thought for any of us. But God's Word's telling us that those things will come to pass. Jesus Christ asked the question, when He returns, shall He find faith on earth? (St. Luke 18:8) You and I want to walk through this life with faith and do our part so if Jesus Christ returns tomorrow, the answer to that question would be an overwhelming 'Yes, you will find faith on this earth'.

But it talks about these in these latter times, that they will be "Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;" I Timothy 4:2. How is our conscience doing today? When it speaks to us, do we listen? Or is our first inclination to say, 'No, no, no, no, no'? When something within us says we are taking a path that is just not right, when we have an uneasy feeling, when we are making a decision that is not well aligned with Scriptural truth, with doctrinal in-

tegrity, with Biblical truth, do we listen to our self? Do we hear what that voice inside of us says? Or have we been walking a little too close to the fire and got a little bit seared, like this being seared with a hot iron? A little bit seared off. A little bit numb. A little less discernable. Can't really hear what my conscience is saying. I am going to go forward and I am just going to move. I'm just going to react. I have to do something. Impulses take over more than sound judgment. Think about that. God doesn't want our conscience to be seared with a hot iron.

It talks about it a lot in His Word differently when He talks about having that heart of *flesh* versus the heart of stone (Ezekiel 36:26). He talked about and described the children of Israel as a stiff necked people so many times. Not able to turn their head one way or the other. God wants us to have that heart of flesh. He wants us to have a heart that is open to and listening to that still, small voice within us.

Go back and read the Scriptures - I believe it is in I Kings - where it talks about, God was not in the thunder. God was not in the earthquake and all these things that came to pass. At the end of all that, there was a still, small voice. (I Kings 19:11,12) It is that still, small voice that is alive yet today and can reside in you and me, that we need to listen to. That still, small voice. God's Holy Spirit.

"Forbidding to marry, and *commanding* to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth." I Timothy 4:3. This is something that they had to deal with in the early church. Last night I had opportunity to read that wonderful chapter in Acts 15, that first letter from the elders, when they came together for to consider the matters that were before them in the early church. They thought, okay. People are trying to say all these different things. We have this tremendous amount of liberty under Christ. We've just come out of the law. We are trying to reconcile the two. We are trying to understand what's right and what's not. There are all these people saying that people have to be circumcised to be saved and continue in the Jewish law to be saved, to believe in Christ and to be a Christian. Then the elders considered it and they came back and they had three specific points that they had told them about.

But what was it about that time, about this time that the Apostle Paul was writing about, that we struggle with, that we grapple with this tremendous amount of grace that God has given each and every

one of us? That we want to place on this other conditions for salvation. That somehow in our own way, we can have some small part in our salvation. What is it about human nature? If you go back and read Galatians 2, the Apostle Paul's wonderful exhortation to them about not frustrating the grace of God, being crucified with Christ and living with Him, then all of a sudden he goes into chapter 3 and he says, 'Oh, you foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you? You knew all this. Now what? These Judaizers are coming in and they are trying to give you all these conditions for salvation.' What is it about human nature?

So they are saying here, in this particular case, 'Oh, you can't marry. You have to abstain from meats.' The Apostle Paul is saying, 'You are missing the point altogether.' God calls us to a sanctified life. There is absolutely no doubt about that. God calls us to a sanctified life. To be set apart for Him. There's absolutely no doubt about that. Romans chapter 6 handles the issue. "...Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid..." v.1,2. God wants us to live a sanctified life for Him. God does *not* want us to bring in the Pharisaic approach to salvation. To put conditions upon our salvation. To put conditions upon our relationship with Jesus Christ in such a way that it is man made. Remember the strong words that God had for those who took their own ways of doing things and set that above the direction that God had given them. He had very strong words for the Pharisees for that approach.

"For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer." I Timothy 4:4,5. It is a good reminder for us that we don't simply pray before we eat just because that is what we do. There is a reason for it. There is a purpose for it. God has asked us to give thanks for the food that He has provided for us. It is sanctified. Remember and go back to Acts chapter 10. Where Peter had seen the vision of the big sheet dropped down. It had all the creatures and four footed things and the beasts and all these other things. Peter said, 'Whoa, I've never eaten of any of those things, Lord. Nothing common or unclean has come into my mouth.' God showed him. I think He did it three times. Basically, He was telling him, 'What God has cleansed, call that not common or unclean.' He was now saying, 'Okay, we had this Jewish dietary law and that is not going to be applicable any longer.' And He

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was also saying the way of salvation is being opened up to the Gentiles.

But we take that and we think about that, God is asking us, saying, 'Okay, every creature of God is good and nothing to be refused if it be received with thanksgiving.' He still wants us to give thanks for that food which He provides. Which God has cleansed. He sanctified it with the Word of God and prayer.

"If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ..." I Timothy 4:6. This is the Apostle Paul speaking specifically to Timothy. But he is asking you and I to put others in remembrance of these types of things also. "...nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained." v. 6. That's the way God wants us to live our life. To live our life by faith. To live our life that demonstrates unequivocally that we trust Him. That we love Him. That we know Him and this good doctrine. Good, sound, Scriptural principles. Taking the whole Word of God. Taking the whole counsel of God and saying, 'How does that apply to my life? How does God want me to live? How does He want me to serve Him?'

"But refuse profane and old wives' fables..." (v. 7) and that's a good reminder for each of us. Some of us more so than others may be susceptible to spreading rumors, to telling stories that get just a little bit better every time we retell them, every time that we hear them. But we really need to stop and think about, where's the blessing in that? What does God's Word say about those types of things? Who has ever been edified or lifted up by someone sharing information that really shouldn't be shared with other people? These old wives' fables, we can only imagine what those were at that particular time. God wants us to replace those things with sound truth. He said to the church in Ephesus, 'Speaking the truth in love.' (Ephesians 4:15) That's how He wants us to communicate. So next time we find ourselves maybe spreading something that we really shouldn't, let's ask ourselves, say, 'Am I speaking the truth in love? Am I saying the same thing that I would say if this person that I am talking about were standing here right now?' Speaking the truth in love.

"...and exercise thyself rather unto godliness." v.7. That's an interesting word that the Apostle Paul was inspired of God to write. Exercise. I think it creates a wonderful word picture. *Exercise* thyself rather unto godliness. God does-

n't ask us to know Him and understand Him and then just sit back and let life happen to us. He wants us to go out and exercise our faith. He wants us to go out and be a laborer in His vineyard. He wants us to be busy doing. He wants us to do the work He's given us. Jesus made that point very clear to His parents when they didn't really understand fully the child that they had. They understood Him to be the Son of God. But when He was twelve years old and they left, they said, 'why don't you understand?' 'I have to be about my Father's business.' (St. Luke 2:49) You and I need to be about our Father's business also.

"For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things..." I Timothy 4:8. I read that verse and I smile at that first portion because every time I don't go to Lifetime or I don't go get exercise, I say, 'Well, bodily exercise really profits just a little.' We can find that as kind of an excuse for ourselves. God wants us to be good stewards of our bodies also and to have good health.

But what does profit? Godliness is profitable unto *all* things. Godliness is profitable unto all things. If in any circumstance in our life we demonstrate godliness, it's profitable. It's good. There's a benefit. There's value created. In any circumstance. Somebody could be in our face, yelling at us without a cause. If we demonstrate godliness, it's profitable. Somebody could be persecuting us for our faith. If we pray for our enemies and demonstrate godliness, it's profitable unto all things.

"...having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come." v.8. Keeping our eyes on the prize, so to speak. Keeping our focus on heaven. Keeping our thoughts on what really will matter a million years from now. That home in heaven, that mansion, that place where God wants you and I to be, simply by having that long term vision can help our attitude so much. Can help our disposition so much. Can help take out some of the noise of the day to day challenges that we face. But having that long term vision toward home.

"This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God..." v.9,10. Again, the Apostle Paul telling Timothy something that Jeremiah very much experienced. Jeremiah could have stood up and said, 'Yes, this is true. Let me tell you!' We both labor and suffer reproach *because* we trust in the living God and for no other reason than trusting in the living God. Suffering reproach, having others de-

spitefully use us. But again, we are encouraged in God's Word to pray for them! To love them. To do good to our enemies. What does Romans 12 tell us? When we do that it is like heaping coals on top of their head. Be not overcome with evil but overcome evil with good. (v.20,21)

"...because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe." I Timothy 4:10. The Savior of *all* men. Jesus Christ died for *all*. Died for everyone. Jesus Christ died for all. That whosoever will may come. Whosoever. Not willing that any should perish but that all men should come to repentance. To know God. To know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. He died for all

He's saying, "These things command and teach." v.11. He's saying, 'Alright, I told you this. Don't just hide this. You need to go out there and share this. You need to live your life in a way that demonstrates this.' He's saying, 'Okay, Timothy.' And he's saying the same thing to you and I. We will show people that we believe this by the way that we love them. By the way that we act towards other people.

"Let no man despise thy youth..." v.12. Again, don't know exactly what Timothy's age was but it was a point that the Apostle Paul made with him. "...but be thou an example of the believers..." v.12. Again, another encouragement to be a good example. To be about doing their Father's business. To be doing what God had called him to do. To use those talents that God had given him. Not to just take them and hide them in the ground and say, 'I don't have the energy. I don't have the desire. I don't have the care or concern to actually go through and do this.' To be exercising thyself rather unto godliness.

Another thing about the exercising. We think about our own bodies. We exercise. We stress muscles so that they grow. It's the same way with our faith. When we exercise our faith unto godliness, it grows.

Be an example unto the believers, how? In word. What we say. What we speak. If we need a good reminder of that, let's go back to James chapter 3 and read about that tongue that's an unruly evil that no one has been able to tame. Let's think about what we say. It matters what we say. Think about our relationships with other people and how much they change just on a few words that we've said, or maybe didn't say.

In conversation. As Scripture uses it here, that's our whole way of life, not just the things that we say. In conversation. What is our manner and conversation of

life? How are we going about life?

In charity. I love that word. I'm glad the Bible uses that word 'charity'. Because we want to take and insert 'love' and put it right there. But it is so much deeper than that. Charity. Love in action. Not just love, the feeling. Charity. Love in action. That's what God asks us to do.

In spirit. Everything that is within us. In faith. Trust, believing. In purity. In purity. A word that the world today is attacking very vigorously. What is purity? What the world says we can do and what is acceptable and what the standards are, are completely different than what we read in God's Word. He wants us to keep our body sanctified, set apart. Look at it as the temple of God, as he encouraged the church in Corinth about the 5th and 6th chapters. He told them, they need to keep their body in purity and not sin against their own body.

"Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine." I Timothy 4:13. He's saying, 'Okay, Timothy, I am going to come visit you. But in the meanwhile, you need to focus on reading God's Word. Focus on all those things as he would continue to write to him and write letters to other churches and they would share these epistles from some other churches. Other churches would come in and read the ones that were written to them. Give attendance to reading. Remember the promise that we see in Romans 10:17. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. If we want to increase our faith, we need to read God's Word.

To exhortation. He is saying, 'Take this. Share it with others. Exhort them. Encourage them.' And to doctrine. Sound Scriptural doctrine. Those things that are not compromisable. You can't compromise them. Doctrinal truths.

He is saying now, "Neglect not the gift that is in thee..." I Timothy 4:14. Take those talents and let them shine. Labor in God's vineyards. Take those seeds and see what it brings forth, as we read in those parables, the thirty, the sixty and the hundredfold. (St. Mark 4:20) Neglect not the gift that is in thee. God would say the same thing to you and I. Have we ever spent a lot of time thinking about our spiritual gifts that God has given each and every one of us? Think about your spiritual gift. Ask yourself, am I neglecting the gift that is in me? What am I doing to labor in God's vineyard?

That's not an overwhelming task. Don't be intimidated by that. God is faithful. He'll not ever give us more than we are able to bear. If He ever asks us to do something, He'll provide the way first. He'll give us the time and the talents that we need.

"...which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. Meditate upon these things..." I Timothy 4:14,15. Don't just gloss them over but meditate upon these things. Really think about, Timothy, what I am saying to you. He would say the same thing to us today. Meditate on these things. Don't just come to church and listen and go home and go about whatever. Meditate on these things. I say that to my-

self also. Meditate upon these things. Fill your mind with these things. Because any action that we do was first a thought. Think about that. If our mind is stayed on thee, that beautiful verse in Isaiah chapter 26, God says He will keep our hearts and our minds in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee, because he trusteth in Thee (v.3). Our minds lead us to our actions. He is saying the same thing here to Timothy. Meditate on these things. Give thyself wholly unto them, completely to these things.

"...that thy profiting may appear to all." I Timothy 4:15. That you could be, at the end of the day, after all this, you could be a good example to someone else. So let your light shine before men that they may see your good works and praise God. (St. Matthew 5:16)

And finally, "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee." I Timothy 4:16. Again, you and I are encouraged to take all these things that we have learned. To take the love of Jesus Christ and share it with others. Then to go into the world, as Jesus gave that great commission. To share the Scriptural truth with others. That they might know Jesus Christ also and be saved.



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CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 2009

All volunteers should contact the project coordinator. Should you not be able to contact the coordinator, for Haiti direct your inquiry to Bro. Rich Bertschi, Ph. 309-467-6110, E-mail lemangm@mtco.com.

For Jamaica, direct your inquiry to Bro. Mike Rassi, Ph. 1-309-359-5240 or E-mail michael_rassi@hotmail.com.

HAITI

Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of March 14th, 2009 -www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/

Project	Year 2009	Coordinator	Capacity				
Les Cayes MEBSH Maintenance	Mar 27-Apr 3	Jon Zeller 309-266-9009 jzeller@mtco.com	12	Haiti MEBSH Caribbean Eval.	May 15-23	Tom Hitz 734-454-9229 tchitz@sbcglobal.net	Invitation
Les Cayes AWA Water Aid	Apr 24-May 1	Troy Stuber 309-925-2603 troystuber@verizon.net	4	Les Cayes FRW Vocational School	Jun 5-12	Rick Wuethrich 219-567-9488 topnotch@home.ffni.com	4
Les Cayes MEBSH Medical	May 1-8	Keith Knepp 309-467-4691 kknepp@mchsi.com	8				

Haiti and Jamaica Work Team Code Definitions

CCCD = Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf

MEBSH = Missions of Evangelical Baptists of South Haiti

Palm Grove = Mission of Haiti

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

TBA = To Be Announced

Palm Grove = Mission of Haiti

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

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

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

(*) = Changes or additions since last issue

()** = Spring Break Timeframe

USA World Relief Committee

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

* Bro. Kent Heimer	<i>Counseling Elder</i>	Taylor, MO	Cell# 573-248-5701
* Bro. Paul Kaeb	<i>Chairman</i>	Bern, KS	Cell# 785-547-5269
* Bro. Chuck Kellenberger	<i>Sec/Treasurer</i>	Elgin, IL	Cell# 224-629-6531
* Bro. Les Schambach	<i>Administrator</i>	Elgin, IL	Cell# 630-247-5271
* Bro. Arnold Gerst		Taylor, MO	Cell# 217-242-8996
* Bro. Tom Neuenschwander		Bluffton, IN	Cell# 260-307-6026
* Bro. Ray Slagel		Fairbury, IL	Cell# 815-848-3714

Official Apostolic Christian Church Website

* Providing basic information about our church and linkage to other church-related sites is located at:

www.apostolicchristian.org

JAMAICA

Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of March 14th, 2009 -www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-caribbean/

Project	Year 2009	Coordinator	Capacity				
Jamaica Deaf Village CCCD	May 22 - 30	Ted Hirstein 309-266-8769 hirstein@mtco.com	40	Jamaica Deaf Village CCCD	Jun 20 - 27	Jay Maibach jmmaibach@embarqmail.com	40
Jamaica Deaf Village CCCD Goodfield SS	Jun 6 - 13	Andy Bauman arbauman@mchsi.com	40	Akron, Rittman, Smithville SS			

MEXICO

If anyone is interested in leading a team to Mexico, contact Bro. Mike Fiechter at 260-597-7330 or mfiechter@onlyinternet.net
Data updated from the Apostolic Christian World Relief web site as of March 14th, 2009 -www.acworldrelief.org/work-teams-mexico/

Location	Year 2009	Coordinator					
Reynosa Medical	Apr 1-8	Cheryl Herrmann cherrmann@verizon.net		Magdalena Construction	Jun 20-27	Aaron Klopfenstein Indianapolis Bible Class 317-596-8739 aaronklop@sbcglobal.net	
Magdalena Construction	May 30-Jun 6	Seth Beer Phoenix Bible Class 602-918-1722 sethbeer@gmail.com		Magdalena Construction	Jun 27-Jul 4	Kent Mogler 651-452-8586 kent.mogler@comcast.net	
Magdalena Construction	Jun 13-20	Brent Knobloch 815-923-4736 bmknob@mc.net		Juarez Medical	Sep 16-23	Cheryl Herrmann cherrmann@verizon.net	
Agua Prieta Construction	Jun 20-27	Brad Leman 260-273-1953 crazyhorsebrad@gmail.com					

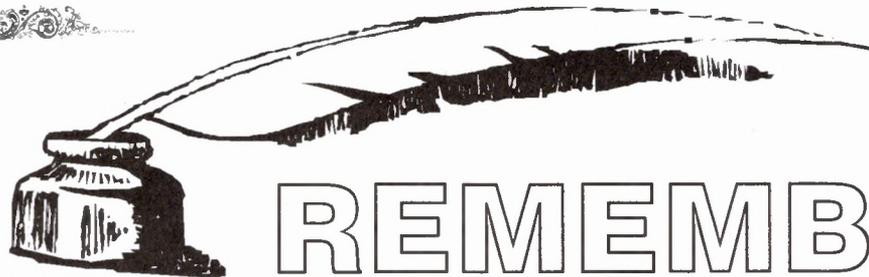
Volunteers Needed**Work Project In Oakville**

- * Carpenters
- * Plumbers
- * Electricians
- * Drywall installers and finishers
- * HVAC
- * Painters
- * General laborers
- * Clean-up
- * Cooks assistants
- * Willing hearts

*Accommodations, including sleeping,
showering and all meals are
provided at the Oakville church.*

For more information, contact Bro. Stan Heimer.
Cell : 319-572-7452

Email : stanh65@aol.com Or www.acworldrelief.org



REMEMBERING

Our Spiritual Heritage

From time to time, the Remembering column will present short biographies of members of our churches. The following is an account of the life of retired Elder Lester Hartter of Bern, Kansas. It was carried in a newsletter of the Home in Sabetha, Kansas (in the February, 2009 issue).

Biography -

Bro. Lester Hartter, Bern, Kansas

Lester Hartter was born on a farm southeast of Bern, Kansas, on March 4, 1916. Currently he resides at the Apostolic Christian Home in Sabetha, Kansas. He does well healthwise, but has eyesight issues.

Lester was the first child of Ben and Mary Meyer Hartter. Lester's siblings are Virgil Hartter, Eloise Bahr, Marie Grimm (deceased), Erma Nell Priest, LaVonne McGinty, Helen Lobnitz (deceased), and Clyde Hartter.

The Hartter family moved several times when Lester and his siblings were growing up. When he was five years old, the family lived in Bern, Kansas, where his father had a "dray line" with the railroad. This required his father to meet every train stopping in Bern, usually one from the east every morning and one from the west every evening. He would unload all goods for delivery to businesses in town. Lester remembers his dad unloading railcar loads of cement for the lumberyard as one of the goods which came to town.

After a couple of years, the family moved to a farm southeast of Bern. Lester continued to attend school in Bern through the eighth grade. His mother wanted him to attend high school and his father wanted him to farm. They let Lester make the decision. He chose to farm.

At age eighteen, he went to work for

Will Edelman. He was paid the going rate of that time — one dollar a day plus a noon meal. A month later, Lester joined three other men — Dave and Nathan Grimm and Leroy Meyer — and went to Illinois for three months to pick corn for farmers there. Lester remembers picking one hundred bushels a day for 3 cents per bushel. He picked over 3,000 bushels for one farmer that fall.

It was very hard work but this was during the depression-ridden 1930s. It was a great opportunity to earn big money. On returning home, he remembers that most of his Illinois earnings went to pay for family necessities, except for about ten dollars which he was allowed to keep.

Lester farmed again with his dad. He enjoyed doing field work and working with the horses. In 1938, he and his dad purchased a 1937 John Deere Model A tractor together. He spent many hours on that tractor, day after day and year after year, and it is still in good running order yet today.

At age 21, Lester rented some land and began farming on his own. He married Ella Aeschleman on April 6, 1941. In 1946, they bought the farm that belonged to Lester's parents. A dairy had been started on this farm and increased in size during the years Lester and Ella lived there. The couple spent many happy years on this farm and it continued to grow during the years they lived there.

Their children include Nancy (Leonard) Baumgartner (deceased), Stephen (Lois), Lynn (Barbara), and Neil (Evelyn). Steve and Neil stayed on with Lester helping with the farming operation. In 1968, Lester and Ella moved to a farm west of Bern so Steve and Lois could live on the "home place" and be near the dairy operation. The dairy continued to expand over the years and

Lester retired when his boys purchased the farming operation from him.

Eventually Lester and Ella moved to Sabetha, first living in a house, and fifteen years later into an apartment at the Apostolic Christian Retirement village. Lester enjoyed being able to view the pond that he and his son Neil helped build the dam on. Ella spent part of their first year in the apartment with Lester before moving into the adjoining nursing home for additional care. She passed away later that year on November 15.

Lester and Ella made two trips to Switzerland in their retirement years. Once they bought a clock in the Black Forest of Germany and had it shipped to their home address. For several months they did not receive it. Lester thought they would never see it again. Then, six months later, a UPS truck bought a package to their doorstep — and it was the clock!

Lester repented and became converted at age 21. He was baptized on December 11, 1937. He was selected as minister in 1945, and became Elder of the Bern, Kansas, congregation on December 11, 1960. He served in this capacity for many years.

Lester is one of two living members of the original organizers of the Apostolic Christian Nursing Home Project. After fourteen years of living in his apartment, Lester felt it was time to move into the adjoining nursing home. He enjoys it there. "I get excellent care and enjoy the food here" he says. Lester misses his apartment, but likes where he is and says, "it's the best place for me."

By Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next Issue: Misc. history

The Light Of Hope

“Reverence Toward God”

Retired Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

It is a good thing to examine ourselves. II Corinthians 13:5 reads in part, “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves.” About being in the faith, I have no doubt about that, but upon examining myself, I have some concern that we may have lost some of our reverence toward God.

Hebrews 12:28 reads in part, “Let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.” The writer to the Hebrews was inspired to write that grace is required to serve God acceptably. Also, that acceptable service is with reverence and godly fear. The word “reverence” seems to indicate a sense of awe, splendor, and if toward God, a sense of being in the presence of deity.

When God spoke to Moses out of the burning bush which was not consumed, He said, Exodus 3:5, “Put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.” If Moses had time to think he may have thought, “Wait a minute, God, this ground is just like any other ground. What makes you think it is holy?” However, God knows better than we, as to what is important. He wanted to make certain that Moses had a sense of reverence when speaking with Him, not because God needed that reverence but because we humans need to have

reverence toward God in order to better realize our own position in relation to God.

In the New Testament, the Lord Jesus Christ did not approve of changing money or selling doves inside the temple. He said in Matthew 21:13, “It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.” Those doing business in the temple could have argued, “But the people need doves for their offerings and we are giving them a service by having everything, including the changing of money, very conveniently located.” However, I believe the Lord Jesus Christ was much more interested in reverence than in convenience. This is where we may fail. We may think that convenience is more important than reverence but that is where we lose out on some of the blessing God has for us. What we do in obedience to God is for our own benefit, not for God’s benefit. I do not believe the holy, almighty God, is in need of our feeble efforts. He tells us what to do for our own good, and one thing He tells us to do is to be reverent. If you walked from the foyer of a church building into the worship area, and if, upon entering that assembly, you noticed everything was perfectly quiet, except for some babies crying perhaps, and everyone was prayerful, you

would be impressed and a feeling of worship would come over you. However, if it is noisy in the assembly with much unnecessary talking, you would feel that it is business as usual.

You probably know more about reverence than I do but God knows the most about it and He says, “Put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.”

During our early days or years in Japan, I was told by one of our Japanese sisters to please not pray in Japanese, but to pray in English so she couldn’t understand it. She explained that my poor Japanese made her feel badly, that it was not polite nor proper language with which to address God, or in other words, my Japanese lacked reverence. The Japanese language is quite strict about showing proper respect. For instance, you should use more polite forms in speaking to someone older or your superior, not to mention the extra polite forms appropriate for addressing God. How would you feel, if after spending two or three years studying and practicing Japanese, with tears, and then being told that you should please not pray in Japanese because your language lacks reverence. It is something you do not soon forget.

希望の光

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*There is a path which no fowl knoweth,
and which the vulture's eye hath not seen:
The lion's whelps have not trodden it,
nor the fierce lion passed by it.*

*But where shall wisdom be found?
and where is the place of understanding?
Man knoweth not the price thereof;
neither is it found in the land of the living.
God understandeth the way thereof,
and he knoweth the place thereof.*

*And unto man he said,
Behold, the fear of the Lord,
that is wisdom;
and to depart from evil is understanding.*

Job 28:7-8,12-13,23,28

